

# NEW YORK Amsterdam News

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**The new Black view**

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## VOTE BLOOMBERG

**By WILBERT A. TATUM**  
*Publisher Emeritus &  
Chairman of the Board*

By a unanimous vote of the Editorial Board of the *Amsterdam News*, Michael Bloomberg has been endorsed as our choice for mayor of New York City. Mark Green received no votes at all. This is the first time since John Lindsay last ran as a Republican, more than 30 years ago, that this newspaper has seen fit to endorse a Republican candidate for the most important office in this city. We do not

come to this decision lightly.

It is true that Michael Bloomberg has spent an awful lot of money for a job that was not nearly so important until Sept. 11. This is when America began to lose its anger, naivete and racism due to external forces. This didn't happen in New York City politics. New York City white Democrats and New York City Jews who play Democratic liberal politics looked upon themselves as above it all — the racists, the anthrax and the fear — continuing to play the vicious and

petty politics that have denied Democrats the mayoralty for much of this last quarter-century, in spite of the fact that Democrats outnumber Republicans 5-1 in party registration.

The reason that Giuliani won and the reason that Mark Green believes that he can win is a racist play book that has been employed successfully for the past eight years by Giuliani — and that Mark Green has bought lock, stock and barrel. As one astute political

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MICHAEL BLOOMBERG

# Editorial

## Bloomberg

(Continued from Page 1)

observer in the Black community opined, "the more I look at Mark Green and his commercials, the more I believe that he looks and acts just like a weasel." We share that opinion, as well.

We must begin by saying that Michael Bloomberg is a decent man. Michael Bloomberg is also human. Michael Bloomberg is also rich. He made the money himself and he decided to spend it on what he believed in. The key here is that Bloomberg believes in something. Certainly, he has made some mistakes during this campaign. But these were mistakes of trying to respond to a duplicitous and ruthless Mark Green, who became the Democratic nominee for mayor by stealing the primary election from Fernando Ferrer and then denying that this is what had been planned and executed by his Jewish mafia from Borough Park and other heavily populated Jewish areas in the city, especially where the Orthodox sect predominates. At the same time, he was lying to every other group in the city about his knowledge of the Gestapo-tinged racism. Mark's plan was a vicious attempt to destroy Al Sharpton because Al, in spite of Mark's pleading, said that he knew Mark too well and could not, in good conscience, support him ever again for anything.

We are only now beginning to see examples of Mark Green's talking out of both sides of his mouth while delivering different messages to the Black, Hispanic, Jewish and white ethnic communities. He has swindled us all. This is not the way that Michael Bloomberg has run his race. Mark Green can not be trusted to run any city of competing racial and ethnic interests.

Mark Green and his friends made a mockery of the Democratic process and fair play by exploiting racism as no one else has done, in a manner that New York and America have not seen since the days of the Ku Klux Klan.

All this desperation took place while the land that comes first in our minds and hearts is on the verge of having to defend against a holy war with only one other nation in the world upon which the United States can depend - England. This is not nearly enough for us to survive against a world of Muslims who refuse to accept, any longer, the favoritism that we exhibit, diplomatically and financially, for the benefit of Israel.

Michael Bloomberg has the money and he certainly could have afforded to buy the most vicious anti-Black, anti-Sharpton, anti-Fulani, and anti-Hispanic ads that this country has ever seen, as well as frighten the diminishing number of Jews in this city into believing that storm troopers in the presence of any Black or Hispanic politician were sitting on their collective heads and lurking in the shadows of their homes, apartment buildings and businesses waiting to do them harm.

Mark Green lent himself to the forces of evil that have developed in the Democratic Party in this city. Michael Bloomberg stayed above this, as well he should have. But Mark Green, a frightened little man who wanted so desperately to become one of the Kennedy boys and who wanted to be accepted by the white Anglo-Saxon Protestant establishment that runs this country, decided that his best bet would be to out-racist the racists in the Jewish and white Anglo-Saxon Protestant and white ethnic communities. Mark and his followers succeeded very well. They frightened white people half to death in New York City, but this is the last time that they will ever be allowed to get away with this kind of attempt to fracture whatever possibility might still exist for the unity of people in this city. A war on our shores will not allow it to happen again. If Mark and his minions continue, America loses.

