

\$100,000 lid placed on election campaign spending

Jimmy Cheung

Candidates for the Urban and Regional council elections in March will have to keep their campaign expenditure below \$100,000.

The Democratic Party and other independent legislators yesterday joined forces to vote

down the Liberal Party's proposal to cap the expenses at \$120,000.

The Government's plan to set the limit at \$100,000, plus a \$20,000 allowance for damaged or stolen campaign materials, was also thwarted.

Moving the amendment to delete the government plan, a

Democratic Party legislator, Yeung Sum, said the allowance would be open to abuse by unscrupulous candidates.

He attacked the Liberal Party's proposal to merge the Government's basic and additional allowance, saying it was "unacceptably high".

"It will be unfair to candi-

dates who are less well-off," Yeung said.

The legislator Elsie Tu, who represents the Urban Council, backed the Liberal amendments.

Tu said Urban Council members had unanimously agreed that the election expenses should be capped at \$120,000.

A pro-China Democratic Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong (DAB) legislator, Tam Yiu-chung, also backed the Liberal proposal, saying the limit was "absolutely not high".

The Democratic Party's amendment was carried by a voice vote.

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