

**Benchmark: C2a**

John Doe Democratic Candidate for President	Jane Smith Republican Candidate for President	Ron Redan Independent Candidate
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**Brief Constructed Response Prompt:**

How might a political party help candidates for public office? Support your answer with an example.

**Possible Response(s):** Students may offer a variety of plausible responses.

Political parties are extremely important to political candidates for several reasons including offering assistance with fundraising and advertising, developing campaign platforms, providing assistance with campaign appearances. In short, a candidate's political party works to provide various modes of assistance to the candidate with the sole focus of helping him/her win the election. Both George Bush and John Kerry received millions of dollars from their parties to fund their elections.

**Rubric**

- 2** = This response gives a valid reason with an accurate and relevant explanation.
- 1** = This response gives a valid reason with an inaccurate, irrelevant, or no explanation.
- 0** = inaccurate or no response