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Randi, Alan, Freddy & Mark

Maybe the third time's the charm for poor Randi Weingarten.

For the Democratic primary, the United Federation of Teachers head awarded the union's endorsement to City Comptroller Alan Hevesi.

Bad luck for Randi and the UFT.

Worse for Hevesi, of course. He finished far up the track (fourth in a four-horse field), calling into profound question the value of a UFT endorsement.

For the union, things got worse.

Weingarten tried again, hooking up with fellow municipal union bigs in endorsing Bronx Borough President Freddy Ferrer for the runoff.

Ooops! Freddy flopped, too.

The last Democratic man standing is Mark Green.

And on Thursday Randi declared that he's definitely the teachers' man, citing his support for both a raise *and* the ever-popular "reduced class size" — UFT-speak for more teacher jobs.



Weingarten

GOP standard-bearer Mike Bloomberg also supports a raise, by the way. He just doesn't think the city can afford to hire a bunch of new teachers on top of that.

He's right, of course, but it's a position that puts him on the outs with the UFT.

As for Mark Green ... well, he campaigned for the major municipal union endorsements and didn't get any of them — until now.

Given this history, Green has a freer hand than many past Democratic mayoral nominees: He's not beholden to the public-sector unions. Hey, maybe in this era of apparent declining municipal-union power, he'd be better off declining the endorsements and running as his own man.

With a double-digit lead in the polls, what would he have to lose?

But what about Randi — now on her third mayoral suitor in four weeks? Clearly, she needs Green far more than Green needs her.

The endorsement game is usually a mix of ideological compatibility and political calculation. Weingarten has to assess what is the best political decision for her members and then stake a position based on those factors.

Whether her union's positions — or any union's, for that matter — are what is best for New York City at this historical crossroads is another matter.

We would think not, by and large.

In any event, Mark Green doesn't owe Randi Weingarten a thing.

Should he become mayor, he would do well to keep that in mind.

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