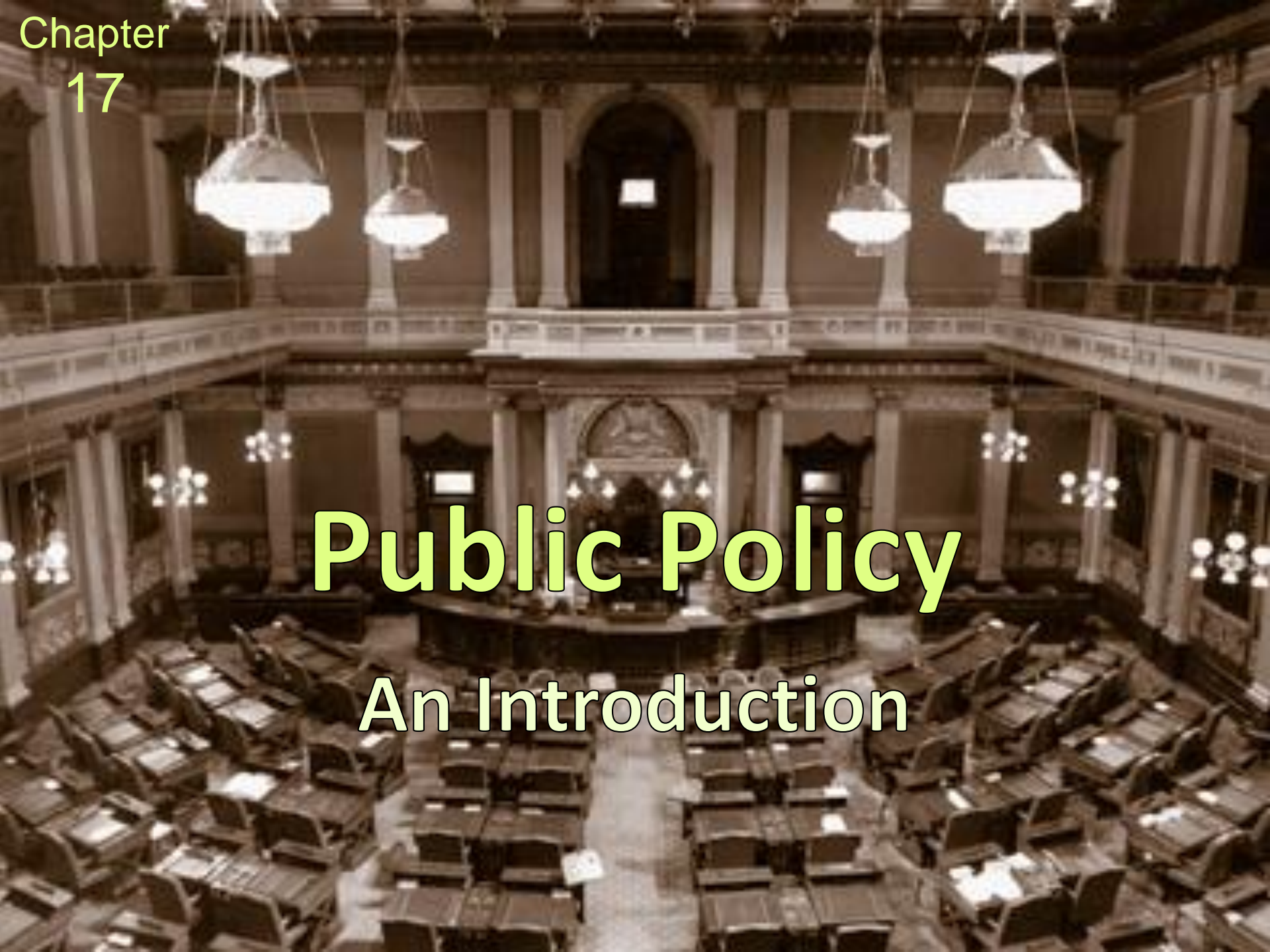


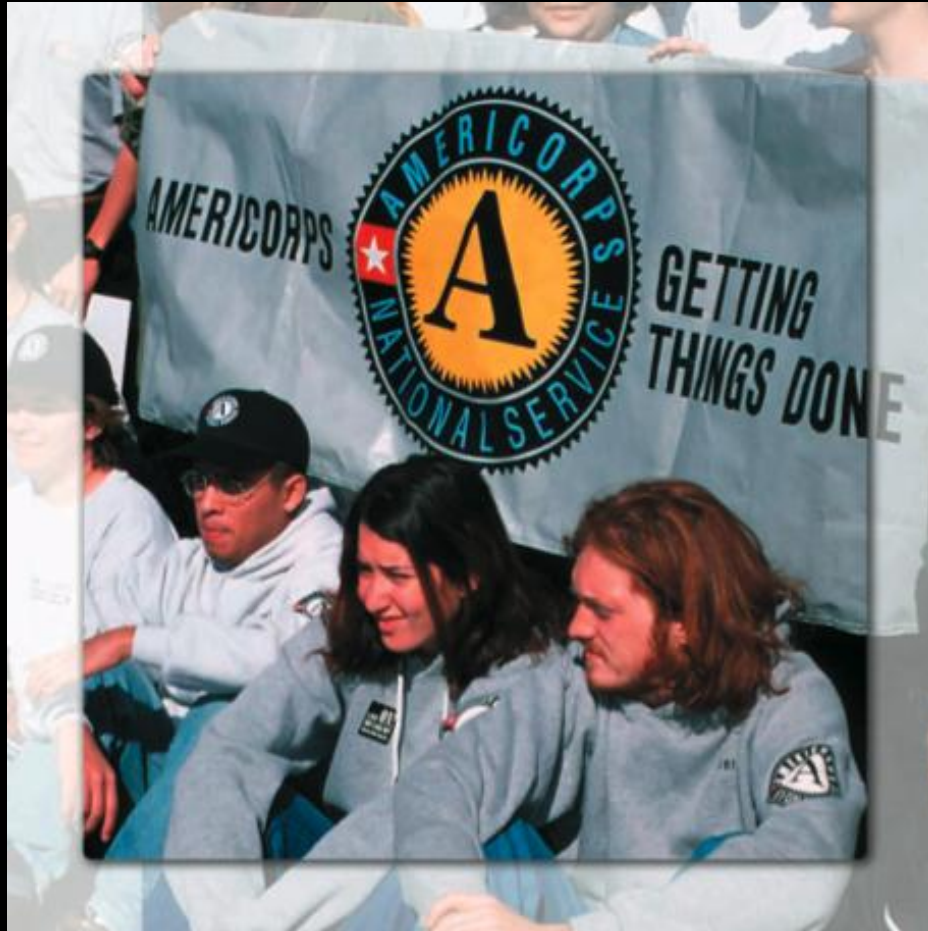
Chapter
17

Public Policy

An Introduction



Public Policy



- Defining Public Policy
- Eight Steps in Making Public Policy
- Citizens and Public Policy

Defining Public Policy

Types of Public Policy

- Distributive
 - Provide benefits to all groups in society
- Redistributive
 - Provide benefits to one group while taking away from another group
- Reverse distributive policy
 - Take resources from every group to solve a common problem

TABLE**17-1** Politics and Policy

The People →	Politics →	Policies →	Outcomes
Older Americans	Voting, joining AARP	Creating prescription drug coverage	Lower prescription drug costs
College students	Writing e-mails	Reducing college loan costs	Lower debt
Businesses	Contributing money to campaigns	Lower taxes	Higher profits
Environmental groups	Filing lawsuits	Enforcing smokestack rules	Cleaner air
