Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs

2004 Legislative Council Elections
Provision of Partial Financial Support to Candidates

This paper provides additional information concerning the Administration's recommendation on the provision of partial financial support to candidates standing in the 2004 Legislative Council (LegCo) elections.

Background

2. At the special meeting of the LegCo Panel on Constitutional Affairs on 10 December 2002, the Administration briefed Members on the proposed arrangements for providing partial financial support to candidates standing in the 2004 LegCo elections. Under the proposed arrangements, the Administration will provide financial support to a candidate in accordance with the number of valid votes he has received. The rate will be set at $10 per vote but capped at 50% of the actual election expenses of the candidate concerned. Only candidates who are elected, or those have received 5% of valid votes or more, will be given financial support. We also recommend that one of the two existing rounds of free mailing service be abolished. In other words, candidates will still be entitled to one round of free mailing service.

3. This paper provides the following information with respect to the proposed arrangements –

(a) the rationale of setting the subsidy rate at $10 per valid vote and the ceiling at 50% of the actual election expenses incurred by the candidate concerned; and

(b) the implications on Government expenditure.

Subsidy rate

4. In setting the rate, we have taken into account the average election expense limits ($2 million) of the five geographical

constituencies (GCs)[1] in the 2000 LegCo GC elections and the number of votes (approximately 100 000 votes) cast for the most popular candidate lists in that election. Dividing $2 million by 100 000 votes, we arrive at $20, which was the average amount that a candidate could spend on each vote received. According to our proposal of capping the amount of financial support provided to each candidate at 50% of his actual election expenses, we have thus arrived at the subsidy rate of $10 for each valid vote.

5. We propose that a candidate be reimbursed not more than 50% of his election expenses. We consider that all parties, including the Government, political parties or political groups as well as candidates, play an important role in elections. The election expenses should therefore be collectively borne by the Government and the candidates or their political parties/groups. Hence, at most the Administration should only meet half of the candidates' election expenses. In considering the arrangements, we have also taken into account overseas experience. For example, a candidate in Canada will be reimbursed only half of his election expenses.

Implications on Government expenditure

6. The financial implications to the Government of providing financial support to candidates on the basis of $10 per vote in the 2004 LegCo elections will depend on the following factors:

(a) the number of candidates and lists of candidates;

(b) voter turnout rate;

(c) votes obtained by each candidate and list; and

(d) the actual election expenses of each candidate and list

7. Due to these factors, we cannot assess accurately at this stage the implications of the proposed financial support arrangements on Government expenditure in 2004. However, we can take the 2000 LegCo elections as an illustration to indicate the possible financial implications. In the 2000 LegCo elections, the expenditure involved in providing two rounds of free mailing service to candidates amounted to

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[1] In the 2000 GC elections, the election expense limits for Kowloon East and Kowloon West were set at $ 1.5 million, Hong Kong Island at $2 million, New Territories East and New Territories West at $2.5 million.

$37.97 million. Only some candidates in the 2000 LegCo elections used two rounds of free mailing service. Thus, the Administration would still have to pay $28.95 million, if one round of mailing service had been abolished. This would have generated savings of about $9.02 million. However, under the new financial arrangements, the Administration would need to pay reimbursement of $9.99 million to candidates who were elected or who had secured 5% of valid votes or more. Government expenditure would thus be increased by $0.97 million. The detailed breakdown is as follows -

Expenditure for mailing service [2] *(GC elections and FC elections)*	$37.97 million
Less : Expenditure for one round of mailing *GC elections - $28.4 million* *FC elections - $0.55 million*	$28.95 million
Savings	$9.02 million
Expenditure for financial support *GC elections - $9.34 million* *FC elections- $0.65 million*	$9.99 million
Net increase in expenditure	$0.97 million

The estimated expenditure on the financial support scheme is set out at **Annex**.

Conclusion

8. Members are invited to express their views on the proposals set out in the paper.

Constitutional Affairs Bureau
13 December 2002

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[2] In respect of the 2000 GC elections, there were about 3 million voters and 36 lists of candidates. On average, each list of candidates made use of 1.3 rounds of free mailing service. In respect of the FC elections, there were about 175,000 voters and 57 candidates. On average, each candidate made use of 1.9 rounds of mailing service.

