

# COURT PACKING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

# WHY IS "COURT REFORM" BEING PROPOSED NOW?

The Left is attacking the Supreme Court because they are angry about recent Supreme Court decisions that have not gone their way. This new plan is just the latest desperate attack on the Court by liberals determined to retain power by any means necessary. But changing the courts for partisan reasons is a terrible idea.

#### WHAT'S WRONG WITH "ETHICS REFORM"?

"Ethics reform" isn't about accountability, transparency, or any other euphemism. It is about giving enemies of the judiciary the power to punish justices by subjecting them to investigations and fabricated scandals. Many ethics reform proposals give power to select Members of Congress to file ethics complaints against any justice, including justices who do not align with the Members' ideology. Such proposals violate the separation of powers and are unconstitutional.

#### WHAT IS WRONG WITH JUDICIAL "TERM LIMITS"?

"Term limits" contravene the clear text of Article III of the U.S. Constitution. Article III says judges shall receive lifetime appointments to offices of "supreme" or "inferior" courts. To remove a justice from the office of the Supreme Court and place them in an inferior court (or remove them from office entirely) would violate the clear text of the Constitution.

Term limits are also problematic because they are simply court-packing by another name. They are designed to purge the Supreme Court of justices who rule in accordance with the Constitution. Imposing term limits would immediately remove the longest-serving and most conservative justices first – including Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito – forcing out the justices least-favored by the Left to make room for those favored by the party in power.

## WHAT'S WRONG WITH "COURT PACKING"?

History tells us that court packing leads to tyranny. Hugo Chavez was elected president of Venezuela in 1999. It only took five years for him to pack his nation's highest court with a dozen more judges to carry out his political agenda. Chavez's court-packing <u>destroyed</u> judicial independence in Venezuela. Reports show that of the 45,000 rulings issued by Venezuela's high court since 2004, the court never sided against Chavez's government after it was packed. Not once.

## WHY DO WE NEED AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY?

The separation of powers made our nation great. To protect religious freedom and all other of our cherished liberties, judges must be able to make decisions without fear of partisan retribution from the executive or legislative branches.

## HOW DO AMERICANS FEEL ABOUT "COURT REFORM"?

<u>Polling</u> from 2024 reveals that 87% of Americans believe an independent judiciary is a crucial safeguard of our civil liberties, and 57% believe that Congress forcing ethics reform on the Supreme Court threatens that independence.

#### WHAT IS THE SUPREME COUP?

The <u>Supreme Coup</u> refers to a series of coordinated attempts by the Left to attack judicial legitimacy and the rule of law. Read about them <u>here</u>. They include:

- Senator Chuck Schumer <u>declaring</u> that Justices Brett Kavanaugh and Neil Gorsuch had "released the whirlwind," would "pay the price," and wouldn't "know what hit" if they went forward with "these awful decisions"
- Advocating for court-packing
- <u>Advocating</u> for court-purging disguised as term limits
- Conducting unlawful protests outside the justices' home (including an attempt on the life of Justice Kavanaugh)
- Seeking to reshape the judiciary by <u>adding</u> more than 200 justices to the lower courts and <u>eliminating</u> single-judge districts
- Seeking to <u>end</u> the Senate filibuster to give a bare majority of Congress power to overhaul the membership, structure and jurisdiction of the Supreme Court
- Fabricating "ethics" scandals
- Filing articles of impeachment against justices after unfavored rulings
- Asking the DOJ to launch criminal investigations of justices
- Calling on Americans to simply disregard federal court orders

## WHY NOT TERM LIMITS?

- 1. It's unconstitutional. The Founders were against that. It destroys the independence of the judiciary.
- 2. Their proposal is a sham; it starts by getting rid of Justice Thomas, Roberts and Alito. Pure partisan.
- 3. Do you really want Justices issuing opinions, knowing they will need a job soon and may be tempted to please certain employers?

# WHAT IS WRONG WITH A SENATE CODE OF ETHICS?

- 1. It's unconstitutional. The Senate has no authority over another branch of government.
- 2. The Court already has an ethics code.
- 3. Could the Senate form an 'Ethics' code and then try to enforce it over the POTUS?
- a. Of course not. Impeachment is Congress' only authority over another branch of government.
- 4. The Senate is not exactly the best ones to determine ethics for anyone, especially not a separate branch of government.
- 5. The American people are heavily against it (our recent poll).