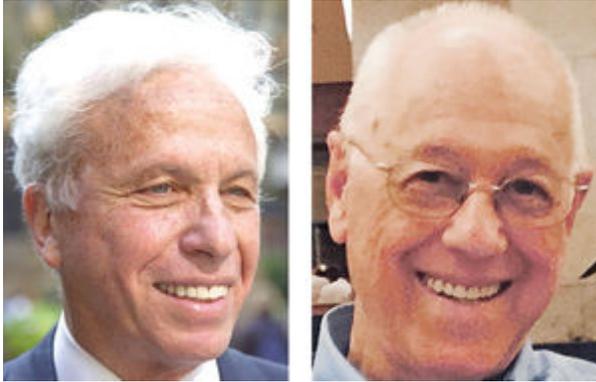


Former pols to talk presidential race

Mark Green, Alan Hevesi to appear at Central Y in Forest Hills on Sept. 27



COURTESY PHOTOS
Former politicians Mark Green, left, and Alan Hevesi will be at the Central Queens Y in Forest Hills next week to discuss the 2016 presidential elections.

by David Schneier, Chronicle Contributor

Two veteran politicians — former Public Advocate Mark Green and former city and state Comptroller Alan Hevesi—will give their takes on this year's unusual presidential election at the Central Queens Y in Forest Hills on Sept. 27.

Mark Green was public advocate from 1993 to 2001, and the first to ever hold the post. He lost the mayoral election to Michael Bloomberg after the 9/11 attacks. Green ran again for public advocate in 2009 but lost to now-Mayor de Blasio in the Democratic primary.

Green has a column on the Huffington Post website, a radio show and a new book, "Bright, Infinite Future." The book discusses how 1960s progressive values are part of the political conversation today.

"The 1960s were really different. It launched cultural and political changes that have endured," he said during an interview.

The fight for the environment, LGBT and women's rights all came out of that period, he said.

"So far the election has been: Can you believe Trump?" Green continued. "Huge majorities believe in sustaining women's rights, stricter gun safety, equal marriage, campaign finance reform, and climate change limitations," he said.

Green believes a large terrorism attack might benefit Trump because of "fear trumping hope." However, "any international terrorism or crisis could benefit the experienced and calm Clinton."

Trump "is the least experienced presidential nominee in history. He's completely not into public service but self-service."

As far as the mayoral election in 2017, Green said de Blasio has been doing a mediocre job. People considering running against de Blasio could decide by February 2017, depending on what the mayor's polling numbers are. Prosecutors are investigating the mayor for corruption. "We'll see if there are any legal charges against people in his administration," said Green.

While de Blasio is popular with minorities and unions, white voters only have a 25 percent favorable opinion of him.

Green said he and Alan Hevesi "are friendly."

Hevesi is from Forest Hills and was involved in the now-defunct Robert F. Kennedy Democratic Club. He served as state and city comptroller, state assemblyman and a professor of political science at Queens College.

Hevesi ran for mayor in 2001 but lost the Democratic primary to Mark Green.

Hevesi served 20 months of a maximum 4-year sentence for political corruption before being released on parole in December 2012. Hevesi pled guilty to accepting trips for himself and his family to Israel, Italy and California as well as \$500,000 in donations arranged by an investor who won \$250 million in a pension-fund business while he was state comptroller.

Hevesi pleaded guilty to a felony charge in 2006 for using state workers to chauffeur his ill wife and running errands for him.

Both Hevesi and Green will be at the Central Queens Y, 67-09 108th St. on Sept. 27 at 1 p.m. There is an \$8 suggested donation. For more information call (718) 268-5011.