

CHAPTER
7
SECTION 3

READING COMPREHENSION

Money and Elections

3

1. How can campaign spending corrupt the political process?

2. What is the largest item in most campaign budgets?

3. List the five types of private contributors to election campaigns.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

4. What other sources of campaign finance are available?

5. Explain the two basic reasons why people give to campaigns.

6. What agency administers federal laws dealing with campaign finance? Why is it often unable to do an effective job?

7. What are the four broad areas covered by federal election laws?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

8. Name at least three disclosure requirements.

9. What are the limits on campaign contributions by individuals?

READING COMPREHENSION (continued)

Money and Elections

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10. Briefly describe the two types of PACs.

11. What are the limits on giving by PACs?

12. Why are there few limits on campaign spending today?

13. How does the Presidential Election Campaign Fund get its money?

14. Why do many people predict the collapse of the public funding arrangements?

15. What must a minor party do for its candidate to qualify for FEC funding?

16. Explain the difference between hard money and soft money.

17. What law was passed to deal with the "soft-money loophole"? What does it say?

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READING COMPREHENSION

Money and Elections

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1. List two problems that can result from the high cost of political campaigns.

a. _____

b. _____

2. What factors help to determine how much will be spent on a political campaign?

3. List the five sources of private campaign money for candidates and their parties.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

4. Is there another way to get campaign funds besides private sources? Explain.

5. Why do people give money to political campaigns?

READING COMPREHENSION (continued)

Money and Elections

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6. a. What is the Federal Election Commission (FEC)?

b. Why does the FEC have a difficult time enforcing the laws?

7. The laws the Federal Election Commission is supposed to enforce cover four areas. List them below.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

8. Why might a presidential candidate refuse to accept a public subsidy worth tens of millions of dollars?

9. Describe the differences between hard money and soft money.

a. Hard money: _____

b. Soft money: _____

CHAPTER
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SECTION 3**CORE WORKSHEET****Money and Elections****3**

Read the excerpts below. Then use the directions that follow to prepare for a classroom debate.

Excerpt 1: *The following was adapted from a speech given by League of Women Voters President Kay J. Maxwell in February 2006.*

We know that “he who pays the piper calls the tune.” That’s why campaign finance and lobbying reform are so important to protecting our democracy. When special interests are the dominant source of campaign funding, when special interests have special access to Congress, indeed when special interest lobbyists can call the tune on Capitol Hill, then it is time for fundamental reform. . . .

. . . We need to ensure that lobbyists cannot deliver huge sums of campaign cash to the very members of Congress they are lobbying. . . . We need public financing of congressional elections, and we need to renew the presidential public financing system.

The election of a President of the United States is the single most important election in our country, and perhaps the world. The election obviously results in the selection of this powerful official. But it also affects every voter’s perception about our election system generally, and about how our government really works. The presidential election system sets the tone for American democracy.

It is not an exaggeration to suggest that the public financing system for presidential elections, enacted in the 1970s, played a key role in rescuing the presidency from the dark days of Watergate, when many citizens believed that our political system was corrupt at its core.

We have seen the presidential public financing system wither away, as needed updates and improvements have not been put in place. In 2004, the two parties’ nominees did not participate in public funding. This system needs to be fixed, and fixed soon. . . .

Americans have said time and time again that special interest groups have too much influence over Washington. They want the average citizen to have just as much say in who becomes President as large corporations, lobbying organizations and wealthy donors. Our system belongs in the hands of its rightful owners—the American voters. . . .

Excerpt 2: *The following was adapted from an article by James O. E. Norell for the National Rifle Association, Institute for Legislative Action, which criticizes a specific campaign finance reform bill called McCain-Feingold.*

Campaign finance reform . . . is a direct attack on every individual American’s First Amendment right to use political speech to protect the entire Bill of Rights.

Campaign finance reform is not about big dollars influencing elections. It’s not about crooked politicians and a tainted process. It’s not about corruption.

It is about who will control information to the electorate. It is about the big media and incumbent politicians having a total lock on speech, ideas and political thought in America.

CORE WORKSHEET (continued)**Money and Elections****3**

It is about a television/radio blackout of truth, opinions and beliefs of individual Americans who pool their power by choosing to belong to organizations . . . that gives them the collective clout to reach millions of voters through paid issue advocacy. . . .

Except for the criminal penalties, the crushing McCain-Feingold stricture on expenditure of funds that affect political speech is identical in concept and intent to federal campaign spending laws that the United States Supreme Court declared unconstitutional in 1976.

That case—*Buckley v. Valeo* (424 U.S. at 1)—has been cited in at least 20 lower court decisions upholding the principle that money spent in the exercise of free political speech is essential to free speech itself. *Buckley* declared that laws regulating money spent for “issue advocacy” served to “prohibit all individuals who are neither candidates nor owners of institutional press facilities from voicing their views.” The language struck down by *Buckley* was virtually identical to McCain-Feingold.

