

# Former activist wins Philly's mayoral primary

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A politician's odyssey from fiery liberal activist to button-downed financial conservative has brought him a step closer to becoming Philadelphia's second black mayor.

John F. Street, a former City Council president who was endorsed by Mayor Edward G. Rendell, won last Tuesday's Democratic mayoral primary.

He immediately became the favorite in the Nov. 2 general election to beat Republican financial consultant Sam Katz, who ran unopposed in the GOP

primary. "It is not just the fact that we won, it is the way that we won that makes it so important," said Street, thrusting his fist into the air. "We have communicated a message of hope."

Rendell, a popular Democrat who is credited with bringing the nation's fifth-largest city back from the brink of financial ruin, is barred from seeking a third consecutive term.

Street, 55, overcame a negative advertising blitz and his controversial past to defeat Weinberg, a longtime political power broker

making his first bid for elected office.

Weinberg was virtually unknown in January but raised \$5.2 million and ran a flurry of television commercials blasting Street as a dangerous hothead, tax deadbeat and do-nothing legislator.

Weinberg reminded voters of Street's past as a community activist, showing old TV footage of Street shoving a reporter and throwing a cup of water on a police officer.

The ad campaign enabled Weinberg, whose mentor and patron was the controversial

late Mayor Frank Rizzo, to run neck-and-neck with Street as the primary approached.

Then Katz got into the act, running television commercials against Weinberg and other candidates.

Pundits said Katz thought he had a better chance of beating Street than the other rivals.

Weinberg blamed his defeat on those ads.

"It was a close election and I think that Sam Katz achieved what he wanted to do, which was to run against John Street," Weinberg said

last week. The 49-year-old Katz pledged to run an issues-oriented campaign.

"This will be a campaign about issues, about neighborhoods, about the quality of our lives and about our economic future," said Katz, who made unsuccessful primary runs for mayor in 1991 and governor in 1994.

Katz took in \$2.2 million and spent only \$941,000, leaving him well-positioned to mount an aggressive campaign. Street raised and spent much of his \$3.4 million.

Yet Katz also faces a city

in which Democrats dominate: Registered Republicans are outnumbered by a 7-2 ratio. And race is certain to play a role in a city where more than 40 percent of its 1.5 million residents are black.

Eleanor Rodriguez, who lives in the north Philadelphia neighborhood where Street greeted supporters this morning, predicted Street will win despite Weinberg's harsh portrayal.

"There's so many other people pulling behind him. He's got Rendell," Rodriguez said. "God bless Street. May he be a good mayor."

## EOB

(Continued from Page 1)

With EOB's help, Jackson has landed a job, has transitional housing and receives counseling.

State welfare roles have dropped 49 percent since 1995, but EOB officials worry because the statistics don't reflect how well former welfare recipients are fairing, whether they have better-paying jobs or are among the working poor.

Ylonda Dickerson went from welfare to work, but failed to escape poverty. She opened a daycare center, hoping to put her experience in raising five children to money-making use.

Golden Nugget president Bob Sheldon, who grew up in a single-parent household in the East coast, said, "There's greater opportunity for people to bring themselves up from poverty than there was 30 years ago."

In the concluding remarks, the Rev. Marion Bennet told of how some women on welfare formed a cleaning company and contracted their services with several businesses. When the government found out about their activity, they seized all of their equipment, fined them and threatened to incarcerate them.

"This system does not encourage entrepreneurship," Bennet said, urging people to listen to and reach out to poor people because their voices should be heard.

Those interested in more information on the Economic Opportunity Board's program can call 647-1472.

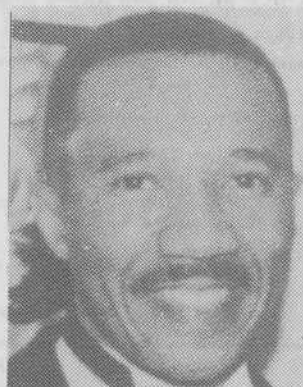
# Mfume won't run for Baltimore mayor

BALTIMORE (AP) — NAACP president Kweisi Mfume said Monday he won't run for mayor of Baltimore, ending months of speculation and cajoling by politicians, business leaders and activists.

Mfume said he left Congress to pursue the fight for civil rights and isn't ready to give up the cause.

"I know that my job is to finish the work that I have begun, to create a more just and humane society for all people, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity or background," he said. "I cannot walk away from that fight at this time."

About 250 politicians, business leaders and activists signed full-page ads urging Mfume to run for the office held by three-term Mayor Kurt Schmoke, who is not



**KWEISI MFUME** seeking re-election after 12 years of struggling to reverse the city's declining health and

safety. Mfume, a 50-year-old Baltimore native and former city councilman, had been running out of time to decide. The deadline is July 6 to file for the September primary — the real race to win in this predominantly Democratic city.

Former City Councilman Carl Stokes has already entered the race. And City Council President Lawrence Bell, who is Mfume's cousin, was expected to announce on

Tuesday that he is running. Former Gov. William Donald Schaefer, who was mayor of Baltimore for nearly 16 years, had endorsed Mfume but political observers said he may run himself now.

Mfume said he will not endorse any candidate until the filing deadline has passed.

Mfume said his decision was based on where he could do the greatest good for the greatest number of people. He made the announcement at NAACP headquarters.



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## FSS

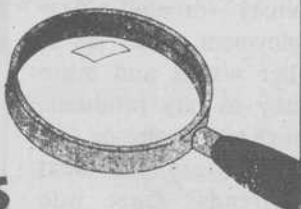
(Continued from Page 1) Burns, an accounting clerk at LVHA who is pursuing a degree in computer science, said of his reason for signing up.

"The family has to be motivated," Moorman said. "Our goal is to move people off of welfare and obtain adequate jobs."

Participants learn how to establish a savings account, get job training and career planning and tips credit repair and learn about home ownership. Entities offering services include the Community College of Southern Nevada, the Economic Opportunity Board, Citizen Area Transit, Nevada Partners, Consumer Credit Counseling and the Culinary Union.

Those interested can call Denise Moorman of the LVHA at 382-8284.

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