

Module 8: Politics

Topic 1 Content: Interest Groups

Introduction



Demi Tracy: Welcome to WUSG News. I'm Demi Tracy. In this episode, Glover Mint will discuss how interest groups influence the legislative process.

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Topic 1 Content: Interest Groups








Types of Interest Groups



Glover Mint: An interest group is a collection of people who join together with the intention of influencing government on issues of public policy that are important to them. Interest groups typically fall into one of seven categories.

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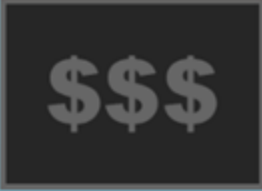




Types of Interest Groups: Economic

Types of Interest Groups		
<p>ECONOMIC</p> <p>Represent corporations, small businesses, laborers, or other groups that hope to influence economic policy</p> <p>Examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• U.S. Chamber of Commerce• American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organization (AFL-CIO)		
		
		
		

Glover Mint: Economic interest groups represent corporations, small businesses, laborers, or other groups that hope to influence economic policy. Examples include the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organization, also known as the AFL-CIO.

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Types of Interest Groups: Public

Types of Interest Groups		
<p>PUBLIC</p> <p>Attempt to influence public policy for what they perceive is for the greater public good</p> <p>Examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Common Cause		
		
		
		

Glover Mint: Public interest groups attempt to influence public policy for what they perceive is for the greater public good. They do not benefit directly from their activities, at least on an individual level. Examples include Common Cause, which is a watchdog group that advocates for more effective government.

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Types of Interest Groups: Government

Types of Interest Groups		
GOVERNMENT Represent major organizations that work for the local, state, or national government Examples <ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Governors Association• United States Conference of Mayors		
		
		
		

Glover Mint: Government interest groups represent major organizations that work for the local, state, or national government. Examples include the National Governors Association and the United States Conference of Mayors.

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Types of Interest Groups: Religious

Types of Interest Groups		
<p>RELIGIOUS</p> <p>Advocate for the rights and interests of people who believe in a specific religion</p> <p>Examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christian Coalition		
		
		
		

Glover Mint: Religious interest groups advocate for the rights and interests of people who believe in a specific religion. Examples include the Christian Coalition, which is a right-wing, conservative Protestant organization.

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Types of Interest Groups: Civil Rights

Types of Interest Groups		
<p>CIVIL RIGHTS</p> <p>Work to protect the rights of those people that have historically been discriminated against in American society</p> <p>Examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)• National Organization for Women		
		
		

Glover Mint: Civil rights interest groups work to protect the rights of those people that have historically been discriminated against in American society. Examples include the NAACP, which fights racial discrimination, and the National Organization for Women, which fights for women's rights.

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Types of Interest Groups: Ideological

Types of Interest Groups		
<p>IDEOLOGICAL</p> <p>Advocates for a wide range of issues that relate to a specific political ideology</p> <p>Examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Americans for Democratic Action• American Conservative Union		
		
		
		

Glover Mint: Ideological interest groups are advocates for a wide range of issues that relate to a specific political ideology. On the left of the political spectrum there is the Americans for Democratic Action, and on the right there is the American Conservative Union.

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Types of Interest Groups: Single-Issue

Types of Interest Groups		
<p>SINGLE-ISSUE</p> <p>Focus their energies on influencing public policy surrounding a specific issue</p> <p>Examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">National Rifle Association (NRA)		
		
		
		<p>Next</p>

Glover Mint: As the name suggests, single-issue interest groups focus their energies on influencing public policy surrounding a specific issue. The National Rifle Association (NRA) is an example of a single-issue interest group.

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How Interest Groups Influence Public Policy

How Interest Groups Influence Public Policy

Please Make Your Selection on the Right

- Identify Issues
- Stimulate Interest in Public Affairs
- Maintain a Positive Image
- Organize Like-Minded Individuals
- Provide Useful Information
- Lobby Lawmakers
- Make Contributions
- Monitor Policymaking

Glover Mint: There are a variety of ways in which an interest groups may influence public policy.

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Identify Issues

The graphic features a yellow header with the text 'Identify Issues'. Below the header is a dark blue background with a vertical crease. On the left side of this background is a dark grey text box containing the following text: 'Interest groups may identify key issues and try to influence the government to create policy that supports their stance on the issue.' On the right side, there is a vertical list of seven white buttons with yellow borders, each containing a different action: 'Identify Issues', 'Stimulate Interest in Public Affairs', 'Maintain a Positive Image', 'Organize Like-Minded Individuals', 'Provide Useful Information', 'Lobby Lawmakers', 'Make Contributions', and 'Monitor Policymaking'.

