Chapter 10: Political Engagement

Test Bank

Multiple Choice

- 1. What is the definition for "political efficacy?"
- A. another word for political interest
- B. the feeling that one can personally make a difference by participating in public affairs
- C. a measure of partisanship
- D. a measurement for the efficiency of government

Answer Location: Predictors of Political Participation and Disengagement

- 2. Which of these best describes "Main Street" Californians?
- A. great access to health care, and stable jobs that are mostly in information technology
- B. middle-class Americans employed in service and office sectors; income mostly covers housing and health care
- C. lowest human development scores
- D. one-third of children live in poverty

Answer Location: Main Street

- 3. Which of these best describes "One Percent" California?
- A. access to great health care; well-paying, stable occupations in the information technology field
- B. middle-class Americans employed in service and office sectors
- C. one out of three households headed by a single parent; moderate exposure to crime
- D. one-third of children live in poverty

Answer Location: One Percent

- 4. Which of these best describes "Elite Enclave" California?
- A. "knowledge workers" who can pay the bills and reside in neighborhoods rich with amenities
- B. one-third of children live in poverty
- C. middle-class Americans; generally able to pay the bills; employed in service and office sectors
- D. highest human development scores; average cost of home is \$2.1 million

Answer Location: Elite Enclave

- 5. Which of these best describes "Struggling" California?
- A. "knowledge workers" who can pay the bills and reside in neighborhoods rich with amenities
- B. middle-class Americans; generally able to pay the bills; employed in service and

office sectors

- C. mainly work in high-effort/low-reward, insecure jobs in sales and service; limited childcare
- D. half of all children live below the poverty line

Answer Location: Struggling

- 6. Which of these best describes "Disenfranchised" California?
- A. "knowledge workers" who can pay the bills and reside in neighborhoods rich with amenities
- B. middle-class Americans; generally able to pay the bills; employed in service and office sectors
- C. mainly work in high-effort/low-reward, insecure jobs in sales and service; limited childcare
- D. in survival mode; half of all children in poverty; over 20% of youth not in school

Answer Location: Disenfranchised

- 7 .Which of these groups has the highest level of "human development," as measured by overall health, income, and education levels?
- A. "One Percent" California
- B. "Elite Enclave" California
- C. "Main Street" California
- D. "Struggling" California

Answer Location: Map 10.1 The Five Californias

- 8. Which one of these terms refers to the way a person's attitudes, opinions, and beliefs are affected or shaped by the way public affairs are reported in the press?
- A. framing effects
- B. partisanship
- C. polarization
- D. infotainment

Answer Location: News and Media Habits

- 9. Some people stop voting for less-recognizable, lower level offices as they work their way toward the end of ballots. This phenomenon is called _____.
- A. low turnout
- B. apathy
- C. roll-off
- D. polarization

Answer Location: Major Voting Trends

10. Turnout among all registered voters during the past five presidential elections

(2000–2016) averaged A. 35% B. 55% C. 75% D. 95%
Answer Location: Major Voting Trends
11. Turnout among all those who are <i>eligible</i> to vote during the past five presidential elections (2000–2016) averaged about A. 35% B. 55% C. 75% D. 95%
Answer Location: Major Voting Trends
12. Of these, which group of people pays closest attention to politics? A. youth aged 18–24 B. adult Latinos C. voters D. those with only a high school diploma (or fewer years of education)
Answer Location: News and Media Habits
13. About how many Californians are eligible but not registered to vote? A. about 500,000 B. about 1 million C. about 5 million D. about 25 million
Answer Location: Major Voting Trends
 14. The turnout rate of voters in the 18- to 24-year-old age group in November 2014 set a new low. What percentage of this age group voted in that election? A. fewer than 10% B. about 20% C. about 40% D. just over 50%

Answer Location: Major Voting Trends

15. What is true of California's electorate--that is, those who vote?

A. They are an "exclusive, self-selected group" that does not broadly represent all eligible voters.

B. They are a group that broadly represents all Californians during presidential election

years, but not during off-year elections.

C. It is a group that broadly represents all Californians in every election.

D. Over time, the electorate has been growing steadily, meaning that a greater percentage of people vote in elections today than 10, 20, or 30 years ago.

