Interest Groups

Class Notes…

Terms to remember…

⇒ **interest group**—group of people with a common interest; often working together advocating on behalf of interests

⇒ **advocacy--**influence; individuals or interest groups speak out in an attempt to influence others

⇒ **association--**groups of companies or institutions that organize around a common set of concerns, often within a given industry or trade

⇒ **contract lobbyist--**lobbyist who works for a contract lobbying firm that represents clients before government

⇒ **cooptation/co-opt**--successful influence/advocacy for a policy position, agenda, opinion

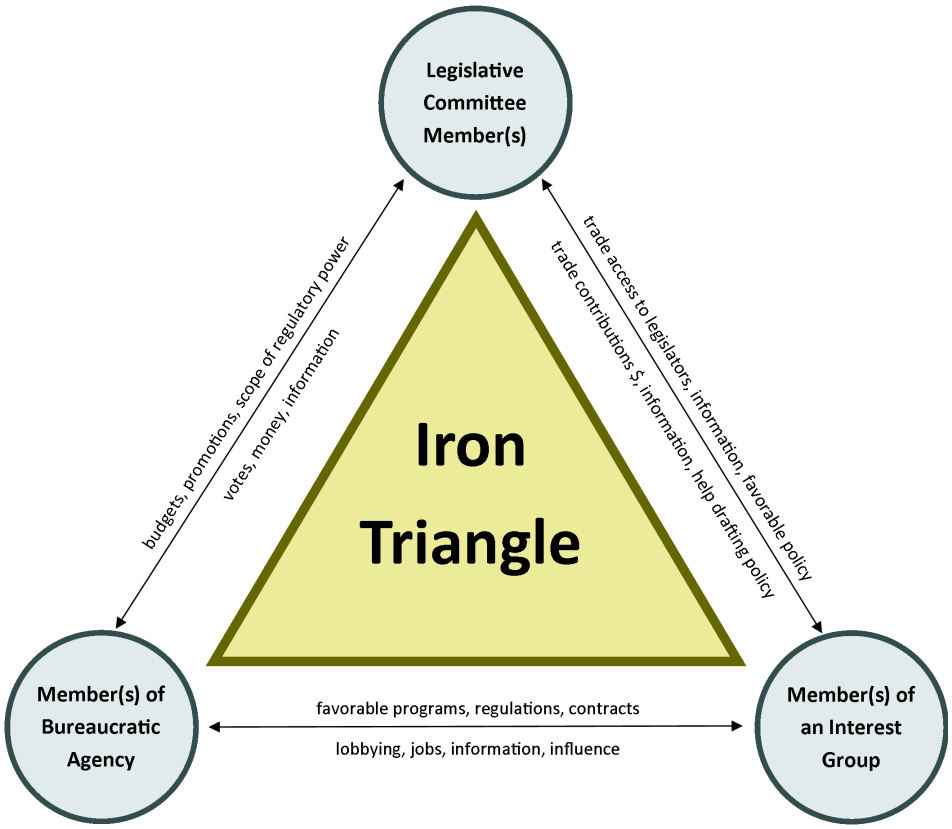
⇒ **in-house lobbyist--**an employee or executive within an organization who works as a lobbyist on behalf of the organization

⇒ **legislative liaison--**a person employed by a governmental entity such as a local government, executive department, or university to represent the organization before the legislature

⇒ **lobbyist--**a person who represents an organization before government in an attempt to influence policy

⇒ **private interest group--**seek particularized benefits from government that favor either a single interest or a narrow set of interests

⇒ **public interest group--**an interest group that seeks a public good, which is something that accrues to all



⇒ **free rider**--the situation that occurs when some individuals receive benefits (get a free ride) without helping to bear the cost

⇒ **fragmentation**--the result when a large interest group develops diverging needs

⇒ **grassroots movement**--a political movement that often begins from the bottom up, inspired by average citizens concerned about a given issue

⇒ **iron triangle**--three-way relationship among congressional committees, interests groups, and the bureaucracy

⇒ **voting cues**--sources—including fellow lawmakers, constituents, and interest groups—that lawmakers often use to help them decide how to vote, especially on unfamiliar issues

⇒ **revolving door laws**--laws that require a cooling-off period before government officials can register to lobby after leaving office

⇒ **soft money**--money that interests can spend on behalf of candidates without being restricted by federal law

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