Community	Setting up Facebook sites	Increasing police patrols	Safer neighborhoods

The Eight Steps in Making Public Policy

Order of Action

- Making public policy is unpredictable.
 - Competing problems
 - Solutions
 - Political actors
 - Citizens
 - Pressure
 - Resources

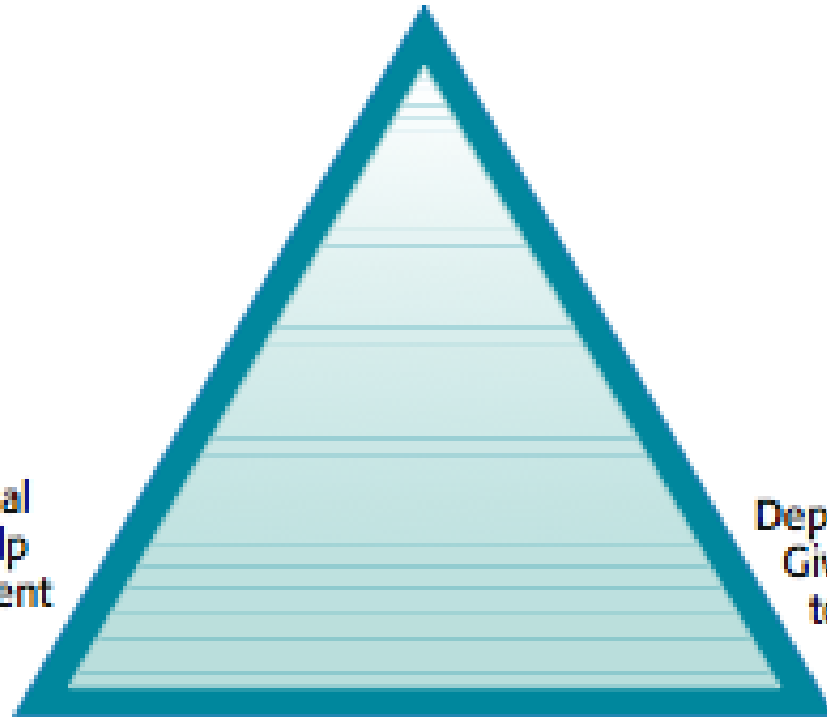




FIGURE 17-1 The Eight Steps in Making Public Policy.

■ Why is step three the most difficult step?

Veterans interest groups—
Give campaign contributions
and election support



Veterans Congressional
Committees—Give help
to executive department
and pass legislation
helping veterans

Department of Veterans Affairs—
Gives health care and benefits
to veterans and helps
members of Congress solve
veterans' problems

FIGURE 17-3 Iron Triangle.

■ *Why are iron triangles so hard to break?*

Citizens and Public Policy

Citizens and Public Policy

- Citizen action is successful when
 - Clear ideas for an alternative policy
 - Tell government what to do