二零零零年立法會功能界別選舉
候選人選舉開支及實際資助額

2000 LegCo FC Elections
Declared Expenses & Actual Financial Support

	功能界別 Constituency	選民人數 No. of Electors	候選人 Candidate	選舉開支上限 Election Expense Limit ($)	選舉開支 Declared Expenses ($)	得票 Votes Obtained 數目 No.	得票 Votes Obtained 比率 %	根據得票計算資助額 Entitlement ($)	實際資助額 Actual Financial Support ($)
1	航運交通界 Transport	152	彭長緯 Pang Cheung-wai 劉健儀 Lau Kin-yee	100,000 100,000	57,717 44,618	33 106	23.74 76.26	330 1,060	330 1,060
2	教育界 Education	71,284	李傑江 Lee Kit-kong 張文光 Cheung Man-kwong	480,000 480,000	103,595 265,431	5,686 35,793	13.71 86.29	56,860 357,930	51,798 132,716
3	法律界 Legal	4,152	周永健 Chow Wing-kin 吳靄儀 Ng Ngoi-yee	160,000 160,000	129,567 144,251	982 1,520	39.25 60.75	9,820 15,200	9,820 15,200
4	會計界 Accountancy	12,753	周光暉 Chow Kwong-fai 李家祥 Li Ka-cheung 陳普芬 Chan Po-fun	480,000 480,000 480,000	124,217 181,166 182,713	1,363 3,867 761	26.06 73.94 12.70	13,630 38,670 7,610	13,630 38,670 7,610
5	醫學界 Medical	7,702	林順潮 Lam Shun-chiu 蘇啟明 So Kai-ming 勞永樂 Lo Wing-lok 郭家麒 Kwok Ka-ki	320,000 320,000 320,000 320,000	157,473 53,349 224,351 62,925	1,458 386 1,804 867	32.29 8.55 39.96 19.20	14,580 3,860 18,040 8,670	14,580 3,860 18,040 8,670
6	衞生服務界 Health Services	31,638	汪國成 Wong Kwok-shing 曹聖玉 Tso Shing-yuk 麥國風 Mak Kwok-fung	480,000 480,000 480,000	179,337 101,049 109,249	3,908 3,668 5,857	29.09 27.31 43.60	39,080 36,680 58,570	39,080 36,680 54,625

	功能界別 Constituency	選民人數 No. of Electors	候選人 Candidate	選舉開支上限 Election Expense Limit ($)	選舉開支 Declared Expenses ($)	得票 Votes Obtained		根據得票計算資助額 Entitlement ($)	實際資助額 Actual Financial Support ($)
						數目 No.	比率 %		
7	工程界 Engineering	6,002	何鍾泰 Ho Chung-tai 陸宏廣 Luk Wang-kwong	320,000 320,000	233,547 192,369	2,186 1,416	60.69 39.31	21,860 14,160	21,860 14,160
8	建築, 測量及都市規劃界 Architectural, Surveying & Planning	3,811	何承天 Ho Sing-tin 劉炳章 Lau Ping-cheung 羅健中 Law Kin-chung	160,000 160,000 160,000	127,610 36,683 147,407	647 938 767	27.51 39.88 32.61	6,470 9,380 7,670	6,470 9,380 7,670
9	勞工界 Labour	417	陳國強 Chan Kwok-keung 梁雪芳 Leung Suet-fong 梁富華 Leung Fu-wah 李鳳英 Li Fung-ying	160,000 160,000 160,000 160,000	40,336 18,635 24,523 16,391	226 102 259 283	25.98 11.72 29.77 32.53	2,260 1,020 2,590 2,830	2,260 1,020 2,590 2,830
10	社會福利界 Social Welfare	7,858	梁悅明 Leung Yuet-ming (陳梁悅明 Grace Chan) 羅致光 Law Chi-kwong	320,000 320,000	270,422 55,251	1,582 3,061	34.07 65.93	15,820 30,610	15,820 27,626
11	地產及建造界 Real Estate & Construction	646	謝禮良 Tse Lai-leung 石禮謙 Shek Lai-him (Abraham Razack)	160,000 160,000	136,113 89,535	116 357	24.52 75.48	1,160 3,570	1,160 3,570
12	旅遊界 Tourism	806	白嘉民 Bagaman Francis 楊孝華 Young Howard 董耀中 Tung Yao-chung	160,000 160,000 160,000	5,807 145,300 36,344	137 274 197	22.53 45.07 32.40	1,370 2,740 1,970	1,370 2,740 1,970
13	工業界 (第一) Industrial (First)	742	陳少琼 Chan Siu-king 丁午壽 Ting Woo-shou	160,000 160,000	129,610 109,176	228 305	42.78 57.22	2,280 3,050	2,280 3,050

