

## What Do You Think: What Does Congress Do?

time 00:00:00

INTERVIEWER: So the first one, real easy, is just what does Congress do?

FEMALE #1: Congress... (laughs) Congress makes laws. The Congressmen -- Congressmen and women -- represent the people of their various districts, and their job is to be one of the checks and balances against the other two branches of government.

MALE #1: Help pass bills. You know... To help make laws and everything.

MALE #2: It passes laws. (Inaudible) laws, and passes legislation.

MALE #3: Congress is the legislative body of the United States, and it pretty much provides us with some ways to solve problems in America. And the way they do this, of course, is through legislation, federal legislation. And of course a lot of times that has an impact on the state, too, because sometimes what they pass at the federal level impacts us at the state level. And pro or con, it depends on what you want to do with it, and it depends on what the legislation is. But that's a big part of it, and of course trying to get that done is a difficult thing at times. Because you have lots of competition. People are always saying, well, I want my point of view, I want my point of view, and my whole thought is it must be somewhere in the middle. It kind of comes together and says, OK, what's the compromise, what's in the middle part or way, you know? To me, that's the way things are solved. They're neither one way or the other; it's never that way. It's always kind of a compromise.

FEMALE #2: Congress is supposed to make laws, help determine how to spend money properly.

MALE #4: Oh, that's a good question! (laughs) What do they do? Let's see... They make laws. What else do they do? You know? I don't know, that's a hard one. They make laws, they do legislation and help to make the laws for our country.

FEMALE #3: Congress writes and passes legislation. Federal legislation.

FEMALE #4: Congress. They pass laws. And talk a lot. But they pass laws in making legislation for the United States.

MALE #5: Enacts laws. Makes laws.

MALE #6: What does Congress do? It enacts laws. Legislation. And it represents the people that elected them, supposedly, from either the representative of a district, as a Congressman, or a state, as a Senator. And obviously, part of what Congress does is they continually try to get reelected. So they spend a lot of their time either raising money, going back home to their constituents and telling them on a daily basis or weekly basis what they did for them, what pet projects they did, whether it's a library in the hometown or a dam project or something, that shows that they've represented them in the proper way. At the same time, as part of a larger constituency in their political party, try to support that party's platform, and the president if he's of the same party. To protect America, provide economic development for America, and maintain American stature in the United States and the world body.

## **What Do You Think: What Does Congress Do?**

time 00:03:09

MALE #6: They're supposed to be representative of the individuals in their certain areas in the... Like, say where we're from, we have Congressmen that represent certain districts and parts, and then they come to Washington, I guess, to lobby it and make sure that we get what we want.

MALE #7: Do we get what we want?

MALE #6: America is still the greatest country in the world, right?