DA victory a nod to Morgenthau

BY JASON FINK
jason.fink@am-ny.com

As the handpicked successor to the iconic Robert Morgenthau, 90, Vance positioned himself as the establishment candidate, racking up newspaper endorsements and the backing of the powerful teachers union. "I am so proud to have won this primary, and I am looking forward to serving you," Vance told supporters at a victory party Tuesday night, Morgenthau smiling at his side. Though former judge Leslie Crocker Snyder seemed to be an early favorite in the three-way race, Vance, the son of a former secretary of state, overtook the field, fending off attacks that his years spent in private practice in Seattle made him out of touch with the city. "The weight of the Morgenthau endorsement, with his reputation, was substantial," Joe Mercurio, a political consultant not involved in the race, said yesterday. "He was a good, credible candidate, he raised a lot of money, and he had a lot going for him." A former prosecutor under Morgenthau and most recently a partner at a civil litigation firm in Manhattan, Vance will run an office with some 100 lawyers and a $75 million budget. The basis for the show "Law & Order," the Manhattan DA's office serves as a model for many others around the country. "The office has the ability not only to impact the everyday lives of the average New Yorker, but that of people and corporations well beyond the limits of our city," said Jeremy Saldan, a former assistant DA who served under Morgenthau.

Flushing's finest The New York State Pavilion, a relic of the 1964-65 World's Fair in Queens, will be added to the state Register of Historic Places and the state will be able to seek restoration grants for the famed structures.

Bill blasts Mike in mayoral battle

Wasting no time kicking off the general election race for mayor, Democrat Bill Thompson yesterday hit into Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who campaigned with the city's last three-term chief executive: Ed Koch. " Voters are still angry about the mayor's leadership on changing terms limits, they're angry about him breaking his word," Thompson said. The Bloomberg campaign, which has been sending out near-daily e-mails blasting Thompson's record, yesterday pointed out that more people voted for other citywide races than mayor in the Tuesday primaries. Other races Meanwhile, four Democratic candidates vying for comptroller and public advocate seats spent yesterday gearing up for a runoff election on Sept. 22. In the public advocate race, front-runner Mark Green finished second in the primaries behind Councilman Bill de Blasio, who outperformed many pre-election polls. "Mark Green did not reap the benefit everyone expected he would from his name recognition," said Michael Krasner, a professor at Queens College. Councilman John Liu, as many predicted, came out on top in the comptroller race. He fell short of the 40 percent needed to avoid a runoff with Councilman David Yassky, who surprised many by coming in second. Liu is a favorite with labor and much of the party's left wing, while Yassky's strength is primarily in Manhattan and brownstone Brooklyn.

After winning the Democratic primary, Comptroller Bill Thompson now faces Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

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