

Lobbying and policy change: who wins, who loses, and why, by Frank R. Baumgartner et al. Chicago, 2009. 341p index afp; ISBN [9780226039442](#), \$66.00; ISBN [9780226039459](#) pbk, \$24.00. Reviewed in 2010mar CHOICE. Baumgartner and Hojnacki (both, Penn State Univ.), Berry (Tufts Univ.), Kimball (Univ. of Missouri-St.Louis), and Leech (Rutgers Univ.), using their collective original creative data, have produced a notable book that endeavors to make a systematic assessment of political influence and federal policy making in Washington. US democracy is traditionally seen as a struggle between forces seeking special favor over the public interest (e.g., historically, large states over small states; northern industrialists against an agrarian South; moneyed interests versus smallholders). This book takes a contemporary perspective based on an inventory of 900 lobbyists, 300 interviews, data analyses, and 98 case studies. The authors contest the common wisdom and conclude that a lobby's resources do not matter all that much; an entrenched status quo mitigates attempts at massive change. The text, sometimes ponderous, is studded with numerous charts and reflects varied authors, but avoids jargon generally. The book offers challenging opportunity for follow-up research. Readers seeking to know more of lobbies in action might wish to consult the evidence disclosed through the muckraking journalistic approach by Robert G. Kaiser, *So Damn Much Money* (2009). **Summing Up:** Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above. -- *S. L. Harrison, University of Miami*