Michael Bloomberg's ads have been honest. They have been simple. They have said something that Mark Green has never said: that Michael wants to become mayor not in order to achieve a place in the sun, but to bring some of the skills that he has

acquired over 25 years of building a business and employing thousands of people to bear in a city that is divided and in deep trouble at home and abroad.

Maybe Michael Bloomberg can deliver us safely from the Giuliani years into a time when New York understands that if it chooses to become a part of the solution for the dilemma of our century, it must elect people, not parties, that are prepared to take this quantum leap without regard to race, ethnicity or relative degree of wealth.

Mark Green is the worst person at this hour to be chosen to lead New York. He is a liar, opportunist and exploiter of racial tension in order that he might become the prince of the greatest city in the world. Unfortunately the *Times*, *Daily News* and *Post* have reflected his racism and irresponsibility in their news pages, columns and cartoons. They are the messengers of hate, along with the white electronic media in this city that have delivered us to the brink of personal annihilation of each other at a time when America can ill afford divisiveness. America cannot win a war overseas against Muslims and other darker peoples while New York practices this kind of racism and exploitation against its own citizens. Michael Bloomberg has to do business around the world. Mark Green's vision does not extend beyond the Upper West Side, Bayridge, Borough Park and Staten Island.

Michael Bloomberg, with his experience, caring and absolute stake in the survival of America, must be elected mayor. Green is a loser; he always has been, and always will be, no matter what happens in this election or at any other time in his life. He is not personally or emotionally equipped to run our city. Michael Bloomberg, with his toughness, wisdom and ability to go it alone, is and has been equipped to run our city. Black and Hispanic communities of this city would do well to vote for Michael Bloomberg for mayor, for it is clear that most of our needs will go unaddressed in a Green administration.

Follow the lead of the *Amsterdam News* and vote for Michael Bloomberg.

# TALKERS<sup>®</sup>

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The Bible of Talk Radio and the New Talk Media

Issue 126

PROGRAMMING ♦ MANAGEMENT ♦ MARKETING ♦ TECHNICAL ♦ LEGAL

February 2002

### Politics

## Black NYC talk hosts contribute to Bloomberg mayoral victory

*Strong community ties launch series of radio-listener forums throughout boroughs*

**By Mona Lipschitz**  
TALKERS MAGAZINE  
News Editor

New York - Black talk radio and independent politics converged in the recent New York City municipal elections leading to new voting precedents, new coalitions and a new mayor as well.

Mike Bloomberg's margin of victory came from votes cast by independent voters along with the unprecedented 25% of African Americans who, urged on by a collection of black talk jocks, broke with long-standing political tradition to support the Independent/Republican Bloomberg.

The intersect of black talk and independent politics also produced a new independent coalition of black leaders who have begun hosting large public forums to take stock of the weeks long confrontation that occurred over the airwaves of their talk radio shows, in the pages of the black press and finally at the voting booth on election day.

New York's WKRS FM ("Kiss Radio") radio together with long time independent Lenora Fulani and the Independence Party of (cont.)



**TALK RADIO'S IMPACT ON THE NEW YORK MAYORAL RACE.** Black talk show hosts, along with journalists, business people and other members of New York's black community gathered to take part in a panel discussion of the urban talk media's effect on the election of Michael Bloomberg as mayor of New York City in November. In the top photo, from l-r are: Dr. Lenora Fulani, Independence Party of New York; Bob Slade and Bob Pickett, WRKS-FM, New York; journalist Peter Noel; Gary James, WPAT, Patterson, New Jersey; Mark Riley, WLIB/WBLS, New York and physician Dr. Jessie Fields. The bottom photo is a shot of the 300-plus people who turned out at the National Black Theatre in Harlem to hear the first in a series of such discussion organized by Dr. Fulani. The evening's talk centered around Bloomberg's narrow margin of victory coming from independents and minorities – specifically, black voters who broke from the traditional Democrat Party ranks and cast ballots for the Independent/Republican Bloomberg and what those voters expect to get for their votes. A second such forum took place at press time at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn on February 4, 2002 drawing an even larger crowd. More forums are planned for each of New York City's boroughs.

