2/18/2016
119th KZGN News Talking Points Editorial
By: Tom Wiknich

Will we get a new Supreme Court judge during the Obama administration?

We see that the politics have reared up over the potential that Obama may yet seek to appoint a new Supreme Court judge. Since Judge Scalia’s death, all republicans have said that Obama should not appoint a replacement. Republicans want the next president to have the task. I do believe Obama will make an appointment and send it to the Senate for advice and consent. I think it’s clear that republicans see this appointment as a very important one. The court now sits in a general tie--four to four--four liberal-leaning judges, and four conservative-leaning judges.

There are many cases waiting for decisions right now, including some really important ones waiting to be heard by the court. The court could go ahead and hear the cases. No decision has to be made. Pending cases and new cases can be held without decision, and carried over to the next session next year. Both conservatives and liberals see this appointment as one that could change the course of the country. Most of the cases are political in nature. Big ones concerning Obama Care and presidential executive orders are pending. These are huge cases with the future power of the president’s office at task. Conservatives believe that Obama has over reached his authority and issued illegal executive orders. Liberals believe the orders were necessary because the Congress would act on the issue, and the president went around congress to do what he and liberals want.

This decision is critical.

I would add a note of caution to liberals. You just might not want these orders to be approved by the Supreme Court. Just as it is believed that Obama over stepped his authority, if the court approves the orders, the orders can be just as easily be retracted by a future president. It really comes down to just how much authority do you want the president to have? As far as appointing to replace Scalia, I believe the president will make an appointment to the Congress. I highly doubt the congress will even take it up for consideration. What remains is to see just who Obama puts up. What kind of judge will he propose? This will be interesting. Our country is so split now between liberals and conservatives. No one wants to give in to the other side. That’s because we, the people, want the people we elect to stand string in their beliefs. To not just negotiate always core values for the purpose to get along. That’s what it comes down to—core values. Core values we all carry with us. Core values we learned at a very early age. Not political positions on issues—real, deep seated core values. That is what is at stake. The general positions are core values come from strong religious beliefs on what is right and wrong. Therein lays the problem. Conservatives and as Justice Scalia stated many times, he made decisions based on the founding father intent of the constitution. Today’s liberals believe the Constitution is a living document that needs to be changed in accordance to current beliefs. The appointment of the next judge will fall into one of those categories, thereby by sending the court in its current path, or changing the court for years to come. This is probably the most important issue of the day.

In conclusion, I do believe Obama will provide an appointment. I have little belief the Congress will take up the appointment. This is just too big of an issue at this time in our country.

I’m Tom Wiknich, and that’s what I think. I’d like to know what you think. If you have any comments about this editorial, or would like to discuss or recommend a topic, I’d like to hear from you. Please email them to info@kzgn.net.