

## Roles of a Legislator Cards

**Directions:** Cut the cards apart and distribute to students. (You may want to laminate them for durability.) Give each student a card and have each student read what is written on the card and state whether or not he or she thinks it is an actual role of a Member of Congress or a fictitious role. Write the actual roles of a Member of Congress on the chalkboard or whiteboard.

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| Encourage and support local party candidates for local and state political office.                                    | Oversee the operations of state and local governments.   | Participate in floor debate.   | Act as head of the U.S. Military.                                      | Serve as a role-model for public service, civic responsibility, and voter participation. |
| Make treaties.  | Seek Federal funds for local projects and programs.  | Decide if a law or government action violates the Constitution.  | Attend committee meetings to take testimony or mark-up legislation.    | Review the expenditures and implementation of government programs.                       |
| Advocate on behalf of the economic needs and political interests of their local district or home state in Washington. | Read and answer communications: mail, faxes, e-mail; return phone calls.                         | Regulate intrastate (within the state) businesses.   | Conduct hearings to identify problems that create a need for new laws. | Issue licenses.  |
| Conduct elections.  | Choose people to be in charge of state departments, agencies, boards, commissions, and councils. | Manage up to 22 staff people in their offices who provide administrative, legislative, press, constituency, and computer services. | Activate the National Guard.   | Analyze proposed legislation for its national implications.                              |

