

Dems Prepare Multi-Pronged SCOTUS Strategy

#1

Choose a strategic nominee



The White House was reported to be vetting **Gov. Brian Sandoval (R-NV)**, a former district court judge and sitting Republican governor, but he has told the White House that he is not interested in the role



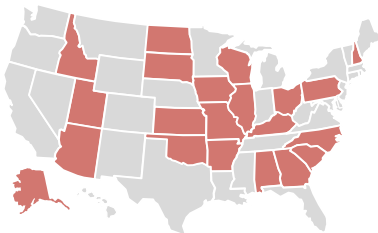
D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Sri Srinivasan would be the first Indian-American and Asian-American to serve on the Supreme Court, and was confirmed by the Senate for his current position 97-0



Eight Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Jane Louise Kelly is from Iowa and was supported by Sen. Judiciary Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-IA) when she was unanimously confirmed to her current position

#2

Target senators up for reelection



- The White House is targeting **vulnerable GOP senators** who could portrayed as obstructionist
- Liberal advocacy groups are already planning events in New Hampshire and Wisconsin
- **Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL)**, up for reelection, said Wednesday that he would be willing to meet a nominee
- Polls suggest that **independents** strongly favor filling the court vacancy

#3

Use the campaign trail as bully pulpit



- Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT) said that **Hillary Clinton** is likely to use the nomination as a “very potent wedge issue on the campaign trail”
- Democrats expect Obama’s grassroots advocacy group, **Organizing for Action**, to launch a series of events nationwide to create additional public pressure starting on **March 3**
- A discharge petition in the Senate could force the issue in the midst of the campaign

Sources: National Journal Research, 2016; Alexander Bolton and Jordan Fabian, “How Obama, Dems Plan to Win Fight on High Court,” The Hill, February 25, 2016.