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US Senate 2012



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## U.S. Senate Hopeful Speaks to Rockland Republicans

Nassau County comptroller wants to challenge Kristen Gillibrand

By [Robin Traum](#) | [Email the author](#) | June 2, 2011 [Print](#)

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Nassau County Comptroller George Maragos told Rockland County Republicans he is exploring the possibility of running against U.S. Senator Kristen Gillibrand in 2012.

He explained why he wants to run.

"We need leaders with visions grounded in reality," Maragos told county Republican committee members Wednesday night.

He touched on a variety of issues including high gas prices, unemployment and failure of government policies.

"Nothing speaks louder about the failure of our energy policy than those sky high gas prices at the pump," he said, noting the country needs a national commitment to energy independence.

Maragos stated Nassau County has a lower unemployment rate than much of the area but said 25 million Americans are affected by the lack of jobs.

"An entire generation of college students is at risk," he said. "This is wrong."

He criticized Gillibrand (D-NY) as being a "rubber stamp" to U.S Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) and said she has done little for New York.

"We need a smaller government," Maragos said. "We need a fiscally sound government."

He spoke about his experience and background. Before becoming comptroller, Maragos was in business for 35 years, running his own firm and as an executive with several banks. In addition to his elected position, Maragos said Republicans hold the Nassau County county executive's seat and the legislature.

"We have restored financial stability to Nassau County," he said. "We have reduced taxes. Recently I reported we ended 2010 with a tax surplus."

Maragos asked the committee members, who had gathered for their county nominating convention, for their support to help him get to Washington D.C.

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## A voice for the people of New York



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Kirsten E. Gillibrand was sworn in as United States Senator from New York in January 2009, filling the seat of the current Secretary of State, Hillary Rodham Clinton. In November 2010, Gillibrand won election to the seat with 63 percent of the vote. Prior to her service in the Senate, Gillibrand served in the United States House of Representatives, representing New York's 20th Congressional District, which spans across ten counties in upstate New York.

Throughout her time in Congress, Senator Gillibrand has been committed to open and honest government. When she was first elected, she pledged to bring unprecedented transparency and access to her post. And she did, becoming the first Member of Congress to post her official public schedule, personal financial disclosure, and federal earmark requests online. *The New York Times* called Gillibrand's commitment to transparency a "quiet touch of revolution" in Washington, and The Sunlight Foundation, the leading advocacy organization dedicated to making government more open and transparent, praised Senator Gillibrand as a pioneer for her work. *For more information, visit Senator Gillibrand's Sunlight Report at <http://gillibrand.senate.gov/sunlight/>*

In the US Senate, Senator Gillibrand has made her presence felt, helping lead the fight to repeal "Don't Ask Don't Tell," the policy that bans gays from serving openly in the military, and providing health care and compensation to the 9/11 first responders and community survivors that are sick with diseases caused by the toxins at Ground Zero. Senator Gillibrand worked to bring Democrats and Republicans together to win both legislative victories, leading *Newsweek* and *The Daily Beast* to name Senator Gillibrand one of 150 women who shake the world.

As the mother of two young children, Senator Gillibrand knows that working families are struggling in this difficult economy. By making quality child care and higher education more affordable, providing property tax relief and keeping our neighborhoods safe, Senator Gillibrand's legislative agenda aims to help middle class and working families. She has written legislation to address the country's nursing shortage, make quality autism treatment more affordable, improve asthma treatment for children, and ensure that drinking water and baby products are safe for consumers.

Senator Gillibrand's number one priority is to rebuild the American economy, by creating good-paying jobs, helping small businesses get loans, and partnering with the private sector to foster innovation and entrepreneurship. Using her seat on the Environment and Public Works Committee, Senator Gillibrand has worked to increase investment in infrastructure, including drinking water and sewer systems, rural broadband, health care information technology, and renewable energy, working closely with the Obama Administration and Senator Charles Schumer to ensure that New York gets its fair share of federal dollars.

As the first New York Senator to sit on the Agriculture Committee in nearly 40 years, Senator Gillibrand is giving New York families the seat at the table they deserve as Congress debates food policy. She is taking a leading role to improve child nutrition and combat child obesity by giving children and families more access to fresh fruits and vegetables grown right here in New York. She is also fighting hard to protect New York's farmers, especially those who need help in the current economic crisis. Senator Gillibrand is leading the fight to make sure dairy farmers get a fair price for the milk they produce.