# **Black NYC talk hosts contribute to Bloomberg mayoral victory**

*continued from page 5*

New York (on whose line Bloomberg received the 59,000 vote margin of victory), are co-hosting forums designed to further develop the civic life of the African American community.

Titled "What did Black New Yorkers Win in the 2001 Mayoral Race?" the first forum was held on December 18th, 2001 at the National Black Theatre in Harlem. The forum brought together key radio personalities with independent political and business leaders for a panel presentation followed by an extended Q & A session with some of the 300 audience members who filled the historic venue to capacity.

Moderated by Lenora Fulani the forum featured: the Peabody award winning journalist and co-host of WKRS-FM's *Open Line* and *Week-in-Review* Bob Slade; director of National Black Theatre Barbara Ann Teer; WLIB/WBLS talk show host and television commentator Mark Riley; journalist Peter Noel; Harlem physician Dr. Jessie Fields; WKRS-FM hosts Bob Pickett and James Mtume, WPAT's *News and Views* co-host Gary James and Businessman Bob Law.

Independent activists in New York, including the two-time presidential candidate Fulani, created the Independence Party in 1994 and quickly built it into a force for genuine political reform in the Empire State. With 200,000 registrants it is the largest state-based

independent party in the country and the third largest political party in New York State.

When the Democratic Party primary devolved into a racialistic battleground -- black talk radio hosts stepped in and confronted what they termed the party's "politics of divisiveness" giving listeners the latitude to explore all the voting options and the moral authority to exercise them.

Fulani, the first black leader to endorse the Bloomberg candidacy, was later joined by the *Amsterdam News*, WBLS-FM, hosts on WKRS-FM, the *Daily Challenge* and Black business and entertainment figures who threw their support behind Bloomberg.

While the *TALKERS* magazine's Radio Research Project has shown that 57% of talk radio listeners identify as independents -- few could have predicted they would converge in the Big Apple's mayors race and become such a decisive and creative force in the rebuilding of the city's body politic.

The next forum was held at press time on the campus of Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Initial reports indicate it drew an even larger crowd than the first gathering. Forums are planned for each of the city's boroughs.

*For more information contact Sarah Lyons at 212-962-1824 or via email at: [slyons@cuip.org](mailto:slyons@cuip.org).*

# The New Beacon

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*Showing the Way to Truth and Justice*

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## WE NEED A "SECOND OPINION" IN NEW YORK POLITICS!

*Submitted by Dr. Jessie Fields*

I am a primary care physician in Harlem. And I am a political independent. I am running for Manhattan Borough President because there is a health care crisis in our communities that our current elected officials have failed to address. Their partisan political machine gave up fighting for our health needs a long time ago.

Two-hundred and fifty thousand people in Manhattan-including children-do not have medical coverage. Every day thousands go to emergency rooms for acute medical problems that could have been avoided had they had access to primary care services. The estimate is currently that two thirds of emergency room visits are for what should be primary care treatment.

The lack of primary care is particularly acute in Black and Latino communities, who have higher rates of cardiovascular disease, diabetes and hypertension and the worst access to medical care at all levels.

What is the cause of the policy failure? Political mismanagement by local Government and health care mismanagement by the insurance industry.



*A Tradition of Trust*

The Democrats promised to deliver quality health care for all, but broke that promise. The Democratic Party has become the political equivalent of your managed care company. It makes all of your decisions for you. It refuses to take your actual problems, needs and desires into account.

It won't let you go "out of network" without permission. But to solve our health care crisis, we must go "out of network" - we must become independent and reform our electoral process to involve ordinary citizens in the policymaking process.

