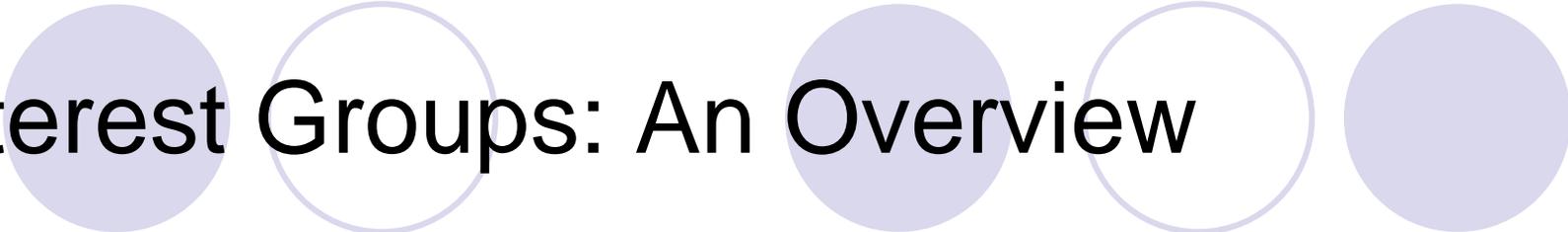


The slide features several decorative circles. At the top, there are three circles: a white one on the left, a solid light purple one in the middle, and another solid light purple one on the right. Below the title, there are two more solid light purple circles on the left and one white circle on the right. The text 'Interest Groups' is positioned to the right of these bottom circles.

Introduction to the American Political Process

Interest Groups

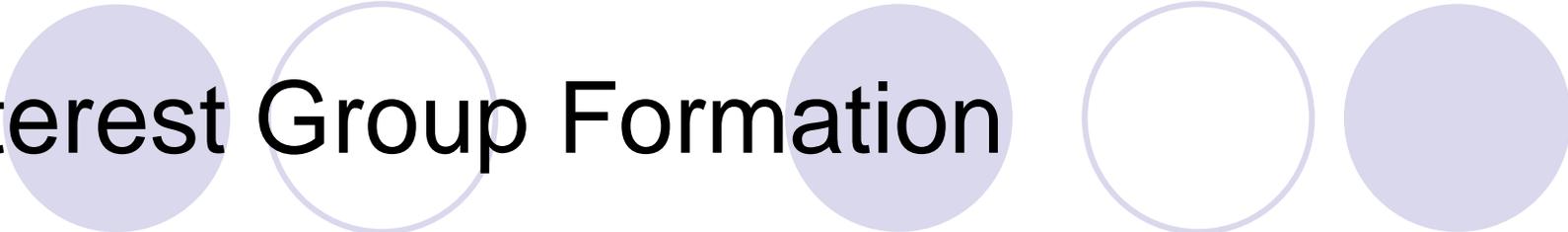


Interest Groups: An Overview

- Definitions and myths
- Formation
- Resources and Strategies
- Bias: Equality and Intensity

Interest Groups: Definitions and Myths

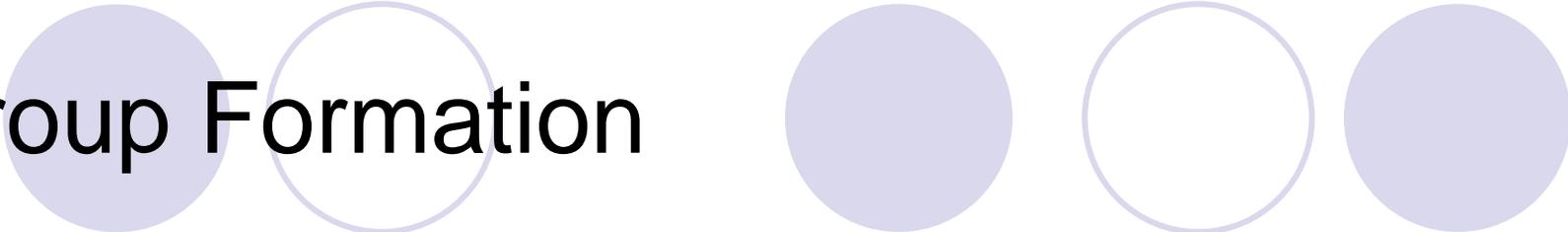
- Definition:
 - An organized body of individuals who share some political goals and try to influence a public policy decision
- Lobbyists, special interests, factions.
- Why is “Special Interest” a dirty word?
 - The prevalence of conflict



