

Presentation Pro

Magruder's American Government

CHAPTER 10

Congress



Congress

SECTION 1 The National Legislature

SECTION 2 The House of Representatives

SECTION 3 The Senate

SECTION 4 The Members of Congress

The Members of Congress

- What are the personal and political backgrounds of the current members of Congress?
- What are the duties of the job of serving in Congress?
- How are members of Congress compensated, and what privileges do they have?

LEFT

RIGHT

More goods and services

More freedom

MORE GOV

LESS GOV

MORE CONTROL
SOCIALISM

LESS CONTROL
CAPITALISM

Nazi Comm. Fascist	Socialist	Liberal/ Progressive	Moderate	Conserv- ative	Libertarian	Political Apathy
Stalin Hitler Lenin Jim Jones Anarchist/ Socialist ANTIFA	Marx Sanders Ocaso- Cortez Rashida Tlaib	Obama Biden FDR Pelosi K.Harris DEM PARTY	Bush Mondale Nixon Johnson JFK	Trump Pence Reagan REP PARTY	Adam Smith Ran Paul Stossel Jefferson Goldwater	Refusal to participate in politics or government

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Representatives of the People

Senators and representatives are elected to represent people. As legislators, they have four voting options:

<p>Trustees</p> <p>Trustees believe that each question they face must be decided on its merits.</p>	<p>Delegates</p> <p>Delegates see themselves as agents of the people who elected them.</p>
<p>Partisans</p> <p>Lawmakers who owe their first allegiance to their political party are partisans.</p>	<p>Politicos</p> <p>Politicos attempt to combine the basic elements of the trustee, delegate, and partisan roles.</p>

Committee Membership and Public Servants

- As committee members, senators and representatives screen proposed laws before they are voted on.
- Another vital part of their committee work involves the **oversight function**.
- Oversight is the the process by which Congress, through its committees, checks to see that the agencies of the executive branch are working effectively.
- Members of the House and the Senate also act as servants of their constituents.
- Requests from voters vary widely, and members of Congress take heed to many of them. Ignoring their constituencies would not bode well in the next election.



Compensation

- Today, senators and representatives are paid a salary of \$141,300 a year. Certain members, such as the Speaker of the House and the Senate's president *pro tem*, are paid more.
- The **franking privilege** allows members of Congress to mail letters and other materials postage-free by substituting their facsimile signature (frank) for the postage.
- The Constitution says that Congress fixes its own “compensation.” Therefore, the only real limits to congressional pay are the President's veto and fear of voter backlash against a pay increase.



Membership Privileges

- Members of Congress are immune from arrest for noncriminal offenses while engaged in congressional business.
- More importantly, the Speech and Debate Clause (Article I, Section 6, Clause 1) protects representatives and senators from suits for libel or slander arising from their official conduct.



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