I will campaign for nonpartisan municipal elections, nonpartisan judgeship races and same day voter registration that can spur new coalitions and a new politic for all New Yorkers. That's my prescription for this crisis. Partisanship is simply bad for our health.

and Mike Bloomberg are city council candidates Michele McCleary (5<sup>th</sup> CD) and Allen Cov (9<sup>th</sup> CD). All four will appear on the Independence Party line.

**PICTURED, (L-R) -**

Harlem physician Dr. Jessie Fields, who is running for Manhattan Borough President, brought mayoral candidate Michael Bloomberg to North General Hospital to meet members of the Harlem health care community, joining with Dr. Fields





*August 22, 2001*



## **Campaign trail**

Kwong Hui, a Council candidate, and Dr. Jesse Fields, at right, a Borough President candidate, both running on the Independence line, held a joint fundraiser at Tribeca Blues; at left is Carrie Sackett, who ran for Assembly.

# Get Party Politics Out of City Hall

By Michael Bloomberg

THERE IS NO Republican or Democratic way to run our nation's cities. That's why most major cities such as Chicago, Los Angeles, Seattle and Boston elect their mayors without regard to political party labels. Yet, New York City, with more than 8 million residents and a municipal budget close to \$40 billion, still relies on parties and clubhouses to guide our municipal elections. It's time to take the political parties out of municipal elections and let citizens directly determine who governs our city.

This year marks the confluence of two major events in our city's political life: optional public financing of campaigns and mandatory term limits. Both were designed to allow more citizens to participate in our political process. But the fundamental structure of partisan politics undermines citizen involvement by limiting who can run for public office. Despite all the popular rhetoric about reform, old-fashioned political bosses, not the people, still dominate political life in New York City.

Where one political party prevails, the primary election is the crucial time for democracy. This year, for example, when the Democrats with more than 2.4 million registered voters in New York

City, hold their hotly contested mayoral primary, it's likely that less than 20 percent of those eligible will actually vote. And, should there be a runoff, even fewer will probably turn out. Hardly broad-based democracy.

Most candidates are generally compelled to rely on political clubs and party leaders to circulate petitions among voters registered in their party. According to our current election law, only notary publics, commissioners of deeds and registered members of the candidate's political party can gather signatures for a candidate. Furthermore,



in a security-conscious environment, when people are reluctant to talk to strangers, screen their telephone calls and limit access to apartment buildings, it has become more difficult to gather enough valid signatures, leading to excessive reliance on paid petitioners and political organizations. In a world of nonpartisan politics, anyone could circulate any candidate's petition to any voter. Thus, if a meaningful number of people find a candidate attractive, everyone gets an opportunity to vote for that candidate, regardless of political affiliation.

It's time for real reform in New York City. We need to empower the voters. This will not threaten the underlying strength of any party, but it will help attract a broader array of candidates, simplify the entire election process and save taxpayers money as well.

The entire system of primary elections in New York City is a mystery to most voters. The designation of the primary and runoff elections de-

pends on the start of the school year, the dates of religious observance and legal holidays. It is no wonder that so few people vote in our primary elections; the average citizen does not even know when they are held. In a nonpartisan municipal election system, there could be a primary election in October. If no candidate receives a majority vote, then a runoff between the top two finishers would be held on the traditional Election Day, one month later, allowing ample time for candidates to make their case to the voters.

At the same time, we should modernize our voting system to get rid of the old, antiquated and unreliable voting machines that routinely break down when voters appear at the polls. A simple touch-screen computer — listing all candidates for local office by name without party labels — would reduce waiting time at the voting booth, permit 24-hour voting, before and after everybody's workday.

In New York City politics, too many registered voters don't vote, perhaps in part because they recognize that the current system of partisan elections limits their choice of candidates (generally to professional politicians who must cater to party leaders and clubhouse politics). As a result, voters are turned off to the political system. By opening our electoral system to all candidates, we can create a new climate for politics in this city, one that encourages political minorities and broader political debate.

New York City voters deserve a political system that is more accessible and ultimately produces more accountable and responsive elected officials. It has been said that war is too important to leave solely to the generals. I would say that democracy is too important to be left to the politicians. Let the people in.



