



The NEA Fund & the GBEA

Building Power Through The PAC



Name the Decision Maker

- **Your Salary**
- **Amount of Federal School Aid**
- **School Budget**
- **Certification for Paraprofessionals**
- **Class Size**
- **Length of School Year**
- **Social Security Participation/Denial**
- **Course Content**
- **Your Fringe Benefits**
- **Employee Rights & Due Process**
- **Retirement Benefits**
- **Drug Testing for Bus Drivers**
- **Private School Vouchers**
- **Corporal Punishment Policies**
- **School System Insurance Carrier**
- **Chapter 1 (Title1) Funding (free lunch program)**
- **Qualified teacher in every classroom**
- **Length of Work Day**
- **Health & Safety Standards**
- **Hiring Practices**
- **Worker's Compensation**
- **Unemployment Compensation**
- **AYP (failing or passing schools)**
- **Testing requirements**



Why Politics?

All of these decisions are made by elected leaders or individuals appointed by elected leaders.



Politics and Power

Power: “The ability to...”

Types of Power

- Personal Power
- Social or Collective Power
- Institutional Power

Discussion – How “powerful” are we?



What is the NEA Fund?

1. What is the NEA Fund?
2. How does the NEA Fund play a role in building our collective power?
3. How does the NEA Fund help us institutionalize our goals?



What is the NEA Fund?

- 1. The NEA Fund is our federal PAC, which works to elect pro-public education candidates up and down the ballot.**



What is the NEA Fund?

Federal PAC :

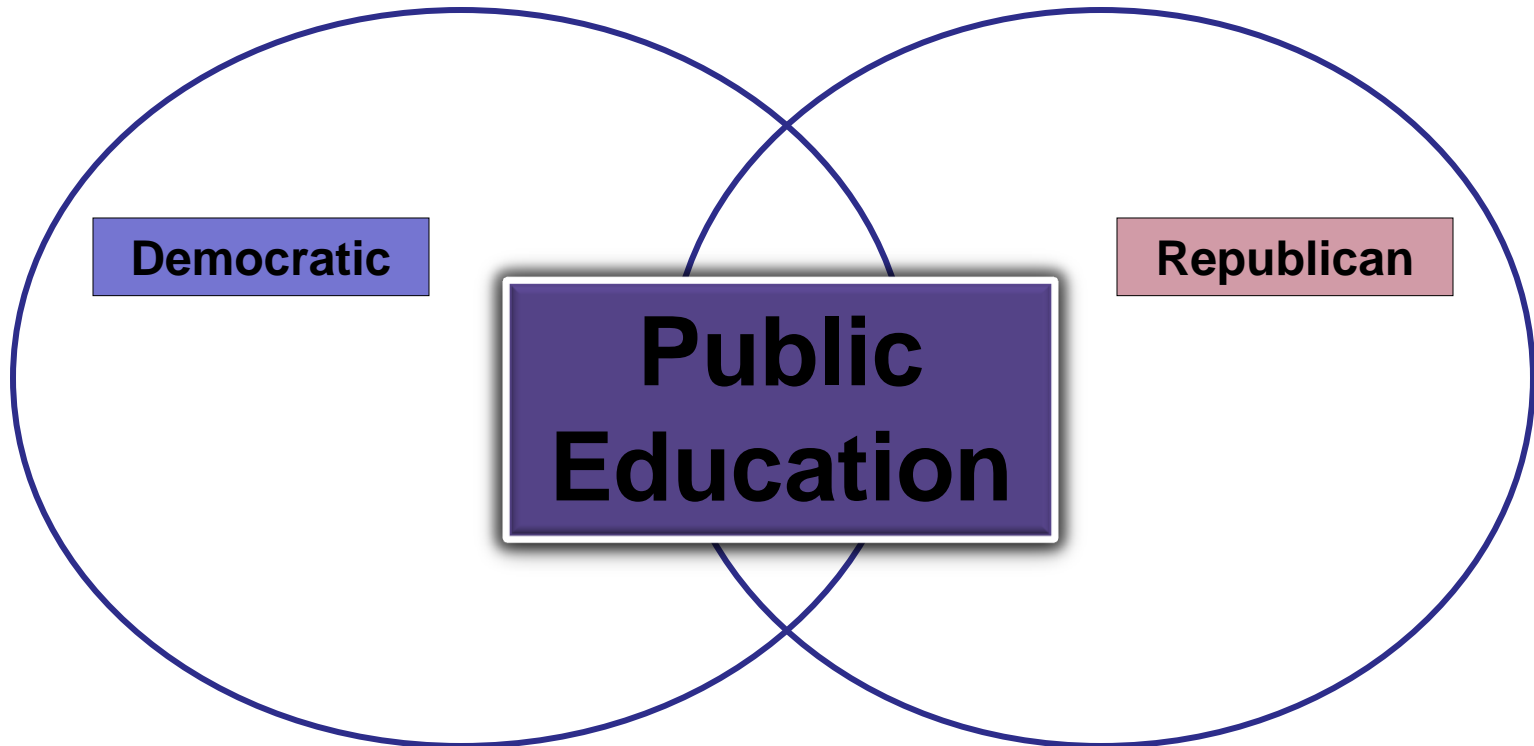
A political committee organized for the purpose of raising and spending money to elect and defeat candidates for federal office (Congress and President).

