

# INTEREST GROUPS

# Interest Groups

## ◎ Definition:

- Private organizations that try to persuade public officials to respond to the beliefs of its members
- They try to influence public policy

## ◎ Good Effects

- Stimulate interest in public affairs
- Go beyond district and state boundaries
- Provide information to government
- Ways that people can participate in politics
- Checks and balances
- Compete with one another, limiting the control one group can have

# Bad Effects

- ⦿ Too much influence by a small group
- ⦿ Difficult to tell if a group represents as many people as it claims
- ⦿ Bribery, threats, etc. are sometimes used at election time

# Types

- Business Groups
- Labor Unions
- Agricultural Groups
- Professional Groups
- Religious Organizations