

The National Education Association Union or political party?

The WEA operates as a political party by identifying voters, developing voter lists, organizing GOTV (get out the vote) efforts, bankrolling levy and initiative campaigns, and organizing to elect or defeat candidates at almost every level of elected office. For example, in the 1996 election, the WEA Executive Director outlined an "ambitious plan" (see Exhibits A, B, C) to commit \$1.5 million and 25 to 30 full-time staff solely to defeat two school choice initiative campaigns (I-173/177). The WEA and its affiliates financed nearly 90% of the campaign to defeat these two initiatives. In addition, political operatives are trained by the NEA and sent where needed.

Following are some of the teachers' union political activities:

- The NEA trains its regional operatives (Uniserv representatives) to be the political eyes and ears of their Congressional Districts (see Exhibit D).
- In 2000, the NEA spent millions of dollars to put internet access into the homes of the Uniserv Representatives. The NEA also set up a CD-ROM system designed to help target members, including political efforts in at least the 27 key congressional districts. We believe this was done nationwide.
- NEA provides resources for state affiliates to conduct political strategy sessions to include races at all levels including: White House; gubernatorial; ballot initiatives; other statewide elected officials; Legislative; and Congressional.
- NEA funds political coalition building.
- By contract, the NEA may send Uniserv representatives anywhere in the country for up to two weeks, and it often does when help is needed for a political campaign.
- NEA has a staff of highly trained political operatives and consultants who are commissioned for activities in the various states.
- The NEA provides money and manpower to state affiliates to assist in political activities in a stealth manner to avoid public disclosure and scrutiny.
- NEA conducts extensive polling in-house and through outside consultants. Poll results are made available to state affiliates and are shared with various initiative and other political campaigns.
- In some states, the NEA and its state affiliate have veto authority over the Democrats' statewide coordinating campaign.
- NEA and state affiliates are working on developing voting files to be used for school levy and other elections. It appears the aim is to develop a voter file for each school building area.
- More than 95% of the union's contributions go to Democrats. (WSJ 7/6/01.)
- Last year, 59% of NEA's members voted for Al Gore in the presidential race. This was after the union came up with an aggressive plan to "move" 800,000 (one third) of its members when internal polls revealed widespread support for his opponent, George W. Bush. NEA officials spent millions of member dollars to carry out that plan, including sending specially-trained staff to help run Gore's campaign.
- NEA demands a seat at the table and veto authority over Democrat coordinating campaigns as the price of admission (contributions).
- NEA funds non profits to further its political agenda.
- NEA funds state-based groups that will promote its agenda.

- It funds Democrat party operations.
- NEA invests heavily in its own electioneering infrastructure including:
 - ▶ voting lists
 - ▶ polling
 - ▶ campaign schools
 - ▶ list building
 - ▶ mail-house infrastructure
 - ▶ phone bank infrastructure (lines, lists, equipment)
 - ▶ political consultants
 - ▶ numerous political operatives working full-time on political campaigns
 - ▶ hired staff exclusively for their election campaign experience

All of these operations are without the knowledge or consent of its members. Most of these items are not reported (or very easily under reported) as campaign contributions because they are not candidate-specific.

In December 2000, at the NEA Board of Directors meeting, the NEA voted to study plans for a more formalized political candidate recruitment and training program.

The education union has access to actual precinct buildings (public schools) which it uses for political purposes, school equipment (like copying machines, printers and computers), e-mail and internal mailboxes to distribute its voting recommendations (and make fund raising pitches for campaigns), paid precinct workers, access to conference rooms, office supplies, etc.

This political machine is underwritten by taxpayer dollars and forced union dues and fees.