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Rivals bring out big guns for final battle

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and MAGGIE HABERMAN

The wild and woolly mayoral race stormed down to the wire yesterday with Michael Bloomberg campaigning for the first time with Mayor Giuliani, and Mark Green getting big support at a rally with former President Bill Clinton.

The fiercely competitive race, which a new poll shows in a tie, stretched through the day and into the night as each candidate toured the five boroughs in bus caravans.

The cautious front-runner for weeks, Green is now acting as if he were well behind in the polls — launching the toughest attack ad of the campaign.

The commercial raises a charge in a now-settled sexual-harassment suit: that Bloomberg urged a pregnant employee to "kill it."

During each campaign stop, Green went after Bloomberg. He started the morning by showing reporters an anti-Green brochure, linking his campaign to former Mayor David Dinkins, which was handed out on the Staten Island Ferry.

The flier, produced by the Staten Island Republican County Committee, was repudiated by the GOP candidate, who fired his borough director for it Sunday night.

At a stop in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, Green charged that Bloomberg was showing "*chutzpah*" for distributing the fliers just days after he had questioned whether Green was responsible for anonymous literature that had attacked his Democratic runoff rival, Fernando Ferrer.

"They should be ashamed of themselves, and they stopped only when there were caught," said Green, who called the race a "dead heat."

At outdoor events held in gusty weather, he didn't leave the attack-dog role to his surrogates — he handled it himself, calling Bloomberg a "rich elitist" and repeatedly noting that his Republican foe is a Red Sox fan.

His comments came as the Bloomberg campaign started airing a radio spot in which Bloomberg supporter Norman Seabrook, the president of the Correction Officers Union, accuses Green of dispatching his own campaign workers to spread anti-Al Sharpton fliers during the runoff. Green has denied that allegation.

Campaigning with Giuliani at Forlini's restaurant in lower Manhattan, Bloomberg dismissed his opponent's attack.

"Mark Green has no shame and is obviously desperate. He's a lawyer. He knows that was an allegation," Bloomberg said of the "kill it" charge.

"There's nothing to it. End of story," he said.

Late last night, Sharpton said he would not ask his supporters to vote for Green, but did not call for a boycott of the election.

At a chilly Democratic rally in Bryant Park, Clinton took note of the race's nasty tone.

"I've been in enough elections to know that everybody vents steam, and [when] people want to win, they say things sometimes they shouldn't say," he said.

"And I've seen a lot of these negative attacks on [Green]. I'm telling you, he's a good man. He will do a good job as mayor of the City of New York," Clinton said to cheers from about 200 people.

Of the many bigwig party faithful who spoke at the rally, including Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.), Green was the only one to focus much of his time hammering Bloomberg.

Green defended his final full-fanged strategy against his opponent last night before going to a Democratic dinner.

"If he thinks he can slander me with millions of dollars [and] I'm not going to respond back, welcome to political combat," Green said.

Bloomberg spent much of his press conference at Forlini's trashing the Green-Dinkins flier distributed by his own campaign workers, saying he even called Dinkins to say he was sorry.

"I felt personally insulted and I apologized to him," Bloomberg said.

Giuliani, who got more attention than Bloomberg on the campaign trail, said the media mogul had momentum "for a very positive reason."

"I think all the personal stuff, people are so disgusted with all of that, they just discount it and throw it away," he said.

The mayor even had Bloomberg speak at the opening of the Fire-EMS station on Staten Island, telling reporters he brought the billionaire Republican to the dais "because we're going to campaign together."

Asked if he thought it was proper to allow a candidate to speak at a governmental function, Giuliani said: "Oh, my goodness! Put us in jail."

Giuliani and Bloomberg were joined by Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) at the Staten Island Mall, where the three men ate ice cream, courtesy of the mayor.

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