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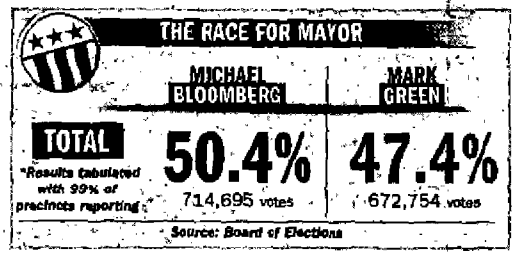
# MIKE BEATS MARK,

## *Billionaire bizman will be 108th mayor*

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**Republican Michael Bloomberg pulled out a historic upset last night, parlaying his billionaire's bankroll and Mayor Giuliani's backing to defeat Democrat Mark Green in a nail-biting battle to be New York's 108th mayor.**

**With 99% of precincts reporting, Bloomberg led Green 50.4% to 47.4%, a margin of 41,941 votes, according to the unofficial tally by the Board of Elections. It will be the first time in more than 100 years that a Republican succeeds a Republican at City Hall.**




A political novice once given little chance to win in a Democratic town, Bloomberg spent more than $50 million of his fortune to win a battered prize: the right to govern a city wounded by the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and facing the worst fiscal crisis since its brush with bankruptcy in the 1970s.

After a seesaw night of vote counting, Green called Bloomberg about 12:15 a.m. to concede.

A half-hour later, as Frank Sinatra's "New York, New York" blared, Bloomberg mounted the stage and addressed roaring supporters at the B.B. King Blues Club in Times Square.

"You know, this may be a blues club, but nobody's singing the blues tonight," he said. Citing the terrorist attacks, the mayor-elect declared that "New York is alive and well and open for business."

Flanked by Giuliani and Gov. Pataki, and reading from a prepared text, Bloomberg added, "What we have to do now is put aside any divisions that separate us . . . look for those things that unite us." He vowed "to put together the best team anybody ever assembled to run City Hall."

### Kudos from shaken Green

Green, appearing tired and crestfallen, addressed shell-shocked supporters at the Sheraton New York in midtown just after 12:30 a.m.

"When a campaign adviser last month told me that no candidate in America had ever won an election being outspent by $45 million, I thought we beat the odds. We did good. Michael Bloomberg did a lot better, and I congratulate him," Green said.

"While I obviously wished the result had been a couple of points different, I have never loved our city more than I have in the last couple of months: It have been moved and touched to watch our city be knocked down, but not out."

With Democrats holding a 5-to-1 registration edge over Republicans, the advantage should have been Green's. Only 10 days ago, polls put him ahead by double digits, and he was planning his transition to City Hall.

But Bloomberg dramatically outspent him on TV ads — many of them harsh attacks — then surged on the strength of Giuliani's endorsement.

And Green faced lingering resentment among Hispanics and blacks who were upset by what they considered racially divisive tactics against Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer in the Democratic primary runoff.

Ferrer, Bronx Democratic boss Roberto Ramirez and the Rev. Al Sharpton sat on their hands in the past week, likely costing Green crucial votes in minority neighborhoods that are Democratic strongholds — a development that surely will lead to angry recriminations over who's to blame.

In contrast to Green's loss, which puts City Hall under Republican control for a third term, Sen. Hillary Clinton beat Rick Lazio 73% to 26% in the city last year, and Al Gore beat President Bush 77% to 19%.

The Sept. 11 attacks may have changed the dynamics of the mayoral race, aiding Green in the primary but hurting him in the general election.

Nearly half the voters yesterday identified the economy as the top issue facing New York. Of this group, far more viewed Bloomberg as more able to manage the city through it.

In a setback for Green, Bloomberg won the Jewish vote, a normally Democratic bloc, and battled Green to a draw among Hispanics, another key group that normally tilts Democratic, according to an exit poll conducted by Edison Media Research and reported by New York 1.

### The stronger leader

In another finding, by a nearly 3 to 1 ratio, voters considered Bloomberg the stronger leader.

Green, the city's public advocate for the last eight years, spent close to $15 million on the campaign.

He began in January as the front-runner, thanks to his high name recognition and work as a watchdog.

But his play-it-safe strategy would haunt him twice.

He let Ferrer pass him in the primary and prevailed in the runoff only with a furious final barrage of attacks. The cost was high: Green's tactics alienated many Hispanics, who would go on to vote for Bloomberg.

### Complacency and panic

Green opened the general election with another large lead and again switched into cruise control.

But after Bloomberg landed Giuliani's endorsement, the businessman surged, and by Sunday he had caught Green in the polls. Green went negative again and in desperation launched an election eve TV ad reprising a 1997 sexual harassment lawsuit — that has since been settled — against the billionaire.

"The Green campaign had two speeds," a Democratic operative said. "Complacent and panic."

Bloomberg entered the campaign with a big bank account, a sparkling résumé and no political experience — a disadvantage that sometimes showed. He

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