

# POLITICS

## 2016 TABLE HOTSPOT RESOURCE: HOW TO INSERT GOOD GOVERNANCE INTO HIGHLY POLITICAL PROCESSES



Many of the responses to this topic saw grantmakers referring back to the importance of transparency.

**“Some politicians have the attitude that they know best. They end up having deaf ears to clear advice. Political (interference) can further open up the effects of a power differential”.**

**“They (politicians) are elected by public vote. Attracting funding for certain groups or projects helps them get re-elected.”**

**“Strong voices and champions for transparency and process are important. And there has to be a spread of them so they are not lone voices which are easy to ignore.”**

**“Open up the assessment panel process to get the community involved.”**

## TOP TAKEAWAYS

### Transparency

- Ensure there are strong voices and champions for transparency. It helps to get people onside and supportive of transparency.
- Open the assessment panel process to encourage community member participation. Screening of community representatives is vital.
- Have clear guidelines on what can be funded.
- Higher level policies in favour of transparency can help, as can strict rules or “checks and balances”.
- Data use can inform decision making and increase transparency.
- Encourage good relationships between people at different levels of the internal hierarchy

### Other options

- Have in place an assessment process with clear criteria to ensure funding decisions can be defended.
- Align program outcomes with organisational strategy.
- Incorporate, for example, local council and community representatives in the assessment panel.
  - The mayor or councillors can attend panel meetings and perhaps act in a facilitator role

### Involve the media

- Inform the media about the program, the data and results and use that as a tool to get politicians on board with the program and its processes.
- Have the media report on program benefits with the aim of having politicians “take ownership” of the program.
- Ensure there’s big publicity on the outcomes, and find ways for politicians to be positively involved in spreading the good news.