

# GOP: On the Right Side of History



## First Woman on the Supreme Court

Sandra Day O'Connor (born March 26, 1930) is a retired Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, serving from her appointment in 1981 by President Ronald Reagan to 2006. She was the first woman to serve on the Supreme Court.

Prior to O'Connor's tenure on the Court, she was an elected official, judge in Arizona and served as the first female Majority Leader of a state senate as the Republican leader in the Arizona Senate.

Considered a federalist and a moderate Republican, O'Connor tended to approach each case narrowly without arguing for sweeping precedents. She most frequently sided with the Court's conservative bloc.

On December 12, 2000, The Wall Street Journal reported that O'Connor was reluctant to retire with a Democrat in the presidency: "At an Election Night party at the Washington, D.C. home of Mary Ann Stoessel, widow of former Ambassador Walter Stoessel, the justice's husband, John O'Connor, mentioned to others her desire to step down, according to three witnesses. But Mr. O'Connor said his wife would be reluctant to retire if a Democrat were in the White House and would choose her replacement. Justice O'Connor declined to comment."

On July 1, 2005, she announced her intention to retire effective upon the confirmation of a successor. Samuel Alito was nominated in October 2005, and joined the Court on January 2006. (Source: Wikipedia)