

# Background and Issues Facing the U.S. Congress

The United States Congress is the legislative branch of the federal government of the United States. It is composed of two chambers: the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senate has 100 members, two from each state, who serve six-year terms. The House of Representatives has 435 members, who are elected from congressional districts and serve two-year terms.

The Congress has a number of important responsibilities, including passing laws, approving the budget, and declaring war. It also has the power to impeach the President and other federal officials.



## Coast Guard Polar Icebreaker Modernization:

### Background and Issues for Congress by Grace Meyers

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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The Congress is currently facing a number of challenges, including:

- **Partisanship:** The two major political parties in the United States, the Democrats and the Republicans, are increasingly divided on a wide range of issues. This partisanship has made it difficult for the Congress to pass legislation and has led to gridlock on many important issues.
- **Gridlock:** The partisanship in the Congress has also led to gridlock on a number of important issues. This gridlock has made it difficult for the Congress to address the needs of the American people and has led to frustration among voters.
- **Lack of trust:** The American people have increasingly lost trust in the Congress. This lack of trust is due to a number of factors, including the partisanship, gridlock, and corruption that have plagued the Congress in recent years.
- **Low approval ratings:** The Congress has consistently low approval ratings. This is due to the factors listed above, as well as the fact that many Americans believe that the Congress is not responsive to their needs.
- **Aging members:** The average age of members of Congress is increasing. This is due to a number of factors, including the fact that it is more difficult for younger people to get elected to Congress and the fact that members of Congress are increasingly serving longer terms.
- **Lack of diversity:** The Congress is not very diverse. This is due to a number of factors, including the fact that it is more difficult for women and minorities to get elected to Congress and the fact that members of Congress are increasingly serving longer terms.

These are just some of the challenges facing the U.S. Congress. The Congress is a complex and important institution, and it is facing a number of serious challenges. It is important for the American people to understand these challenges and to hold their elected officials accountable.

### **Additional Information**

In addition to the challenges listed above, the Congress is also facing a number of other issues, including:

- **The rise of special interests:** Special interests have become increasingly powerful in recent years. This is due to a number of factors, including the increasing cost of running for office and the fact that special interests can provide candidates with money, volunteers, and other resources.
- **The decline of civic engagement:** Civic engagement has declined in recent years. This is due to a number of factors, including the increasing number of people who are working multiple jobs and the fact that people are increasingly spending their free time on social media and other online activities.
- **The spread of misinformation:** Misinformation has become increasingly prevalent in recent years. This is due to a number of factors, including the increasing availability of information on the internet and the fact that people are increasingly sharing information without verifying its accuracy.

These are just some of the additional issues facing the U.S. Congress. The Congress is a complex and important institution, and it is facing a number

of serious challenges. It is important for the American people to understand these challenges and to hold their elected officials accountable.

The U.S. Congress is facing a number of challenges, including partisanship, gridlock, lack of trust, low approval ratings, aging members, lack of diversity, the rise of special interests, the decline of civic engagement, and the spread of misinformation. These are just some of the challenges facing the Congress, and it is important for the American people to understand these challenges and to hold their elected officials accountable.

The Congress is a complex and important institution, and it is essential for the American people to have a strong Congress that is responsive to their needs. The American people can help to strengthen the Congress by getting involved in the political process, by holding their elected officials accountable, and by supporting organizations that are working to improve the Congress.



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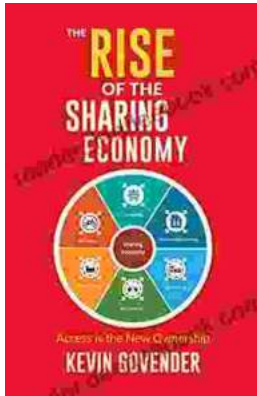
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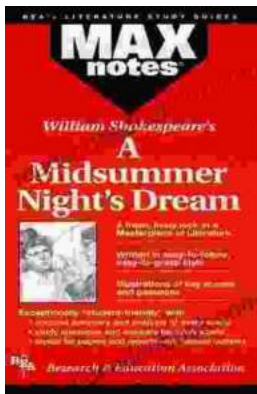
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