After serving on the Armed Services Committee in the House, Senator Gillibrand is now serving on the Senate Armed Services, using her position to strengthen America's armed services, national security and military readiness, and to continue fighting for America's troops and military families by creating better economic opportunities for veterans returning home to their families today.

From her seat on the Aging Committee, Senator Gillibrand is committed to fighting on behalf of seniors, working to lower the cost of prescription drugs, make long-term care more affordable so seniors can remain independent for as long as they are able, and protecting seniors from financial fraud. Senator Gillibrand is also working to lower property taxes, co-sponsoring legislation that would give New York residents a full federal tax deduction for their property taxes.



### Gillibrand Biography.pdf

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#### Environment and Public Works »

Protecting the nation's natural environment; safeguarding the environmental health of our communities; and overseeing the development of our nation's surface transportation infrastructure.

#### Armed Services »

Strengthening America's armed services, national security and military readiness, and supporting America's troops and military families.

#### Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee »

Helping New York farmers thrive and ensuring food security for all New York citizens.

#### Special Committee on Aging »

Protecting social security and Medicare and making prescription drugs and long term care affordable for New York seniors.





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After attending Albany's Academy of Holy Names, Senator Gillibrand graduated in 1984 from Emma Willard School in Troy, New York, the first all women's high school in the United States. A magna cum laude graduate of Dartmouth College in 1988, Gillibrand went on to receive her law degree from the UCLA School of Law in 1991 and served as a law clerk on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

After working as an attorney in New York City for more than a decade, Senator Gillibrand served as Special Counsel to United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Andrew Cuomo during the Clinton Administration. She then worked as an attorney in Upstate New York before becoming a member of Congress.

Born and raised in Upstate New York, Senator Gillibrand now lives in Brunswick, New York, with her husband, Jonathan Gillibrand, and their two young sons, seven year old Theodore and two year old Henry.

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August 6, 2009

Washington, D.C. - Today, following the vote of the U.S. Senate to confirm the nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to be the next Supreme Court Associate Justice, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand issued the following statement:

"The breadth and depth of Judge Sotomayor's experience makes her uniquely qualified for the Supreme Court. Her keen understanding of case law and the importance of precedent is derived from working in nearly every aspect of our legal system -- as a prosecutor, corporate litigator, civil rights advocate, trial judge and appellate judge. Judge Sotomayor will bring to the Supreme Court more federal judicial experience than any justice in one hundred years and more overall judicial experience than any justice in seventy years.

"Judge Sotomayor will bring the wisdom of all her experiences to bear as she applies the rule of law, and will grace the Supreme Court with the intelligence, judgment, clarity of thought and determination of purpose that we have come to expect from all great justices on the Court.

"Judge Sotomayor's record is a testament to her strict adherence to precedence - her unyielding belief in the rule of law and the Constitution. I have always strongly supported Judge Sotomayor's nomination and firmly believe she will prove to be one of the finest justices in American history.

"Today, I am honored, humbled and proud to join my colleagues in the U.S. Senate to confirm the historic nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to be our next Supreme Court Associate Justice and the first ever Latina on our nation's highest court."

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## Gillibrand Celebrates Confirmation of Judge Sotomayor for the U.S. Supreme Court

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"Judge Sotomayor will bring the wisdom of all her experiences to bear as she applies the rule of law, and will grace the Supreme Court with the intelligence, judgment, clarity of thought and determination of purpose that we have come to expect from all great justices on the Court.

"Judge Sotomayor's record is a testament to her strict adherence to precedence - her unyielding belief in the rule of law and the Constitution. I have always strongly supported Judge Sotomayor's nomination and firmly believe she will prove to be one of the finest justices in American history.

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## Introduction of Judge Sonia Sotomayor by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

July 13, 2009

Thank you Chairman Leahy, Ranking member Sessions, Senator Schumer, and the other distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee for the privilege to speak on behalf of Judge Sonia Sotomayor. President Obama has chosen one of the country's outstanding legal minds with his nomination of Sonia Sotomayor to the United States Supreme Court.