	功能界別 Constituency	選民人數 No. of Electors	候選人 Candidate	選舉開支上限 Election Expense Limit ($)	選舉開支 Declared Expenses ($)	得票 Votes Obtained		根據得票計算資助額 Entitlement ($)	實際資助額 Actual Financial Support ($)
						數目 No.	比率 %		
14	金融界 Finance	143	李國寶 Li Kwok-po 孔令成 Kung Lin-cheng	160,000 160,000	147,206 99,125	89 32	73.55 26.45	890 320	890 320
15	金融服務界 Financial Services	450	馮志堅 Fung Chi-kin 蘇惠賢 So Wai-yin 胡經昌 Wu King-cheong	160,000 160,000 160,000	84,881 60,320 82,851	133 21 177	40.18 6.34 53.47	1,330 210 1,770	1,330 210 1,770
16	批發及零售界 Wholesale & Retail	3,302	劉志榮 Lau Chi-wing 周梁淑怡 Chow Liang Shuk-yee	160,000 160,000	127,811 134,473	476 1,459	24.60 75.40	4,760 14,590	4,760 14,590
17	資訊科技界 Information Technology	3,827	簡永基 Kan Wing-kay 單仲偕 Sin Chung-kai	160,000 160,000	76,863 149,077	632 1,770	26.31 73.69	6,320 17,700	6,320 17,700
18	飲食界 Catering	6,963	伍德良 Ng Tak-leung 張宇人 Cheung Yu-yan 梁廣昌 Leung Kwong-cheong	320,000 320,000 320,000	263,188 223,490 118,568	560 1,478 720	20.30 53.59 26.11	5,600 14,780 7,200	5,600 14,780 7,200
19	區議會 District Council	378	葉國謙 Ip Kwok-him 蔣世昌 Chiang Sai-cheong	160,000 160,000	90,923 12,384	198 141	58.41 41.59	1,980 1,410	1,980 1,410
總數 **Total** *(不包括自動當選議員)* *(Candidates elected ipso facto are excluded)*		163,026			5,607,226	89,026		890,260	653,055

