

'Soft money' flowing to non-profits

by UPI

WASHINGTON -- U.S. political strategists said recent legal changes will make it easier for so-called soft money to influence voting outside of campaign law limitations. Hundreds of millions of dollars are expected to be raised for 2008 by groups reminiscent of the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth in 2004 that questioned Sen. John Kerry's war record in a way that damaged his Democratic presidential campaign, The New York Times reported Monday. The amount of soft money raised for campaigns in 2008 could far exceed the record-breaking tens of millions that front-running presidential hopefuls will raise for their own, closely regulated campaign accounts, the Times said. Recent decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court mean that most of the groups will be able to operate with less disclosure than such groups did in 2004, the Times reported. In June, the high court struck down a ban on ads by non-profit groups within 30 days of a primary and 60 days of a general election. The ruling now has made non-profits the choice for big donors looking to influence elections, the Times reported.

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