

# What's at stake?

One of the most important political fights in American history is happening *right now*.

The person who replaces Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the Supreme Court could affect the results of the 2020 election and impact the rights of future generations. Justice Ginsburg's background in representing vulnerable people made her voice vitally important on the Court. She showed an empathy for excluded voices that will be sorely missed from the Court.

Your right to vote, to worship, and even to be with your family could be at stake. The confirmation of a third Supreme Court justice nominated by President Trump would lead to another solid vote against civil rights, against equal protection under the law, and against religious freedom for members of minority faiths. Recent Supreme Court decisions underscore how important it is to have justices who will protect all Americans' religious liberty.



Joe Piette

## MUSLIM BAN

In 2018, in a 5-4 ruling, the Supreme Court upheld a version of the Trump administration's [Muslim Ban](#). This decision has torn families apart. As it ignored plain evidence of bias, the Court sent a message to all American Muslims that they do not belong and are instead second-class citizens.

In 2020, the Trump administration [expanded the ban](#) to include even more countries, most of which are Muslim-majority. President Trump is waging war on Muslims and immigrants, and the Supreme Court has enabled him.

We need a Supreme Court justice who will vote against anti-Muslim hate and discrimination, not rubber stamp it.

## VOTING RIGHTS

The 2020 presidential election is one of the most consequential in history, and voting is already underway. The Supreme Court has a massive say in how we vote. It has already intervened to prevent former felons from voting this year in Florida, and made voting in Wisconsin harder during the pandemic. Right now, legal battles are taking place about [who should get absentee ballots](#), [what ballots should be counted](#), and [who should be allowed to vote](#). President Trump has even [outright said](#) that he expects the federal courts to determine who wins the November 3, 2020 presidential election—and that he doesn't intend to leave without a fight. The Supreme Court could weigh in on all of these issues and more.

We need a Supreme Court justice who will make voting safe and accessible to all and protect the integrity of our elections, not undermine democracy.

## CIVIL RIGHTS

In cases involving Muslims swept up in post-9/11 detentions and surveillance programs, the Court has refused to grant any remedy even when it was absolutely clear that the plaintiffs had been innocent of any connection to terrorism. The Court in *Ashcroft v. Iqbal* and in *Ziglar v. Abbasi* fashioned procedural barriers to recovery. As a result, Muslims swept up in overbroad counter-terrorism programs are left without any remedy.

In 2019, in a reversal of an 11th Circuit decision, the Supreme Court in *Dunn v. Ray* allowed the state of Alabama to execute a [Muslim man](#) without honoring his request to die with an imam by his side, though the same facility regularly allowed its Christian chaplains into the chamber. The following month, in *Murphy v. Collier* the Supreme Court stayed the execution of a [Buddhist inmate](#) in Texas whose request that his spiritual adviser be present in the execution chamber had been denied. The Court made the right decision in this case, however, the only real difference between these two cases was that Ray was Muslim, and Murphy was not.

**People of all religions should be able to practice their faith, especially in the final moments of their lives.**

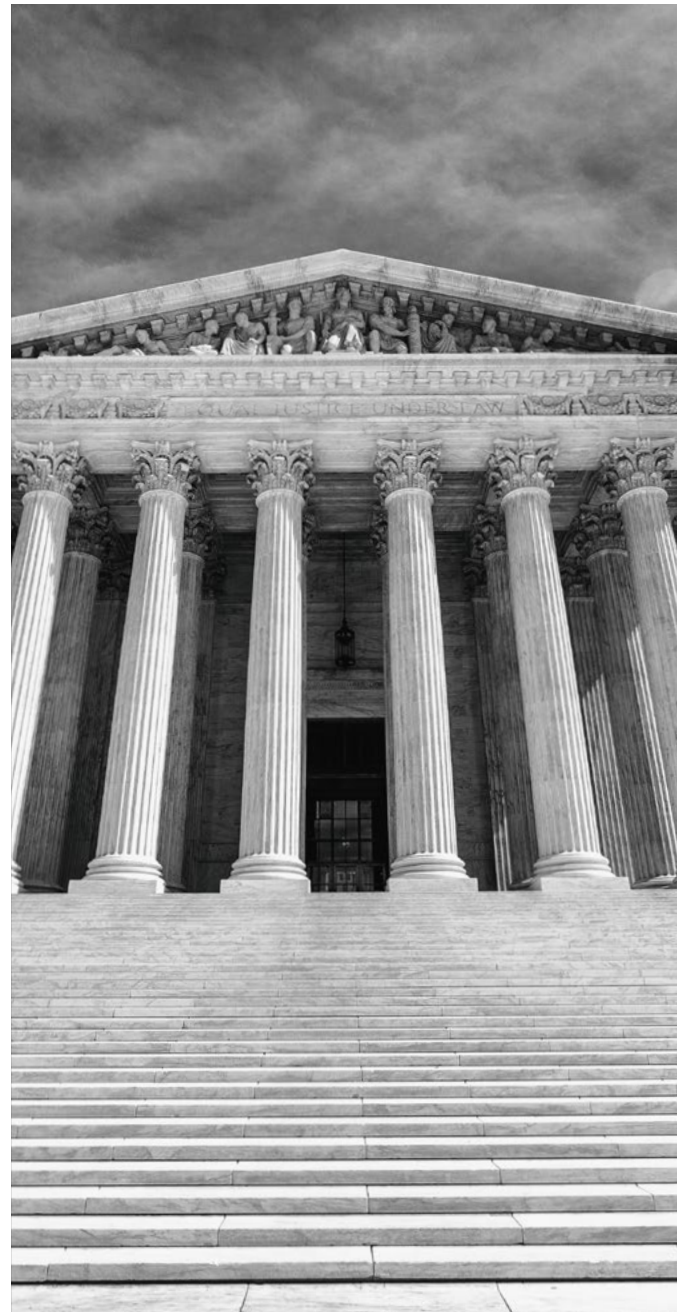
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Soon, this Supreme Court will hear arguments for two cases that will set precedents for protecting religious liberty for all:

*Tanzin v. Tanvir* challenges the FBI's attempted coercion of law-abiding American Muslims to spy on their religious communities, and in return they were told they would be removed from the No-Fly List. It is essential that the Court rules that the plaintiffs should be awarded money damages for violation of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, and holds government officials accountable for the harm they caused.

In *Fulton v. City of Philadelphia*, the City stopped referring children in the public child welfare system to two agencies that would not license same-sex couples to be foster parents based on the agencies' religious beliefs. Freedom of religion, enshrined in the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, as well as numerous laws, is a shield intended to protect the free exercise of religion for all, not a sword that should be used to impose religious beliefs on or discriminate against others.

**We need a Supreme Court justice who will defend religious freedom for all, not just for favored groups.**



Thomas Hawk

**The Supreme Court belongs to all of us, not to any one party or politician.**

We need our court to recognize and protect the rights of all of us. Make your voice heard: vote, call your members of Congress, and make sure that everyone knows that we're in the fight for our lives — right now.

**MUSLIM  
ADVOCATES**