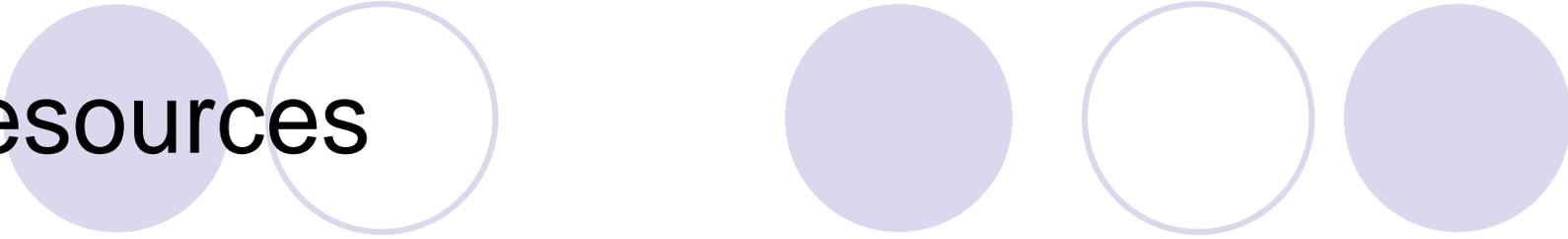
Interest Group Formation

- Some interests are organized, others unorganized. Why?
- Olson: Collective action problem
 - Collective goods vs. selective benefits
 - Excludability
 - Individual vs. collective interests
 - Free-rider problem
 - Size
 - Selective Incentives

Group Formation



- How do groups form?
 - The importance of leadership
 - Entrepreneurs
 - Social movements
 - Tipping points
 - Potential problems



