

**Republican Senators from 13 States Urge Immediate Action to Fill Their Judicial Vacancies  
(CO, ID, IN, KS, NE, ND, OK, PA, SC, TN, TX, UT, WI) (April 14, 2016)**

-[Glenn Sugameli](#), Founder in 2001, and head of nonpartisan [Judging the Environment](#) judicial nominations project, Senior Attorney, Defenders of Wildlife [04/14/2016] [emphasis added]

**[Sen. McConnell: Senate will continue to confirm judges for the foreseeable future](#)**

(Republican - Kentucky) 03/15/16 Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., told reporters ... that he is open to moving judicial nominees other than Garland. "We've continued to talk about the way forward on judges," McConnell said on Tuesday. "We've confirmed a number of them this year. And we'll continue to do that for the, you know, the foreseeable future."

**COLORADO**

**[Sen. Gardner Sends Recommendations for Colorado Judicial Vacancy to White House, Looks Forward to Confirming Nominee](#)**

(Republican - Colorado) 02/09/16 Colorado U.S. Senators ... today sent their recommendations to fill the upcoming vacancy on the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado. Judge Robert Blackburn announced that he will take senior status in April, creating the vacancy and leaving the already overworked District court with six judges. .... "I'm proud of the progress that's been made to fill the vacancy on the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado," said Gardner. " .... We sent strong candidates to the White House, and **I look forward to working to confirm a nominee for the judgeship.**" Bennett and Gardner both recommended [three individuals].

**[Sen. Gardner Announces Judicial Evaluation Committee Recommendations, Hopes for Progress Toward Filling Vacancy](#)**

(Republican - Colorado) 11/03/15 "I appreciate the hard work done by the Judicial Evaluation Committee," Gardner said. "They devoted countless hours to carefully reviewing applicants and interviewing finalists in order to ensure that Colorado has the most qualified legal mind possible on the federal bench. I look forward to reviewing their recommendations and **making progress towards filling this vacancy.**"

**[Sen. Gardner Announces Evaluation Committee to Fill Colorado Judgeship](#)**

(Republican - Colorado) 08/03/15 Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO) today announced a Judicial Evaluation Committee that will begin vetting applicants for an upcoming vacancy on the U.S. District Court of Colorado. .... The number of judgeships on the court has remained the same for over 30 years, despite the state's population growing by 65 percent and judicial workload steadily increasing. Now the court is one of the busiest in the country, with over 600 weighted cases per judgeship. Filling this vacancy quickly would keep the District Court fully staffed and at least maintain the status quo.... "I take my responsibility to recommend Colorado judicial nominees to the President seriously and **there is particular urgency in filling this vacancy,**" said Gardner.

**IDAHO**

**[Sens. Crapo, Risch Begin "Twisting Arms" for Federal Judge Nominee](#)**

(Republican - Idaho) 04/12/16 Hoping to win a quick vote [on the nomination of Judge David Nye], **Risch and ... Crapo say they've already begun twisting arms with their colleagues**, urging them to let Nye leapfrog ahead of some of the more controversial nominees. Both senators say **they want the Senate to sign off on Nye before Congress adjourns for the year.** "It's very clear that we are in the last quarter of this Congress and so we need to move urgently. . . . The queue can get moved around," Crapo said. Risch said he's "cautiously optimistic" that they'll succeed: " .... We've already had numerous conversations."

[Sen Crapo Statement on Federal Judge Nominee](#) (Republican – Idaho) 04/12/16 Crapo had high praise for Nye. “He has a tremendous record. He has broad support for his capabilities and his judicial demeanor from the legal community,” he said. **“He has the intellectual respect and the experience that make him an outstanding nominee.”** ... As for the prospects for getting Judge Nye confirmed before the end of the year, Crapo said, “We’ve got a very intense political climate that could cause some delays. But my hope and my belief is that we should make our best argument that the judicial emergency that we face in Idaho gives us even additional strong reason for the Senate to set aside the partisanship that is now so strong, and move forward with this nomination.” “I can’t promise you that that will work out, but I can tell you that **Sen. Risch and I are very aggressively working to try to get this nomination moved,**” Crapo said. “One thing that helps us in that process, we have the White House in support of this nomination. We truly do have bipartisanship on this.”

