NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

Vote today for city's future

Last spring seems like a lifetime ago, but try to think back to those days. Remember all the complaints about the mayoral election? It was dull. It lacked excitement. If it got any more boring, the candidates themselves would be falling asleep.

Then Sept. 11 gave everyone a wakeup call. Suddenly, this became one of the most crucial elections in the history of the city. The next mayor not only must build on the achievements of the current administration, he must literally rebuild New York.

The candidate who can, and will, do that is Mike Bloomberg.

An underdog from the beginning, Bloomberg now stands in the polls absolutely dead even with Mark Green. Bloomberg has been steadily increasing his support for the same reasons he won the endorsement of the Daily News: He is uniquely qualified to handle the herculean task at hand. The new administration will be consumed with both the structural devastation in lower Manhattan and its devastating effects on the economy of the entire city. Bloomberg is an organization builder who created a multibillion-dollar enterprise from nothing. He has few equals when it comes to grasping the issues of business and the economy.

New Yorkers have every reason to place their trust in him.

The majority of the other races in the city, from City Council to borough president, are not serious contests. Democrats are favored in most of these. The GOP didn't even field contenders for the citywide posts of public advocate and controller.

Also on the ballot are five possible revisions to the City Charter and one proposed amendment to the state Constitution. The Charter fixes are fairly routine. The News recommends yes votes on Nos. 1, 2, 4 and 5, which involve making several agencies permanent plus other minor changes. Only No. 3, regarding the Human Rights Commission, whose functions are duplicated by state and federal agencies, is unnecessary — so a no vote is urged on that one.

The other item, Proposal 1, would amend the state Constitution to make it gender-neutral. A harmless change. Too bad Albany didn't put more pertinent concerns before the voters.

The big focus — the contest that will decide the future of a wounded city — is the mayoralty. Every vote does count — recall what happened in Florida last year. Your vote can make all the difference.

The man of the moment is Mike Bloomberg. He needs your support, and New York needs him. Vote for him today.

Thanks, Yanks

So what's a trophy, anyway, except something the Yankees didn't win this year? The Bombers had more important gifts to give New York these last few weeks: hope in a period of mourning. A time to enjoy and celebrate. And a chance to experience one of the most dramatic, entertaining World Series ever.

The Yankees played their hearts out this Series, and the hearts of New Yorkers and Americans swelled. Even Mets and Red Sox fans wore pinstripes. More than ever, this one was for New York — terrorized, traumatized, pins-and-needles New York. The Yanks had to win it, people said. New York needed it.

But something happened when the Arizona Diamondbacks snatched away what would have been the Yankees' fourth straight Series title. Sure, there was heartbreak. And a sense that with Paul O'Neill set to retire and Scott Brosius and Tino Martinez now free agents, the Yankees would never be quite the same.

But nobody really lost. Not the Yanks. Not New York. Certainly not America. In the game of baseball, our national pastime, we honor fair play, individual brilliance, team synergy, old rituals. We rise to challenges, we stumble, we smack it into the stands, we gracefully accept momentary defeat.

Baseball was played in America this year, and nothing — not terrorists, not fear — was going to stop us. After the Yanks spotted Arizona the first two games, we knew the real contest was on when the Series came to the Bronx and President Bush stepped to the mound and delivered that perfect strike. Then came those thrilling eleventh-hour Yankee comebacks in Games 4 and 5. But then there was the Diamondback crusher of a Game 6. And Game 7, for a while, was anybody's guess. Until the end, when it was Arizona's comeback, Arizona's time. This time: Wait till next year.

As Mayor Giuliani says, making it to the World Series is greatness itself, regardless of the vagaries of skill and timing and luck that come later. "The Yankees gave us an absolutely, indescribably great October," he said, "and for that, they're champions in my book."

They're champions in ours, too. But don't forget about the unforgettable November.

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