

Said one State Senator who is a Democrat:

“...there currently aren't enough Republican votes to carry the measure.”

Read more below (You may also want to read [ASSEMBLY COOL TO CONGESTION](#), NY Post, 2008-02-28) :

[http://www.nydailynews.com/news/2008/03/03/2008-03-03\\_democrats\\_surprised\\_over\\_bloombergs\\_choi.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/2008/03/03/2008-03-03_democrats_surprised_over_bloombergs_choi.html)

**DAILY NEWS**

**News**



**Elizabeth  
BENJAMIN**

## **Democrats surprised over Bloomberg's choice to back GOP for state Senate**

Monday, March 3, 2008, 4:00 AM

Democrats voiced surprise and anger over Mayor Bloomberg's decision to back the Republicans in the war for the state Senate.

'He has made his proverbial bed, and he's going to continue to sleep in it.' - Sen. Jeff Klein (D-Bronx)

Democrats voiced surprise and anger over Mayor Bloomberg's decision to back the Republicans in the war for the state Senate. They predict trouble for the mayor in Albany if the GOP loses its majority in November.

"When the Democrats take control, Bloomberg will have a real enemy in both the governor and the majority," said Kevin Wardally, a political consultant working for Senate Minority Leader Malcolm Smith.

"It will be his last budget to make any kind of legacy for himself," Wardally said of the lame-duck mayor, "and he'll have made an enemy of the Senate Democrats at a time when he'll need them the most."

The mayor's decision could also complicate his efforts to get congestion pricing passed in the Senate before a March 31 deadline, said one Democratic senator, who noted there currently aren't enough Republican votes to carry the measure.

Bloomberg spokesman Stu Loeser and John McArdle, spokesman for Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno, refused to officially confirm or deny that the mayor recently sent \$500,000 to the Senate GOP's housekeeping account and also pledged to campaign on behalf of Republican senators this fall.

But sources close to both Bloomberg and Bruno confirmed the mayor had both written the check and agreed to help at least city GOP senators with whom he has personal relationships. They said Bloomberg's decision to help Bruno and his conference was motivated largely by loyalty and the belief that the Republicans have been the strongest supporters of the mayor's agenda.

Sen. Jeff Klein, a Bronx Democrat, said he wasn't surprised by Bloomberg's decision, noting the mayor has long been the Senate GOP's biggest patron, contributing at least \$675,000 between October 2006 and last December.

But Klein said he was "confused" by the claim that Senate Democrats, mostly from downstate, haven't adequately supported the city. "He can't point to anything any of us haven't done in the interest of New York City," Klein said. "This truly smacks of politics. [Bloomberg] was a Republican and continues to support Republicans."

Bloomberg, a former Democrat who became a Republican to run for mayor, left the GOP last June as buzz was building about an independent run for President, now officially dead.

Klein grudgingly admitted a certain respect for the mayor's fidelity to Bruno, particularly at a time when other traditional GOP donors are starting to hedge their bets by remaining neutral or giving money to both Republicans and Democrats. Democrats pulled to within one seat of controlling the Senate in a special upstate election last week.

"He has made his proverbial bed, and he's going to continue to sleep in it," Klein said. "He's loyal, if nothing else."

[ebenjamin@nydailynews.com](mailto:ebenjamin@nydailynews.com)