Answer Location: Major Voting Trends

- 16. Which of these groups is *least* likely to support a state sanctuary law, according to public opinion polls in California (2017)?
- A. Californians who aren't registered to vote
- B. registered Republican voters
- C. all registered voters in California
- D. Latino voters

Answer Location: Major Voting Trends

- 17. In what kind of activities do lobbyists or special interest "advocates" engage?
- A. mostly illegal bribes
- B. testifying about bills in committee; "educating" lawmakers about the effects of bills
- C. participating in rallies and demonstrations consumes most of their time
- D. recruiting individuals or businesses for membership in interest groups

Answer Location: Special Interest Groups: Indirectly Connecting Citizens to Government

18. The political power of special inte	rests is largely	$^\prime$ derived from $^\prime$	what they ca	n provide
to decision makers, principally in the	form of money	, electoral supp	oort (support	ers who
will vote for them), and				
Λ alaahal				

- A. alcohol
- B. paid vacations
- C. campaign volunteers
- D. information

Answer Location: Special Interest Groups: Indirectly Connecting Citizens to Government

- 19. Among these industries, which spends the most on lobbying in California?
- A. technology (high-tech manufacturing)
- B. entertainment (film, TV)
- C. energy (oil and gas, electric utilities)
- D. realty (property sales and management)

Answer Location: Special Interest Groups: Indirectly Connecting Citizens to Government

20. Businesses and employers are represented through associations that primarily

A. organize rallies and demonstrations to bring attention to their causes

B. hire lobbyists to advocate for their causes and contribute to campaigns of sympathetic candidates

C. put people in contact with their representatives through "meet and greets"

D. organize volunteers to support their causes

Answer Location: Special Interest Groups: Indirectly Connecting Citizens to Government

21. Lobbyists who advocate for special interest groups are known collectively as

A. the Third House

B. Progressives

C. the Consolidators

D. the Media Mavericks

Answer Location: Special Interest Groups: Indirectly Connecting Citizens to Government

22. What makes a lobbyist effective?

A. channeling campaign donations to elected officials

B. knowing how to influence public opinion

C. providing information to policymakers

D. any of these

Answer Location: Special Interest Groups: Indirectly Connecting Citizens to Government | Box 10.1 The Power of Organized Interests

True/False

1. People who are highly educated, have higher income, and are older, tend to be heavy political news consumers, and also tend to be politically active.

Answer Location: Predictors of Political Participation and Disengagement

2. People who disengage from politics tend to be high-income wage earners who have better things to do with their time than try to influence politicians and policy decisions.

Answer Location: Predictors of Political Participation and Disengagement

3. If a person lives and works in an environment where politics and political affairs are rarely discussed, chances are, that person will not be a regular voter.

Answer Location: Predictors of Political Participation and Disengagement | Major Voting

Trends

4. Many variables associated with nonvoting are also associated with immigration status.

Answer Location: Predictors of Political Participation and Disengagement

5. Whites are approximately 40% of California residents, but close to 60% of all voters.

Answer Location: Major Voting Trends

6. Voters, residents, and citizens are essentially the same groups of people.

Answer Location: Major Voting Trends

7. Those who vote in an Assembly district election are a different group of people than those who vote in initiative elections.

Answer Location: Major Voting Trends

8. In off-year elections (non-presidential election years), fewer than half of those eligible to vote typically turn out to vote.

Answer Location: Major Voting Trends

9. Turnout during presidential election years is lower than in off-year, midterm elections.

Answer Location: Major Voting Trends

10. The California electorate (those who vote) reflect the size, growth, and diversity of the state's population quite accurately.

Answer Location: Major Voting Trends

11. More than 5 million eligible Californians are not registered to vote.

Answer Location: Major Voting Trends

12. Living and interacting often with others who talk about politics and who value the act of voting is a strong predictor of whether a person will vote or not.

Answer Location: Major Voting Trends

13. In California, those in prison or on parole are not eligible to vote.

Answer Location: Major Voting Trends

14. Almost no Californians aged 18–34 get their news from a printed newspaper.

Answer Location: News and Media Habits

15. Not participating in politics is purely a matter of choice; anyone who wants to vote, attend meetings, demonstrate or attend rallies, or make donations simply chooses not to do so.

Answer Location: Predictors of Political Participation and Disengagement

16. "Political efficacy" is the feeling that one can personally make a difference by participating in public affairs.

