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N.Y.'s top Dem puts pre$$ure on nat'l party

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ALBANY — The incoming head of the state Democratic Committee wants the national party to pump significant money into New York to counteract Republican gains reflected in Michael Bloomberg's mayoral election win.

Herman "Denny" Farrell expressed disappointment to The Post that the Democratic National Committee did not fund ads or do more to rattle Republican Bloomberg as Mark Green's mayoral chances slipped away in the election held in the shadows of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Farrell also fears the Democrats will lose ground upstate and could lose the gubernatorial election without help from the national party.

"We had made good inroads against the Republicans, but we could lose that because of Sept. 11," he said. "We must not let that happen."

In the mayor's race, with Democrat Green at one point boasting a 15-point edge, Farrell said the DNC "thought we were crying wolf when we said we need more money."

"As it turned out, it was a mistake," he said. "We want to make sure it doesn't happen again that way."

Since Sept. 11, Gov. Pataki's approval rating has soared, and polls show he would easily beat both Democrats vying for the gubernatorial nomination — state Comptroller Carl McCall and former U.S. Housing Secretary Andrew Cuomo.

Pataki, who has indicated he intends to run for a third term, already has $12 million in the bank and is expected to raise as much as $40 million.



HERMAN FARRELL
Wants funds for gov race.

Cuomo and McCall each had just under $4 million in their war chests when they last filed disclosure reports in July.

Farrell, a longtime assemblyman who is scheduled to be elected state committee chairman tomorrow by Democratic leaders, wouldn't say how much New York will need from the national party.

He conceded that having two candidates battling each other in a primary will be a drain on Democratic resources. But unlike his predecessor, Judith Hope, Farrell has no plans to ask either McCall or Cuomo to drop out.

DNC spokeswoman Maria Cardonia said that while no amount has been set, the national party sees New York's gubernatorial election as a "priority."

It's not the first time the state party has complained about being overlooked by the national party.

In 1998, Hope ripped into the DNC and President Clinton for siphoning funds from New York's major donors for national candidates. She asked the DNC to share the bounty or stay out of New York.

The DNC ultimately sent some money to New York that year.

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