

TABLE 16-1 High Approval for Members, Low Approval for Congress

Individual members

Serve constituents

Run against Congress

Emphasize personal style and outreach to constituents

Are covered by local media in generally positive terms

Respond quickly to most constituent needs and inquiries

Are able to highlight personal goals and accomplishments

Congress as an institution

Resolves national issues only with difficulty or not at all

Has few defenders

Operates as collegial body that is difficult for citizens to understand

Is covered by national media, often negatively (with focus on scandals and conflicts)

Moves slowly with cumbersome processes that inhibit rapid responses

Has many voices, but none can speak clearly for Congress as a whole

Sources: Timothy E. Cook, "Legislature vs. Legislator: A Note on the Paradox of Congressional Support," *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 4 (February 1979): 43–52; Glenn R. Parker and Roger H. Davidson, "Why Do Americans Love Their Congressmen So Much More Than Their Congress?" *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 4 (February 1979): 53–61; Richard Born, "The Shared Fortunes of Congress and Congressmen: Members May Run from Congress but They Can't Hide," *Journal of Politics* 52 (November 1990): 1223–1241.