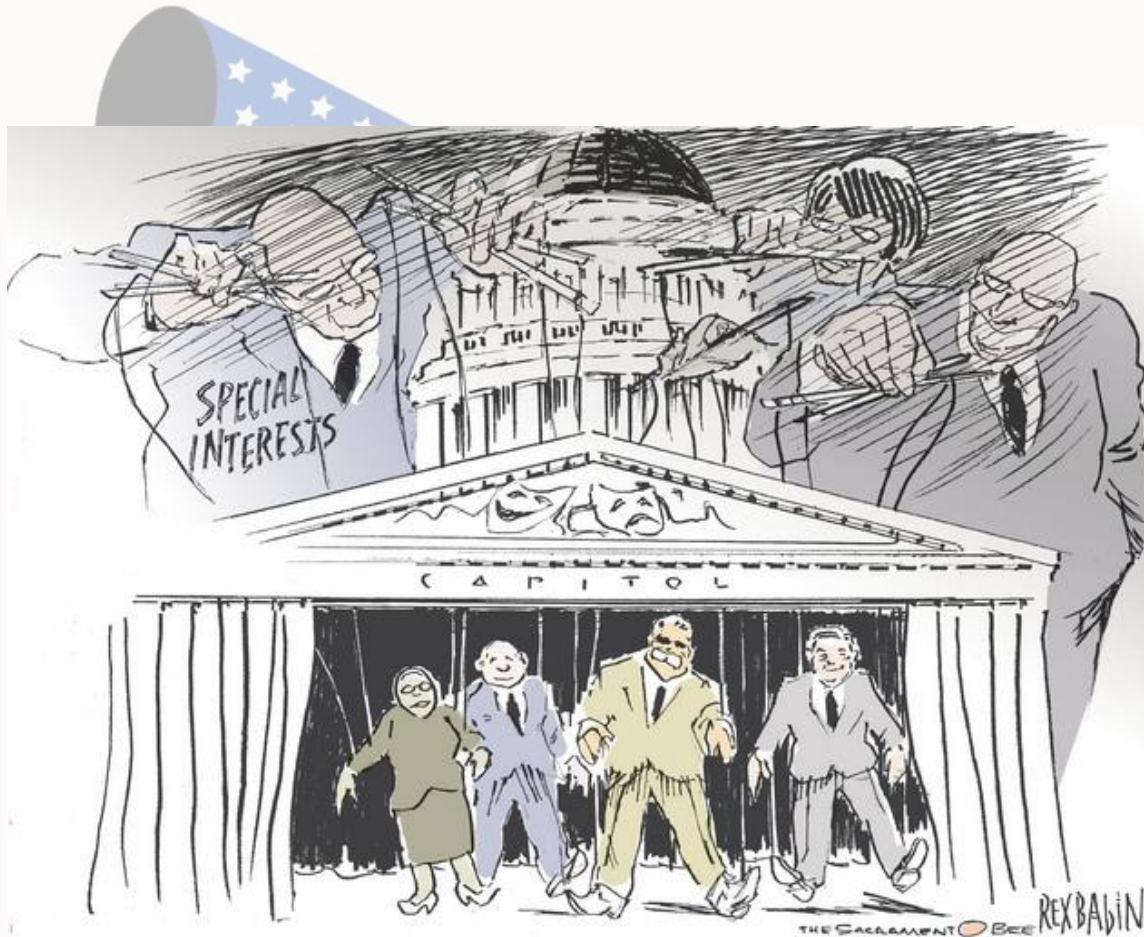


Interest Groups



Organization of people with shared policy goals entering policy process at one of several points

-Interest groups are policy specialists; political parties policy generalists

-Interest groups are innately biased: they have opinions on an issue and want public policy influenced in favor of their opinion

-Impartial: having no opinion on an issue

There are four broad categories of interest groups:

- Public interest groups
- Corporate interest groups
- Labor interest groups
- Special interest groups (this almost becomes the “miscellaneous” category)



Types of Interest Groups

-Economic Interest Groups

Business organizations: try to influence government decisions on issues that affect their industry

e.g., U.S. Chambers of Commerce formed in 1912 to counterbalance unions and exists today

Professional associations: represent the interests of certain professions

e.g., American Medical Association

Labor unions: better wages, better working conditions and better benefits

e.g., American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)



Equality Interest Groups:

Racial/ethnic: National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

Sex or gender: National Organization for Women (NOW)

Age: American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)

After careful consideration of both of the candidates' platforms and visions, we are more than excited to endorse Carlos for President of Duke Student Government (DSG), as he seeks to agitate for real change at Duke.