As a New Yorker, I take great pride along with the rest of my state in Judge Sotomayor's nomination.

As a woman, I take great pride in this historic nomination. In the words of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor "It took a very long time - about 171 years - to get the first woman on the Supreme Court. And I thought ... that we'd very likely always have two and eventually more."

I am thankful that President Obama has recognized the importance of women's voices on the nation's highest court.

Sonia Sotomayor's life and career are a study in excellence - a commitment to learning, a dedication to the law, and constant pursuit of the highest ideals of our country.

Her story is also the quintessential American and New York story. Born to a Puerto Rican family, growing up in public housing in the South Bronx, she was raised with a love of country and a deep appreciation for hard work. Judge Sotomayor demonstrated a devotion to learning, graduating summa cum laude from Princeton and served as an editor of the Yale Law Journal, before pursuing a career in the law.

The breadth and depth of Judge Sotomayor's experience makes her uniquely qualified for the Supreme Court. Judge Sotomayor's keen understanding of case law and the importance of precedent is derived from working in nearly every aspect of our legal system - as a prosecutor, corporate litigator, trial judge and appellate judge.

As a prosecutor, Judge Sotomayor fought the worst of

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society's ills, prosecuting a litany of crimes - from murder to child pornography to drug trafficking. Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau described her as a "fearless and effective prosecutor" and an "able champion of the law."

Judge Sotomayor's years as a Corporate Litigator exposed her to all facets of commercial law including, real estate, employment, banking, contracts and agency law.

Judge Sotomayor was appointed to the US District Court for the Southern District of New York by President George H.W. Bush, presiding over roughly four hundred fifty cases and earning a reputation as a tough, fair and thoughtful jurist. She would replace Justice Souter as the only member of the Supreme Court with experience as a trial judge.

At the appellate level, Judge Sotomayor has participated in over three thousand panel decisions, authoring roughly four hundred published opinions - with only seven cases brought up for review by the Supreme Court, which reversed only three of her authored opinions, two of which were closely divided.

With confirmation, Judge Sotomayor would bring more federal judicial experience to the Supreme Court than any justice in one hundred years and more overall judicial experience than any justice confirmed to the court in seventy years.

As a testament to Judge Sotomayor, many independent national legal and law enforcement groups have endorsed her nomination.

The American Bar Association voted unanimously to endorse Judge Sotomayor with its highest rating - "well qualified" -- citing her "*formidable intellect... a mature legal mind open to the arguments of others... deciding each case based on the precise facts and legal issues before her... also faithful in following the law as it exists; and that she has a healthy respect for the limited role of judges and the balance of powers with the executive and legislative branches.*"

The President of the Fraternal Order of Police, declared

that, "*She is a model jurist: tough, fair-minded and mindful of the constitutional protections afforded to all U.S. citizens.*"

A nominee's experience as a legal advocate for civil rights certainly must not be seen as a disqualifying criterion for confirmation, but instead the hallmark of an individual's commitment to our founding principles of equality, justice and freedom. Like Ruth Bader Ginsburg's participation in the ACLU Women's Rights Project or Thurgood Marshall's efforts on behalf of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, Judge Sotomayor's leadership role in the Puerto Rican Legal Defense Fund demonstrates her commitment to our Constitutional rights and core value that equality is an inalienable American right - and should not be ascribed based on gender or color.

Judge Sotomayor's entire breadth of experience uniquely informs her ability to discern facts as she applies the rule of law and follows precedent. Judge Sotomayor's commitment to the Constitution is unyielding.

As she described in her judicial philosophy, saying "I don't believe we should bend the Constitution under any circumstance. It says what it says. We should do honor to it." Judge Sotomayor's record on the Second Circuit demonstrates the paramount importance of this conviction.

The importance of Sonia Sotomayor's professional and personal story cannot be understated.

Many of our most esteemed justices have noted the importance of their own diverse backgrounds and life experiences in being an effective justice. Like Judge Sotomayor, they also understand that their gender or ethnicity is not the determining factor in the judicial rulings, but another asset which they bring to the court - much like their education, training, and previous legal work.

