

Introduction to Public Policy – Policy Making

What is public policy?

- “a defined course of _____ taken by the federal government (and other government entities) with regard to an _____ or _____”
- “A system of _____, regulatory _____, courses of action, and funding _____ concerning a given topic promulgated by a governmental entity or its representatives”.
- When the federal government decides to take action to solve a societal _____ or set of _____.
- Public policy is normally embodied “in _____, legislative _____, and judicial _____”.

Steps in the Policy Making Process:

1) _____: What is the problem or issue? What will the role of the government be? What is the agenda? Issues come to the attention of federal government through: interest groups, organizations, court cases, members of Congress, bureaucratic agencies, individual citizens. Challenge: differing opinions and priorities.

2) _____: What are the steps that will be taken to solve the issue or problem? Will the issue be dealt with all at once or in stages? Challenges: different solutions proposed by different individuals, groups, organizations. Reaching a compromise on both sides.

3) _____: What course of action will the government ultimately take? Will it be new legislation or an executive order? Challenge: It's a time consuming process. Adoption of policy takes considerable amount of time, process can be difficult and often times controversial.

4) _____: How will the new policy be applied to real situations? How will the government make sure the general public will know about them? What are the consequences for individuals, states, organizations that do not follow the new policy? Challenges: uniformity and equal application of the law to all levels of gov't

5) _____: What positive changes have resulted from the policy? What are the challenges? What are the unforeseen problems? What have been the unexpected costs?

Challenges: Will the policy be evaluated in the same way by different government entities? “Throw out” the policy or just amended it? Differing opinions on how to fix the policy.

How does an issue get on the “political agenda”?

Things to keep in mind about the policy making process...

- Public policies are _____ - reshaped, modified, changed, rejected for new policies.
- Public policy must be _____ of many government agencies and officials involved over time.
- Policy is a _____, not something that can be determined by a single event or decision.
- Policy is _____, takes place on multiple levels- national, state, local.
- There will be _____ in the policy making process.