

10 Questions Your Congressman Doesn't Want You to Ask

Ask These. Demand Answers.

Most constituent meetings with members of Congress are carefully choreographed. The staffer screens your question. The member delivers a talking point. You leave with a brochure. Here are the ten questions that break that script — questions that require specific answers and don't allow for comfortable deflection.

Use these in town halls, constituent meetings, phone calls to district offices, and letters. Demand specific answers, not talking points.

Question 1: Who are your top five corporate donors, and have you voted on legislation that affected them in the past two years?

This forces them to connect their money to their votes — something they will never volunteer. You can look it up on OpenSecrets.org beforehand. Ask it anyway, on the record.

Question 2: Have you read the full text of every bill you voted on in the past year?

The honest answer for almost every member is no. Bills run hundreds or thousands of pages. Members vote on leadership direction, not bill content. Ask what their process is for understanding what they're voting on.

Question 3: If the Supreme Court ruled that something you support is unconstitutional, would you accept that ruling?

Presidential immunity, executive power, election certification — there are multiple live constitutional questions right now. This question reveals whether they respect constitutional constraints or only when convenient.

Question 4: Would you support legislation requiring members of Congress to divest from stock holdings in industries they regulate?

Congressional stock trading is legal. Insider information flows from classified briefings. Studies show members consistently outperform the market. Would they ban it for themselves?

Question 5: What have you personally done to use the War Powers Act to assert congressional authority over the current military action?

Specific and current. The War Powers Act requires presidential notification within 48 hours and limits military action to 60 days without congressional authorization. What are they doing about it?

Question 6: Have you had any communication with registered lobbyists in the past 30 days, and if so, who?

Lobbyist contacts are not fully disclosed in real time. Asking this question on the record puts them in a position of either disclosing or declining to disclose. Both are informative.

Question 7: If your party leader told you to vote against the interests of your district, what would you do?

Party-line voting is one of the defining features of modern Congress. Most members vote with their party more than 90% of the time. Ask them directly what they would do when those interests conflict.

Question 8: What is your position on the proposed executive order that would allow the president to declare a national emergency to limit mail-in voting in 2026?

A draft executive order circulating in Trump circles would do exactly this. It is likely unconstitutional. What is their specific response to it?

Question 9: What is your plan to ensure that the 2026 elections are conducted fairly and that results are certified without political interference?

Election certification is no longer theoretical. What specific legislation, if any, have they supported to protect it?

Question 10: If you could only pass one piece of legislation this term, what would it be and why?

This reveals priorities more honestly than any position statement. Compare what they say with what they've actually introduced and co-sponsored.

A representative who cannot answer these questions in a town hall is a representative who is not representing you. That is important information.