Glover Mint: They may identify key issues and try to influence the government to create policy that supports their stance on the issue.

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Stimulate Interest in Public Affairs

Stimulate Interest

Interest groups may **stimulate interest in public affairs**.

Interest groups that want greater civic engagement in the political process may organize activities like voter drives.

- Identify Issues
- Stimulate Interest in Public Affairs
- Maintain a Positive Image
- Organize Like-Minded Individuals
- Provide Useful Information
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- Monitor Policymaking

Glover Mint: They may stimulate interest in public affairs. For example, many public interest groups want greater civic engagement in the political process, so they organize activities like voter drives.

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Maintain a Positive Image

Maintain a Positive Image

It is easier for an interest group to influence public opinion if it has a **positive public image**.

It is important to appear trustworthy and demonstrate that the group is focused on the best interests of the country and the American people.

- Identify Issues
- Stimulate Interest in Public Affairs
- Maintain a Positive Image
- Organize Like-Minded Individuals
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Glover Mint: It is easier for an interest group to influence public opinion if it has a positive public image. It is important to appear trustworthy and demonstrate that the group is focused on the best interests of the country and the American people.

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Organize Like-Minded Individuals

Organize Like-Minded Individuals

Interest groups can help sway representatives by **organizing like-minded individuals**.

Individuals may offer financial support, or contact their representatives directly.

Interest groups may rally entire like-minded communities behind their cause.

- Identify Issues
- Stimulate Interest in Public Affairs
- Maintain a Positive Image
- Organize Like-Minded Individuals
- Provide Useful Information**
- Lobby Lawmakers**
- Make Contributions**
- Monitor Policymaking**

Glover Mint: By organizing like-minded individuals around their cause, interest groups can help sway representatives. These individuals may offer financial support, or contact their representative directly. In addition, interest groups may try to rally entire like-minded communities behind their cause.

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Provide Useful Information

The infographic is divided into two main sections. The left section has a yellow header with the title 'Provide Useful Information'. Below the header are three dark blue text boxes with white text. The right section is a dark grey vertical list of ten rounded rectangular buttons with white text. The first four buttons are grey, and the last three are yellow.

Provide Useful Information

Inside many interest groups, you will find people who are experts in specific fields.

These experts are able to **provide information** to representatives in order to persuade them.

Sometimes interest groups will provide representatives with drafts of legislation.

- Identify Issues
- Stimulate Interest in Public Affairs
- Maintain a Positive Image
- Organize Like-Minded Individuals
- Provide Useful Information
- Lobby Lawmakers
- Make Contributions
- Monitor Policymaking

Glover Mint: Within the ranks of many interest groups, you will find people who are experts in specific fields. These experts are able to provide information to representatives in order to persuade them on the issues they support. Sometimes interest groups will even provide representatives with drafts of legislation with the hope that the representative proposes it in Congress.

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Lobby Lawmakers

Lobby Lawmakers

A major role of interest groups is **lobbying**, or meeting with representatives to convince them to support specific policies.

Lobbying may involve sharing specific information about an issue, or it may involve sharing how the public feels about an issue.

- Identify Issues
- Stimulate Interest in Public Affairs
- Maintain a Positive Image
- Organize Like-Minded Individuals
- Provide Useful Information
- Lobby Lawmakers
- Make Contributions**
- Monitor Policymaking**

Glover Mint: A major role of interest groups is lobbying lawmakers. Lobbying refers to meeting with representatives to convince them to support specific policies. Lobbying may involve sharing information about an issue, or it may involve sharing how the public feels about an issue.

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Make Contributions

The infographic features a yellow header with the title 'Make Contributions'. Below the header, on a dark blue background, are two text boxes. The first text box states: 'Interest groups frequently **make contributions** to candidates they believe will be supportive.' The second text box states: 'Some interest groups give money to both candidates in a race, hoping their donation will make it easier to meet with whichever candidate wins.' To the right of these text boxes is a vertical list of ten grey buttons with white text, each representing a function of interest groups. The buttons are: 'Identify Issues', 'Stimulate Interest in Public Affairs', 'Maintain a Positive Image', 'Organize Like-Minded Individuals', 'Provide Useful Information', 'Lobby Lawmakers', 'Make Contributions', and 'Monitor Policymaking'. The 'Monitor Policymaking' button is highlighted with a yellow border.

Make Contributions

Interest groups frequently **make contributions** to candidates they believe will be supportive.

Some interest groups give money to both candidates in a race, hoping their donation will make it easier to meet with whichever candidate wins.