Resources

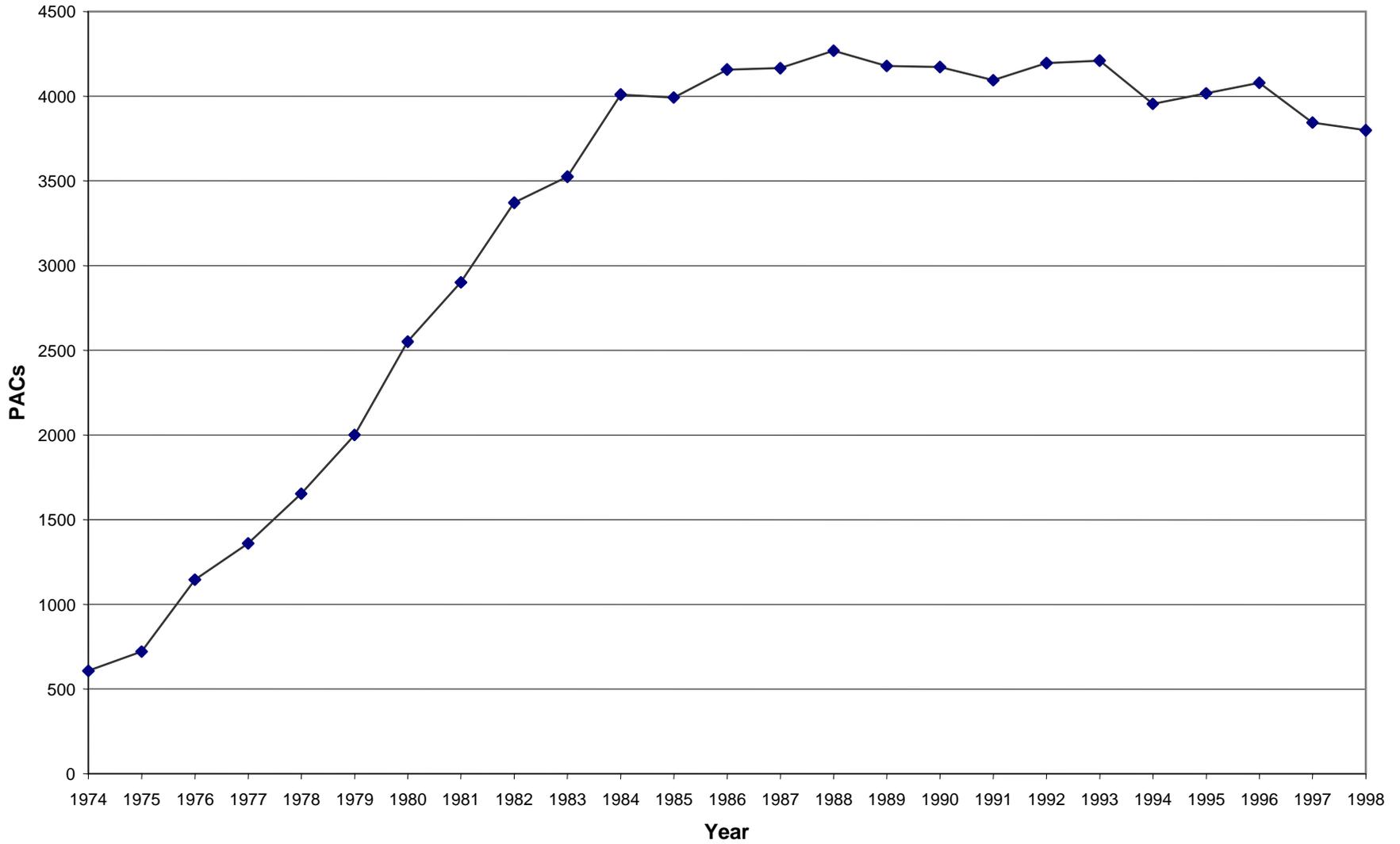
- Diversity of resources
 - Group characteristics
 - Numbers: AARP
 - Cohesion: ACT-UP vs. TAG
 - Information and Expertise
 - Social Status



Interest Group Strategies

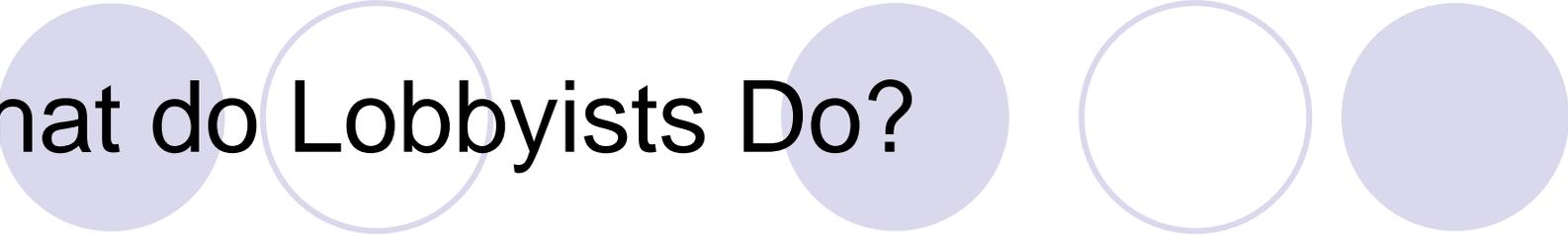
- Resources determine strategy
- Direct action strategies
 - Legal Strategies
 - 1930s-1950s: NAACP Legal Defense Fund
 - 1990s: Tobacco
 - Limits: Galanter and Kritzer
 - Agency Contact
 - Contacting Representatives -- Lobbying

