Supreme Court Nominations Process

**Vacancy Announced**
A Supreme Court vacancy is most often created when a justice retires or passes away.

**Selection**
The White House reviews records and interviews candidates.

**Nomination**
The president publicly nominates someone for the vacancy.

**Hearing**
Supreme Court hearings usually last for a few days, including introductions, hearing from the nominee, and outside witnesses. This is the public’s chance to hear from the nominee.

**Questions for the Record**
After the hearing, senators can ask the nominee further questions in the Questions for the Record that the nominee responds to in writing.

**Mark Up**
The Senate Judiciary Committee holds an executive business meeting, also known as a mark up, where it holds a vote on the nomination. The committee can report a nominee favorably, unfavorably, or without a recommendation.

**[If Needed: Discharge Motion]**
If the committee vote is tied, the full Senate must vote on a discharge motion in order for the nomination to be place on the Senate’s Executive Calendar for full Senate consideration.

**Final Vote**
Finally, the full Senate votes to confirm the nomination. Confirmation requires a simple majority vote.

**CLOTURE VOTE**
Recently, most nominations first require a cloture vote to end debate on the nomination. To end debate, a simple majority vote is required. If the cloture vote is successful, senators have up to 30 hours to debate the nomination before a final vote is held.

**The motion must be made on the Senate floor with up to four hours of debate before the discharge motion is voted on. To succeed, the motion requires a simple majority vote.**