- **Voluntary contributions from our “Solicitable Class”**
- **Solicitable Class – members and members of their household**
- **All contributions are reported to the FEC, which regulates PACs**



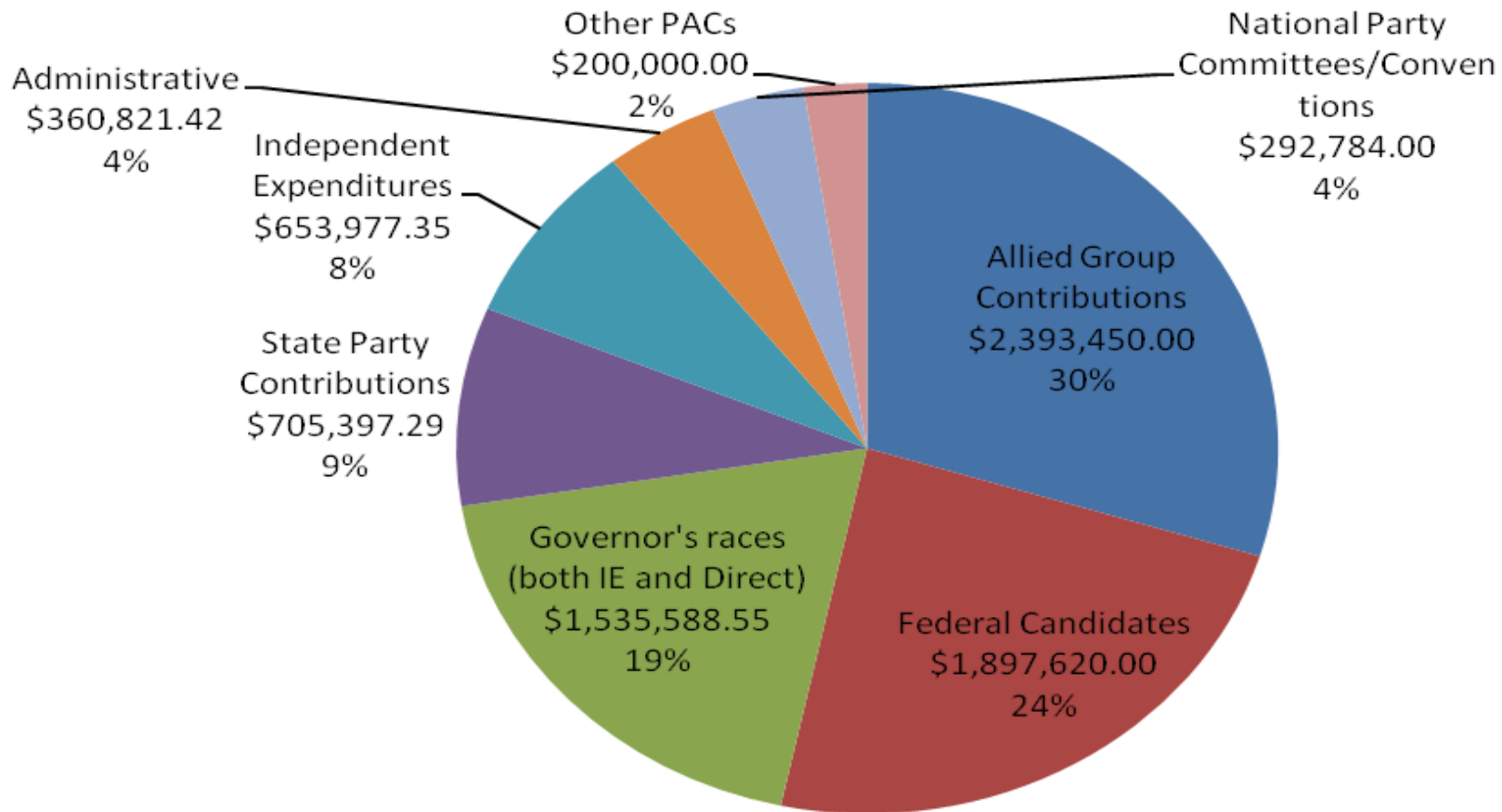
What is the NEA Fund?

