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# Voters speak out in delayed election

## Green, Ferrer seen headed for a runoff

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Four Democrats battled yesterday for their party's nomination for mayor, a job far different than when the race began — leading a city wounded economically and psychologically by the World Trade Center attack.

But for all the tumult of the last two weeks, it seemed that the twin towers attack did not alter the expected outcome.

Mark Green and Fernando Ferrer were locked in a close battle for first, according to early exit polls. But with Council Speaker Peter Vallone and Controller Alan Hevesi each pulling a significant vote, neither Green nor Ferrer appeared likely to reach the 40% needed to avoid a two-way runoff Oct. 11.

Many Democratic voters said yesterday that the terrorist attack did not cause them to rethink their support.

At St. Anthony's Catholic Church on Sullivan St. in Greenwich Village, Ketty Hamilton said she stuck with Green, the public advocate. "I think he's the best qualified for the job. I think he would be good for the city," she said.

At Public School 321 in Park Slope, Brooklyn, Jilian Kidd said her support for Hevesi never wavered. "I watched the interviews they had [over the weekend], but I stuck with the man I had," Kidd said.

But Judith Pearl, 42, of lower Manhattan, said she had switched from Green to Vallone. "I decided we needed someone who has been more involved in dealing with the aftermath of the attacks," she said.

Green, Hevesi, Vallone and Ferrer made brief appearances yesterday, capping an exhausting race spanning eight months and more than 100 forums.

A modest voter turnout, the new issues presented by the Sept. 11 attack and the absence of major polls since the attack had the potential to add an element of surprise to the outcome.

In polls taken just before voting was suspended Sept. 11, Green and Ferrer were virtually tied, with Vallone and Hevesi trailing far behind.

All year, the four Democrats — who among them have more than 70 years' experience in elected offices — struggled to break out of Mayor Giuliani's shadow. Primary Day was no different.

The mayor's flirtation with staying in office — not the individual candidates' plans to fix the schools or build housing — dominated the dialogue.

Even some Dem voters supported the idea of a third Giuliani term — or at least letting him linger in office to manage the crisis. Either option would require passage of a special law in Albany.

### Old issues on hold

It was hard to find voters talking about the issues that dominated the race before Sept. 11: improving schools, ending police abuse and uniting the city.

"The last thing the city needs is a change in government," said Democrat Fran Kane of Manhattan, a Green backer who said she would vote for Giuliani if she had the chance.

"If the law would allow me to vote for Giuliani, I probably would. But I have mixed feelings if that law should be changed," said another Green voter, Joseph Salanitri, 58, voting on W. Houston St., Manhattan.

But another Green voter, Nancy Spriggs, a painter from Manhattan, said letting Giuliani stay would set a bad precedent. "It's dangerous because we could have Presidents do that," she said.

A Marist College poll found that a majority of registered voters — 55% — think it's a good idea for Giuliani to stay in office beyond his term. Another 39% called it a bad idea.

But 52% of registered voters said they do not want to elimi-

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**RUNNING HARD AT FINISH** **Democrat mayoral hopeful Mark Green (photo l.) votes at Public School 66. Alan Hevesi (photo r.) makes comment at PS 321. Peter Vallone and wife (below l.) leave booth at PS 122. Fernando Ferrer speaks in Bronx.**



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nate term limits, while 40% said they think the law should be changed.

Giuliani inched closer to getting involved in the race — if not as a candidate, then as a kibbitzer. Asked whether some mayoral candidates had not been helpful in dealing with the crisis, he said, "The answer is, some have, and some have not, and after the primary I will explain that."

The four Democratic hopefuls met with reporters as they cast their ballots, then had few other events. In keeping with the city's somber mood, they scrapped plans for postprimary parties in favor of smaller get-togethers last night with no music.

Green voted at Giuliani's polling place, Public School 66 on E. 88th St., down the street from Gracie Mansion.

"Once there is a Democratic nominee, who I believe will be the next mayor of New York, that will really quiet all this excitement and speculation and diversion [about the mayor running again], and then the city will be able to focus on the large task," he said.

Vallone, voting in Astoria, Queens, said terror attack should not be able to force a change in the rules of the election. "The ballot is stronger than the bullet," he said, quoting Abraham Lincoln.

Hevesi stumped in three boroughs and took time in the evening to teach his weekly class at the Columbia School of International and Public Affairs.

He appeared upbeat and relaxed as he shook hands with passersby in Queens. "Some of the dynamics have changed," Hevesi said of the race. "I think it's anybody's ballgame."

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