The National Organization for Women
Political Action Committee

ENDORSES

**ELIZABETH
WARREN**

FOR PRESIDENT

See full statement at nowpac.org/warren





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BUT MY MONEY
IS AS GREEN
AS IT GETS.**

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-Environmental Interest Groups:

Sierra Club: protecting wildlife and natural resources

Greenpeace: disrupting nuclear tests

-Single-Issue Interest Groups:

National Rifle Association (NRA): gun ownership protection

MADD: Mothers Against Drunk Driving



MADD: "Simply put: voting yes on Prop 22 will save lives."

This week, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) is encouraging you to vote yes on Prop 22 because research shows that cities in California with ridesharing have seen [double digit declines in DUI arrests](#).

Helen Witty, the National President of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, who lost her 16-year-old daughter Helen Marie to a drunk and drugged driver, explains why MADD supports yes on 22:

"Drunk driving is the number one killer on California roads. We know that access to ridesharing helps reduce drunk and drug-impaired driving, keeping our roads and communities safe. Simply put: Voting Yes on Prop 22 will save lives."

Success of Interest Groups

-Smaller groups are better organized and more focused on their group's goals

-Consumer groups have a difficult time getting significant policy gains because benefits are spread over entire population

-Groups that can provide **selective benefits** sometimes overcome the problem

Submit

a Review



Success of Interest Groups

Intensity:

- Single-Issue groups: groups that focus on a narrow interest and dislike compromise
- Groups may focus on an emotional issue, providing them with a psychological advantage
- May be more likely to use protests and other means of political participation than traditional interest groups that use lobbyists



Success of Interest Groups

Financial resources:

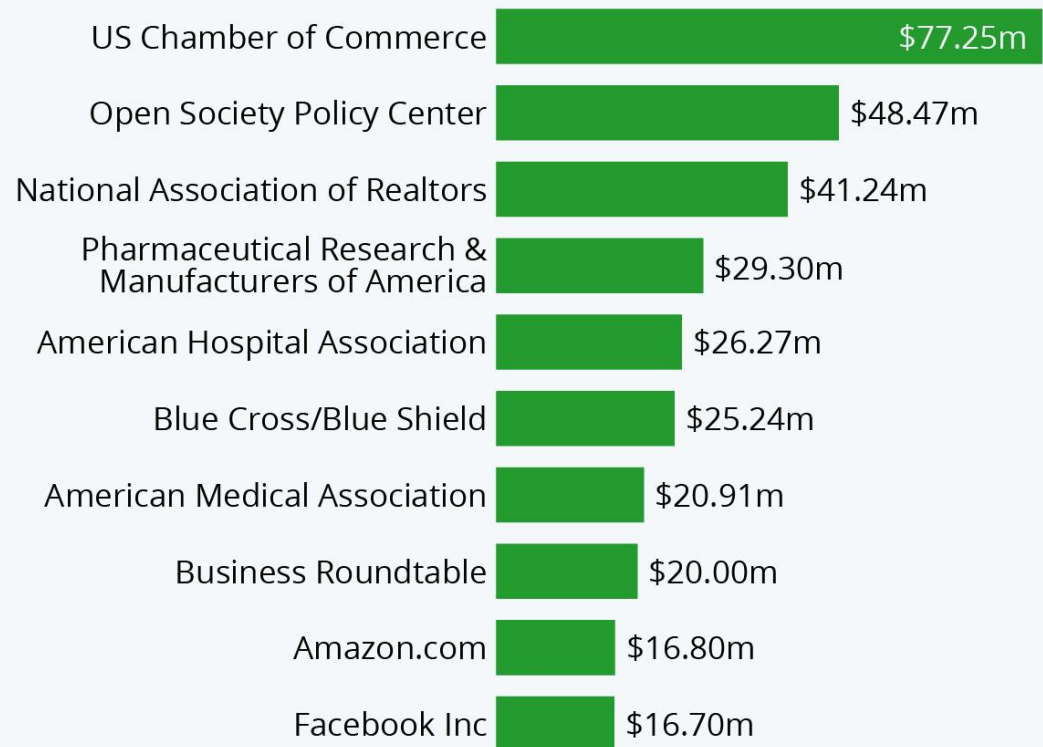
-Not all groups have equal amounts of money

-Monetary donations usually translate into access to politicians, like phone calls and meetings

-Groups with more funds to spend don't always win in the policymaking arena (membership and support is also very important)