The Basis for NEA Candidate Recommendation





How do we spend the money?





“IE” Case Study – Congressman Tim Walz

A great example of a grassroots effort of a winning campaign (with a little NEA help)

Background:

- High school teacher
- Football coach
- National Guard
- Not that “political”





“IE” Case Study – Congressman Tim Walz

Ran as a challenger in 2006

- First time candidate
- Students ran his campaign
- No one thought he could win
- 2 weeks before election day – he was really close





“IE” Case Study – Congressman Tim Walz

The NEA Fund steps in

- Education MN and the NEA had recommended
- NEA Fund stepped in and ran an “IE” for Tim
- Money follows money – more help
- Tim won 53%-47%





“IE” Case Study – Congressman Tim Walz





“Congressman” Walz

- Leader of the freshman class
- Helped stop NCLB reauthorization bill fall of 2007
- Why - He’s a good guy (and a former teacher)
- Why - He also knew we helped him



How does our PAC compare?

2007-2008 Cycle

Union Members	Expenditures	Per Member
 <p>NEA 2.7 M</p>	\$8,600,000	\$3.11
 <p>AFT 1.3 M</p>	\$12,000,000	\$9.15
 <p>AFSCME 1.4 M</p>	\$38,000,000	\$27.14
 <p>SEIU 1.9 M</p>	\$85,000,000	\$45.19

**Expenditures are estimates. We are waiting for organizations to report their non-federal spending for 2008, which is due to the FEC in summer of 2009.*



PAC, Capacity and Power

How many people and how much money?

1. Number of NEA Fund Members

- Just over 150,000 members in 2008-2009
- 5.4% of NEA Members
- Over 50% growth in PAC membership since 2007

2. NEA Fund Dollars for the 2008 cycle

- \$8,900,000
- \$3.61 per member
- BUT – the average contribution is \$52 per PAC member



Making it work with the GBEA

Goal: To increase member contributions to increase our collective voice at the federal level

We are looking for ARs to drum up new donors to the NEA Fund.



How it works

Envelopes and Instructions have been distributed for each AR

Head AR or Designee returns contributions to GBEA by May 3rd

Collections made after May 3 may be brought to the May 17th RA

