



Common Questions Kids Ask Rep. Katie Porter

Why did you run for Congress?

I was a law professor before I ran for Congress, and still think of being a teacher and studying how people struggle to make ends meet as my true “career.” I think of being an elected official as more of a temporary assignment, transferring my skills from teaching students in law school to teaching the public about laws. I was motivated to run for Congress because I wanted to make policies to help families.

What do you do in a typical day?

My day is usually broken down into four parts: communications such as doing TV appearances; legislative work such as voting or questioning in hearings; constituent engagement such as meetings with non-profits or touring places in our community; and strategy sessions where I am working on new ideas with either my colleagues or my staff. I work long days, sometimes 18 hours or more. Today, I started my day at 5:30am and am still working at 8pm.

What skills do you think are most important for a congressperson to have?

People from all different walks of life serve in our Congress. The most important skill for this job is communication. I learn many things in Washington and in our 45th district, and my job is to share those ideas and policies.

How long have been a Congresswoman?

I was elected in 2018 and started serving as your Congresswoman on January 3, 2019. So, I have been working just more than two years in this position.

What do you like most about being a member of Congress?

The opportunity to learn new things every day is the greatest joy of this job. I have 18 staff members who help educate me, and this job has taught me about areas that I never worked on before, such as human rights and military budgets. I have also learned much more about our community and gotten to see parts of Orange County that were hidden to me before.

What do you like least about being a member of Congress?

The really long plane flights from Washington, DC to California and back are difficult. My least favorite thing, however, is that Congress is unorganized and fails to stick to its schedule. We are told a vote will be at 6pm but it may not happen until 10pm.

What college/university did you go to?

I went to Yale College for my undergraduate degree and then to Harvard Law School.

What advice would you give to someone who wants to serve In Congress?

There is no magic path to being an elected official. You do not need to run for school president or major in political science. The key is to find areas where you are passionate about making policies to address a problem. Some of the people who are the best politicians are my colleagues who used to be nurses, diplomats, Army or Navy officers, or teachers.