

- ▶ Actions taken by governments to solve problems and achieve goals.

## What is Public Policy?

- ▶ Write letters
- ▶ Send petitions
- ▶ Work with political parties, interest groups, and the media

## Citizens Influence Public Policy

# Public Policy

## Public Issues

- ▶ A topic or problem on which citizens disagree
- ▶ Multiple perspectives can bring insight into how to solve the problem

## Steps in Public Policy Process

- ▶ Identify a problem
- ▶ Identify level of government and agency to address it
- ▶ Develop policy alternatives
- ▶ Evaluate pros and cons of each alternative
- ▶ Consider multiple perspectives
- ▶ Choose the best alternative
- ▶ Implement the decision
- ▶ Evaluate effectiveness

## REZONING NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING

LP-13-18722  
CASE NO.: 2-13-18724  
SUB (SUBURBAN)  
FROM: R-75 (S-F RESIDENTIAL)PHONE #: 4/371-215  
TC (TOWN CENTER)  
TO: OCR (OFF. COMM. RES.)

PLACE: DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA  
1300 COMMERCE DRIVE, DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA  
DATE: 9-10-13 TIME: 6:30 PM

# Review Cards: Public Policy

## Public Policy

- ▶ Actions taken by governments to solve problems and to achieve goals for the common good.
- ▶ Citizens can influence public policy by proposing programs or policy alternatives, or by speaking at a public hearing, by petitioning government officials, or by working through an interest group or political party.

## Steps in the Public-Policy Process

1. Identify the problem.
2. Conduct research/gather data about the problem. This research often focuses on determining what has caused or explains the problem.
3. Identify the appropriate level of government and agency to address the problem.
4. Develop various **public policy alternatives** (or “options”).
5. Evaluate the “pros” and “cons” (advantages/disadvantages) of each alternative.
6. Consider **multiple perspectives** (*points of view*).
7. Choose the best policy alternative as your public policy solution.
8. Implement the plan/decision: present it to the relevant agency or take some other action.
- 9 Evaluate the effectiveness of your decision for future planning.

## Understanding Multiple Perspectives

- ▶ In making public policy decisions, it helps to consider **multiple perspectives**—different points of view on a problem or issue.
- ▶ Different interests, concerns and experiences lead each of us to see different things.
- ▶ Each of us has hidden **biases** (*prejudices*). Seeing other points of view helps us to be more objective.
- ▶ Multiple perspectives are especially helpful in resolving **public issues**—topics or problems on which citizens disagree.