Influencing Public Policy

Public policy is not made in a vacuum. There are many influences that can determine how public policy is formed.

All persons, whether eligible to vote or not, have the right to make their views known to their elected representatives and other government officials. We all, therefore, have the ability to try to shape public policy.

The media, primarily newspapers and television, and special interest groups, such as labor unions and business associations, focus both the public's and the lawmakers' attention on specific issues, thereby putting pressure on the lawmakers at all levels to adopt desired polices.