[Sens. Crapo, Risch “Pushing Hard” For Confirmation of Federal Judge Nominee](#) (Republican – Idaho) 04/11/16 **Idaho’s two GOP senators ... say they’re pushing hard for [confirmation of Judge Nye] to happen this year,** despite the standoff between the White House and the Senate over the Senate’s refusal to hold hearings on President Obama’s nominee to the Supreme Court, Merrick Garland. ... Idaho **Sen. Jim Risch said he and Sen. Mike Crapo already have met with Senate Judiciary Chairman Charles Grassley about a possible hearing – even before the nomination was announced – and lunched with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell last week to press the case for confirmation.**

#### [Sens. Crapo, Risch Statement on Federal Judge Nominee](#)

(Republican - Idaho) 04/05/16 Senators Mike Crapo and Jim Risch today announced that Idaho District Judge David C. Nye of Pocatello has been nominated by President Barack Obama to fill the open U.S. District Court judgeship in Idaho. The nomination was done after negotiations with the White House and upon the advice given by the senators from Idaho. **The senators stated that they enthusiastically seek the consent of the full Senate for confirmation.** “The nomination of Judge Nye is the result of a productive consultation process between the Idaho Senate delegation, the President and his team. Judge Nye’s combined experiences as a litigator and his service to Idaho as a district judge make him well-qualified to serve Idaho as our next federal district court judge,” said Crapo. “On top of his district court responsibilities, Judge Nye has presided over a highly successful diversionary felony drug court. He has also served Idaho’s legal community through his work on the Idaho Supreme Court felony sentencing and judicial education committees. Additionally, Judge Nye has taken on the responsibility of ensuring that all judges in Idaho are effective in their service by playing an active role in the mentoring and training of new judges throughout our state. As I have told the President, **I am committed to working diligently and enthusiastically to obtain the consent of the Senate for Judge Nye’s confirmation.**” “This has been a long and difficult process as we worked through potential candidates,” said Risch. “All applicants were considered and several vetted at various levels. The parties worked in good faith to reach an agreement. **I am happy that we have settled on a sound and principled jurist who will be an outstanding judge.**”

## INDIANA

### [Sen. Coats Responds to President’s Nominations for Indiana Judicial Vacancies](#)

(Republican - Indiana) 01/12/16 **Senator Dan Coats (R-Ind.) today announced that he will support the nomination of Winfield Denton Ong in order to address the pressing judicial emergency** in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana...**“The Judicial Conference of the United States has declared a judicial emergency in Indiana’s Southern District, and this important role needs to be filled quickly,”** said Coats. “The role demands a sharp legal mind and a thoughtful, fair temperament. After carefully reviewing Winfield Ong’s record

and background and meeting with him personally, I believe he is qualified for this position.” ... In addition to nominating Ong, the White House also announced the nomination of Myra Selby for the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Coats reiterated his call for the establishment of an Indiana Federal Nominating Commission to make recommendations on this and other judicial vacancies affecting the Hoosier state. Senator Coats originally called for the creation of a judicial selection commission last May. “The citizens of Indiana will be best served by a nomination process that is taken completely out of politics,” said Coats. **“We still have time to establish an equitable process for the remainder of this Congress.** Myra Selby’s nomination should be considered by an Indiana Federal Nominating Commission.”

## **KANSAS**

**AP quotes Sen. Moran looking forward to supporting Senate confirmation of Campbell district court nomination** (Republican - Kansas) 01/29/16 U.S. **Sen. Jerry Moran**, a Republican, in an email Friday said he **looks forward to supporting his Senate confirmation.** "Providing advice and consent for Presidential nominees is one of the most important roles of the United States Senate and a responsibility I take very seriously," Moran said. "Mr. Campbell is a respected lawyer with high qualifications that make him a strong nominee to fill the vacant federal judgeship in the District of Kansas

**AP quotes Sen. Roberts on Campbell district court nomination**, (Republican - Kansas) 01/29/16 The state’s other Republican senator, Pat Roberts, also praised the nominee but stopped short of a commitment. Roberts said in an email that the Senate Judiciary Committee will begin to examine Campbell’s credentials, the first step in a thorough vetting process. “Terry Campbell enjoys a good reputation in both the Kansas legal community and the community of Lawrence, where he has raised his family,” Roberts said.