Lobbying: The Biggest Spenders in the United States

Organizations with the largest U.S. lobbying expenditure in 2019



Source: Center for Responsive Politics



The Surprising Ineffectiveness of Large Groups

Free-rider problem: some people don't join interest groups because they benefit from group's activities without officially joining

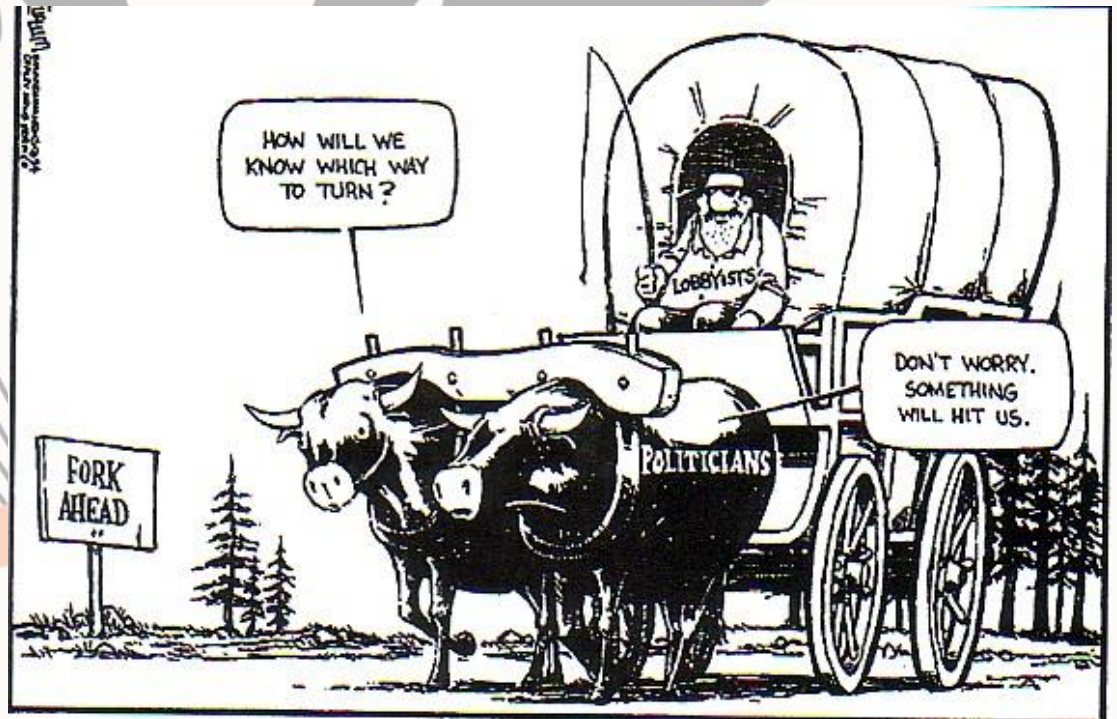
- The bigger the group, larger the free-rider problem
- Large groups can be difficult to keep organized



Lobbying

Communication by someone other than a citizen acting on his own behalf, directed to a governmental decision-maker with the hope of influencing their decision

- Lobbyists work at all levels of government
- Can help politicians plan political strategies for legislation
- Can help politicians plan political strategies for reelection campaigns
- Can provide ideas and innovations that can be turned into policies for which the politician can take credit



Electioneering

Direct interest group involvement in election process

-Interest groups may contribute money to both sides

-Interest groups can help with campaigns

-Many interest groups have formed Political Action Committees (PACs) to collect money for their groups and use it to support some candidates and oppose others



