

Brawl For The Hall

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News from the City Council battlefields

Dispatches from the front:

* Councilman Tony Avella leaves a complicated legacy. Few of his Council colleagues are sad to see him go, and his mayoral campaign seems to be flailing -- but in the northwest Queens neighborhoods where he battled development, some say he leaves [big shoes to fill](#). And the Human Rights Project at the Urban Justice Center today said he had the [best human rights record](#) in the entire Council, based on legislation like the term limits extension, NYPD monitoring of protests and housing and environment issues.

* The same Human Rights Project report finds Council Speaker Christine Quinn [scoring poorly](#) on separation of powers in a democracy. While 26 of 28 bills supported by Mayor Bloomberg passed last year, it says, at least 13 bills supported by a majority of the Council didn't even get a hearing.

* Quinn did, however, [win the endorsement](#) of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, even though it rejected Bloomberg in favor of Controller William Thompson. She is widely expected to win her [first-ever primary](#).

* Covering Council races in the Bronx must be immensely entertaining, to judge by DN Bronx Bureau Chief Bob Kappstatter's dispatch this week -- such as Councilwoman Maria Baez [endorsing two of her colleagues](#) running for the same office.

* Baez is one of the three CMs voted [most likely to lose re-election](#) at the always-entertaining Council Watch website. (The other two are Helen Sears and Kendall Stewart.)

* Out in Queens, candidate Lynn Schulman campaigned with her pooch and [handed out dog treats](#) while stumping at a dog run at Yellowstone Park.

Read more: <http://www.nydailynews.com/blogs/brawlforthehall/2009/09/news-from-the-city-council-bat.html#ixzz0QdQUWrGy>