

Maggie's Civics Corner

Lesson #10 – Tax & Spend



Maggie says ...

To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe.

Today's lesson is about TAXES & SPENDING. I love bringing joy to the community. Every year my friends and I work on different initiatives to help puppies in the community who need help finding shelter, getting food, and staying in good health.

However, acquiring the necessary supplies for all of this is expensive. So, my dog friends and I decided we would each put a small amount of our money into a shared bag at the beginning of every year. You may have heard people wondering why they have to pay taxes as citizens. Some may have asked, "Where are my tax dollars going?" "How are my tax dollars being spent?"

Sticky Situation: Dogs, like people, experience difficult times in their lives. I love to see all dogs treated well, staying healthy and happy. To help dogs who are in trouble in my community, a few dogs who were chosen by our dog community to make decisions on behalf of the puppies in our community have decided to collect resources and money from all dogs so that the community as a whole can help the less fortunate. They tell us that if every dog pays a small percentage of their money, then the puppy community will have enough money to help all the sick dogs see the veterinarian (the dog doctor), help the lonely dogs find companionship, and help maintain nice playing grounds and facilities so ALL of the dogs in our community can have fun.

Do you think this ability to ask every dog in the community to pay some money to help the puppy community that is in need is a good thing or a bad thing? Be prepared to support your answer. And if you think this ability is good, how much money do you think should be collected?

Activity: Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution authorizes Congress to collect taxes to promote the *General Welfare of the United States*. The 16th Amendment to the Constitution gave Congress the power to lay and collect taxes on people's incomes. Do you think Congress' power to collect taxes from citizens helps to improve people's lives and well-being? If yes,

Do you think this power to collect taxes from people can help a country to improve the lives and well-being of the people who live there? If you were to make a list of things that you prefer that "tax money" be spent on, what would be the top 5 priorities on your list?

Civics Resources: This video may better help you to understand [the power to tax and spend](#).