

November 2, 2013

Hopefuls in New York and New Jersey Pack Their Final Weekend

By THOMAS KAPLAN

On a bright autumn day, the candidates for governor of New Jersey and mayor of New York City embraced the final days of their campaigns with rallies, bus tours and visits to diners, butcher shops — and the site of a planned garbage transfer station.

In New Jersey, the race for governor on its final weekend was as lopsided as it had started.

As Mr. Christie left out the back door, people still waiting to greet him at tables across the room shouted, "No!" and began running toward the front door to try to catch him before he got back on the bus.

Mr. Christie's Democratic challenger, State Senator Barbara Buono, spoke to supporters at a banquet hall in Paterson, N.J., where she was joined by New Jersey's new United States senator, Cory A. Booker, a Democrat. She devoted most of her time to criticizing Mr. Christie.

"The choice is that you stay home and you acquiesce and accept a governor whose economic policies enrich only the wealthy and cripple the middle class and the working poor," she said, "or you get out the vote."

At a campaign stop in Edison, N.J., she warned voters not to "confuse being likable with being on your side."

Polls taken heading into the campaign's final week showed how steep Ms. Buono's challenge was, even in a state where Democrats outnumbered Republicans by 700,000 among registered voters. The Stockton Polling Institute showed Mr. Christie leading by 24 points; a poll by Quinnipiac University had him leading by 33 points, with 35 percent of likely voters not knowing enough about Ms. Buono to form an opinion.

Ms. Buono has struggled against a campaign. With little name recognition, she has had trouble raising money; with little money, she has had trouble gaining name recognition. She was getting help over the weekend from canvassers pushing in favor of a ballot initiative to raise the minimum wage, which voters will also be asked to decide on Tuesday.

Even Ms. Buono's supporters seemed to recognize Mr. Christie's advantage over Ms. Buono. "For her, it just looks mighty slim, but what can we do?" said Richard McColley, a retired laborer from Fords, N.J., who came to see Ms. Buono in Edison.

Mr. Christie, despite his strong standing in the polls, has spent heavily on his campaign and broadcast more than a dozen television commercials. He is hoping to build a wide margin of victory so he can present himself to Republicans nationally as a presidential nominee who can win in places where the party has traditionally struggled.

In New York City, Mr. de Blasio, the city's public advocate, held a pair of rallies in Manhattan as he urged his supporters to encourage their friends to vote and not to be content with the polls showing him with a large lead.

Mr. Lhota also gained a last-minute boost from a conservative group that recently won a [federal court ruling](#) allowing it to accept contributions of any size. The group, the New York Progress and Protection PAC, received \$200,000 from the billionaire David H. Koch on Wednesday, and is now showing a [Spanish-language television ad](#) promoting Mr. Lhota. Still in [survey after survey](#), Mr. de Blasio has held a commanding lead over Mr. Lhota, and the contest could be among the most lopsided in decades.

Turnout in New York City is expected to be low. In 2009, when Mr. Bloomberg won re-election, fewer than 1.2 million people voted. Jerry Skurnik, a longtime political consultant, said he expected a similar turnout on Tuesday.

Also on Tuesday, Brooklyn's longtime district attorney, Charles J. Hynes, [is making a last-ditch bid to keep his office](#) after losing the Democratic primary to Kenneth P. Thompson. Mr. Hynes is now running on the Republican and Conservative Party ballot lines.

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