

What Do You Think: How is Congress Doing?

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INTERVIEWER: How would you say that they are doing?

FEMALE #1: Now? Terrible. (laughs) Terrible. I think that there's terrible deadlock, gridlock, way political, and I'm a Republican, so I think of course that Democrat-controlled Congress is just reaping terrible results for the American people. They are deadlocked on everything, from energy to the war to something that's very important to me, the pro-life effort. You know, everything. They're just not getting anywhere with anything.

FEMALE #2: You know, when you look at all the time they spend trying to do things and make laws and stuff and the pork-belly stuff that's going into everything, I would have to say that it needs an entire gutting, and they need to start all over again.

MALE #1: Probably as good as they've ever done.

FEMALE #3: Yeah. I have no complaints.

MALE #1: Yep.

INTERVIEWER: How well do you think they're doing?

MALE #2: Not very good. Not very well at all.

MALE #3: I think sometimes they are kind of slow for things that we really need to act on real quick. Sometimes I think they are kind of slow on that. But overall I think they are doing good.

MALE #4: Right now of course, as a whole, I don't think they're moving very well. We, I think most of the people, probably many people at least back in Oklahoma would think that they're moving slow, they're not solving the problems fast enough, our economy's in trouble, our infrastructure's in trouble, our health care's in trouble, a lot of people don't get health care that need it, you know, we have a war going that's lasted for anything longer than the Vietnam War, for that matter. So, I think people are concerned about that.

FEMALE #4: They probably could be better. I mean, I just heard Bush say that this is a veto pen, which Congress doesn't have. So they probably could be doing better to make a better -- like, make more compromises and do what the American people want, rather than what they want.

MALE #5: Well, I mean I think it's really difficult, because I don't know the ratio, but it's about 50/50 for Republicans and Democrats, and I think it's hard to make laws when everyone's 50/50. That'd be like if me and her -- you know, we're dating -- if we disagreed on issues, it'd be really tough to run something. So I think that makes it a lot difficult, making things happen.

MALE #6: They're not doing very well.

And I think that's probably a criticism of, I think, the nation as a whole. Because what has happened is we've become a nation of poles: I'm either on this side, or I'm on that side.

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And I'm not working together to cross that aisle, if you will, so that we can look at the support the country as a whole. We can never have everything our way; there's got to be some sort of compromise. And I'm afraid that our leaders have lost the art of compromise. What they're doing now is basically it's my way or the highway, and as a result, we as the American people suffer.

FEMALE #5: I think that overall, over the history of America, Congress has functioned pretty well. I think kind of lately things have been getting a little bogged down. I think that Congress could work a little harder at getting things done. But I also try to take the long view, and I think that in general, change is slow, and it's better that it's slow than that it's fast. And I think Congress was pretty well set up, and I think they're doing OK.

FEMALE #6: I think they're doing OK. They, I believe, passed the GI bill and a war funding bill, and they're working on the home foreclosures issues. So I think they're trying to get things done.

MALE #7: Well, the Democrats have the majority right now, so of course I don't think it's going that great. But, I don't know, we'll see, we'll see with this new presidential election and everything, we'll see what happens.