Justice Antonin Scalia said:

*I am a product of the melting pot in New York, grew up with people of all religious and ethnic backgrounds ... I have absolutely no racial prejudices, and I think I am*

*probably at least as antagonistic as the average American, and probably much more so towards racial discrimination.*

Justice Clarence Thomas said:

*My journey ... has been one that required me to at some point touch on virtually every aspect, every level of our country, from people who couldn't read and write to people who were extremely literate, from people who had no money to people who were very wealthy. So, what I bring to this Court, I believe, is an understanding and the ability to stand in the shoes of other people across a broad spectrum of this country.*

Justice Samuel Alito said:

*I don't come from an affluent background or a privileged background. My parents were both quite poor when they were growing up. And, I know about their experiences ...*

*When I get a case about discrimination, I have to think about people in my own family who suffered discrimination because of their ethnic background or because of religion or because of gender. And I do take that into account.*

Judge Sotomayor will bring the wisdom of all her experiences to bear as she applies the rule of law, and will grace the Supreme Court with the intelligence, judgment, clarity of thought and determination of purpose that we have come to expect from all great justices on the Court. I strongly support Judge Sotomayor's nomination and firmly believe she will prove to be one of the finest justices in American history.

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### Introducing Supreme Court Nominee Sotomayor



Senator Gillibrand introduces Supreme Court Nominee Judge Sonia Sotomayor on her first day of hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

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### Gillibrand, Boxer, Klobuchar Stand with Sotomayor



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## Women Senators Echo Support For Sotomayor's Record

July 9, 2009

In advance of the confirmation hearing for Supreme Court nominee Judge Sonia Sotomayor, a coalition of women senators Thursday offered support for the long record of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals judge. At a press conference on Capitol Hill Thursday, Senators Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) praised Sotomayor's 17-year record as a federal judge and public servant.

**Senator Boxer** said, "Judge Sonia Sotomayor's nomination to the Supreme Court is important because we want our institutions in this country - from the Congress to the President's Cabinet to the judicial branch - to reflect the diversity of our country. This woman, this excellent judge, deserves to be treated fairly and equally with those who came before her. I will work with my colleagues to ensure that Judge Sotomayor's confirmation process is fair and timely."

**Senator Klobuchar** said, "Judge Sotomayor understands that the law is not some dusty book in your basement, but that it has a real impact on people's lives. She is someone who deeply appreciates the power and impact that laws and the criminal justice system have on real people's lives. Judge Sotomayor has more experience as a trial court judge than anyone that has been nominated in the past 100 years. Her record is one of looking at the facts and examining the details, and demonstrates her strong command of the law. I look forward to the upcoming hearings."

Senator **Gillibrand** said, "Judge Sotomayor is widely admired. She understands that upholding the rule of law and upholding precedent is her primary duty, but she also understands how to apply it fairly, consistently and in a common-sense way. If confirmed for the Supreme Court, Judge Sotomayor would bring more federal judicial experience than any nominee at the time of their nomination. Judge Sotomayor is well within the mainstream. And because she brings with her such an extraordinary array of judicial and personal experiences, we can look forward to her being one of the greatest justices in our American history."

Earlier this week, the National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL) [released an evaluation](#) of Sotomayor's record, and announced that its "Committee for the Evaluation of Supreme Court Nominees has found Judge Sonia Sotomayor 'highly qualified' for the position of Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. The conclusion, based upon Judge Sotomayor's intellectual capacity, her appropriate judicial temperament and her respect for established law and process." The committee is comprised of law

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professors, appellate practitioners and lawyers. The NAWL evaluation is one of the latest in a series of studies and evaluations that have found Sotomayor to be a mainstream, moderate federal judge.

Several Senators joined Boxer, Klobuchar and Gillibrand in praising Sotomayor's qualifications.

Senator **Barbara Mikulski** (D-Md.) said, "Judge Sonia Sotomayor has a compelling personal story and a distinguished judicial career. Her intellectual capacity and respect for the law are unquestioned: she received the top-grade from the American Bar Association, as well as ringing endorsements from America's top law enforcement associations. I have met her personally. She is whip-smart, gracious and well-liked by the American people. Simply put, she is an outstanding nominee for the Supreme Court. I look forward to a swift and respectful discussion of her qualifications, record and judicial expertise."