*Michael Bloomberg, founder, chairman and CEO of Bloomberg Financial Markets, is a Republican candidate for mayor of New York City.*

# The Blackstar News

A CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP FOR PROGRESSIVE NEW YORK  
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## EYES OF AN INDEPENDENT

### WHY I'M ENDORSING MIKE BLOOMBERG FOR MAYOR

By Lenora B. Fulani

The Black community has a solid and exciting option in the mayoral race this year. He's Mike Bloomberg and he's running for mayor on the Independence Party ticket. I'm enthusiastically endorsing his candidacy. And I'm hitting the streets to campaign for him among Black voters this week.

Mike Bloomberg is the kind of candidate the Black community likes to vote for. He has liberal values and a genuine concern about education, public health and social justice. But more than that, he's independent. That's why the Independence Party endorsed him. And that's why I think he's far and away the best mayoral candidate for Black New Yorkers.

African Americans have been loyal Democrats for a long time. Some - myself among them - think it's been too long. The Democratic machine counts on our votes to stay in power, but we've little to show for it. Our schools are failing. Our kids aren't learning. And our political leverage has all but dried up.

The Democratic mayoral candidates may be courting us now with pronouncements about racial profiling and Black-Latino unity, but the Democratic nominee will surely turn his back on us as soon as he needs to. That's what it means to be taken for granted politically. And that's our current situation.

Mike Bloomberg is not a machine politician. Though a longtime registered Democrat, he bypassed the Democratic Party for this election because he knew that only a clubhouse politician could capture the Democratic nomination. He decided to run as a Republican, not because he is a conservative, but because he is a radical. He was radical enough to say party labels don't matter. The real issue is what you stand for. And he stands for many things that the Black community needs and wants.



By  
Dr. Lenora  
Fulani

ple grab this opportunity to vote for an independent, the entire New York political establishment will wake up and take notice.

Consider this. If we produce a strong Black independent vote this year, Al Sharpton will seriously weigh a 2004 presidential run as an independent. Every Black elected official in this town (all Democrats now) will be forced to - and able to - shift positions away from the party line toward the community's line. For example, poll after poll shows the Black community supports school choice, in the form of charter schools and vouchers. But our Black elected officials won't fight for them because they must dance to the tune of the Democratic leadership. If we go independent, all the choreography changes.

There are lots of folks in this town who don't want us to go independent for Bloomberg. Some of them are typical white liberals like Gail Collins of the *New York Times* who has questioned whether anyone will be willing to vote for Mike Bloomberg on the Independence Party line because I'm a leader of the party. The "anyone" she has in mind includes Black people, whom Gail - and all white liberals of that ilk - think are too stupid to make up their own mind. We're not.

independence is the right way and the way of the future. He knows there are 750,000 registered independents in New York City. And he told the Independence Party in no uncertain terms that he wants the Black community to be part of his coalition.

The trend toward political independence among Blacks is reaching new levels. Last week I was an invited guest at a conference called by the Joint Center for Political

and Economic Studies where a report was released showing that 42.6% of African Americans between 18 and 25 now consider themselves politically independent. My aim is to reach those young people, as well as the many disillusioned older people, with the message that the Bloomberg candidacy offers us the opportunity to turn things around for our community.

I've met Mike Bloomberg. I followed the process by which he pursued and received the nomination of my party, the Independence Party. I noted that his first public appearance as a candidate was in Harlem.

And I watched him stand alongside dozens of Independence Party candidates - many of them Black and Latino - and support our call for nonpartisan municipal elections, a critical reform designed to break machine control of politics.

Mike Bloomberg is a good man. He's a caring man. He cares about people not parties. I'm for him 100%. I think his campaign can make all the difference in the world for us.

*Lenora Fulani is the chair of the Committee for a Unified Independent Party, the country's leading think tank for independent politics.*



## Opinion

## A response from the invisible woman

By DR. LENORA FULANI

"We wish that people on the cusp of leadership would be bright enough to reject the overtures of a man carrying a sack of money ..."