Using the readings above, prepare for a debate. Follow the instructions for your assigned group.

Team 1, Group A: Will argue that campaign finance reform is needed.

Assignment: Find the main arguments in Excerpt 1 and summarize them in an opening statement (3-4 sentences).

Team 2, Group A: Will argue that campaign finance reform is not needed.

Assignment: Find the main arguments in Excerpt 2 and summarize them in an opening statement (3-4 sentences).

Team 1 Group B: Will argue that campaign finance reform is needed.

Assignment: Find the main arguments in Excerpt 2 and come up with counterarguments to support your point of view.

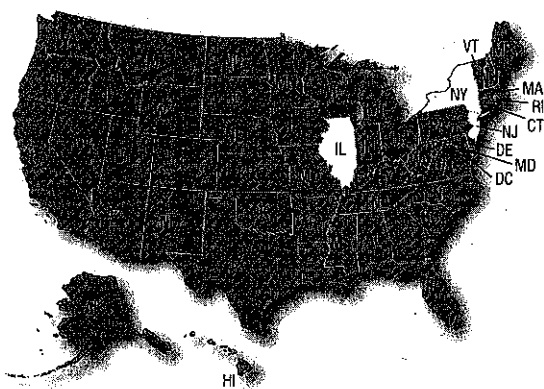
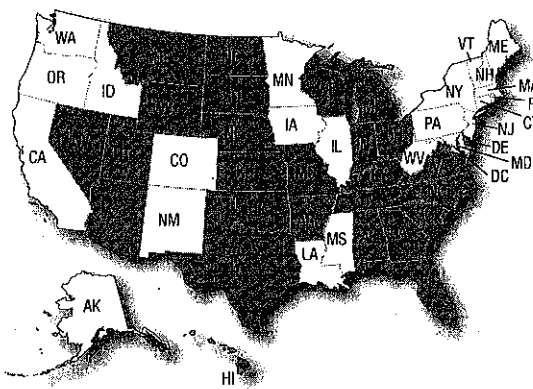
Team 2 Group B: Will argue that campaign finance reform is not needed.

Assignment: Find the main arguments in Excerpt 1 and come up with counterarguments to support your point of view.

Important: Once you have completed your group assignment, meet with the other members of your team to complete preparations for your debate. Each team should prepare to present an opening argument and a rebuttal to the other team’s opening argument. As part of your preparations, you should identify two spokespersons.

CHAPTER
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SECTION 3**SKILLS WORKSHEET****Money and Elections****3****Analyze Maps**

The maps below show which political party's presidential candidate raised the most money in each State in the 2000 and 2004 elections. Shaded States indicate where the Republican candidate for President raised the most money; unshaded States indicate where the Democratic candidate for President raised more. Study the maps. Then, on a separate sheet of paper, answer the questions that follow.

2000 Presidential Campaign Contributions**2004 Presidential Campaign Contributions**SOURCE: <http://politicalmaps.org/presidential-campaign-contributions-maps-from-politicalbase.com/>shaded = Republican
unshaded = Democratic**Apply the Skill**

- 1. Identify the Purpose of the Map and Determine the Scope of the Analysis**
Explain what information the titles of the maps give you. What is the scope of the analysis of these maps? What does the shading on the maps represent?
- 2. Look for Patterns** In 2000, which States contributed more heavily to the

Democratic candidate for President? How did this change in 2004? Which parts of the country contributed more heavily to the Republican candidate in both 2000 and 2004?

- 3. Draw Conclusions** What conclusions can you draw from the patterns you found in question 2?

CHAPTER

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SECTION 3

SKILL ACTIVITY

Money and Elections

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Analyze Information

Study the tables below. Then, on a separate sheet of paper, answer the questions that follow.

SPENDING IN THE 2008 CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS**House of Representatives**

Party	Number of Candidates	Total Spent	Total from PACs	Total from Individuals
All parties	1,372	\$936,083,096	\$323,020,929	\$531,257,645
Democrats	674	\$489,429,474	\$195,426,082	\$287,478,792
Republicans	622	\$442,455,353	\$127,292,078	\$240,822,018

Senate

Party	Number of Candidates	Total Spent	Total from PACs	Total from Individuals
All parties	169	\$419,889,128	\$80,898,314	\$270,337,624
Democrats	82	\$218,128,220	\$34,951,737	\$148,209,236
Republicans	68	\$201,179,948	\$45,937,331	\$121,758,548

Source: www.opensecrets.org. Data is from the Federal Election Commission, February 19, 2009.

Apply the Skill

- 1. Summarize the Information** Write a few sentences to summarize what the tables show.
- 2. Interpret the Data** (a) Which party raised the most money from PACs for House candidates? for Senate candidates? (b) Which party raised the most money from individuals for House candidates? for Senate candidates?
- 3. Draw Conclusions** (a) Explain the most likely reason why the House of Representatives spent so much more money than the Senate in the 2008 congressional elections. (b) Which party had the financial advantage in 2008 in the House and Senate?