



GOVERN for IMPACT – Our Future Focus – Where Does Policy Governance® Fit In?

By K. Fryday-Field, GOVERN, CEO

At GOVERN for IMPACT our vision is of a world in which boards of all organizations respond more astutely to their community of moral, legal, and financial owners.

... a world in which boards create clear purpose, strong determination to create lasting outcomes/impacts, deep loyalty to fundamental values, and an unwavering dedication to the people for whose benefit their organization/business exists.

Ultimately, we believe that when all boards are empowered to function in this matter, our businesses, organizations, and communities will thrive in honor and support of our common humanity. This, we believe, is a very important vision. Given governance is governance, with its positive power, governance really has the capacity to create good on a world scale (i.e. effective governance of countries, cities, organizations, and businesses).

This is the essence of our vision. This is what we imagine can really happen. Together we can unleash the infinite possibilities ahead and help shift the world from where it is today to where we collectively believe it could be and what it could become. This is why we together are working through GOVERN for IMPACT to create local and world change.

We want a world:

- Where every child has food;
- Where cities are better prepared for disasters;
- Where injury or human life is not threatened by deceitful corporate practices that could have been prevented;
- Where every person has safe, clean water;
- Where families who are homeless find solutions with support;
- Where children have just and equal access to education;
- Where businesses thrive with prudence and strong ethics;
- And so much more.

So toward that inspiring horizon, GOVERN, with the engagement of our community and many new faces and key partners, we must tackle three strategic priorities:

1. Achieving clarity of purpose and alignment of our programs, education services, advocacy, and research with this purpose;
2. Building an effective working business model and operational approach with amazing value added programs, communication, support, and value; and
3. Expanding our community, advocacy, and resource development.

We will speak more of outcomes ahead and ways that you may choose to be more involved in achieving this vision, in the newsletters ahead.



One question I am frequently asked is, “where does Policy Governance fit into this vision?” The work of GOVERN for IMPACT is inspired by Policy Governance, as a system of integrated governance principles that inform the theory and practice of governing to foster greater results/outcomes/impacts aimed at specific groups of people at a specific cost/value/worth of the results being achieved. This system of governance also calls for and enables boards to create greater accountability within their organizations and beyond. At GOVERN we are committed to and inspired by the Policy Governance theoretical framework, its insightful and integrated constructs, its systems nature, and the transformative experiences of those boards applying the Policy Governance system of governance which when practised effectively transforms the whole organization. ([*The Use, Implementation, and Impact of the Policy Governance System on Board Governance and Organizations – Demonstrated Impact Team Pre-Pilot Study*](#), The International Journal for Governance Excellence, February 2021, Vol 1, No. 1, pp 7-26)

We are actively focused on research to continue to assess the efficacy of Policy Governance; we are actively engaged in offering basic and advanced training in Policy Governance; we actively create critical conversations where people can share insights on the practice of Policy Governance; we provide open-source resources in the use of Policy Governance, and we advocate for purpose-driven, ethical, accountable, just governance. GOVERN also invests significant resources in the development of the interpretation of Policy Governance and its application. We are a world leading community in the knowledge and application of Policy Governance.

In addition to this strong commitment and very active work in the area of Policy Governance, GOVERN is also very interested in and committed to learning from other people and approaches in governance. We believe we need to be and are a learning community. We believe that excellence in governance also means learning from many schools of thought, disciplines, bodies of knowledge, and innovations.

The vigorous, active, and disciplined pursuit of enhancing governance excellence through enhancing the use and practice of Policy Governance does not in any way preclude learning and innovating beyond its borders so to speak. Rather, I believe we have an obligation for both of these in our commitment to governance excellence.

If you have any ideas that you would like to share about this question of where does Policy Governance fit in, please let me know! We encourage lots of dialogue and exploration.



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