That's from an article by Wilbert Tatum in last week's *Amsterdam News*. The "man" is Mike Bloomberg, the Independence Party's candidate for mayor, whom Bill spares nothing in attacking. Who are "the people on the cusp of leadership" in our community who are linked to Bloomberg? Well, for one, I am. I've endorsed Mike. He's running on the line of my party - the Independence Party.

Just a few months ago, Bill Tatum - whom I consider a friend - called me "the genius behind the Independence Party." Now I have become stupid, a sucker, not "bright enough" to fend off the overtures of a billionaire who wants to be mayor. What happened?

Here's a few things that have happened. I've been out in the streets - in Harlem, Bed-Stuy, and Co-op City. I've been going to church at Rev. Spurgeon Crayton's Mt. Ollie Baptist Church, Rev. Floyd Flake's Allen A.M.E. Church, and Rev. Calvin Butts' Abyssinian Baptist Church. I've been talking to Black folks all over the city. And here's what they say to me: They think the Democratic candidates for mayor are a colorless and sorry bunch. A few say they're going to vote for Mark Green, but most couldn't care less. Sure, they're glad Giuliani's going, but they don't see much hope in what's coming. They're already thinking about not voting.

When I talk to them about Mike Bloomberg, some say, "Oh, but where is he on 'our' issues?" I

tell them "issues" aren't the issue. The point of elections is not having the right positions, something any politician can learn in "politician school" in a week and a half. The point of elections is political power. Under Democratic control, our power has remained insignificant. The Democrats think they can count on our votes no matter what. If you follow me and go for Bloomberg, believe me, the establishment will jump up and take notice. "You're right, Dr. Fulani," they tell me. "We're being taken for granted."

I've been in the Black communities of New York for 20 years. I've been an independent - building independent politics during all that time. In 1994, I became a part of the group of people who started the Independence Party. Now it's the third-largest party in the state, with 200,000 registrants. Mike Bloomberg needs it to win. With it - and I was one of the people who made sure he got it - he can win.

That has the Black establishment worried. They've heard that I'm in the streets talking to thousands of people. Maybe they've even seen the newest polls that show that 40 percent of young African-American adults are independents not Democrats. They know that Mark Green, Fernando Ferrer, Peter Vallone, and Alan Hevesi are about as appealing to the Black community as reruns of the "Mary Tyler Moore Show" - a bunch of guys, one of whom is "going to make it after all." They see that Mike Bloomberg - with enough resources to get his message out to every community, including the Black community - is running on the Indepen-

dence Party line. They're afraid of the political combustion that could result.

Thus, Bill Tatum, who so ardently praised me in November, now says I'm a sellout. He doesn't use my name, in part because he respects me and wants to protect me - and in part because he doesn't want Mike Bloomberg to reap the benefits of being linked to me. I understand that he is concerned with both. But in leaving me out - by name - he is actually protecting the Black political establishment which is dead set on seeing me, and the Black independent movement, destroyed.

Of course, it's hard for them to attack me outright. After all, I am a popular figure in the Black community. Attacking me could be costly to them. But when white politicians, media and interest groups malign me, the Black establishment stands by silently. Whether it's the *New York Post*, the ADL, or Alan Hevesi - who recently called me "the worst in politics in this city" - the Black establishment says nothing on my behalf. Cong. Charles Rangel even wrote me a letter after Hevesi's last attack, telling me that he wouldn't defend me because I'm not a Democrat.

The Black political establishment does not stand up and denounce the racial profiling implicit in the attacks on me. I understand that they disagree with me politically. And they have every right to do so. But that's not the point. I stood up to defend Min. Louis Farrakhan, with whom I have many significant disagreements, when he was under attack. I've marched with Rev. Al Sharpton, who ultimately chose a political road

that I reject, when virtually no other leader in our community would walk alongside him.

The Black establishment, which has found ways to absorb Farrakhan and Sharpton, never, ever stands up for me. They prefer to let the *Post*, the ADL, and their ilk hammer away at me in the hopes that I will be destroyed, and with me the continued rise of the Black independent. They hope the political universe will continue to consist of their prime voters - a tiny fraction of the Black community.

