

VC win ould boost iliani's ure plans

... (AP) — Election Day
... end of one campaign for
... Rudolph Giuliani — and
... the beginning of another.
... Republican mayor is heavily
... to win re-election Tuesday,
... knockout victory here in one of
... his Democratic strongholds
... must him into his party's na-
... spotlight. Already, there's spec-
... about his political future.
... says face it: Republicans aren't
... ontrolled to win in New York City."
... he wada DiVall, a Republican pol-
... dowed outside Washington in
... ia, Va. "My sense is there are
... ll the 20 or 25 players who are go-
... State talked about in terms of the
... o crucial sweepstakes, and a very
... from win in New York would
... main into that pack."
... and discourages talk about his
... e beyond Election Day, when
... fourt he will trounce Democ-
... from Messinger to gain a second,
... d rterm in one of the most lop-
... T victories by a Republican in city
... ball "can't rule out options in the
... opt he said last week.
... show he carries 60 percent of the
... mo esday, in a city with a 5-1 De-
... vobic registration edge, "he be-
... important. That becomes a
... significant Republican win,"
... r fur m Rath, a member of the Re-
... vbo m National Committee from
... exce mpshire. "He sort of comes
... stall ybody's radar screen."
... U h former mob-busting federal
... al. ector has gained flattering
... ost an over the past couple of
... f. "V New York's plunging crime
... ll and burnished image.
... But besides the possibility of a
... ridic House or vice presidential
... body's 2000, supporters mention
... th d as an attractive prospect
... wide races, such as the U.S.
... h th seat held by Democrat
... don P. Moynihan, which will be
... ecau d that year.

Clinton reaches out to candidates

Democrats get last-minute help from president to make up for financial gap

EDISON, N.J. (AP) — Three days before a handful of closely watched off-year elections, President Clinton hit the campaign stump Sunday to help Democrats in New York and New Jersey who have seen little or no financial help from the debt-choked national party.



FILE PHOTO/ASSOCIATED PRESS
President Bill Clinton began rallying support Sunday for Democrats in New York and New Jersey.

Absent competitive ad campaigns, the underdog Democrats were counting on presidential star power, vilification of the Republicans and voter turnout to carry them in Tuesday's elections.

"Make sure you show up, and drag three or four of your friends along," the president told about 1,500 people who braved a gray, damp day to see Clinton and congressional candidate Eric Vitaliano in Staten Island, N.Y.

Vitaliano's race, gubernatorial contests in New Jersey and Virginia, and the long-shot bid of Democrat Ruth Messinger to unseat New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani — each could give the Democratic Party a huge political boost going into the 1998 midterm election season and its bid to reclaim control of Congress.

"You can send a signal to the rest of the country about the direction that we have to take," Clinton told voters in New Jersey, where Jim McGreevey is fighting to topple Republican incumbent Christine Todd Whitman.

But even as Clinton campaigned Sunday after a \$3 mil-

lion fund-raising weekend retreat in Florida for the Democratic National Committee, the party's lingering \$15 million debt from 1996 has forced Democrats into decidedly underdog roles in this year's races.

"I ain't got no money," was the refrain of one blues song played before Clinton and McGreevey took the stage Sunday.

What the party has not been able to do financially, it has tried to make up for with personal appearances by its top stars.

In New Jersey, perhaps the Democrats' most winnable of the four races, Clinton and his wife, Hillary, and Vice President Al Gore and his wife, Tipper, have all campaigned for McGreevey.

His contest remains fairly competitive, but in Vitaliano's race and in the Virginia gubernatorial bid of Democrat Don Beyer, previously tight races opened considerably in favor of GOP candidates in recent weeks after the Republican National Committee poured millions of dollars into ads Democrats could not match.

Dole urges GOP to consider woman candidate

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Republican Party should consider putting a woman on its 2000 ticket as a way of closing the gender gap, former presidential candidate Bob Dole said Sunday. He volunteered his wife Elizabeth as one of the best possible candidates.

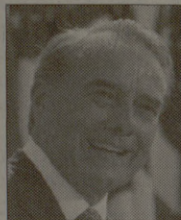
Dole, who was defeated by President Clinton in his run for the White House in 1996, told NBC's "Meet the Press" that "I've still got one chance to get there, if Elizabeth runs."

"She hasn't asked me, but I think she is certainly qualified," Dole said of his wife, who has served as secretary of the Labor and Transportation departments and currently heads the American Red Cross.

"And if we are going to close the gender gap in the Republican Party, we ought to think about a woman on the ticket in the year 2000."

Dole said there are other qualified Republican women but that his wife "would be a very serious candidate."

Political polls show that while men generally support the Republican Party over the Democrats by about 10 percentage points, women back the Democratic Party by about the same margin. Polls have also shown Re-



Dole

publican voters list Mrs. Dole, along with Colin Powell and Jack Kemp, as among their favorite choices to head the 2000 ticket.

Dole said he had joked to his wife that "all I wanted was a car and a driver if she gets elected, and a beeper. In case somebody leaves me behind, I want to be able to phone in."

Dole also revealed that shortly before the 1996 election, independent candidate Ross Perot indicated he would throw his support behind Dole, but within hours changed his mind.

"He told me on the phone, that I think we can work this out ... and I called him back about three hours later, he had a totally different attitude, he had changed his mind completely."

"I think he probably cost us one state maybe, maybe a couple of others, so it did make a difference because as we looked at it about seven out of 10 votes that Perot got would have gone to us, states like Kentucky and one or two others could have gone to us."

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