Senator **Patro Murray** (D-Wash.) said, "Judge Sotomayor is an experienced jurist. Her 17-year record as a federal judge indicates that she has a strong respect for the rights and liberties of all Americans. That she was appointed to the federal courts twice - once by a Democratic president and once by a Republican - is a testament to her independence, temperament, and mainstream ideology."

Senator **Mary Landrieu** (D-La.) said, "In addition to having an impressive professional resume, Judge Sotomayor personal journey from the Bronx projects to the federal bench is truly extraordinary. Judge Sotomayor is a historic choice who will bring a wealth of experience and added diversity to the nation's highest court. I have confidence in her fair-mindedness, and I intend to support her Senate confirmation."

Senator **Debbie Stabenow** (D-Mich.) said, "The person appointed to the Supreme Court will have an impact on our daily lives and on the lives of our children and grandchildren. That is why we in the Senate must ensure that any nominee to the Court demonstrates that he or she is independent, fair-minded, and willing to reach impartial decisions based on the law. I am encouraged that in Judge Sotomayor, the President has selected an excellent nominee who demonstrates all of these qualities."

Senator **Claire McCaskill** (D-Mo.) said, "Over the course of her career, Judge Sotomayor has examined the law from every perspective, giving her a depth of knowledge that is rare and uniquely qualifying her to sit on our nation's highest court. But she also has shown that she respects precedent. Over her career, she has affirmed the criminal convictions of lower courts 92 percent of the time. I am confident she will make an extraordinary Supreme

Court Justice."

Senator **Leanne Shaheen** (D-N.H.) said, "Judge Sotomayor has had a distinguished career as a federal judge. And, if confirmed, she will replace New Hampshire's David Souter as the only member of the Supreme Court with prior experience as a trial-court judge, experience I think is very important for at least one of our Supreme Court Justices to have. I am confident Judge Sotomayor will be ever mindful of the need to provide clear and practical decisions, and I look forward to her swift confirmation."

The Senate Judiciary Committee will hold a confirmation hearing on Sotomayor's nomination on July 13.

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## Gillibrand Statement on the Ricci Decision

June 29, 2009

*Washington, D.C.* - In response to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the Ricci v. Stefano case, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand issued the following statement:

"Detractors are wrong to use this narrowly-decided decision as criticism of Judge Sotomayor, who did exactly what she was supposed to do in this case. She and the other Circuit Court Judges strictly followed precedent, which the Supreme Court has reinterpreted today.

"Judge Sotomayor strictly and fairly applied the law in this case, as she has done throughout her long, distinguished career on the bench. After a comprehensive analysis of her judicial record, the non-partisan Congressional Research Service recently concluded that Judge Sotomayor shows a consistent adherence to the upholding of past judicial precedents. Judge Sotomayor is a jurist who bases her decisions on the underlying legal precedent and will continue this approach on the Supreme Court."

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### In Conversation With President Obama This Morning, Gillibrand Praised Historic Decision to Nominate Judge Sotomayor

## Senators Gillibrand, Schumer Made Direct Appeal to President Recommending Judge Sotomayor to Serve As First Ever Latino to the Supreme Court

May 26, 2009

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Washington, D.C. □ Today, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand praised President Barack Obama's historic move to select Judge Sonia Sotomayor to fill the vacancy on the United States Supreme Court. Earlier this month, Senators Gillibrand and Charles E. Schumer sent a personal letter to President Obama recommending that he appoint Judge Sotomayor to serve as the first Latino on the nation's highest court.

"I spoke with President Obama this morning and told him that he had made a historic and fantastic decision," said Senator Gillibrand. "In Judge Sotomayor, we have a superbly qualified jurist, who understands, respects, and connects with the people whose lives will be affected by the Court. Judge Sotomayor will bring invaluable experience and much needed diversity to our nation's highest court. I look forward to a respectful and swift confirmation process in which Congress and the American people can learn more about Judge Sotomayor's phenomenal qualifications."

The text of the Senators' letter to President Obama is included below:

May 1, 2009

Dear Mr. President,

We write to bring your attention to the shortage of representation of Latinos in the Federal Judiciary and strongly urge you to consider the Latino legal community when deciding your first appointment to the United States Supreme Court should a vacancy occur during your presidency.

