

October 21, 2004

Further Supplemental Testimony of Frederick A.O. Schwarz, Jr. Re: Intr. No. 124-A.

Although the Board continues to support the legislation as a whole, the Board strongly objects to a recent change that will leave in place the opportunity for candidates facing minimal opposition to receive large amounts of public funds. This recent change deletes what would have been an objective standard. The previous standard would have required that a candidate's opponent must have raised or spent a certain minimal amount to entitle the candidate to receive the full amount in public funds permitted under law. Instead the legislation keeps in place the opportunity for a candidate to submit a "statement of need" that entitles any candidate, no matter how trivial the opposition, to receive up to the total amount in public funds the candidate would be entitled to if faced by a major opponent. Some cost savings that might have been identified with the previous proposal are now diminished to almost nothing.