Answer Location: Predictors of Political Participation and Disengagement

17. In California, the "one percenters" and those who live in "elite enclaves" outnumber those who are considered "middle class."

Answer Location: One Percent | Elite Enclave

18. Outnumbering those who are in the "middle class" or "Main Street California" is the largest demographic group in California: those who are "Struggling" to hold it together.

Answer Location: Struggling

19. "Disenfranchised" Californians (about 3% of the population) live in survival mode, experience marginalization and social exclusion daily, and reside in areas rivaling the poorest areas of West Virginia and Mississippi.

Answer Location: Disenfranchised

20. Education is positively associated with human development.

Answer Location: Map 10.1 The Five Californias

21. Struggling Californians tend to live on the coast, rather than in inland and rural areas of the state.

Answer Location: Map 10.1 The Five Californias

22. Those at the very top of the human development scale, the "One Percent" Californians, live almost 10 years longer on average than the "Disenfranchised" at the other end of the scale.

Answer Location: Map 10.1 The Five Californias

23. Local governments and public entities and agencies are among the most prolific, active, and influential special interests in Sacramento.

Answer Location: Special Interest Groups: Indirectly Connecting Citizens to Government

24. In "Struggling" and "Disenfranchised" households, youth are likely to be either not in school or unemployed.

Answer Location: Struggling | Disenfranchised

25. "Framing effects" refers to the way attitudes, opinions, and beliefs are affected or shaped by the way public affairs are reported in the press.

Answer Location: News and Media Habits

26. Those who cast ballots generally hold distinctly different views about the proper role of government than those who don't vote or don't register to vote.

Answer Location: Major Voting Trends

27. Working to solve a problem with the neighbors is a good way to start getting involved in politics.

Answer Location: Types of Political Participation

28. Seventy percentage of those who contact their elected California officials are Latino/Hispanic.

Answer Location: Types of Political Participation

29. Legal permanent residents are eligible to vote in California.

Answer Location: Major Voting Trends

Short Answer

 Consistently, 	_ tend to be overrepresente	d in California's electorate, whereas
tend to be und	derrepresented.	
Ans: Whites; Hispanic	s/Latinos	
Answer Location: Majo	or Voting Trends	
•	,	may need in order to write or reshape
bills, special interest q	roups hire professional	who can provide targeted

information, persuasively. Ans: lobbyists (or advocates) Answer Location: Special Interest Groups: Indirectly Connecting Citizens to Government
3. One of the largest and most influential public employee associations with ties to Democrats in California is
Ans: varies. The California Teachers Association (CTA) is discussed in the book; the California Correctional Peace Officers Association (CCPOA) is also mentioned. Other public employee unions would also be appropriate but were not explicitly mentioned in the book, such as SEIUCA (Service Employees International Union). Answer Location: Special Interest Groups: Indirectly Connecting Citizens to Government
4. One of the largest and most influential business associations with ties to Republicans in California is

Ans: varies. Two were explicitly discussed or mentioned in the book: the California Chamber of Commerce (CalChamber) and the California Association of Realtors (CAR).

Answer Location: Special Interest Groups: Indirectly Connecting Citizens to

Essay

Government

1. Briefly describe "One Percent" California.

Ans: Varies. About 340,000 people who reside in Santa Clara County homes with a median value of over \$2.1 million. They have the highest human development scores and can expect to live long lives (the longest of all Californians): most have access to great health care and are in well-paying, stable occupations in information technology, business, and science. The median household income is over \$114,000. Education is important to success: over 40% have a graduate degree and nearly 75% of children attend preschool; they can afford expensive private schools for their kids. Mostly White and Asian American.

Answer Location: One Percent

Others could be permissible.

2. Briefly describe "Elite Enclave" California.

Ans: Varies. "Knowledge workers" who can pay the bills and reside in neighborhoods rich with amenities, located in pockets of Los Angeles, San Francisco, Sacramento, San Jose, and San Diego. Most are married (79%) and about a quarter are foreign born. Parents in this group are highly focused on getting their kids into college and their kids bypass the hardships of poverty. Over half have a college degree and almost all have a high school diploma. They pay a lot for housing, but can generally pay the bills, find appropriate childcare, and they experience relatively low levels of crime. Average household income of \$89,000.

