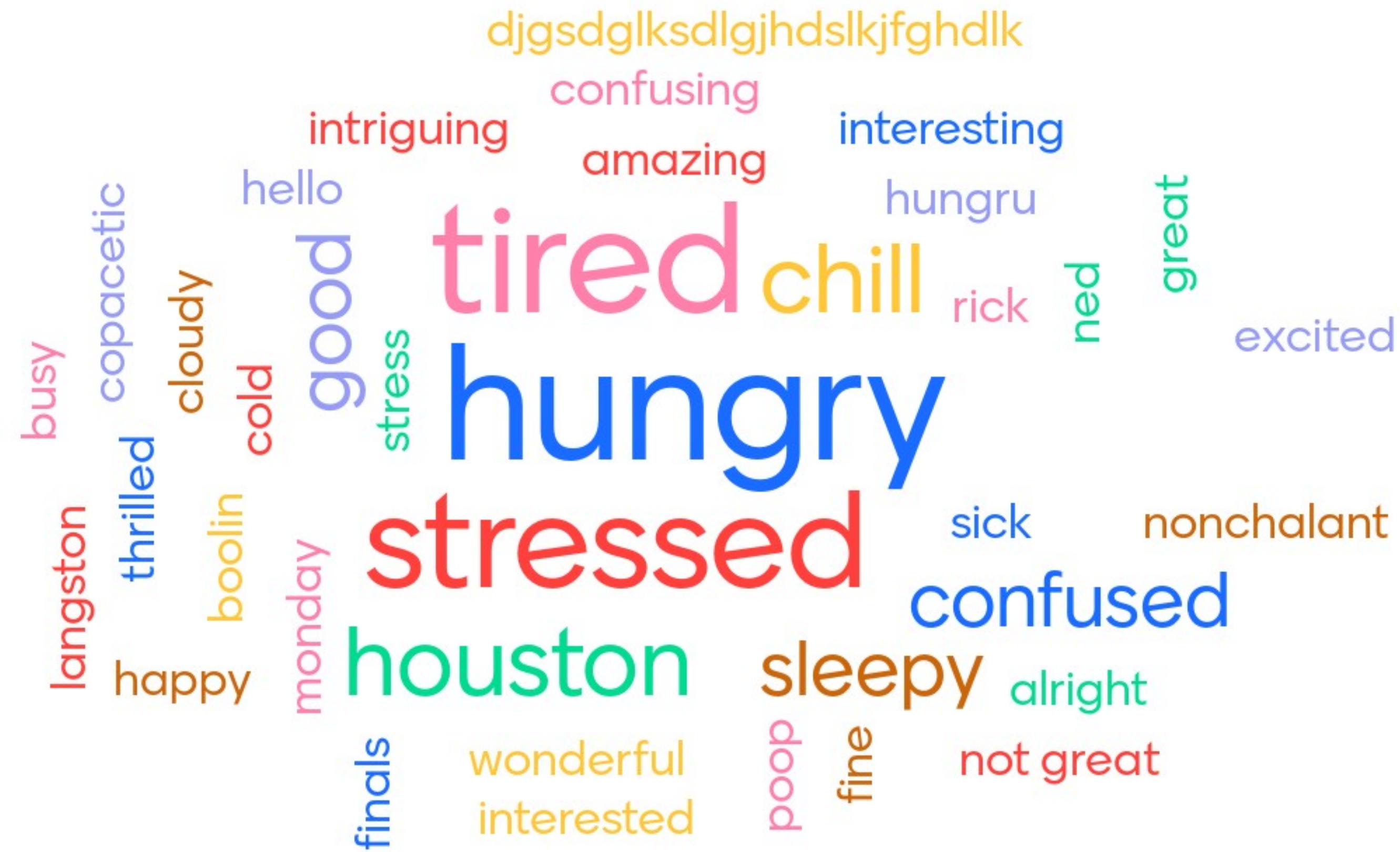


# Instructions

## Current Vibe

67 responses



# Topics for Today, November 27, 2023

- Interest Groups
- Interest Group Strategies and Tactics
- Money in Politics



# What is an interest group?

**A group of people that seeks to influence public policy on the basis of a particular common interest or concern.**



What are some different types of interest groups?

