

Governance

Of course we want efficient government of the people, by the people, for the people. But, arguably, there is much to be done to perfect that at all levels; national, state, and local. Despite the considerable interest in this area, there are still important issues receiving little or no attention. One of those – how much attention to expect from voters – we deal with under elections. Attention to that will surely weaken special interests in favor more attention to broad public interests, which is a key IOPA perspective. IOPA's governance issue focus will also include: 1) mixing district and at-large representation to reduce the treasury commons problem - a key driver of spending bias; 2) putting the 'loyal' into 'loyal opposition.' There is way too much minority party willingness to undermine the general welfare for possible political gain; and 3) legislator strategic voting. This is the art of confusing voters by appearing opposed to something unpopular if his/her vote is not needed for passage.

Clearly, along with K-12 education, this is an area that requires productive, high-level attention to preserve and enhance our status as a prosperous free society.

Revisit this page, periodically, to observe our progress in this research area. Hopefully, by your next visit, we can announce proposals and requests for proposals for specific projects. Once we have an analysis completed, we will commission a review from a scholar likely to be a basis for civil, informed disagreement, and create conversation forums for further assessment. To be involved in any aspect of the process, e-mail us at: IOPACHief@policytalk.org

[Key Reference: Baumol, Litan, and Schramm. 2009. Good Capitalism, Bad Capitalism.](#)