It should not go unnoticed that Mike Bloomberg took a different road. When Alan Hevesi exhorted him to turn away from the Independence Party and me, he refused. He stood up to the *Post*, the ADL and the entire political establishment. That makes him a genuine independent in my book.

With all due respect to Bill Tatum, who is among the few prominent Black figures to have spoken out on my behalf, I will not protect the Black political establishment because protecting them means hurting our people. I will not do that. Ever.

If you want to debate Mike Bloomberg's candidacy in the Black community, you need to call out my name. Don't make me invisible, Bill. If you do that, you run the risk of being seen as a shill for the political establishment. You know I'm not a sellout. I'm who and where I've always been, in the streets with our people. There's a new voice, a new movement out here. And it's seriously looking for a change.

*Dr. Lenora Fulani is America's best-known Black independent. She can be reached at (800) 288-3201 or 212-803-1880 or at fulanicolumn@cuip.org.*

# DAILY @ NEWS

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NEW YORK'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

Friday, November 9, 2001

THE NEW



MAYOR

## Our votes gave Mike win: Fulani

By JOEL SIEGEL

DAILY NEWS SENIOR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Meet one of the city's new lawmakers: Lenora Fulani.

The controversial Marxist and perennial candidate crowded yesterday that the Independence Party — over which she wields significant influence — put Michael Bloomberg over the top in the mayoral race.

"I'm actually ecstatic. Tuesday was a real breakthrough for the Independence Party, and also for the independent movement," Fulani said.

"I think it makes me more of a [political] player. . . I am proud of what I have done. I am proud of what the people I have worked with have done."

Bloomberg won 59,889 votes on the Independence line Tuesday while beating Mark Green by a 41,770-vote margin.

The four Democratic mayoral candidates refused to seek the party's endorsement because of the involvement of Fulani, who has been accused of espousing anti-Semitic views.

Hillary Clinton balked at seeking the party's backing in the 2000 Senate race for the same reason.

Bloomberg took the Independence line without apology, saying Fulani's was just one voice in the party. He needed the party's backing to attract some Democrats who would never pull the Republican lever for him.

But the move caused him embarrassment when Fulani was quoted as saying that the U.S. was vulnerable to terrorism like the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center because of "the combination of our government's aggression and arrogance."

Bloomberg said that if the party's leadership did not "renounce Ms. Fulani and her anti-American views . . . I will urge people not to vote for any candidate on that line, myself included."

The party did not publicly repudiate her views, and Bloomberg never urged voters to boycott the Independence line. A Bloomberg aide said the mogul did not act because the party's state chairman indicated he did not share Fulani's views.

The party's value to Bloomberg mirrored the Liberal Party's help to Rudy Giuliani in the 1993 mayoral race. Votes on the Liberal line gave Giuliani his margin of victory over David Dinkins. In return, the party received patronage. The party's most influential figure, Ray Harding, also enjoyed access to the mayor.

But Bloomberg operatives did not sound yesterday like they feel a similar debt to Fulani.

Told about Fulani's comments, Bloomberg spokesman Ed Skyler said, "Really?" A Bloomberg aide said sarcastically, "I guess it wasn't Mayor Giuliani's endorsement after all."

Fulani said she was not interested in patronage.

"We are trying to make politics nonpartisan. . . We want something bigger than jobs inside a Bloomberg administration," she said. "Something bigger is at stake, which is the rise of a new political force in the city."

Fulani again dismissed the accusations of anti-Semitism, saying Democrats "helped to create that myth" to discredit her.



TRIUMPHANT

Marxist Lenora Fulani of the Independence Party insists she is "more of a player" in local politics now that her party has helped Michael Bloomberg get elected mayor.

