



A candidate, Biden opposed court expansion, once describing it as "boneheaded."

Week before his election he declared he was open to a broad study of the court, including but not confined to its membership.

In broad and often vague terms, the announcement promoted the task of the 36-member commission as "providing an analysis of the principal arguments for and against Supreme Court reform, including an appraisal of the merits and legality of particular reform proposals."

The commission would address such topics as "the genesis of the reform debate; the Court's role in the Constitutional system; the length of service and turnover of justices on the court; the membership and size of the court; and the Court's case selection, rules and practices."

Tucked in there near the conclusion, one finds the only issue that genuinely matters - "the membership and size of the court."

At his core, Biden is an institutionalist who believes in a government of order and balance in which each branch respecting the Constitutional prerogative of the other and paying deference to the principle of co-equality.

He is also a centrist, a believer in building consensus, receptive to negotiation and compromise - qualities diminished by the far left and many on the right as outdated and quaint notions no longer relevant in today's polarized political environment.

It is all well noticed, but the White House provided further explanation of the commission's role: It will not deliver specific recommendations, but only a report.

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