## **NEBRASKA**

**Nebraska Senators Push for Vote on District Court Nominee** (Republican - Nebraska) 04/13/16 President Barack Obama nominated Rossiter after the Omaha attorney was hand-picked by then-Sen. Mike Johanns and Sen. Deb Fischer, both Nebraska Republicans, and the nomination is supported by Johanns’ successor, Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb. **Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, has said that he hears often from the two Nebraska senators on the topic and that Fischer in particular has been a bulldog on the issue. “I am hounding them,” she said. “I am focused on this.”** But all that hounding has yet to pay off [despite the vacancy being a declared judicial emergency]. The Senate did approve a series of nominations earlier this year, including a couple of Iowa judges Grassley bumped to the front of the line. .... **Fischer said she’ll keep pushing for the vote. “Hopefully we’ll be able to get him up,”** she said.

**Sen. Fischer on Nebraska federal judicial nominee** (Republican - Nebraska) 12/21/15 Nebraska’s legal community had hoped to see Omaha attorney Robert Rossiter Jr. confirmed as the state’s next federal judge by the end of this year. Instead, Rossiter will be cooling his heels at least a few more months after a couple of Iowa nominees cut in front of him.... Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa ... acknowledged that he had heard from Nebraska’s senators, both of whom have pushed for Rossiter’s approval. “I’ve been hearing from them for six weeks, maybe two months,” Grassley said.... Sen. Deb Fischer ... has **repeatedly called for a speedy confirmation**, saying Nebraska has a **“small bench and a full docket.”** ... Fischer told The World-Herald last week that she was disappointed in the news that Rossiter was bypassed but showed little desire to criticize Grassley. “We’ll get it done,” she said. “Everybody runs their committee differently.”

[Sen. Fischer: Rossiter Nomination Approved by Judiciary Committee; Committee Passage is Final Hurdle Before Full Senate Vote](#) (Republican - Nebraska) 10/29/15 U.S. Senator Deb Fischer (R-Neb.) released the following statement after this morning's Senate Judiciary Committee vote in favor of advancing Robert Rossiter Jr.'s nomination to the U.S. District Court for the District of Nebraska: "I'm happy to see Mr. Rossiter advance to the next stage of the confirmation process, and I look forward to voting for him once his nomination reaches the Senate floor. I would also like to thank Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley for making this **nomination a priority.**" **Following today's vote of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Mr. Rossiter's nomination will head to the Senate floor for a final vote, which is expected by the end of this year.**

[Sen. Fischer Testifies at Senate Judiciary Hearing for Nebraska Federal Judge Nominee Bob Rossiter](#) (Republican - Nebraska) 09/30/15 "Nebraska's federal bench is an example of efficiency and integrity. It also has one of the busiest dockets. During the 12-month period preceding September 2014, Nebraska had the most per-judgeship weighted filings among the eight states that have only three authorized judgeships and a single federal district. With a small bench and a full docket, it is important that this federal district court is operating at full capacity. Despite this fact, however, the judgeship that Bob has been nominated for has been **vacant for more than a year.** Because this **court must be provided with the necessary resources to work efficiently,** I was pleased to work with Senator Mike Johanns to select a highly qualified candidate for this important position.... **I urge my colleagues to support Bob Rossiter's nomination quickly** so that he can put his outstanding intellect, skill, and judgement to work for the American people."

[Sen. Sasse Statement on Confirmation Hearing for Robert Rossiter](#) (Republican - Nebraska) 09/30/15 "Nebraskans are grateful for Senator Fischer's commitment to our state and faithful leadership to ensure Judge Rossiter's nomination. I'm also thankful that Chairman Grassley and the Judiciary Committee are considering his nomination in a **timely manner.** Judge Rossiter is an honest and dutiful Nebraskan with a charge to uphold the rule of law impartially and fairly. I am certain his nomination will receive strong bipartisan support."