# Business and Economic

→ US Chamber of Commerce

# Labor

→ AFL-CIO



# Environmental

→ Sierra Club

# Consumer

→ Consumer Reports

# Civil Rights

→ ACLU



# Social and Cultural

→ Planned Parenthood

# Professional

→ American Medical Association

# Single-Issue

→ Gun Control



# Foreign Policy

→ US-Cuba Democracy PAC

# Public Interest

→ Common Cause

# MANY Interest Groups

→ <https://usapoliticaldatabase.weebly.com/list-of-interest-groups.html>

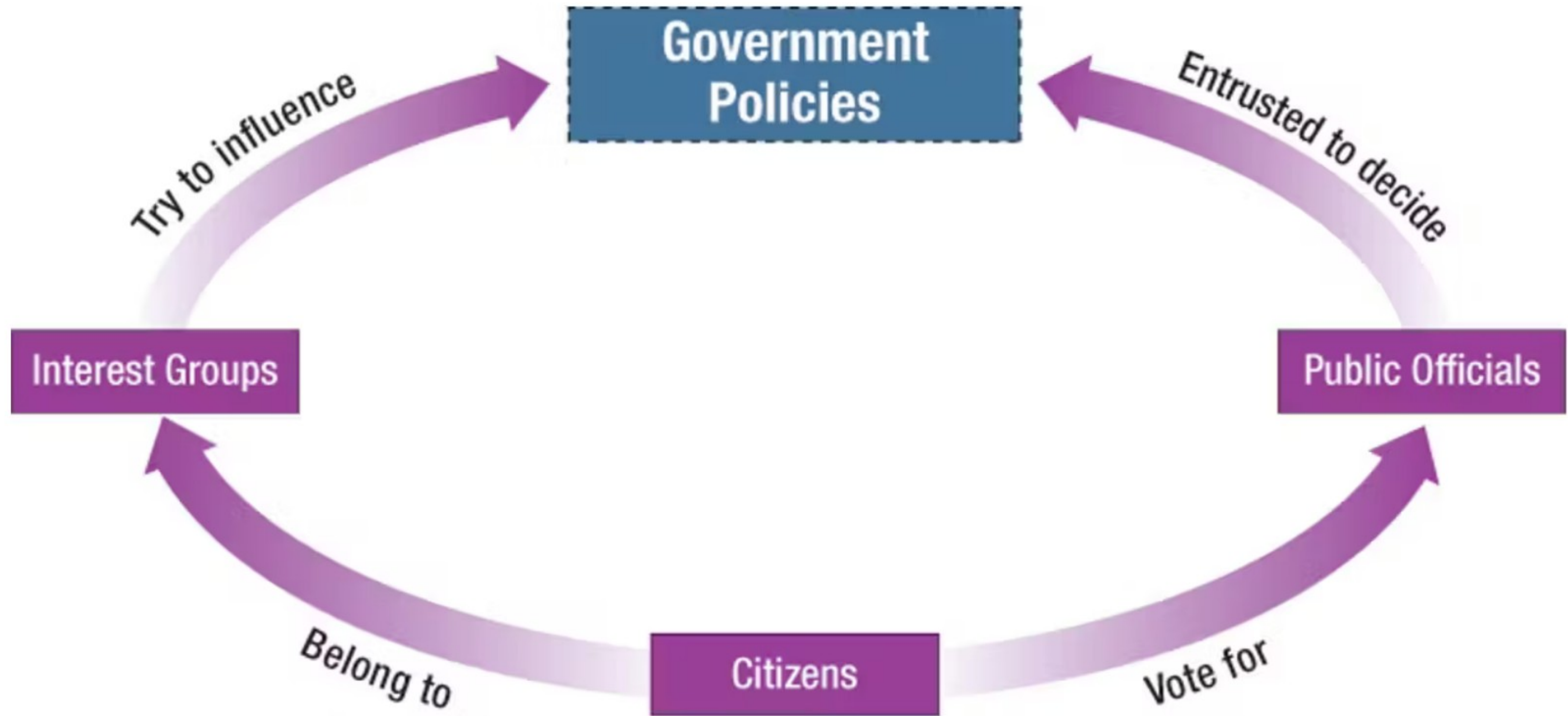


# James Madison and Federalist No. 10

# Federalist No. 10

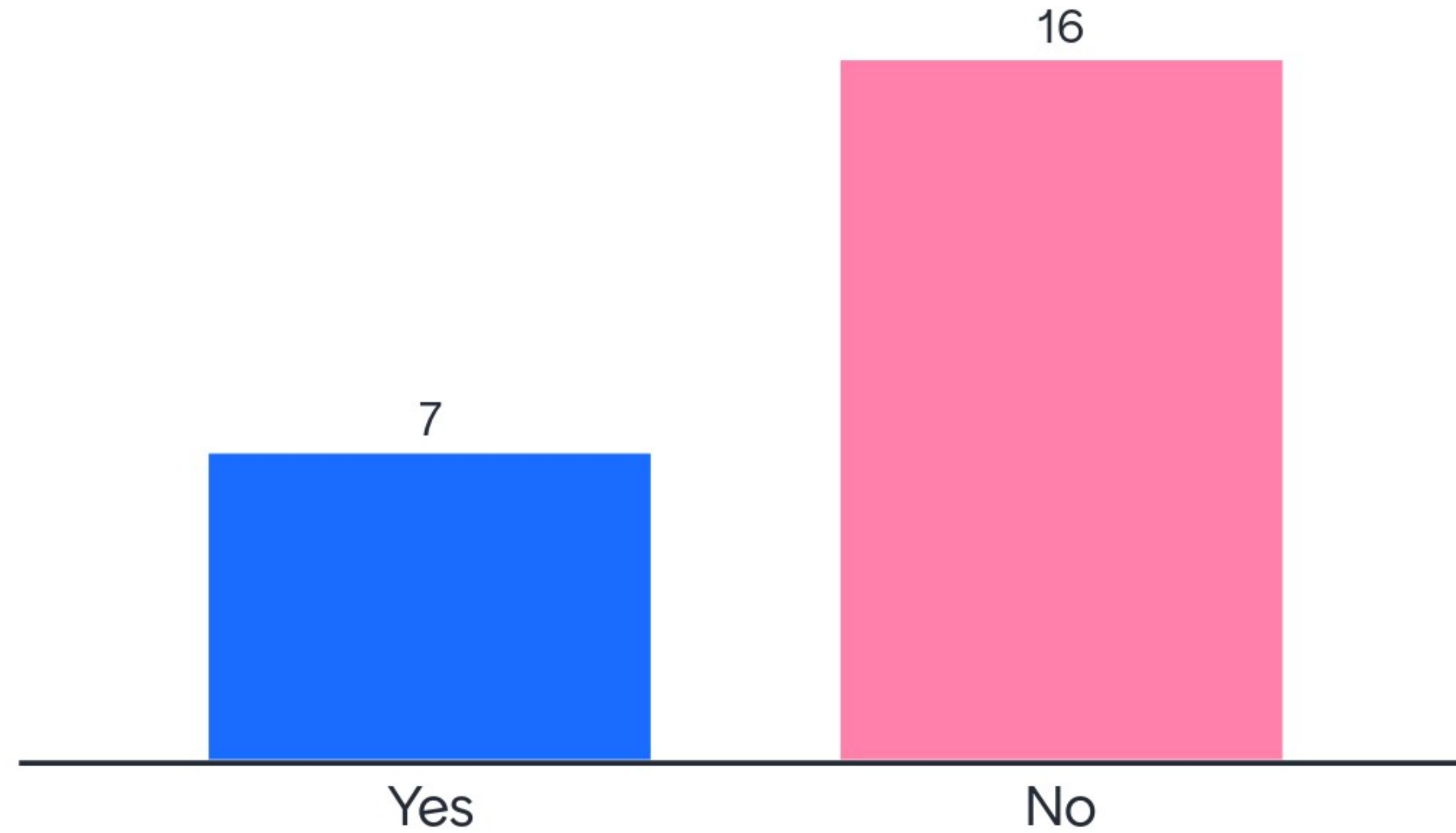
- Factions are inevitable
- Concern about majority tyranny
- Role of representative democracy to mitigate undue influence
- Role of checks and balances







# I am a member of an interest group.



# Public or Collective Goods

- Something that cannot be withheld from some people without withholding it from all.
- Examples?

