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WALL STREET JOURNAL, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2001

Bloomberg Wins New York's GOP Primary

NEW YORK (AP) – Billionaire media owner Michael Bloomberg easily won the Republican primary yesterday in a mayor's race thrown into turmoil by the World Trade Center disaster and the possibility that Rudolph Giuliani may try to stay on to steer the city through its crisis.

The Democratic race appeared headed to a runoff election between city Public Advocate Mark Green and Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer.

Bloomberg, who has already spent more than $20 million of his own money on the race, easily defeated former Congressman Herman Badillo. With 10% of 5,630 precincts reporting, Bloomberg had 5,354 votes, or 66%, to Badillo's 2,713 votes or 34%.

On the Democratic side, Ferrer and Green were locked in a practical dead heat. With 13% of the vote counted, Green had 34,096 votes and Ferrer had 33,829 votes, or 33% of the vote each.

The unofficial returns don't include write-in ballots, which will be counted later by the city Board of Elections. Exit polling of Republican voters indicated that about 15% wrote in a candidate's name – presumably Giuliani – which isn't enough to affect the primary's outcome.

Giuliani, a Republican, is barred by law from running for a third term this fall, and he hasn't announced his plans. But his popularity has soared since the Sept. 11 attack, and some voters say he ought to stay on past Dec. 31, when his term ends.

In other elections around the country:

- Arkansas voters chose candidates for a special election to fill the congressional seat vacated by new Drug Enforcement Administration chief Asa Hutchinson.
- Voters approved a measure making Oklahoma the 22nd state to ban labor contracts requiring employees to pay union dues.
- Boston Mayor Thomas Menino was favored to win a nonpartisan runoff in his bid for a third term.

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