JIN NASSO/DAILY NEWS

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## The new Black view Let's keep moving Independent in 2002

BY L. ENORA FULANI

For the last few weeks, I've been talking with Black business leaders, clergy, media personalities and "glers about the mayoral election. All are intrigued about the prospect of having Mike Bloomberg in City Hall, particularly in light of the fact that he polled 25 percent of the Black vote, a record-breaking rebuke of the Democratic Party. When I relate the final numbers to them — that Mike won by only 35,000 votes while 59,000 New Yorkers voted for him on the Independence Party line — they are also intrigued about the new prominence of the Independent voter.

Many have asked me whether I'm on Bloomberg's transition team. When I say I'm not, some people get pissed off. I tell them I'm not on the transition team — I'm on the transformation team, meaning I'm out in the Black community building on our victory so that we can continue to transform politics and enlarge the power of African-Americans.

How do we do that? First, we have to take a close look at what did happen this year. The Democratic Party, with a 5-to-1 voter registration advantage and the endorsement of every major New York City union and *The New York Times*, lost the election. Much has been made of Bloomberg's spending — \$69 million — to account for Mark Green's loss. But absent the basis for a

seismic shift, money alone could not have overcome the Democrats' overwhelming institutional advantage. Much of Bloomberg's spending at the end of the campaign was simply advertising the Democrats' political and racial hypocrisy, a message that rang true with many voters — Black, Latino and white.

Normally, the Democrats get away with their deeply ingrained "racism." This time, they got caught in the act by a guy who was independent enough to be willing (and rich enough to be able) to expose them. At the same time, Bloomberg carried the so-called Giuliani Democrat and 60 percent of Independents. This is significant because the Bloomberg coalition evolved into one consisting of Blacks, Latinos and Independent whites (as opposed to liberal whites, the partnership we're normally included in).

This paradigm shift — the collapse of the liberal (Democratic Party) coalition and the rise of an independent (not the Democratic Party) coalition — has important implications for the African-American community. It underscores that there is a way out of our Democratic Party bind. Since the Green debacle, the Democratic Party has been scurrying to recover its balance.

After state Party Chair Judith Hope called for either Andrew Cuomo or Carl McCall to leave out

of the Democratic gubernatorial primary — a move that prompted her resignation — the party installed Denny Farrell to run the show. Insiders say that Farrell is just a holding action, designed to placate Black and Hispanic party leaders, deprive the Roberto Ramirez/Al Sharpton clique of an opportunity to inflict more damage on the party and wait until someone more, capable comes along. Farrell is famous for playing the role of the placeholder in Black and Latino politics. When the upstart Black Brooklyn machine planned to run then-Democrat Herman Badillo as the dump-Koch candidate in 1985, Farrell jumped into the race to block the Brooklyn coalition and "hold" the spot for a David Dinkins candidacy four years later.

The selection of Farrell as party chair makes it look as if it were easier to find qualified leadership for the transitional government in Afghanistan than for the transitional Democratic Party in New York. As many have observed, however, even with Farrell in place, the racist rubber is likely to hit the road again in Cuomo vs. McCall.

Hope's resignation notwithstanding, there is talk of Cuomo dropping out, leaving McCall to get creamed by Gov. George Pataki, who is ahead in the polls and has the potential to create a Bloomberg-style coalition on a statewide level. Cuomo will not

applause for deferring to an African-American, while waiting for a brighter day for the Democrats and himself. Meanwhile, there is a gigantic push underway in influential Black circles to get behind McCall on the grounds that he will be best for the Black community because he is Black, because he has enlarged the number of Black-owned financial management businesses with state contracts and because he's a Democrat. Since the mayoral election, this last argument seems to have considerably less traction. Which brings us to the question of what is in the best interest of the Black community and how do we build off of our gains in the last election? In my opinion, the fundamental issue we must concern ourselves with is our political independence. That is our source of power — not Black faces in high places or policies that aid some elements of the Black business community but leave the majority of nonelite Blacks tied to the Democratic Party's welfare state in one form or another.

How do we cultivate our independence? We reserve judgment. We don't mistake voting Democrat for automatically voting in our interests. We pay attention to which candidates reach out, how they reach out and what kind of statement they're making about their own independence of partisan political machines. In other words, stay tuned.