[Editorial quotes Sen. Fischer on district court nominee Robert Rossiter Jr.](#) (Republican - Nebraska) 06/17/15 Sen. Deb Fischer told The World-Herald she's confident the nomination will win Senate confirmation. "**He's supported by Republicans and Democrats throughout the state,**" she said. "**I expect the confirmation will go smoothly.**"

[Sen. Fischer Weekly Column: Resilience and Integrity](#) (Republican - Nebraska) 06/15/15 "President Obama has nominated Bob Rossiter of Omaha to be a federal district court judge for the District of Nebraska. I had the privilege of calling Bob to inform him of this wonderful news. ... I am thankful to Bob for his willingness to enter public service, and **I look forward to working with him through the confirmation process.**"

[Sen. Fischer Applauds President's Nomination of Bob Rossiter to Federal Bench in Nebraska](#) (Republican - Nebraska) 06/11/15 "This morning, I had the privilege of calling Bob to inform him that the president has nominated him to serve on the federal court. I am pleased that the open, inclusive process Senator Johanns and I initially led together has resulted in the nomination of such a fine Nebraskan. Throughout his long legal career, Bob has demonstrated the highest integrity, legal skill, professionalism, and dedication to the rule of law. "I am thankful to Bob for his willingness to enter public service, and **I look forward to working with him through the confirmation process.**"

[Sen. Sasse Statement on Nomination of Robert Rossiter](#) (Republican - Nebraska) 06/11/15 "I am tremendously grateful that for nearly two years—first alongside Senator Johanns and now as our state's Senior Senator—Deb Fischer worked tirelessly to see that the Administration nominates a qualified

and well-respected Nebraskan. Bob Rossiter is a qualified nominee with a breadth of experience and I trust he will receive strong bipartisan support in the Senate.”

## NORTH DAKOTA

### [Sen. Hoeven returned "blue slip" to approve hearing for ND 8th Circuit nominee](#)

(Republican - North Dakota) 03/09/16

### [Sen. Hoeven undecided on Obama's ND judicial nominee](#)

(Republican - North Dakota) 02/07/16 Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., said he has an "open mind" but is still reviewing President Obama's nomination of Jennifer Klemetsrud Puhl to the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Obama last week nominated Puhl, an assistant U.S. attorney based in Fargo .... Hoeven said he had forwarded the name of Shon Kaelberer Hastings, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court judge and a former assistant U.S. attorney in Fargo, but Obama instead chose Puhl. Nonetheless, Hoeven said, "I have an open mind." The senator said he has an appointment to meet with Puhl in North Dakota later this month. "I'll interview her and make a decision," Hoeven said. "I'll look at her record." Historically, few judicial nominees put forward in a president's eighth year win approval, Hoeven said. President George W. Bush won Senate confirmation of two judicial nominees, President Clinton one and President Reagan two, Hoeven said. "It's tough to move 'em," he said. "It's particularly tough to move them in the eighth year of a presidency."

## OKLAHOMA

### [Oklahoma senators want state judicial nominees to advance, even if Supreme Court process stalls](#)

(Republican - Oklahoma) 02/21/16 Oklahoma's senators support the two chosen for U.S. district judgeships in Oklahoma City and want the Senate to advance the nominations. There is, they said, a huge difference between district judges and Supreme Court justices. Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Tulsa, said, "These Oklahoma judicial nominees were put forward last year, giving ample time for the individuals to be properly vetted. "Both have strong bipartisan support and should be permitted a hearing and a vote in the Senate. The Supreme Court nomination is an entirely separate situation as the balance of the highest federal court is now in play." Sen. James Lankford, R-Oklahoma City, said the White House conducted a six-month vetting process of Mitchell and Palk. "Both are fair and strong candidates for the United States District Court," he said.... Lankford said decisions about whether to advance lower court justices and Obama's nomination for the Supreme Court should be evaluated separately. "Supreme Court justices are absolutely unique," he said. "The Supreme Court vacancy is a monumental decision that will make a profound impact on the courts and many significant decisions for decades." Inhofe agreed, saying, "I believe the American people are now not only voting for a new administration but a new Supreme Court, because whoever fills this seat will greatly impact the next generation of our nation.”

### [Sens. Inhofe, Lankford Announce Judicial Nominees for the U.S. District Court for the](#)

[Western District of Oklahoma](#) (R-OK) 12/16/15 “I’m pleased that the White House has nominated Judge Suzanne Mitchell and Scott Palk to the U.S. Federal Court for the Western District, and I congratulate both nominees,” Inhofe said. “**This nomination process for these seats has been unnecessarily long**, and so I am pleased it has come to a conclusion with two very capable nominees. **I fully support their nominations** because they have distinguished service in the public sector, valuable private sector experience, and the temperament to serve the state, the interest of justice, and the parties who appear in their courts.” “Both Judge Mitchell and Scott Palk are impressive nominees for the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma,” Lankford said. “**We look forward to their nomination hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee and**

**confirmation by the full Senate.** Though I have had many disagreements with the White House, we agree that Judge Mitchell and Scott Palk are fair-minded and will uphold the strict rule of law. I am confident they will serve our state and nation well.”

