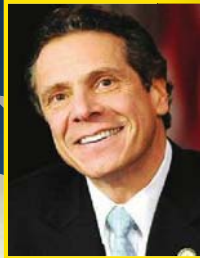


FREE!

ד"ר

## 2014 ELECTION VICTORS



ANDREW CUOMO



ERIC SCHNEIDERMAN



BILL DINAPOLI



SIMCHA FELDER



DOV HIKIND

### State Democrats Win, But Party Takes A Beating — Flatbush Leaders Easily Re-Elected

AVI HARTSTEIN, FJJ EXCLUSIVE

As Republicans took control of the US Senate and gained new power in other states, New York Democrats took a beating but, unsurprisingly, mostly stayed in power here.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo easily won a second term, fending off Republican Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino, but with a less-than-overwhelming 54% of the vote, as of press time late Tuesday night, compared to the 62% that put him

in office in 2010. The other statewide Democrats, Attorney General Eric Schneiderman and Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, also fended off challengers but Schneiderman fared about the same as Cuomo with 55%, according to early returns.

Cuomo is the first Democrat to win a second term in Albany since his father, Mario, did so in 1986.

"We are just getting started," said the governor in his victory speech, promising

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### Museum Illuminates Polish Jewish History

MICHELE ALPERIN/JNS.ORG

Given that half of the 6 million Jews who died in the Holocaust came from Poland, many descendants of Polish Jews may be surprised to learn about the current hospitable environment for the Jewish population of their ancestors' country.

Poland experiences far less anti-Semitism than the typical European country and is home to a burgeoning—albeit relatively small—Jewish community (estimates suggest 10,000-20,000, but no definitive figures are available). At the same time, young non-Jewish Poles are increasingly curious about Jews and the Jewish religion.

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### Netanyahu Secretly Meets Jordan's King Abdullah Over Temple Mount Tension

JNS

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Jordan's King Abdullah met secretly in Amman in an effort to ease tensions over the Temple Mount.

According to a report published in Kuwait's *Al-Jarida* newspaper, the two leaders agreed to increase coordination between the Israeli government and the Jordanian Waqf, which oversees the Temple Mount site under the terms of the 1995 Israel-Jordan peace treaty.

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### Opinions: Obama Officials' Insults Are Vulgar, But Their Policies Are Far Worse

MOSHE PHILLIPS AND BENYAMIN KORN (RZA)

The Obama administration officials' vulgar treatment of Israel's prime minister is troubling. But the policies behind their vulgarity — and recklessness — are far worse.

Two officials were involved: one who used the epithet to describe Israel's leader, and a second who agreed with the obscene remark. The point they were both making is that they consider Prime Minister

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# Netanyahu Secretly Meets Jordan's King Abdullah Over Temple Mount Tension

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The report also said that Netanyahu's statement, calling on Israeli politicians to ease their rhetoric on the Temple Mount was directly related to his meeting with Abdullah.

Israel temporarily closed the Temple Mount to all worshippers after an Arab man's attempted assassination of activist Yehudah Glick, a promoter of Jewish access to the

Temple Mount. The preventative move came against the backdrop of weeks of increased Muslim riots and assaults on Jewish residents, including the recent Palestinian terror attack on a Jerusalem light rail station that killed two people. But after pressure from U.S. and Muslim leaders, the Israeli police decided to re-open the Temple Mount ahead of Muslim prayers on Friday.

## FJJ Opinions: Obama Officials' Insults Are Vulgar, But Their Policies Are Far Worse

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Benjamin Netanyahu a "coward" because he won't make the concessions that they believe might lead to peace.

What concessions, exactly? President Obama, Secretary of State Kerry, and other senior administration officials have said time and again that they want Israel to retreat to the 1967 armistice lines and permit the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. That would, of course, reduce Israel to just nine miles wide at its vulnerable mid-section, near Netanya. It would also almost certainly lead to a hostile Arab state -- whether nationalist or Islamist -- in Israel's heartland.

What about Jerusalem? The White House and the State Department are very careful to refrain from saying explicitly that they want to re-divide Jerusalem. They don't say that out loud because they know it would infuriate millions of pro-Israel Christian and Jewish voters (not to mention almost all Israelis).

But "redivide Jerusalem" is exactly what the Obama administration is implying every time it condemns Israel for building apartments in so-called "East Jerusalem" and claims that such construction endangers peace. But the only peace it would endanger is one in which that part of Jerusalem is expected to be given to the Palestinians.

Otherwise, why would the White House be so upset if apartments are built in Ramat Shlomo, an Orthodox neighborhood in northern Jerusalem, or Gilo, a section of southern Jerusalem? The problem with Ramat Shlomo and Gilo is they are situated slightly beyond the old 1967 line.

Israelis naturally find the Obama administration's characterization of such areas as "illegal settlements" laughable. Gilo is not a collection of trailers on some wind-swept hill. It is a modern, urban locale with more than 30,000 residents. Anyone who has driven in Jerusalem knows that Ramat Shlomo, Gilo, and the other neighborhoods denounced by the U.S. administration are physically indistinguishable from the rest of the city.

But the White House and State Department refuse to accept this reality. They are locked into a rigid ideolog-

ical formula, according to which the 1967 line is sacrosanct and anything beyond it is "illegal" and "occupied." And anything that is illegal and occupied, is expected to be surrendered.

There is, of course, nothing sacred about the 1967 armistice line. It was never an official border. It was simply the furthest point to which Jordanian troops managed to advance in the 1948 war. The Jordanian aggression in 1948 was illegal. The Jordanian occupation of the eastern part of Jerusalem, including the Old City, from 1948 to 1967 was illegal. The Jordanian destruction of 57 synagogues in the Old City during the 1950s and 1960s was illegal. Jordan's use of tombstones from the Mount of Olives cemetery as latrines in Jordanian Army barracks was illegal (not to mention repulsive).