Answer Location: Elite Enclave

3. Briefly describe "Main Street" California.

Ans: Varies. Middle-class Americans employed in service and office sectors; their income (\$66,000 median household) mostly covers housing and health care. Their grip on financial security is weakening as secure retirement and better lives for their children remain just out of reach. Majority–minority: less than half are White (45%), 30% Latino, 16% Asian, 4% Black. Three-quarters are foreign born. Almost all have graduated high school; only 12% have a B.A. Parents are able to provide after-school enrichment for children. Main Street communities cluster in large cities as well as inland counties of Fresno, Riverside, and San Bernardino.

Answer Location: Main Street

4. Briefly describe "Struggling" California.

Ans: Varies. Mainly work in high-effort/low-reward, insecure jobs in sales and service or offices where they earn \$45,000 a year (median household income); they are struggling to hold it together. They have limited (if any) childcare options and few extracurricular activities for children, and many youth are neither in school nor employed. Majority Latino (52%), Whites are the next largest ethnic group (29%). Tend to live in rural neighborhoods in Northern, Central, and Inland California. One of three households is headed by a single parent; almost a third of children live in poverty. They experience more exposure to crime, and laborious tasks such as caring for a disabled family member take tremendous tolls on health.

Answer Location: Struggling

5. Briefly describe "Disenfranchised" California?

Ans: Varies. In survival mode; they experience marginalization and social exclusion daily, and reside in distressed areas of Los Angeles and San Joaquin Valley in conditions rivaling the poorest areas of West Virginia and Mississippi. Isolated from jobs and reliable health care and living outside the formal economy with a median household income of \$31,000, about half have a high school diploma and most work in production, transportation and moving, service, sales, and under-the-table jobs that are unreliable. Heavily racial/ethnic minority group: 71% Latino, 13.5% White, 8.6% Black, and 5% Asian American; one-third foreign born. Over half of all children live in poverty; 22% of youth are either not in school or are unemployed. Lowest human development scores. Answer Location: Disenfranchised

6. What personal characteristics are associated with political participation? Ans: Higher levels of political efficacy (feeling that one can personally make a difference by participating in public affairs), more interest in politics, socioeconomic variables such as age, educational achievement, income, homeownership and length of residence, such that these variables are positively related (as age rises, participation tends to rise also). Race and ethnicity (Whites participate at higher levels than those in other groups), and nativity (whether one was born in the United States), as well as living in a "pro-voting" culture are also associated with higher participation.

Answer Location: Predictors of Political Participation and Disengagement

7. How are demographic (personal background) variables associated with political participation?

Ans: Varies. Most variables are positively related with political participation. Age: older persons are more likely to participate than younger ones. Income: the higher the income, the higher the participation level generally. Education: the higher the education level, the more likely one is to participate politically. Race/ethnicity: Whites are most likely to participate, whereas Latino and Asian populations have some of the lowest rates of political participation among major racial/ethnic groups in the state. Latinos and Asian Americans are also less inclined to discuss politics, which is also associated with lower political participation. Whether a person was born in the United States (nativity) is a big factor; those born outside the United States are less to participate. Answer Location: Predictors of Political Participation and Disengagement

8. What kinds of media sources do Californians rely on for political information? Ans: Large newspaper operations, both online and print; minority newspapers and publications; television news coverage; Internet sites and blogs; radio programs; Facebook and social media communication; comedy shows (for national news more than California news).

Answer Location: News and Media Habits

9. What are the drawbacks of social networking for political purposes? Ans: Varies. Tweeted or texted information tends to be shallow and lacking context; misinformation can spread like wildfire without the ability to retract it fully; public authorities tend to "script" their appearances because their gaffes could be broadcast on sites such as YouTube, Snapchat, or Instagram.

Answer Location: News and Media Habits

10. Generally speaking, what kinds of people pay attention to what's going on in government?

Ans: Varies. The strongest relationships between attention to politics and demographic characteristics are found when observing age, education, and income: each variable has a positive relationship with attentiveness to politics. The older, more highly educated, and well-off a person is, the more likely it is that he or she will pay closer attention to politics. In addition, political interest influences attentiveness to politics, whereby those with more interest will pay closer attention, and feeling as if one can make a difference is also associated with information seeking and following politics. Voters are more likely to pay attention to politics as well.