We are firm believers that legal excellence, moderation, and diversity should be taken into account when nominating judges to ensure that the federal bench is truly representative of our society. Latinos are a large and growing segment of our society that have gone grossly underrepresented in our legal system. Indeed, while Latinos comprise around 15 percent of the population, only about 7 percent of federal judges are Latino. Moreover, not a single Latino has served on the United States Supreme Court in the history of our country.

There are, of course, many excellent and qualified Latino candidates, but we commend to your attention two in particular who we believe would be exceptional Supreme Court Justices should a





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Schumer, Gillibrand Make Direct Appeal to President Obama Recommending He Nominate the First Ever Latino to the Supreme Court Should a Vacancy Occur During His Term

## Senators Recommend Second Circuit Judge Sonia Sotomayor and Current Interior Secretary Ken Salazar As Possible Candidates

May 1, 2009

Today, U.S. Senators Charles E. Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand sent a personal letter to President Barack Obama asking him to appoint a Latino to fill the next vacancy on the United States Supreme Court should a seat open up during President Obama's administration. Schumer and Gillibrand specifically recommended Judge Sonia Sotomayor, currently sitting on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, and Interior Secretary and former Colorado Senator and State Attorney General Ken Salazar. Schumer and Gillibrand said both would make outstanding justices and help ensure that the Supreme Court reflect the full diversity of the nation. This would be the first ever nomination of a Latino to the Supreme Court.

"It's long overdue that a Latino sit on the United States Supreme Court. Sonia Sotomayor and Ken Salazar are two candidates who would make outstanding justices. They have top-notch legal minds, years of experience, moderate approaches to the law, and would make history by being the first Latino on the court," Senator Schumer said.

"We are fortunate in New York State to have jurists of the caliber and intellect that Judge Sotomayor has exhibited during a lifelong career of service to the bench. As an accomplished jurists, as a woman, and as a Latina she would bring to the United States Supreme Court a much needed voice. We must be committed to diversity on our nation's highest bench. These candidates will restore the balance that we so desperately need on the Court," Senator Gillibrand said.

The text of the Senators' letter to President Obama is included below:

Dear Mr. President,

We write to bring your attention to the shortage of representation of Latinos in the Federal Judiciary and strongly urge you to consider the Latino legal community when deciding your first appointment to the United States Supreme Court should a vacancy occur during your presidency.

We are firm believers that legal excellence, moderation, and diversity should be taken into account when nominating judges to

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ensure that the federal bench is truly representative of our society. Latinos are a large and growing segment of our society that have gone grossly underrepresented in our legal system. Indeed, while Latinos comprise around 15 percent of the population, only about 7 percent of federal judges are Latino. Moreover, not a single Latino has served on the United States Supreme Court in the history of our country.

There are, of course, many excellent and qualified Latino candidates, but we commend to your attention two in particular who we believe would be exceptional Supreme Court Justices should a vacancy arise: Judge Sonia Sotomayor and Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. Both of these individuals are legally excellent, ideologically moderate, and would add diversity to the Court.

From within the judicial sphere, Judge Sotomayor would make an excellent selection. She has had a long and distinguished career as a public servant, and since 1998, has served on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, one of the most important Circuits in the nation. Nominated by former President Clinton, Judge Sotomayor received broad bipartisan support in the Senate. Before her appointment to the Second Circuit, she served as a District Court Judge for the Southern District of New York - a position for which she was nominated by former President George H.W. Bush and confirmed unanimously by the Senate. Even prior to her tenure on the federal bench, Judge Sotomayor demonstrated her commitment to public service and the rule of law by working as an Assistant District Attorney in the New York County District Attorney's Office.

From outside of the judicial sphere, Interior Secretary Salazar would make a highly-regarded choice. Like Judge Sotomayor, Secretary Salazar also boasts an impressive resume demonstrating excellence as a lawyer and a distinguished career as a public servant. As you know, his nomination for Secretary of the Interior received unanimous support in the Senate - a body in which he previously proudly served for a number of years. While Secretary Salazar has never served on the federal bench, we believe his years in the U.S. Senate and his many years serving as the thirty-sixth Attorney General of Colorado have not only proven his commitment to public service and the rule of law, but also endowed him with the necessary breadth and depth of understanding regarding the many issues before our courts.

We look forward to working with you on this issue, and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Senator Charles E. Schumer

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

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