When Israel won the 1967 war and reunited Jerusalem, it was correcting an outrageous historical injustice. Decent people everywhere should celebrate that the city has, since 1967, been ruled by a democratic government that respects the rights of all religions and safeguards the holy sites of all faiths.

And, indeed, the United States Congress has recognized it since 1992, when the House of Representatives and the Senate unanimously adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution 113, celebrating "the reunification of Jerusalem." That resolution asserted that Jerusalem "must remain an undivided city."

Perhaps the Obama administration should be more frank about its true aim of re-dividing Jerusalem. Perhaps it should honestly acknowledge that it regards all construction beyond the 1967 line as illegal because it wants to Israel to give those areas to the Palestinians. Perhaps they should say it plainly, and then see how it plays out among Israel's voters, and America's.

For here, in plain English, is what redividing Jerusalem would mean: The new capital of "Palestine" would include the Temple Mount, the Western Wall, the Jewish Quarter of the Old City, the Mount of Olives cemetery, and most or all of the following "new city" Jerusalem neighborhoods: Ramot, French Hill, Gilo, Neve Yaakov, Ramat Shlomo, Har Homa, and Givat Hamatos.

And that would be truly obscene.

## Election Results Title?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to "attack property taxes that are strangling New Yorkers" and pass campaign finance reforms. "You ain't seen nothing yet."

There were no surprises in Flatbush races, with all incumbents barely breaking a sweat in their re-election bids. State Sen. Simcha Felder faced no Republican challenger for the 17<sup>th</sup> "super-Jewish" district he won in a hard-fought battle in 2012, while Assemblyman Dov Hikind won 78% of the vote against Republican Nachman Caller. Assemblyman Steve Cymbrowitz won 54% of the vote against Ben Akselrod.

In his victory speech, Dov Hikind pledged to work harder than ever for his constituents. FJCC leaders Josh Mehlman, Shimon Lefkowitz, Chaskell Bennett, and Leon Goldenberg surrounded him in celebration.

New York Republicans, however, saw some significant victories, seizing full control of the state Senate after ruling for the last two years with the help of six conservative Democrats, including Felder, for whom the "super-Jewish" district was carved out with the help of GOP leader Dean Skelos of Long Island. The Republicans ousted three Senate Democrats but only lost one of their own, making a total of 32 of 63 seats, with continued support expected from Felder.

The GOP also picked up a congressional seat here in electing Lee Zeldin on Long Island, who will now be the only Jewish Republican in Congress, unseating incumbent Democrat Tim Bishop. The last Jewish Republican to serve was Virginia's Eric Cantor, defeated earlier this year.

On Staten Island, incumbent Republican Michael Grimm won a third term, despite being under federal indictment for tax charges related to a restaurant he owns. The GOP, whose members are vastly outnumbered in New York, also came close to picking up a second Long Island seat as Bruce Blakeman won 47 percent of the vote to succeed retiring Rep. Carolyn McCarthy, closing a gap in recent weeks against Democrat Kathleen Rice, the Nassau County DA. The district is about 20 percent Jewish, including suburban Orthodox communities such as the Five Towns and West Hempstead.

The shift in the state Senate came despite an aggressive lobbying campaign by New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio to promote his fellow Democrats, and will likely mean a right turn for the Legislature and Governor Cuomo as he seeks to rack up accomplishments for a possible presidential bid.

"I've never seen a New York mayor step into state campaigns like this," Skelos said in a

TV interview Tuesday night. Skelos said voters had instead reacted positively to cooperation between a Democrat governor and GOP legislators to cut taxes, improve the business climate and make the state more affordable.

"They like the fact that we work closely with him to move the state forward."

In a sort of détente with the Republicans, Cuomo did not seem to expend much energy to promote his party's congressional and state Senate candidates, the New York Times reported.

De Blasio told The Daily News at Cuomo's campaign headquarters Tuesday night he expected better results in pushing liberal Democrats in 2016, which will be his third year in office, because the presidential race that year will boost turnout among the party's base.

Astorino, in his concession speech, took credit for forcing issues of concern to the middle class and overtaxed homeowners to the forefront (despite only one chance to debate the governor). "We were not tilting at windmills in this campaign, but planting a flag," Astorino said, also taking a shot at the extent of corruption in the state. He called on Cuomo to support term limits for state offices. "Better governing is what New York needs."

Political consultant Ezra Friedlander said Jewish support for Cuomo was high. "When you have a governor who has been responsive to various needs of the community such as tuition assistance, special education and transportation, it's only fair to show appreciation," he said.

Friedlander said Astorino had aggressively sought out Jewish support but "people want someone who is responsible and they are mature enough to understand that not everything is doable, it's a big state and that requires a lot of patience. We have a governor who came in and demonstrated that he is capable of being responsive. People know he can't put a chicken in every pot, but he can create policies that allow yeshivas to flourish."

Of the Flatbush politicians, Friedlander said the results show "people are grateful when you have incumbents who have been there time and again to protect quality of life. People feel they can show gratitude by voting for you."

In a brief interview with Flatbush Jewish Journal late Tuesday night, Senator Felder said "Boruch Hashem, the people are giving me the chance to serve them once again. I hope to do everything humanly possible to help the people of the 17<sup>th</sup> Senate District."

He said his legislative priorities in his second term would be "improving the school system as a chair of the subcommittee on education, and getting the education tax credit passed."

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