Answer Location: Predictors of Political Participation and Disengagement

11. Describe three forms of political or civic participation other than voting. Ans: Varies. Activities mentioned in the book range from those requiring low levels of activity to those requiring great investments of personal resources. Liking or disliking political statements on a Facebook page or a political group takes little energy but is a legitimate form of political participation, as is following a political candidate or figure on Twitter, or joining a social networking group dedicated to politics or a social issue. Others: discussing politics with others; displaying a campaign-related or political yard

sign, sticker, or T-shirt; discussing politics with others; encouraging others or trying to influence how others vote; signing petitions; contacting a public official via phone or email; boycotting a product for a political or social reason; attending a public meeting; attending a rally, demonstration, or (public) speech; working with a group to address a local problem; working for a campaign; working with a group to address a local problem; donating to a campaign; becoming an active party member or officer in a party organization; working for a campaign; becoming a candidate for office. Answer Location: Types of Political Participation

12. Why don't people participate in politics? What variables are associated with nonparticipation?

Ans: Varies. Poverty and lack of education can produce a reduced skill set, including language deficits, a smaller knowledge base, a lower sense of efficacy, fewer chances to be contacted or mobilized, and/or less disposable time to participate in activities. These disparities also surface among ethnic/racial groupings. Those who feel as if they will never be heard will hardly waste their time trying to voice their opinions, and continuing disengagement leads to even greater disparities in skills and resources apportioned to them, and high levels of frustration and political apathy. Answer Location: Predictors of Political Participation and Disengagement

13. Is there any evidence that the people who vote represent fairly those who do not vote?

s the studies about interest in politics and political participation generally show, those who vote tend to be somewhat different than those who do not, both in demographic terms and also in how they think about government. On the whole, regular voters tend to be older, White, native born, and more conservative; those who vote tend to be more highly educated and have higher interest in politics. According to one study cited in the text (PPIC), likely voters are less willing to pay higher taxes for more services, while those who are not registered to vote are far more willing to pay higher taxes for more services.

Answer Location: Predictors of Political Participation and Disengagement

14. What demographic variables or characteristics are associated with not registering to vote?

Ans: Renter (vs. homeowner) status, high school diploma or less education, racial or ethnic minority, and having been born outside the United States.

Answer Location: Predictors of Political Participation and Disengagement

15. Name some of the variables associated with turning out to vote.

Ans: Varies. Having disposable time, the difficulty (or ease) of registration requirements, timing of elections, perceived importance of a given election, political interest and beliefs about government, living in a pro-voting culture, age, nativity, educational attainment (education), race/ethnicity, homeowner status, and income.

Answer Location: Major Voting Trends

16. What persons over the age of 18 are not allowed to vote in California?

Ans: Noncitizens cannot vote, including permanent residents and undocumented immigrants; those in prison or on parole.

Answer Location: Major Voting Trends

17. Briefly explain how age, education level, home ownership, nativity, and income are related to voter turnout rates.

Ans: Varies. Age: younger residents are less likely to vote. Education: higher education levels translate into higher turnout. Home ownership and longer lengths of residency translate into higher turnout. Nativity: native-born persons are likelier to turn out than foreign-born citizens. Income: higher-income voters are more likely to vote. In all of these ways, the "haves" tend to outshout and outvote the "have-nots" in elections. Answer Location: Major Voting Trends

18. What is a special interest group?

n organized group that makes its case to government about its "special" or specific issue. Can also be a vague reference to any group whose members are affected by public policy, share the same concerns, want something from government, and are willing to fight for it.

Answer Location: Special Interest Groups: Indirectly Connecting Citizens to Government

19. How do large membership organizations such as the CTA (California Teachers Association) try to influence politics?

Ans: Varies. Large organizations have the power of many potential voters on their side. They mobilize members of the organization and the (sympathetic) public to contact their representatives through mail, phone, or email, and hold demonstrations or rallies to mobilize public opinion and bring attention to their causes. Their members donate to campaigns and sponsor/endorse/contribute to initiative campaigns, and sometimes provide help with campaigns. Through their lobbyists they help write bills, testify before legislative committees, and try to influence pending or existing legislation through amendments (changes).

