

# Initiating Policy and Gaining Policy Support

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# Policy Assessment

- Political Feasibility
- Political Support
- Legal Feasibility

# Political Feasibility

The level *acceptability* of policy concept to all (or enough) parties such that it can overcome enough resistance to move from the stage of an idea to agreement.

# Determining Political Feasibility

There are various ways to conduct political feasibility assessments (such as polling and focus testing).

For our purposes, talking to stakeholders and other informants is usually the most appropriate action.

# Assessing Political Feasibility

Examples of stake holders and informants:

- Opinion leaders
- Staff (city staff, county staff, school staff...)
- Policy makers

# Talking to Informants

- Listen for details as well as opinions  
(Don't be afraid to ask why?)
- Organize and analyze information from informants in a way that helps you see the big picture

<b><i>Community Colleges</i></b>	<b>Informants</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
Political Feasibility	1. 2. 3.	1. 2. 3.	1. 2. 3.
Political Support	1. 2. 3.	1. 2. 3.	1. 2. 3.
Legal Feasibility	1. 2. 3.	1. 2. 3.	1. 2. 3.

# Political Support

A person with political capital who is willing to support your issue

A decision maker ready to say “yes” to the policy for which you are advocating



# Determining Political Support

Ask *every* single decision maker where they stand on your issue until you are sure you have adequate political support

Count the votes

# Determining Political Support

Don't....

- Confuse personal support for political support
- Assume support or non-support

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Political Support	1. 2. 3.	1. 2. 3.	1. 2. 3.
Legal Feasibility	1. 2. 3.	1. 2. 3.	1. 2. 3.

# Legal Feasibility

A determination as to whether your policy solution is:

- Consistent with federal laws (such as the Constitution)
- and state laws (such as the Constitution)
- Appropriate for the jurisdiction/entity undertaking it

<b><i>Community Colleges</i></b>	<b>Informants</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
Political Feasibility	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.</li><li>2.</li><li>3.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.</li><li>2.</li><li>3.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.</li><li>2.</li><li>3.</li></ol>
Political Support	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.</li><li>2.</li><li>3.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.</li><li>2.</li><li>3.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.</li><li>2.</li><li>3.</li></ol>
Legal Feasibility	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.</li><li>2.</li><li>3.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.</li><li>2.</li><li>3.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.</li><li>2.</li><li>3.</li></ol>

# Legal Feasibility Resources

- Your TPEP Liaison
  - Sabrina Freewynn
  - Kylie Meiner
- Your Administrator or Attorney
- Jill Thompson, TPEP
- Tobacco Control Legal Consortium  
[tclconline.org/](http://tclconline.org/)
- Technical Assistance Legal Center  
<http://talc.pha.org/>

