



A Study on the Path to Improve the Quality of Public Decision Making by Local Governments from the Perspective of Public Participation Intention

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Abstract. Public participation willingness plays a crucial role in the public decision-making process of local governments. The active participation of the public can not only enhance the democracy and scientificity of decision-making, ensure that policies are more in line with public interests, but also enhance public understanding and identification with policies, improve policy acceptance and implementation effectiveness. With the increasing public attention to public affairs, their willingness to participate is becoming stronger, which requires local governments to be more open and transparent in the decision-making process, actively listen to public voices, and absorb public opinions. Based on the research results, this article proposes corresponding solutions in order to provide reference for improving the quality and efficiency of local government public decision-making.

Keywords: public participation; Local governments; Public decision-making; Government decision-making.

1 Introduction

In the new era of socialist modernization in China, there has been a fundamental transformation in the ideology, behavior, and industrial structure of the public and enterprises. [1] The fundamental value orientation of modern government decision-making is to conform to public opinion and respond to the interests and demands of the people in public decision-making. [2] In the governance structure of modern society, public participation is an important part of democratic decision-making, and its willingness and attitude have an undeniable impact on the formation and implementation of public decision-making by local governments. With the awakening of civic consciousness and the rapid development of information technology, the public's attention to affairs in various fields such as politics, economy, and society is increasing, and their willingness to participate is also becoming stronger. The public's participation in major administrative decision-making processes is an important aspect of public participation, as they receive information and express opinions through various channels and channels. [3]

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This article aims to deeply analyze the influencing factors of public participation willingness on local government public decision-making, explore how to effectively guide public participation, improve policy quality.

2 Theoretical Basis of Public Participation Willingness and Local Government Decision-making

2.1 Public Participation Theory

The theory of public participation emphasizes the subjectivity and positive role of the public in the decision-making process. It believes that public participation in decision-making can not only increase the legitimacy and feasibility of policies, but also promote the harmonious and stable development of society. The process of public participation involves two-way interaction between the public and the government, requiring the government to fully respect and respond to the opinions and needs of the public.

2.2 Decision Theory

Decision theory is the science that studies the decision-making process, decision-making methods, and decision-making outcomes. It emphasizes the scientificity, democracy, and feasibility of decision-making, and pursues the optimization of decision-making results. From the perspective of public participation willingness, decision-making theory requires the government to publicly disclose the decision-making process, allowing the public to participate in decision-making and form more reasonable and scientific decisions through democratic consultation.

2.3 Theory of Citizen Participation and Democratic Supervision

The theory of citizen participation and democratic supervision emphasizes the subject status and positive role of citizens in political life. By participating in the government decision-making process, citizens can exercise democratic supervision over government decisions, ensuring the fairness and rationality of policies. This kind of participation and supervision helps to enhance the transparency and credibility of the government.

3 Analysis of the Influencing Factors of Public Participation Willingness

3.1 Social Factors

Social factors also have a significant impact on public participation willingness. Factors such as social trust, social support, and social networks can all affect the public's

trust and support in public decision-making of local governments, thereby affecting their willingness to participate. For example, in areas with high social trust, the public's trust and support for local government public decision-making are relatively high, and their willingness to participate also increases accordingly.

3.2 Institutional Factors

Institutional factors are one of the key factors affecting public participation willingness. Factors such as government credibility, policy transparency, and public participation channels can all affect the public's perception and attitude towards local government public decision-making, thereby affecting their willingness to participate. For example, in areas with high government credibility, the public's trust and support in local government public decision-making are relatively high, and their willingness to participate is correspondingly increased; Regions with high policy transparency have a higher level of public understanding of the process and results of policy-making, and their willingness to participate also increases accordingly.

4 The Current Situation of Public Participation Willingness in Public Decision-making by Local Governments

4.1 Overall Trend of Willingness to Participate

In recent years, with the improvement of information transparency and government transparency, the overall willingness of the public to participate in local government decision-making has shown an upward trend. The public is increasingly aware of the importance of their participation in decision-making, and hopes to influence policy formulation and implementation through their voices and opinions.