Answer Location: Special Interest Groups: Indirectly Connecting Citizens to Government | Box 10.1 The Power of Organized Interests

20. What kinds of special interests are "privileged" in politics, and who loses? Ans: Organizations, individuals, and businesses with resources have distinct advantages over those that are resource poor and/or are unorganized. Resources would include size, because groups with large numbers of potential voters matter greatly; the ability to mobilize or influence public opinion; money to get out one's message or donate to campaigns; status as an important community member or economic force in a community (large employers).

Answer Location: Special Interest Groups: Indirectly Connecting Citizens to Government

21. In what kind of activities do professional lobbyists engage?
Ans: Varies. A lobbyist's main job is to "educate" legislators and their staff about the

negative or positive effects of pending legislation (or existing law) on their clients; they research and write (draft) client-friendly legislation; they appear as witnesses to testify about bills in committee; they buy expensive tickets to legislators' fundraisers. Answer Location: Special Interest Groups: Indirectly Connecting Citizens to Government | Box 10.1 The Power of Organized Interests

22. Why are lobbyists in Sacramento collectively known as "the third house?" Ans: Varies. Lobbyists are crucial players in the lawmaking process, providing critical information to legislators and their staff about bills, or proposed changes to state laws that will affect their clients. These so-called "educators" or "information peddlers" help legislators and their staff understand the potential impacts of laws, though they will always try to frame information in ways that help their clients. They provide assistance with drafting bills and amending legislation; they testify in committee; they help legislators by building coalitions of groups in support or in opposition to proposed legislation.

Answer Location: Special Interest Groups: Indirectly Connecting Citizens to Government

23. Name some of the ways in which special interests try to influence politics. Ans: Varies. Hire lobbyists. Mobilize members to vote or contact their representatives. Influence or change public opinion. Donate to campaigns. Run an independent campaign. Support legislators by attending their fundraisers. Testify before legislative committees about bills.

Answer Location: Special Interest Groups: Indirectly Connecting Citizens to Government

24. Suppose you are a successful homebuilder with many employees, and like other builders, your company will soon face a burdensome new regulation: in order to help keep the air and water clean, construction companies will now be required to capture or minimize the airborne dust and also contaminated run-off from construction projects (such as that created by rains). Like your peers (who are also represented through a strong and well-funded builder's association), you would like to avoid this costly new requirement. You believe it will cause you to lay off employees to cover these new costs. How might you try to go about trying to undo what has already become law? Ans: Varies. Although the policymaking process is complicated and involves many factors that would influence the final shape of a law and its chances for passage, this question is asking students to consider how they can have an impact on the political system, and specifically, how they can use group resources to change an existing law. Here, several factors would be important to consider: the "special interest" is represented by a professional association that is well funded, and the builder has "many employees." One approach might be to sponsor an initiative that would change the requirements for builders, and this would involve the association's involvement in sponsoring a petition drive as well as a massive public campaign to influence public opinion and the final vote on a ballot initiative. The builder's professional association might also consider a referendum on the law, which would also involve a petition drive and a subsequent campaign. The builder might also try to convince legislators to

change the law or do away with it. The builder might try to use his or her status as an important employer to get a meeting with legislators and staff members to convince them that this law should be overturned or amended. With others, namely by working with the association, the builder would have a better chance of having an impact on the legislature. Thus, the association's lobbyists might write a new law that either overturns the previous one or work with a legislator to write an amendment to the law that will soften the impacts on the builder. They would engage in direct lobbying with members of the legislature and their staff, and testify before legislative committees. (Note that the question prompts students to consider how they would approach this task, but some students might become distracted with working out a solution to the issue mentioned; this would be off-topic.) To create the appearance of widespread support for changing or overturning the law, the lobbyist might work to create an "Astroturf campaign" which prompts members of the business community to call, write, and threaten to withhold campaign contributions to those who do not support the builders' cause. In this case, rallying or demonstrating would probably not be an effective strategy, because the general public would be unlikely to respond to this tactic, and builders themselves are not likely to participate. Public opinion may not be on the builders' side, so they might try to shape public opinion with a "public education campaign" about the negative effects on employment or housing prices, for example, but this would require significant resources that might not be successful ultimately. (An insightful student might also consider that the builder's professional association was initially trumped by stronger forces (because the law passed and presumably they must have objected to the law and worked against its passage); this might be worked into an answer that considers the most effective legislative strategy).

Answer Location: Special Interest Groups: Indirectly Connecting Citizens to Government | Box 10.1 The Power of Organized Interests