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Title: State and local government organizations and the formation of the help America vote act

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Abstract: Several state and local government organizations lobbied Congress during the formation of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). This article distinguishes between "general" government organizations (those that represent the general interests of state and local governments) and "functionalist" organizations (those that implement specific programs or functions). Whereas generalists sought to advance "spatial" interests, functionalists sought to advance "administrative" interests. We also apply theories of congressional organization and committee leadership to explain the access of state and local governments to Congress and their influence over policy. The organizations had more access to, and influence in, the House Committee on Administration than in the Senate Rules and Administration Committee. The differences were primarily the result of three factors: informational demands, partisan considerations, and the personal qualities of committee leaders.

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