## **PENNSYLVANIA**

**Sen. Toomey urges Judiciary Committee Chairman Grassley to hold vote on two Pennsylvania district court nominees** (Republican - Pennsylvania) 02/25/16 Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pennsylvania, has asked for the approval of two federal district court nominees who had been held over from the last committee vote. In a letter to Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Toomey implored committee members to "honor the bipartisan tradition" he and his Democratic counterpart, Sen. Bob Casey, had established in nominating judges. ... "To date, these nominations unfortunately still remain pending before your committee, and I want to again urge you to bring these nominees up for a vote and favorably report them for consideration by the full Senate," Toomey wrote.

**Sen. Toomey on Judiciary Committee approval of two PA district court nominees and delay of two others** (Republican - Pennsylvania) 01/29/16 Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pennsylvania, also said **he was glad for Baxter and Horan's approval in the committee, adding, "I hope the Judiciary Committee also will approve Judge Robert J. Colville to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania and Judge John M. Younge to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania."**

**Sen. Toomey Floor Statement [on Judge Restrepo and other Judicial Nominees and Vacancies]** (Republican - Pennsylvania) 01/11/16 "Senator Casey and I have been working very closely for 5 years now, since I joined the Senate, working to fill the vacancies that occur on the Federal bench across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that we represent. With Judge Restrepo's confirmation tonight, which I am hopeful and confident will occur, Senator Casey and I will have been able to play a role in filling 16 vacancies on the Federal bench, including 14 district court vacancies that have occurred since the time I arrived in Senate and two Third Circuit court vacancies....Because we have worked closely together, not only have we filled these vacancies, but we have filled courthouses--Federal courthouses meant to house Federal judges--that have been vacant for years.... **I think, and I hope, we are close to filling an empty courthouse in Erie, PA. Erie is kind of by itself out there in the northwest corner of our great State, and there ought to be Federal judge in the Erie courthouse. We are well in the process of making sure that there will be, and I am sure it will come to a close soon.**"

**Sen. Toomey: Bipartisan cooperation on judicial appointments: Sen. Casey and I, along with the White House, have worked on a bipartisan basis to fill judicial vacancies.** (Republican - Pennsylvania) 12/22/15 "When vacancies occur in the district courts, Sen. Casey and I vet and recommend candidates whom the president will then typically nominate. For vacancies on the U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit, the White House, Sen. Casey, and I collaborate on a suitable nominee. ... On Dec. 9, the Senate agreed to schedule a confirmation vote for Judge Luis Felipe Restrepo for a vacancy on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. That same day, four federal district judge nominees for Pennsylvania – including one to fill the vacant courthouse in Erie – received a hearing at the Senate Judiciary Committee and are one step closer to getting confirmed. **If all five of these nominations are approved by the Senate, and I am confident they will be, Sen. Casey and I will have worked together to confirm a total of 20 judges to Pennsylvania's federal courts – significant progress for our state.**"

**Sen. Toomey looks forward to "prompt confirmation" of four Pennsylvania judicial nominees**

(Republican - Pennsylvania) 12/09/15 "The U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday held a hearing to consider nominations for four Pennsylvania judicial candidates selected by President Obama to fill seats on the federal bench.... Toomey echoed Casey's sentiments and touted that since he has been working with Casey over the last five years, "we have been able to fill 15 vacancies on the bench in Pennsylvania." He added, "**I'm particularly looking forward to a prompt confirmation for these four nominees.**"

[\[Sen. Toomey\] Casey, Toomey Statements on Confirmation Hearing for Four Candidates to U.S. District Courts of Pennsylvania](#) (Republican - Pennsylvania) 12/09/15 "I was pleased to speak on behalf of Judge Susan P. Baxter, Judge Robert J. Colville, Judge Marilyn J. Horan, and Judge John M. Younge at today's hearing," said Sen. Toomey. "These nominees possess a wealth of legal experience from their work in both the public and private sectors. I am confident that they have the acumen, integrity, and respect for the limited role of the judiciary that they need to excel as federal judges. As we have done over the years, **I look forward to working with Sen. Casey on a bipartisan basis to have these outstanding nominees confirmed** by the Senate."