# Public or Collective Goods

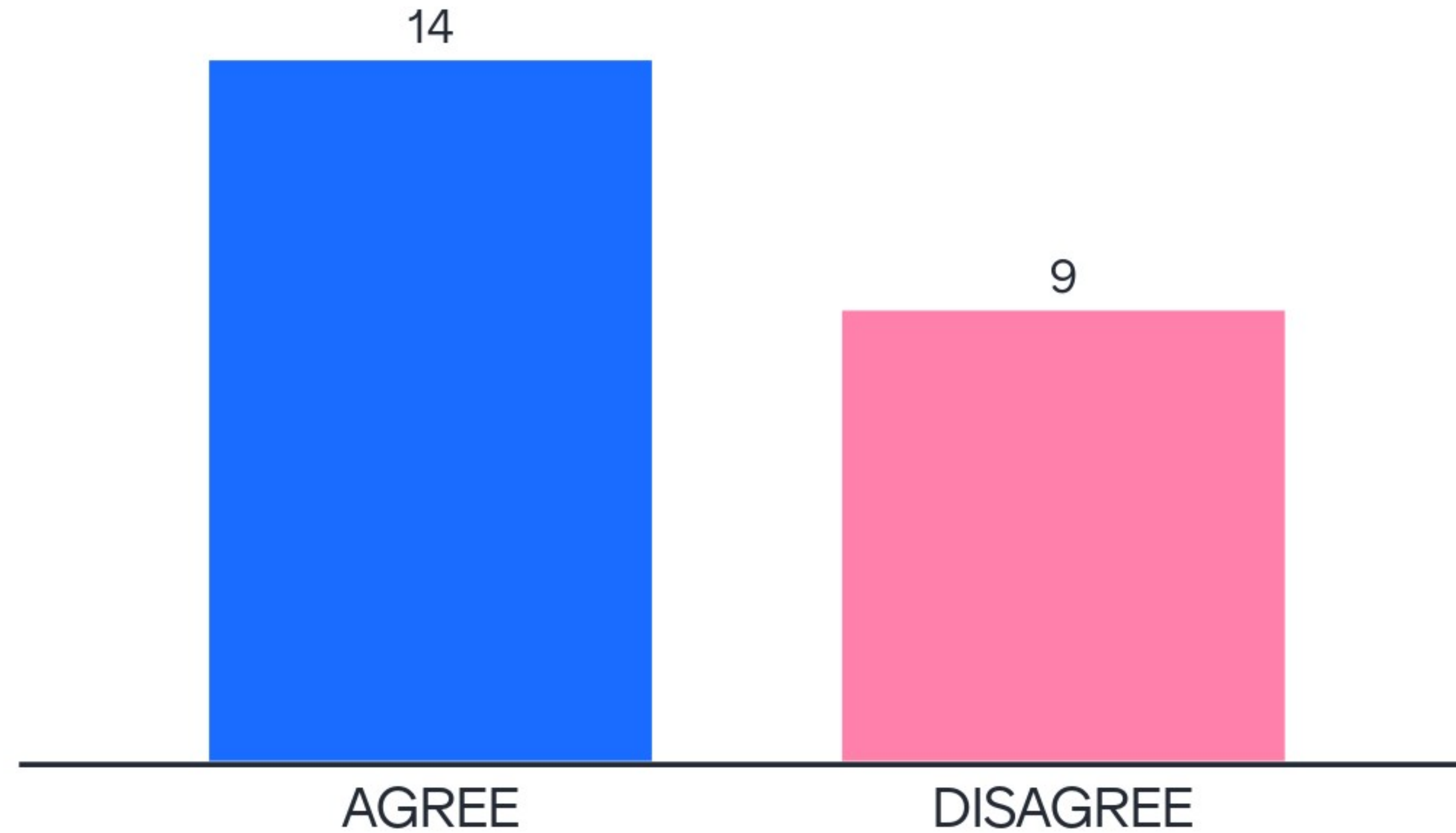
- National Defense
- Clean Air
- Public Fireworks Display



Public goods  
create a very  
specific problem...



# I generally LIKE group projects.



# Free-Rider Problem

- Why can't you contribute if you can get the "good" for free?
- How do interest groups deal with the free-rider problem?

# Incentives (Goodies!)

- <https://joinnra.nra.org/join/join.aspx>
- [https://sierra.secure.force.com/donate/rc\\_connect\\_campaign\\_designform?id=701310000001LmZDAA0&formcampaignid=701310000001LlnTAAS&\\_ga=1.235554184.8421073](https://sierra.secure.force.com/donate/rc_connect_campaign_designform?id=701310000001LmZDAA0&formcampaignid=701310000001LlnTAAS&_ga=1.235554184.8421073)
-



# Interest Group Strategies and Tactics

- Endorsements
- Scorecards
- Voter Registration
- Lobbying

# Interest Group Strategies and Tactics

- Public Pressure
- Protest Demonstrations
- Litigation
- Political Violence



# Examples

→ <http://www.nrlc.org/>

→ <https://www.plannedparenthoodaction.org>

If these were the primary strategies and tactics employed by interest groups, Madison might not be terribly worried, but...



# Political Action Committee (PAC)

- Corporations, unions, and interest groups form PACs to raise and distribute money in election campaigns.

Prior to 2010, PACs were only vehicle for organizations to contribute to candidates and there were limits on amount of money that could be donated.



# Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (2010)

- Individuals, corporations, and labor unions can make unlimited expenditures from general treasuries ...
- ...for or against candidates as long as do NOT coordinate with the candidate's campaign
- Independent Expenditure-Only Committees.... AKA "Super PACs"



# Super PACS and Dark Money Explained (with humor)

- <https://www.cc.com/video/ivvzeu/the-colbert-report-colbert-super-pac-ham-rove-s-secrets>
- <http://www.cc.com/video-clips/3yzu4u/the-colbert-report-colbert-super-pac---trevor-potter---stephen-s-shell-corporation>



# Open Secrets

- <https://www.opensecrets.org/pacs/toppacs.php>
- <https://www.opensecrets.org/political-action-committees-pacs/super-pacs/2022>
- <https://www.opensecrets.org/dark-money/shadow-infographic>