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Talking Points

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TALKING POINTS

SUPREME COURT NOMINATION OF JUDGE CLARENCE THOMAS

**"Judge Thomas' life is a model for all Americans, and he's earned the right to sit on this nation's highest court."
President Bush nominating Judge Thomas
July 1, 1991**

- o Judge Thomas was nominated by the President to be a Supreme Court Justice because of his fidelity to the Constitution and the rule of law. These qualities, coupled with his education and experience, will make him an exemplary Justice of the Supreme Court.
- o As President Bush said, Judge Thomas "is a fiercely independent thinker with an excellent legal mind, who believes passionately in equal opportunity for all Americans. He will approach the cases that come before the Court with a commitment to deciding them fairly, as the facts and the law require."
- o The U.S. Senate has already confirmed Judge Thomas four separate times: as Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the Department of Education in 1981, twice as Chairman of the EEOC in 1982 and 1986, and most recently as U.S. Court of Appeals Judge for the District of Columbia in 1990. He graduated from Holy Cross College with honors in 1971 and Yale Law School in 1974.
- o As Judge Thomas told the Senate Judiciary Committee: "The reason I became a lawyer was to make sure that minorities, individuals who did not have access to this society, gained access. Now, I may differ with others as to how best to do that, but the objective has always been to include those who have been excluded."
- o He believes firmly in the rights of the individual: that government's role is to protect the rights of the individual without advancing the interests of any particular lobbying group.
- o Thomas would bring to the Court a wealth of experience in government.
- o He compiled an outstanding record at EEOC: while seeking tougher penalties against discriminatory businesses, he pushed for improved voting rights and a strong civil rights agenda.

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JUDGE THOMAS
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- o Senator John C. Danforth has called Judge Thomas "conservative, but a compassionate kind of conservative, not rigid or ideological in his views. His every motive is that he empathizes with ordinary people, he's one of them."
- o R. Gaull Silberman, Vice Chairman of the EEOC when Thomas was chairman, said, "This man made the EEOC. He built it into a first-class law enforcement agency. We took three times as many cases, got more relief for more people than any other time in history."
- o According to Alan Keyes, President of Citizens Against Government Waste, on the basis of Thomas' constitutional philosophy and his character, "it would have been difficult for Mr. Bush to find anyone more qualified than Judge Thomas. Throughout his public career, he has displayed the intellectual honesty, integrity and moral courage that are crucial but all too rare ingredients of great public service."
- o When Thomas was nominated to the court of appeals, Robert G. Dowd, the Presiding Judge of the Missouri Court of Appeals, wrote that "Mr. Thomas has an outstanding civil rights record and has demonstrated leadership and excellence as Chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. He added that he "sincerely believed that Mr. Thomas would bring honor, excellence, and scholarship to the appellate court."
- o The nomination is not dictated by Judge Thomas' race; it is not dictated by his ideology; it is dictated by his first-rate intellect, his varied legal experiences, his outstanding character, and his commitment to the Constitution and individual rights.
- o The President recently said that Judge Thomas "offers what I think is a very stirring testament to what people can do when they refuse to take no for an answer, when through sheer determination they overcome the obstacles that others have placed in their way."

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