Total PACs



Top Twenty PACs in Contributions to Federal Candidates, 1997–1998

1	Realtors Political Action Committee	\$2,474,133
2	Association of Trial Lawyers of America Political Action Committee	2,428,300
3	American Federation of State County & Municipal Employees- PEOPLE, Qualified	2,374,950
4	American Medical Association Political Action Committee	2,336,281
5	Democratic Republican Independent Voter Education Committee	2,183,250
6	Dealers Election Action Committee of the National Automobile	2,107,800
7	UAW-V-CAP (UAW Voluntary Community Action Program)	1,915,460
8	International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Committee on Political Education	1,884,470
9	National Education Association Political Action Committee	1,853,390
10	Build Political Action Committee of the National Association of Home Builders	1,807,240
11	Committee on Letter Carriers Political Education (Letter Carriers Political Action Fund)	1,760,496
12	Machinists Non-partisan Political League	1,637,300
13	NRA Political Victory Funds' Association Political Action Committee	1,633,211
14	United Parcel Service of America Inc Political Action Committee	1,527,149
15	United Food & Commercial Workers, Active Ballot Club	1,505,951
16	American Federation of Teachers Committee on Political Education	1,415,400
17	Laborers' Political League-laborers' International Union	1,413,850
18	Carpenters Legislative Improvement Committee, United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners of America	
19	National Association of Life Underwriters Political Action Committee	1,336,000
20	National Beer Wholesale	1,301,719

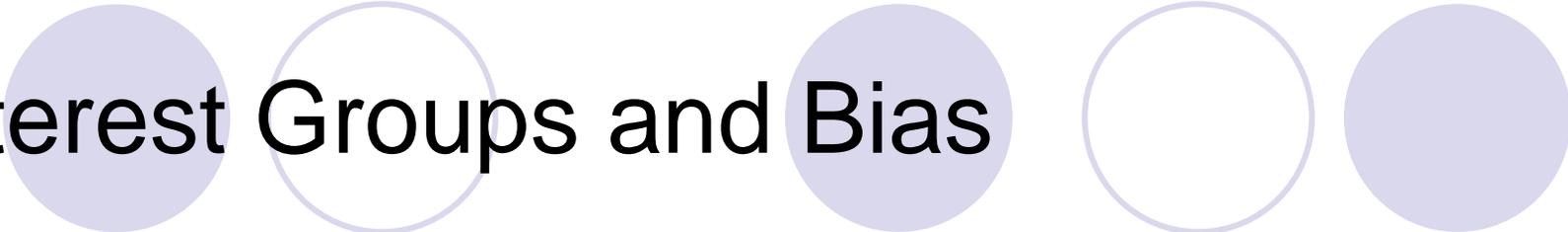


What do Lobbyists Do?

- 99% Testify at Hearings
- 92% Present research results or technical information
- 85% Help draft legislation
- 58% Make financial contributions to candidates
- 24% Contribute work or personnel to electoral campaigns

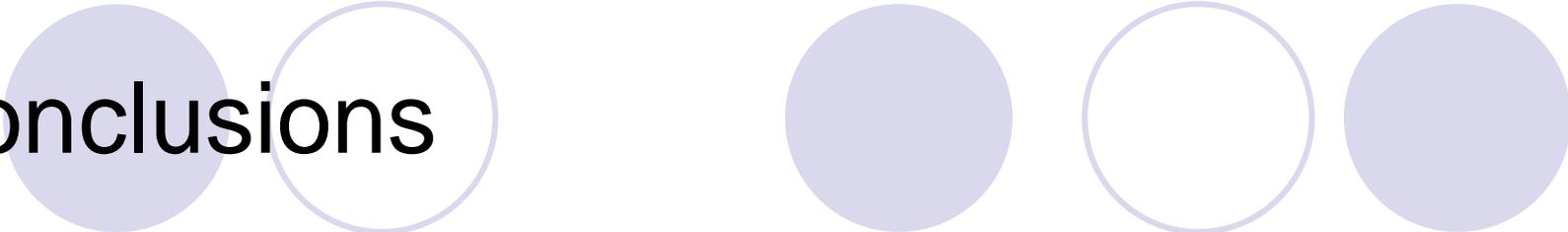
Interest Group Strategies (cont.)

- Grassroots Lobbying
 - “Outsider strategy”
 - Work through constituents
 - Advantages and disadvantages

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Interest Groups and Bias

- Membership bias
- Organized and unorganized interests



Conclusions

- What is the place of Interest groups in America?
 - Multiplicity of interests
 - Interest groups channel interests and preferences
 - Intensity vs. Equality