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Role of Public Opinion in Politics

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Role of Public Opinion in Politics

Democratic processes propel citizens to form opinions on different issues. Voters have the responsibility of choosing candidates in elections who reject or approve municipal taxes and other legislative proposals, amends the constitution among others. Therefore, any issue on which the legislature or executive has to decide on may become a public affair if a certain number of people decide to make it one. So, public opinion is the wants, thinking and desires of a majority of people. Public opinion plays a critical role in politics from elections all through to the politician's time in office. Besides, public opinion may influence, greatly, the decisions made by the executive or by the legislature (Soroka & Wlezien, 2010).

In the early long stretches of current majority rules system, several investigators recognized the potency of favored assessment and still stated that it would be a perilous aptitude. A French aristocrat, historian, diplomat and political scientist by the name Tocqueville showed concern that a legislature of the advantaged could turn into an "oppression of the greater part." But, irrespective of whether a general assessment is believed as a crucial and a pernicious capability in a vote-based network, no legislators are prepared to recommend publicly that the management be duty-bound to disregard it (Broockman & Skovron, 2017). The majority rules system requires popular feeling since it gets authority from general society. Without public opinion, politicians would do whatever they want whenever they want and however they want which would result in public conflict and riots if it worsens. Thus, public opinion leads the government's doing, governs policies by the public and gives criticism to politicians. Opinions may change with new particulars from interest groups, new administration and politicians. Therefore, opinion is not fixed, it varies from time to time.

References

- Soroka, S. N., & Wlezien, C. (2010). *Degrees of democracy: Politics, public opinion, and policy*. Cambridge University Press.
- Broockman, D. E., & Skovron, C. (2017). *Bias in perceptions of public opinion among American political elites*. Forthcoming in American Political Science Review.

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