

SWING VOTE SAM EXPLAINS

Who Declares War?

SAM SAYS

"Congress still has that power. It just doesn't use it."

Article I, Section 8: Congress declares war. Not the president. The branch with your representative in it.

Congress has formally declared war 11 times. The last was 1942. The wars continued. The declarations did not. Since then it has voted to authorize force instead, which is a vote, but not a declaration.

Nobody took this power. It's sitting right there, unused.

The facts

1. Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution gives Congress the power "To declare War."[1]
2. Congress has formally declared war on 11 occasions, across five wars, beginning with Great Britain in 1812. The last declarations came on June 4, 1942.[2]

What you can do

1. Look up your representative and your senators, and ask them where they stand on Congress's war powers. **house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative**
2. Ask the candidates on your ballot the same question.
3. Show up, and send folks who remember the power is theirs.

Scan to watch Sam explain it

swingvotesam.com/issues/war-powers

Sources

1. National Archives, "The Constitution of the United States: A Transcription (Article I)". https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution-transcript
2. U.S. Senate, "About Declarations of War by Congress". https://www.senate.gov/about/powers-procedures/declarations-of-war.htm

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