

# State of Tennessee



The Secretary of State  
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Tre Hargett  
Secretary of State

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September 30, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

Congratulations on the outstanding nomination you have made to fill the newly vacant seat on the United States Supreme Court. I share your confidence in The Honorable Amy Coney Barrett's ability to serve our great nation with utmost distinction and integrity.

With the upcoming election looming a mere five weeks away, I believe it is critical that our Supreme Court has a full nine-member body before Election Day on November 3, 2020. As Tennessee's chief election official, I know it is essential we maintain both the integrity and credibility of our elections to prevent not only an erosion of faith in the electoral process but also to avert efforts to erode confidence in our nation's form of government. In Tennessee as well as our entire country, our fellow citizens must be able to cast their votes confidently.

While you are even more familiar than I with Judge Barrett and her preparedness to serve on the highest court in the land, I must share that I am especially encouraged by her record as a textualist. We need more judges who understand that their role is neither a judicial activist nor a policymaker, but rather that their responsibility is to uphold the United States Constitution and the laws of the United States of America. Judge Barrett is a great example of the type of individual we need on our highest court.

If an election issue is challenged in court, America cannot afford a tie vote, and this is one of several reasons I appreciate your swift, decisive, yet thoughtful action in nominating Judge Barrett. I am confident in our Tennessee senators' support of her nomination, and I wish you and your administration success in working with the United States Senate to see that the Judge Barrett is confirmed before Election Day.

Sincerely,



Tre Hargett  
Secretary of State

Cc: The Honorable Mitch McConnell, United States Senate Majority Leader  
The Honorable Chuck Schumer, United States Senate Minority Leader  
The Honorable Lindsey Graham, Chairman, United States Senate Judiciary Committee  
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member, United States Senate Judiciary Committee  
The Honorable Lamar Alexander, United States Senator, Tennessee  
The Honorable Marsha Blackburn, United States Senator, Tennessee