

1. According to the National Educational Association (NEA), a national teachers' union with 3.2 million members and an annual budget of over \$300 million dollars, the United States is facing a sizable and expanding shortage of teachers. The report indicates that the shortage is especially severe in subjects such as math, science, and special education, where finding qualified teachers to fill positions can be hampered by low starting salaries.

The report finds that the average salary for a teacher is \$60,000, but for a new teacher it is usually less than \$40,000. Furthermore, salaries adjusted for inflation have declined 4.5% in the past decade. The report also indicates that the teacher shortage is considerably worse in high-poverty areas.

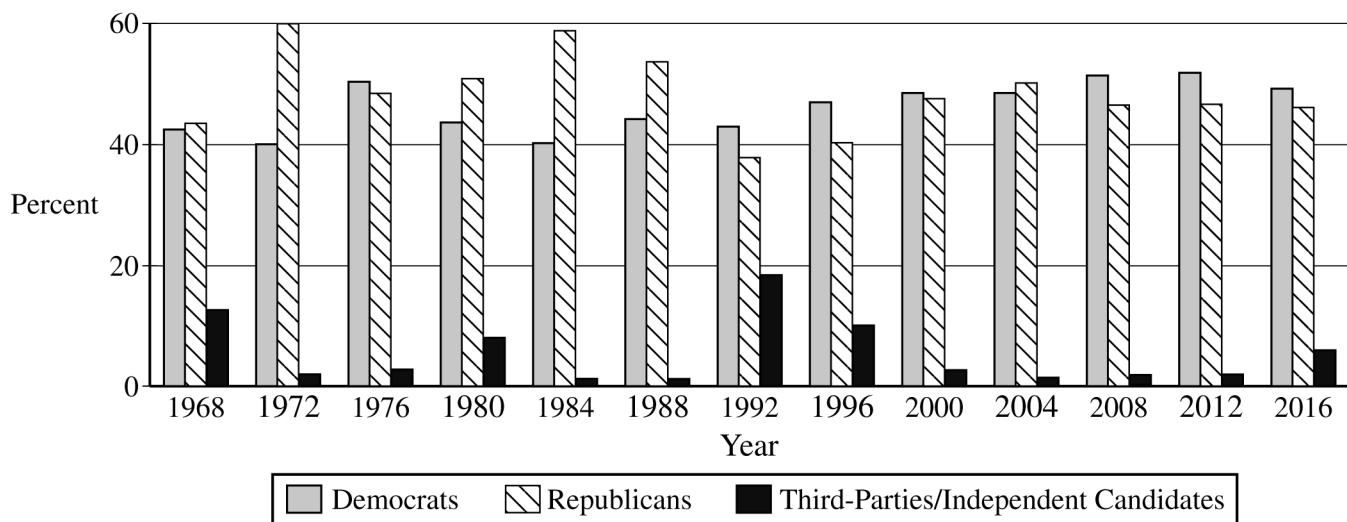
NEA President Lily Eskelsen García has called for higher salaries to address the issue. “How can we recruit and retain quality teachers for our students if we don’t pay them what they’re worth? It is time to show respect to those professionals who dedicate their lives to students and building the future of our communities. Professional work deserves professional pay.”

After reading the scenario, please respond to A, B, and C below.

- A. Describe a strategy that this interest group can use to address the issue in the scenario.
  - B. In the context of the scenario, explain how the resources available to the NEA could impact the effectiveness of the strategy in part A.
  - C. Explain how a block grant for education could affect the issue in the scenario in some states but not in others.
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**Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the separate Free Response booklet and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number.**

## PERCENT OF POPULAR VOTE SHARE IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS BY PARTY



Source: Dave Leip's Atlas of U.S. Presidential Elections, 2016

2. Use the data from the bar graph to answer the following questions.

- Identify the year in which a presidential candidate had the greatest percent of the popular vote in a presidential election.
- Describe the overall trend in the percent of the popular vote of third-party/independent candidates.
- Using the data, draw a conclusion about how the third-party/independent candidate may have affected the outcome of the 1992 presidential election.
- Explain why the data in the bar graph does not necessarily relate to the outcome of presidential elections.

**Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the separate Free Response booklet and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number.**

## Question 1: Concept Application

3 points

- A. Describe a strategy that this interest group can use to address the issue in the scenario. **1 point**

**Acceptable descriptions include:**

- The National Education Association (NEA) can organize political participation (e.g., protests, letter-writing campaigns, canvassing) throughout the country to draw attention to the issue of teachers' salaries.
- The NEA can launch a media campaign that supports increasing teachers' salaries.
- The NEA can lobby lawmakers to increase funding for teachers' salaries.
- The NEA can support candidates for Congress that advocate for higher salaries for teachers.

- B. In the context of the scenario, explain how the resources available to the NEA could impact the effectiveness of the strategy in part A. **1 point**

**Acceptable explanations include:**

- The NEA's resources include a large member base. Having a vast membership at its disposal makes it easier to organize political participation that could effectively address the issue of teachers' salaries.
- The NEA's resources include an annual budget. To be effective, the NEA could allocate part of its budget to pay for strategies (e.g., influencing lawmakers, launching a social media campaign, buying advertisements) to increase teachers' salaries.

- C. Explain how a block grant for education could affect the issue in the scenario in some states but not in others. **1 point**

**Acceptable explanations include:**

- Block grants allow states flexibility in determining how the money is spent. Some states might decide that the block grant funds should be used for educational spending other than teacher salaries. This may create variation in teacher pay between the states.

**Total for question 1 3 points**