4.2 Diversity of Participation Channels

With the popularization and development of network technology, the channels for public participation in government decision-making are becoming increasingly diverse. Traditional methods such as hearings and symposiums, new channels such as online surveys, online forums, and social media have also provided more convenience for public participation. However, despite an increase in participation channels, there are differences in the effectiveness and utilization rate of participation among different channels. Some emerging channels, such as social media, although favored by young people, have a relatively low penetration rate among the middle-aged and elderly population.

4.3 Differences in Willingness to Participate

There are significant group differences in public participation willingness. Generally speaking, the public with higher levels of education, income, and political literacy are more willing to participate in government decision-making.

Regional differences also affect public participation willingness. In some developed cities or regions, due to smoother information flow, the public's attention to government decision-making is higher, and their willingness to participate is also stronger. In some relatively backward areas, due to inconvenient transportation and information blockage, the willingness of the public to participate is relatively low.

4.4 Limitations of Willingness to Participate

Although the overall willingness of the public to participate is on the rise, there are still many limitations. For example, some members of the public lack sufficient understanding of policy decision-making and are easily influenced by various factors during the participation process, resulting in difficulties in fully reflecting their true opinions.

In addition, some members of the public may not be able to continuously participate in the entire process of government decision-making due to time, energy, and other reasons, which also limits the actual effectiveness of public participation.

The current situation of public participation willingness in local government public decision-making shows an overall upward trend, diversified channels, group differences, limitations, and other characteristics. In the future, the government should further expand participation channels, improve information transparency, strengthen civic education and other measures to better stimulate the public's willingness and participation.

5 Strategies to Enhance Public Participation Willingness

5.1 Strengthen Publicity and Education, and Enhance Public Participation Awareness

The government should strengthen the promotion and education of public participation in local government public decision-making, and raise public awareness of the importance and necessity of participation. Relevant knowledge can be disseminated to the public through media promotion, community activities, and other means. With the help of new media technology, training and explanation can be provided on key content such as open data query, retrieval, download, analysis, utilization, privacy protection, and big data related knowledge, comprehensively improving the public's information literacy. [4] Guide the public to establish a correct concept of participation, enhance their sense of responsibility and mission. The participation of the people in supervising government governance from bottom to top enhances the efficiency of local government governance and improves the level of public governance. [5]

5.2 Expand Public Participation Channels and Lower Participation Barriers

Efficient work processes, clean government, and transparent government transparency are all important channels for improving community credibility. [6] The government should broaden the channels and ways for the public to participate in local government public decision-making, lower the participation threshold, and encourage and support citizens, social organizations, and other active participants in the policy-making process. For example, an online participation platform can be established to facilitate the public's participation in discussions and voting anytime and anywhere; At the same time, it is possible to strengthen the organization of offline activities and invite the public to participate in policy hearings, symposiums, and other activities. Grassroots also need to build communication platforms, and widely listen to the construction opinions of grassroots workers and the public through forms such as sincere discussions on public sentiment and coordination meetings, and discuss solutions together. [7]

5.3 Improve Government Credibility and Enhance Public Trust

The government should strengthen its own construction, improve the transparency and fairness of policy formulation, respond to social concerns and demands in a timely manner, and enhance the public's trust in the government. At the same time, building an integrated intelligent government service platform to provide the public with more accurate and convenient services, thereby meeting the diverse needs of the public. [8] Actively listen to public opinions and suggestions, and form a good interactive mechanism.

5.4 Establish and Improve Incentive Mechanisms to Stimulate Public Participation Enthusiasm

The government should formulate clear laws and policies, requiring government departments to actively disclose important decisions, policy documents, administrative procedures, and public resources information. [9] For example, citizens or groups who actively participate in policy formulation can be commended and rewarded. It is recommended to establish mechanisms for information disclosure, feedback, and accountability, and explore the construction of mechanisms for interest expression, value evaluation, and green sharing. [10] At the same time, a public opinion box or online feedback system can be established to collect and process public opinions and suggestions in a timely manner, making the public feel that their participation is valuable.

6 Conclusions

Improving public participation willingness is an important way to promote the quality and efficiency of local government public decision-making. The government should actively take measures to strengthen the cultivation of public participation awareness

and the establishment of incentive mechanisms, while strengthening policy research and evaluation to improve policy quality. Only in this way can we ensure that local governments make more reasonable, fair, and effective public decisions.

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