[Toomey moves to fill 3 vacancies for \[WD of PA\] federal judge](#) (Republican - Pennsylvania) 12/02/15 The Senate Judiciary Committee plans to hold confirmation hearings Dec. 9 for three people the president nominated in July as federal judges in Pittsburgh and Erie. Their hearings were on hold because Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Lehigh Valley, hadn't sent the committee "blue slips" indicating whether he approved of the nominations. The senator was waiting for the committee to finish background investigations on the nominees, said Toomey spokeswoman E.R. Anderson. She said Toomey "has spoken directly with Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to **emphasize the importance of getting these judges confirmed as soon as possible.**"

[Sen. Toomey on blue slip to allow hearing for judicial nominee he recommended](#) (Republican - Pennsylvania) 11/11/15 U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey's office is saying that he is not holding up the nomination to the federal court of Butler County Judge Marilyn Horan. Horan in July was nominated by President Barack Obama to take a vacancy on the federal bench in Pittsburgh. Once the president nominates a candidate, the Senate Judiciary Committee begins to do background investigations on that person. The investigation has begun, but Toomey has not submitted a "blue slip," which is a blue sheet of paper that shows a senator's support for the nominee. In this case, that is Horan. Before the Judiciary Committee forwards any nomination to be voted on the senate floor, it needs blue slips from both senators from the nominee's home state. ... Horan will not have to be renominated until the end of 2016, and Toomey's office is confident that the background work will be done before then. A statement provided by **Toomey restated his support for Horan and said he "remains fully committed to getting her confirmed as soon as possible."**

[Sen. Toomey on filling judicial vacancies](#) (Republican - Pennsylvania) 09/14/15 "And I will say I also work closely with Senator Casey whenever I can," Toomey stated. "And one of the areas we work closely together regularly is filling vacancies on the federal bench. The fact is in the four and a half or so years since I have been in the Senate we have been able to recruit, vet, nominate, and confirm, fifteen men and women to the federal bench across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. And, in that period of time, only California and New York can match or exceed those numbers."

[\[Sen. Toomey\] Casey, Toomey Applaud Nomination of Four Candidates to U.S. District Courts of Pennsylvania](#) (Republican - Pennsylvania) 07/30/15 "I am pleased that President Obama will nominate Judge Susan P. Baxter, Judge Robert J. Colville, Judge Marilyn J. Horan, and Judge John M. Younge to serve on the federal district court in Pennsylvania," said Senator Toomey. "These nominees possess a wealth of legal experience from their work in both the public and private sectors. **I am confident that they have the acumen, integrity, and respect for the limited role of the**

judiciary that they need to excel as federal judges. Moreover, today is especially good news for Erie since the city's federal courthouse will have a sitting judge for the first time in 2 years. As we have done over the years, **I look forward to working with Senator Casey on a bipartisan basis to have these outstanding nominees confirmed** by the Senate."

## SOUTH CAROLINA

### Sen. Lindsey Graham on Judicial Nominees

(Republican - South Carolina) 03/15/16 Republican senators expressed hope that more judges will be confirmed this year. "Some of them will get through," said South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee who is supporting a judge nominee from his state. "We're very close."

## TENNESSEE

### Home-state TN Sens. renew support for confirming district court nominee

(Republican - Tennessee) 03/11/16 "Alexander and Corker say they still believe Crenshaw can be confirmed this year. "Obviously around here, until something's done, it's not," Corker said Thursday. "I know there is a tremendous load of work in the Nashville office that needs to get done, and we've talked a great deal with the other judges there and know this position needs to be confirmed." Asked about the oddity of a Republican senator blocking a nominee supported by both Republican home-state senators, Corker said, "Around here you learn to take things in stride and keep moving ahead."... Alexander said he's asked Republican leaders to bring Crenshaw's nomination up for a confirmation vote. "I think he would make an excellent federal district judge," Alexander said.

