

The **POLICY GOVERNANCE MODEL**

and the Role of the
**BOARD
MEMBER**

Revised and Updated

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The Carver Policy Governance® Guide Series

The *Carver Policy Governance® Guide* series includes six booklets that briefly describe John Carver's Policy Governance model of board leadership. Policy Governance is a precise job design for governing boards of equity, nonprofit, and governmental organizations. It enables boards to fulfill their accountability to the organization's "owners," whether owners are association members, city residents, company shareholders, or a community of interest.

The Policy Governance model is based on the functions rather than the structure of a governing board. It is primarily a set of commonsense principles about governing that fit together into an entire system. The practices of the Policy Governance board, which are consistent with the principles, allow it to control without meddling, focus on long-term organizational outputs, powerfully delegate to a CEO and staff, and discharge its fiduciary responsibility in a visionary, strategic manner. Because the model is a total system, it does not fulfill its promise when used piecemeal.

Policy Governance addresses the board's engagement in financial, programmatic, and personnel matters; roles of officers and committees; reporting and evaluation; agendas; and other aspects of the board job. A full, detailed explanation of Policy Governance can be found chiefly in John Carver's *Boards That Make a Difference*, 3rd edition, 2006, and in other publications as well (see inside back cover).

Policy Governance® is an internationally registered service mark of John Carver. Registration is only to ensure accurate description of the model rather than for financial gain. The model is available free to all with no royalties or license fees for its use. The authoritative Web site for Policy Governance is www.carvergovernance.com.

The Carver Policy Governance Guide Series

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