

I heard that Members of Congress don't pay into Social Security but receive huge retirement benefits that come straight from my tax dollars. Is this true?

No, this is another hoax email that has been floating around the Internet.

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Members of Congress who took office after 1984 do, in fact, pay into Social Security at the same tax rate as all other workers, and the vesting period for them to be eligible for pension benefits is, as with all Federal employees, five years. Our final pension is directly related to the amount of time that we serve in office, and is in fact calculated by years served multiplied by 1.7% multiplied by our average annual salary for the three consecutive years of highest pay.

If you would like to learn more about retirement plans for Members of Congress, the Library of Congress has written a brief on the subject.