### Sens. Alexander & Corker reaffirm support for confirming 2 TN district court nominees

(Republican - Tennessee) 03/08/16 "Alexander and Corker are ready to get Crenshaw through now. They also have another district court nominee, Edward Stanton, who's been waiting for a confirmation vote since October. "I've urged Sen. McConnell first to confirm Waverly Crenshaw," Alexander told The Huffington Post on Tuesday. "He's well-qualified, I support him, and in the line of district judges, he's up toward the front." A Corker spokeswoman said he, too, "remains supportive of Mr. Crenshaw and Mr. Stanton.""

Sens. Corker & Alexander on three pending TN federal judicial nominees (Republican - Tennessee) 09/30/15 Corker said he believes Crenshaw and McDonough will be confirmed by the end of the year. He denied GOP lawmakers are engineering a slowdown. "There is a logjam, but there is no problem, nobody holding them up," Corker said. Alexander said all three Tennessee nominees are well qualified. "**We'll do everything we can to urge the Senate to confirm them this year**, if possible," Alexander said. "These three aren't controversial so I see no reason why they shouldn't move through."

### SEN. CORKER INTRODUCES STANTON AT SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE NOMINATION HEARING: hopes Stanton will be confirmed as judge "very, very soon"

(Republican - Tennessee) 09/30/15 "It's my pleasure to introduce Edward Stanton III, nominee for the U.S. District Court Judge for the Western District of Tennessee. ... **I hope that he will be confirmed very, very soon.**"

### Sen. Alexander: Lifelong Memphian Ed Stanton Is "Fair, Impartial...a Rising Star"

(Republican - Tennessee) 09/30/15 "People who know Memphis know that for some time now Ed Stanton has been considered to be a rising star. Ed is a lifelong Memphian with solid legal experience that spans both the public and private sectors, and I know he'll do his best to serve West Tennesseans



in a fair and impartial manner. **I urge the committee to support his nomination and the Senate to speedily confirm him.**”

[Sen. Alexander Statement on Senate Judiciary Committee Approval of Waverly Crenshaw and Travis McDonough to be U.S. District Judges in Tennessee](#) (Republican - Tennessee) 07/09/15  
“Tennessee will be well-served by Waverly Crenshaw and Travis McDonough. They are men of good character and good temperament, and **I am glad the Judiciary Committee voted to approve the nominations so that their nominations can now be considered by the full Senate.**”

[SEN. CORKER INTRODUCES MCDONOUGH AND CRENSHAW AT SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE NOMINATION HEARING: Senator Urges Committee to Send Nominations to the Full Senate for Consideration](#) (Republican - Tennessee) 06/10/15 "I am here to support them wholeheartedly. I thank you for this hearing. I think you will find their testimony before you to be very, very good. I certainly hope that we **promptly put [them] in these outstanding positions** that they deserve."

## **TEXAS**

### [Sen. Cornyn Pledges to Help Obama Seat Texas Judges](#)

(Republican - Texas) 03/22/16 "This disagreement over the Supreme Court is not going to stop my commitment to work across the aisle to help Texas and Texans. And to that end, we've been working with White House on five judicial nominations," Cornyn said.... "I was able to speak with each of these nominees and congratulate them ..." Cornyn said. "And my main goal in all of this is to make sure that we get the best and brightest legal minds on the bench that are not partisans, but are people we can be proud of and who are well-qualified. So I look forward to assisting those nominations going forward."

### [Sen. Cornyn quoted in POLITICO on judicial vacancies](#)

(Republican - Texas) 02/28/16 John Cornyn, the second-ranking Senate Republican and a former Texas Supreme Court judge, was attending Justice Antonin Scalia's funeral this month when he found himself chatting with White House counsel Neil Eggleston. The topic: their mutual interest in confirming judges to lifetime appointments to the federal bench.... "I don't think the situation with regard to Justice Scalia's vacancy is going to have any impact on those other appointments. We'll be processing those," Cornyn told POLITICO. "The fight is about [the Supreme Court], it's not about nominations in general."... The conversation between Cornyn and Eggleston centered around the senator's home state of Texas, where seven of the country's 31 judicial "emergencies" — openings deemed especially pressing because of heavy caseloads and under-staffed benches — are located. Filling those courts would require some new nominees to be put forward this year.

