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# Rebuild — Yes, But How?

## Candidates' strategies differ, but schools a priority for all

**By Dan Janison**
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The mood remains subdued, the nastier feuding suspended. But five Democrats and two Republicans in Tuesday's primary are gingerly trying to revive support in the reconstituted race for mayor.

In interviews last week, all candidates stated a need to preserve freedoms amid New York's new preoccupation with security. But their emphases differed, as did their strategies.

All the candidates cited the obvious — the need for a long-term rebuilding effort and retaining business — but disagreed over what to do first and where.

And all said improving schools remains a priority.

On the eve of the attack, polls showed Public Advocate Mark Green and Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer headed for a runoff in the Democratic primary, and Michael Bloomberg likely to get the GOP line in the race to succeed Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, who leaves office Dec. 31.

Votes cast in polling places the morning of Sept. 11, before the primary was canceled, will not count, although absentee ballots already cast will be counted in this Tuesday's tally.

**A Reprint Of Newsday's Voter Guide Appears Today In Queens Life.**

On the new border between security and liberty, Green said: "I know we can have both. Look at London. While no analogy is appropriate for what is the greatest crime in American history, London has survived periodic IRA attacks and Jerusalem has survived periodic terrorist attacks."

Despite the imminence of more police patrols, checkpoints and searching of bags, Green said, "Any free society has to determine the boundaries between freedom and security. . . ." This may take "rethinking" and "rebalancing," he said.

But Ferrer said, "It's the age-old topic at moments like this. . . . Do we trade 100 percent security for 50 percent of our liberties? Anybody who believes you are 100 percent secure in a free democracy is naive. And then, of course, the question is, which 50 percent of our liberties would we give up?"

Tighter public building entry, and airplane and air-

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**DEMOCRATS:**

**Fernando Ferrer:** "The gates around City Hall are peripheral. I'd still get rid of them. . . . If we restrict people's mobility in an unreasonable way, we'll have capitulated and become very much like the totalitarian people who attacked us."

"The economic recovery is our most urgent issue, at the very top of the agenda. That doesn't mean we discard other important values for the city."

**Mark Green:** "Any free society has to determine the boundaries between freedom and security and there are often generational fights where it is . . . I know we can have both."

"Don't let our enemies prevail by staying home. . . . Whether you're for me or one of my opponents, if you vote Tuesday, America wins."

**Alan Hevesi:** "It's not a violation of civil liberties to have more surveillance in public areas. . . . When someone is a suspect, or a material witness, or a potential target for prosecution, the constitutional principles kick in."

"A message goes out to the business community that we'll be the most business-friendly city in the country and you should stay here and grow with us."

**Peter Vallone:** "The landscape has changed. . . . I've indicated I'm very satisfied with what Bernard Kerik is doing. He's been a welcome change and I have great confidence in him."

"Right now, the priority is restructuring, and reinvigorating, and getting the confidence of the people back."

**George Spitz:** "The last thing I'd want to do is have Rudy Giuliani in charge of rebuilding. He has lowered the morale of the technical force, he's got patronage employees supervising professional engineers.

"I believe in nonviolence. They [the attackers] don't. We're a symbol to hate-filled people around the world. Frankly, we've been provoking it. . . ."

**REPUBLICANS:**

**Herman Badillo:** "There are inconveniences which are inevitable. . . . We don't have any choice because we have been and are in danger of terrorist attacks now and in the future."

"I supported Mayor Giuliani's policies and was the one candidate totally in favor of the police and uniformed forces."

**Michael Bloomberg:** "Once you focus on security in a free society, it's a question of . . . how much we're willing to restrict our freedom of movement."

"The site [of the trade towers] has particular meaning. But I'd argue that rebuilding for the city is really something different. What we have to do is build housing and schools. . . ."

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port security, and visa and money-laundering enforcement are "appropriate," Ferrer said. But unreasonable restrictions amount to capitulating to terrorism, he argued.

Comptroller Alan Hevesi, another Democratic candidate for mayor, said, "If we don't maintain a secure city we lose to the terrorists. If we abandon our constitutional principles and civil liberties we lose to the terrorists. So there's a balance to be struck that is very sophisticated."

Hevesi, Green and Bloomberg underscored technological advances in law enforcement such as wider use of surveillance cameras that could supplement police.

"I've always thought that as long as you post signs saying 'area under surveillance,' that takes care of the civil liberties issue" for red-light cameras and the like, Bloomberg told Newsday. He added: "I can build you a totally safe society, but it's not one anybody would want to live in."

City Council Speaker Peter Vallone, also a Democratic mayoral candidate, said, "The landscape has changed. While I look forward to opening the gates of City Hall, that decision has to be left up to the NYPD now." He said he'd want Bernard Kerik to continue as police commissioner. Before the attack, Kerik had said he intended to leave office when Mayor Rudolph Giuliani does.

And GOP candidate Herman Badillo said, "Basically you have to provide for security and there are inconveniences which are inevitable. . . . We have to work with the FBI and CIA and intelligence agencies of the federal government and abide by whatever measures they recommend."

By contrast, George Spitz, a maverick Democrat with a low-budget campaign, blamed U.S. foreign policies, and mayoral support for them, for making New York a target of hate, saying there must be more protection of public buildings "if we keep beating the drums for war" rather than promote world peace.

On rebuilding the offices lost at the Trade Center, Green has released a plan for a "superagency" involving the city government, business, and labor organizations, with the goal of creating a 21st-century downtown.

Vallone urges establishing a commission to determine first how the city should proceed. The panel would have extraordinary powers to cut red tape, he said, and "get the best minds working" on what should go up at the calamity's site.

Ferrer said, "If we do this sensibly, one of the lessons we'll learn from this is our economic engines have to be decentralized and so do our communication hubs. . . . A significant part of our economy is in danger of leaving."

Bloomberg called for a "city planning effort, not just a site-specific thing. . . . It's a bit premature to say what goes at the site of the former Twin Towers. But I'd argue rebuilding for the city is really something different. If we build housing and schools, we will secure the economic base."

Badillo says, "My experience in Congress bears out that we have to work with the federal government, and my colleagues in Congress this time would not have the same problems they did in 1974 and 1975 bringing us additional aid."

Hevesi said he supports "an authority with substantial state power to make decisions and to quickly utilize revenues from federal government, state and city borrowings," similar to a California task force that rapidly rebuilt highways and bridges after the 1989 earthquake.

Spitz said the city should own any building at the site and reiterated his vow to put a professional engineer in charge as deputy mayor for infrastructure and clear patronage appointees out of the system.

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