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Campaign to unseat liberals launched

By JOHN TANG

POLITICAL heavyweights, Miss Maria Tam and Mr Allen Lee have launched an aggressive campaign to unseat some liberal legislators in the September Legislative Council elections.

Miss Tam, president of Hongkong Progressive Society, and Mr Lee, an influential industrialist, have been actively persuading leaders from the district boards to stand against the liberal councillors.

Mr Lee and Miss Tam, who sit on both the Executive and Legislative Councils, are understood to have been lobbying in several districts including Eastern, Wong Tai Sin, and Tsuen Wan.

The territory's 19 district boards are entitled to return 10 representatives to sit on Legco in the September polls through the electoral college.

A major area of rivalry is New Territories South, which comprises Kwai Tsing, Tsuen Wan, Islands and Sai Kung.

Tsuen Wan District Board member Mr David Yeung Fuk-kwong, a leader of the Hongkong Progressive Society, plans to challenge liberal councillor Dr Richard Lai Sing-lung.

Mr Yeung, a solicitor and the society's third vice-president, yesterday confirmed that he would stand for election.

But he declined to say whether Mr Lee and Miss Tam had been exerting their influence to lobby on his behalf.

Mr Yeung might gain the upper hand in the elections as he is expected to capture most of the votes from the businessmen in the area, one of his district board colleagues said.

Another potential candidate, Kwai Tsing board member Mr James Tien Peichun, has decided not to run in the elections.

Mr Tien, who has about 11 votes under his command, has pledged his support to Mr Yeung.

The industrial sector in Tsuen Wan supported Dr Lai in the last Legco polls in 1985 but they may switch their allegiance to Mr Yeung because they believe Dr Lai has become too closely identified as a liberal.

Dr Lai, a member of the Association for Democracy and People's Livelihood, had only secured about 20 of the 70-odd votes in the electoral college, one of his supporters in the Tsuen Wan board said.