Regulation of Lobbying

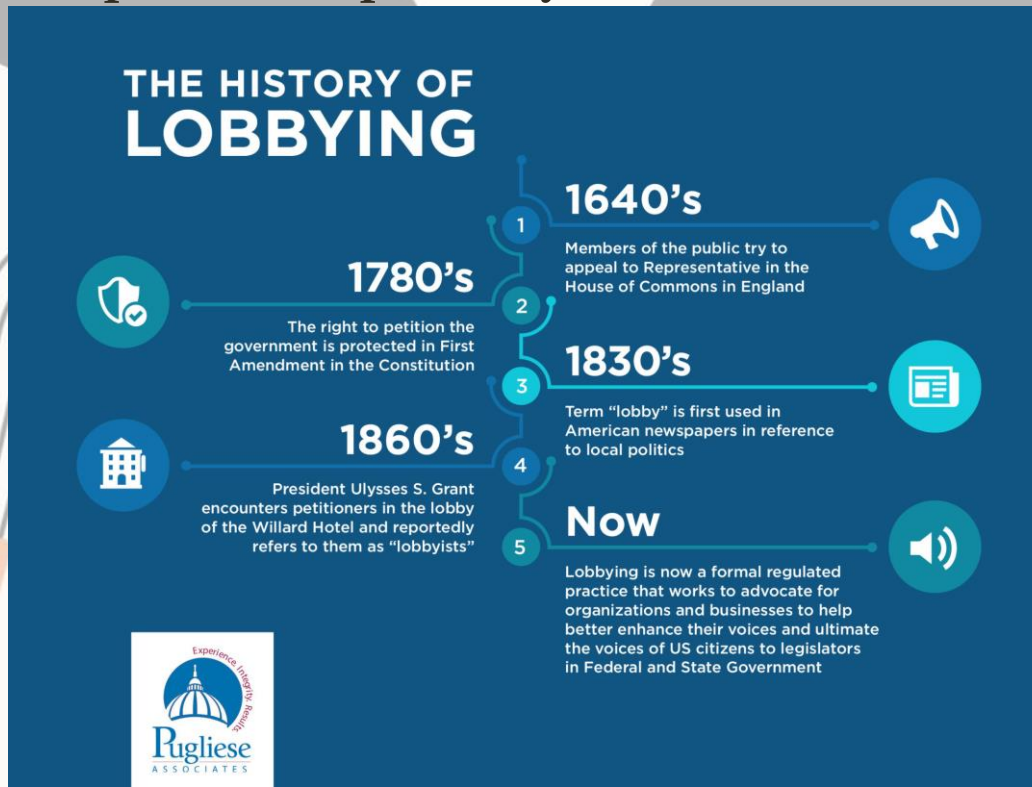
-Past activities of lobbyists have been questionable

Government regulation:

-Monitoring activities to stop bribery

-Reporting lobbying activities: must disclose who hired them, how much they are paid, and how much money they spend related to work

-Waiting period for former government officials to become lobbyists (states have a “cooling off” period of up to six years)

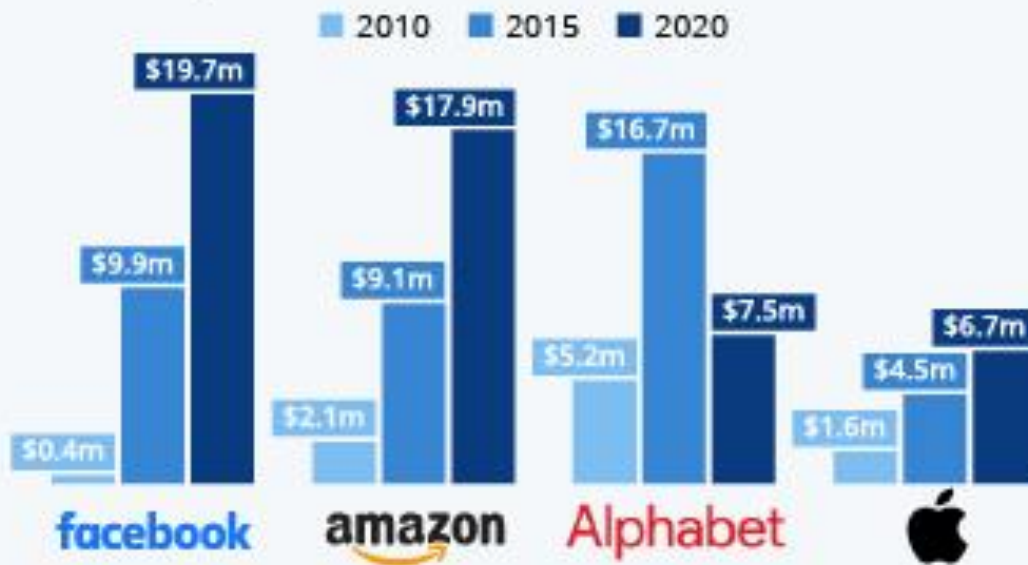


Effects of Lobbying

- Many argue lobbyists still have too much influence in government
- Many argue they make the government more responsive, communicate people's needs to their representatives, and pressure politicians

Tech Giants Ramp Up Lobbying In Face of Antitrust Scrutiny

Annual lobbying expenditure of selected tech companies in the U.S.



* excl. some subsidiaries

Source: Senate Office of Public Records