二零零零年立法會地方選區選舉
候選人選舉開支及實際資助額

2000 LegCo GC Elections
Declared Expenses & Actual Financial Support

	地方選區 Geographical Constituency	選民人數 No. of Electors	名單 List	候選人 Candidate	選舉開支上限 Election Expense Limit ($)	選舉開支 Declared Expenses ($)	得票 Votes Obtained 數目 No.	 比率 %	根據得票計算資助額 Entitlement ($)	實際資助額 Actual Financial Support ($)
I	香港島 Hong Kong Island	627,148	1	曾健成 / 阿牛 Tsang King Shing (Bull)	2,000,000	704,663	9,896	3.80	-	-
			2	梁安琪 Leung On Kay Angel	2,000,000	234,614	6,967	2.67	-	-
			3	程介南 Cheng Kai Nam (Gary)	2,000,000	1,759,075	72,617	27.85	726,170	726,170
			4	周潔冰 Chow Kit Bing Jennifer	2,000,000	798,417	14,534	5.57	145,340	145,340
			5	謝偉俊 Tse Wai Chun Paul	2,000,000	522,160	6,398	2.45	-	-
			6	藍鴻震 Lan Hong Tsung (David)	2,000,000	1,652,962	14,329	5.50	143,290	143,290
			7	何秀蘭 Ho Sau Lan Cyd	2,000,000	783,996	25,988	9.97	259,880	259,880
			8	孫柏文 Shuen Pak Man Andrew	2,000,000	358,904	1,132	0.43	-	-
			9	馮兩努 Fung Leung Lo	2,000,000	959,106	15,419	5.91	154,190	154,190
			10	翁燦燐 Yung Chan Lung Allen	2,000,000	242,793	1,434	0.55	-	-
			11	李柱銘 Lee Chu Ming Martin	2,000,000	1,327,016	92,074	35.31	920,740	663,508
II	九龍東 Kowloon East	518,035	1	林海城 Lam Hoi Shing	1,500,000	46,976	9,805	4.28	-	-
			2	陳婉嫻 Chan Yuen Han	1,500,000	944,805	108,587	47.36	1,085,870	472,402
			3	司徒華 Szeto Wah	1,500,000	928,909	103,863	45.30	1,038,630	464,454
			4	佘繼標 Shi Kai Biu	1,500,000	1,249,671	7,023	3.06	-	-
III	九龍西 Kowloon West	426,280	1	馮檢基 Fung Kin Kee Frederick	1,500,000	1,049,392	62,717	35.20	627,170	524,696
			2	曾鈺成 Tsang Yok Sing Jasper	1,500,000	1,146,345	41,942	23.54	419,420	419,420
			3	劉千石 Lau Chin Shek	1,500,000	953,802	73,540	41.27	735,400	476,901

	地方選區 Geographical Constituency	選民人數 No. of Electors	名單 List	候選人 Candidate	選舉開支上限 Election Expense Limit ($)	選舉開支 Declared Expenses ($)	得票 Votes Obtained 數目 No.	 比率 %	根據得票計算資助額 Entitlement ($)	實際資助額 Actual Financial Support ($)
IV	新界東 New Territories East	692,164	1	黃成智 Wong Sing Chi	2,500,000	1,183,797	25,971	8.44	259,710	259,710
			2	劉江華 Lau Kong Wah	2,500,000	1,503,941	66,943	21.75	669,430	669,430
			3	簡炳墀 Kan Ping Chee Brian	2,500,000	489,080	7,945	2.58	-	-
			4	蔡根培 Choy Kan Pui	2,500,000	2,304,394	8,830	2.87	-	-
			5	劉慧卿 Lau Wai Hing Emily	2,500,000	800,635	63,541	20.64	635,410	400,318
			6	羅祥國 Law Cheung Kwok	2,500,000	1,320,566	6,714	2.20	-	-
			7	鄭家富 Cheng Kar Foo Andrew	2,500,000	490,863	49,242	16.00	492,420	245,432
			8	黃宏發 Wong Wang Fat Andrew	2,500,000	1,357,306	44,899	14.59	448,990	448,990
			9	劉慶基 / 劉丹 Lau Hing Kee	2,500,000	2,219,202	15,450	5.02	154,500	154,500
			10	梁國雄 / 長毛 Leung Kwok Hung	2,500,000	379,845	18,235	5.92	182,350	182,350
V	新界西 New Territories West	791,751	1	楊福廣 Yeung Fuk Kwong	2,500,000	1,279,669	9,408	2.74	-	-
			2	梁耀忠 Leung Yiu Chung	2,500,000	357,006	59,348	17.27	593,480	178,503
			3	陳偉業 Chan Wai Yip Albert	2,500,000	1,103,417	43,613	12.69	436,130	436,130
			4	李卓人 Lee Cheuk Yan	2,500,000	851,842	52,202	15.19	522,020	425,921
			5	文潤飛 Man Yun Fei	2,500,000	576,255	3,274	0.95	-	-
			6	譚耀宗 Tam Yiu Chung	2,500,000	1,635,396	101,629	29.58	1,016,290	817,698
			7	何俊仁 Ho Chun Yan	2,500,000	728,066	38,472	11.20	384,720	364,033
			8	李永達 Lee Wing Tat	2,500,000	614,502	35,648	10.38	356,480	307,251
總數 Total		3,055,378				34,859,388	1,319,629		12,408,030	9,340,517