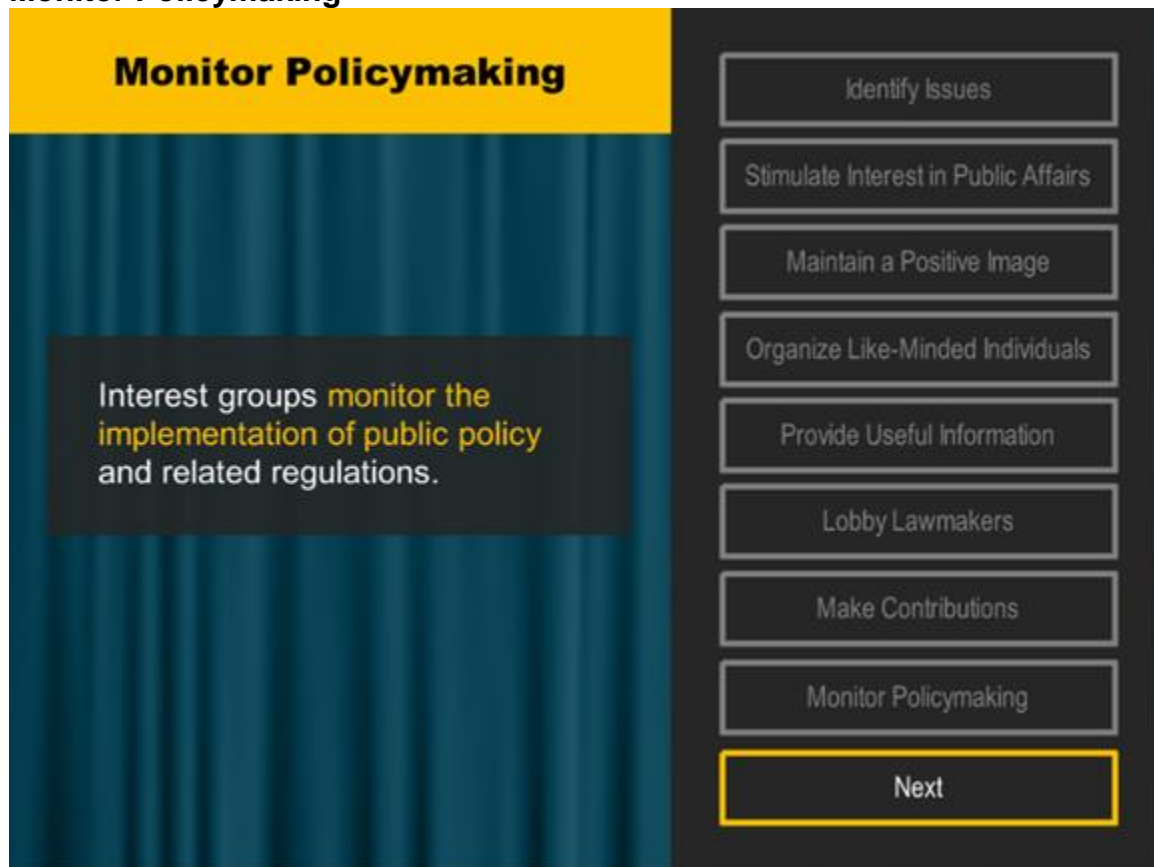
- Identify Issues
- Stimulate Interest in Public Affairs
- Maintain a Positive Image
- Organize Like-Minded Individuals
- Provide Useful Information
- Lobby Lawmakers
- Make Contributions
- Monitor Policymaking

Glover Mint: Interest groups frequently make contributions to candidates they believe will be supportive of their political agenda. Less ideological interest groups will often give money to both candidates in a race in the hopes that after the election, their donation will make it easier for them to meet with whichever candidate wins.

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Monitor Policymaking



The graphic features a yellow header with the text "Monitor Policymaking". Below the header is a dark blue background with a vertical crease. On the left side of this background is a dark grey box containing the text: "Interest groups monitor the implementation of public policy and related regulations." On the right side is a vertical list of ten grey buttons with white text: "Identify Issues", "Stimulate Interest in Public Affairs", "Maintain a Positive Image", "Organize Like-Minded Individuals", "Provide Useful Information", "Lobby Lawmakers", "Make Contributions", "Monitor Policymaking", and "Next". The "Next" button is highlighted with a yellow border.

Glover Mint: Interest groups monitor the implementation of public policy and the related regulations to ensure policies are being implemented in a way they support.

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Ending of Episode



Demi Tracy: Thank you, Glover. That was a very informative overview. Until next time, this is Demi Tracy with Glover Mint, wishing you a wonderful day.