### [POLITICO quotes Sen. Cornyn on judicial nominees](#)

(Republican - Texas) 01/11/16 Beyond the four already slated for votes, Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn (R-Texas) said the nominee pipeline isn't quite entirely closed. "There is a point at which, traditionally, no additional judicial nominees are considered until the election," Cornyn said. "There's no formal rule or plan to my knowledge" to begin a cutoff now.

### [Sen. John Cornyn responds to editorial](#)

(Republican - Texas) 10/05/15 "Re: "Senators Dragging Feet — Cornyn, Cruz must step up pace on bench vacancies," Tuesday Editorials. The editorial addressing federal judicial vacancies in Texas glossed over the bipartisan work being done on this important issue....I have been working with the Obama administration to ensure vacancies are filled as soon as they arise."

### [Cornyn: We're filling judge seats](#)

(Republican - Texas) 09/24/15 "I have been working with the Obama administration to fill these

critical vacancies. Since President Obama took office, he has nominated and the Senate has confirmed 12 consensus nominees to fill judicial vacancies in Texas – six in the last year alone.... I was proud to recommend all of them and I'm working on more to come."

## UTAH

[Sen. Hatch Applauds Nomination of Ronald G. Russell to U.S. District Court](#) (R-UT) 12/17/15 U.S. Senator Orrin G. Hatch (R-Utah), a senior member and former Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, joined with Senator Mike Lee (R-Utah) in recommending Russell's nomination to the President and applauded the announcement. "**I'm extraordinarily pleased** that the President has nominated Ron Russell to join the federal bench in Utah," Hatch said. "Ron possesses a broad range of experience—from private practice to local government to a clerkship on the very court to which he has been nominated—that have made him a widely respected member of the bar. I am confident that Ron will make an excellent jurist, and **I will work to help ensure his timely confirmation by the Senate.**"... Russell has been nominated to a seat that has been vacant since September 1, 2014, when Judge Brian Stewart took senior status. Over his 39 years of service in the United States Senate, **Sen. Hatch has been involved in the confirmation of 72% of the judges who have ever served on Utah's federal district court, three-quarters of which have been confirmed unanimously.**

[Sen. Lee looks forward to "speedy confirmation" of Ronald G. Russell district court nomination](#) (R-UT) 12/16/15 Utah Sens. Orrin Hatch and Mike Lee recommended Russell....Lee added his strong endorsement: "This is a good day for the federal judiciary and for Utah. Ron is an extraordinary talent, and **I look forward to a speedy confirmation** so that he can get to work."

## WISCONSIN

### [\[Sen. Ron\] Johnson Won't Block Obama Appeals Court Nominee](#)

(Republican - Wisconsin) 03/14/16 "Republican U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson says he will allow an appointment to Wisconsin's Federal Court of Appeals to move forward ... President Barack Obama nominated Madison attorney Donald K. Schott to Chicago's 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in January to fill the longest-standing federal appeals court vacancy in the country. ... Senate rules give Johnson the power to effectively veto Schott's nomination, but late last week, Johnson gave his OK. He was asked whether Republican senators would be moving forward with other judicial nominations while they continue to block any U.S. Supreme Court nominee. "All I can do is my part," Johnson said. "I think I've demonstrated a very bipartisan approach.""

### [Sen. Johnson: Cooperation only goes so far with Sen. Tammy Baldwin](#)

(Republican - Wisconsin) 03/11/16 "The White House waited eight months, until Jan. 12, 2016, to nominate Don Schott. By all accounts, Schott is a well-respected and well-qualified attorney — but with no experience as a judge. He has made political contributions to Feingold and Baldwin and to Obama. I have interviewed Schott and reviewed his FBI file. He comes highly recommended as a person of integrity, and I have "signed the blue slip" to recommend that the Judiciary Committee consider him. Baldwin's partisan decision to blow up our bipartisan process, and the White House's foot-dragging have put Schott's nomination in jeopardy. Throw in the politics that have unnecessarily erupted over the Supreme Court vacancy, and the outcome is impossible to predict. I also have recommended to the White House that Obama should nominate the other qualified candidate, Richard Sankovitz, to fill the vacancy that recently opened on the Eastern District Court. I sincerely hope the president accepts my recommendation. I do not control the process for either the appeals court or Supreme Court vacancies. Those decisions are under the jurisdiction of the Senate Judiciary Committee."

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