

Money in Motion

Trace how campaign donations support spending choices.

CE.8.c “explaining the role of campaign contributions and the cost of campaigns;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each phrase that names a source of campaign money or a rule about contributions, and underline each full sentence that explains a campaign expense, spending choice, or tradeoff. These marks show how money enters a campaign and how costs shape its choices.

Funding a Campaign

- ① Running for office requires money, but candidates do not usually pay every expense alone. Campaign contributions are donations given to a candidate's campaign committee. Individuals may give money, and organized groups, such as political action committees, may also contribute under legal rules. Contributions can help a campaign share its message with voters. They also let the campaign hire workers, rent meeting space, and travel to events. Rules require many campaigns to report who gave money and how it was spent.
- ② Campaigns choose how to use limited funds. Buying television, radio, online, or printed ads can cost a great deal, especially in a large area. Campaigns may also pay for signs, mailings, phone calls, website tools, and staff members who collect and organize voter information. A campaign must decide which methods are most likely to reach voters. Because money is limited, spending on one choice may leave less for another choice, such as holding neighborhood events or producing mailers.
- ③ Campaign contributions can make it possible for candidates to communicate with many voters, but they can also raise concerns about influence. Voters may wonder whether a large donor expects special access or favorable decisions. Disclosure reports help the public see major sources of campaign money and compare them with spending choices. Contribution limits and reporting rules are meant to make the process more transparent. Even with rules, voters can examine campaign information and decide whether a candidate's funding and spending seem responsible.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How can campaign contributions help a candidate communicate with voters? Give two uses from the passage.

2 Name two sources of campaign contributions from the passage. What must many campaigns report?

3 Name two campaign costs from the passage. Why can choosing one cost affect another choice?

4 What concern can large donations raise, and how can disclosure reports help voters?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine a city council campaign receives \$2,000 in reported donations from individuals. In four sentences, explain how it could spend the money on two campaign needs, describe a tradeoff, and explain how reporting donations helps voters evaluate the campaign.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each phrase that names a source of campaign money or a rule about contributions, and underline each full sentence that explains a campaign expense, spending choice, or tradeoff. These marks show how money enters a campaign and how costs shape its choices. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How can campaign contributions help a candidate communicate with voters? Give two uses from the passage.	They can help a campaign share its message with voters and pay for needs such as workers, meeting space, or travel to events.
2	Name two sources of campaign contributions from the passage. What must many campaigns report?	Individuals and organized groups, such as political action committees, may contribute. Many campaigns must report who gave money and how it was spent.
3	Name two campaign costs from the passage. Why can choosing one cost affect another choice?	Possible costs include ads, signs, mailings, phone calls, website tools, and paying staff members. Money is limited, so spending more on one choice leaves less for another choice.
4	What concern can large donations raise, and how can disclosure reports help voters?	Voters may worry that a large donor expects special access or favorable decisions. Disclosure reports show major money sources and allow voters to compare them with spending choices.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A city council campaign receives \$2,000 in reported donations from individuals. It could spend \$1,200 on online and printed ads and \$800 on staff time for voter phone calls. If it spends more on ads, it will have less money for a neighborhood event or mailers. Reporting the donors and spending lets voters see where the money came from and how the campaign used it.

Accept equivalent campaign costs and contribution sources stated in the passage. For the open response, accept reasonable spending plans that name two needs, explain a limited-money tradeoff, and connect reporting to voter transparency.