

Michael Bloomberg leaves Republican Party

Contributed by Stu Norman
Tuesday, 19 June 2007
Last Updated Tuesday, 19 June 2007

New York Mayor and billionaire Michael R. Bloomberg announced today he is defecting the Republican Party to become an independent. The move is a signal that Bloomberg is most likely getting ready to run in the 2008 Presidential Election.

Michael Bloomberg's office released the following statement:

"I have filed papers with the New York City Board of Elections to change my status as a voter and register as unaffiliated with any political party. Although my plans for the future haven't changed, I believe this brings my affiliation into alignment with how I have lead and will continue to lead our city."

Online betting giant Sportsbook.com has Bloomberg at 150 to 1 to become the President of the United State in 2008.

Bloomberg would be a force to be reckoned with due to his deep pockets and financial connections. The billionaire spent \$100 million in his campaigns for New York Mayor and in all likelihood would spend the same in a 2008 Presidential run.

Now more than ever, the United States needs someone in the White House that can bridge the divide between Republicans and Democrats. Bloomberg has admitted to smoking marijuana and even used seems open to betting.

Bloomberg was still a mayoral candidate when New York magazine last year asked him whether he had ever inhaled from a marijuana joint. His reply: "You bet I did. And I enjoyed it." The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws Foundation, or NORML, invoked the mayor's one-time praise for pot in a \$500,000 pro-decriminalization print ad campaign.

"A nonpartisan approach has worked wonders in New York: we've balanced budgets, grown our economy, improved public health, reformed the school system and made the nation's safest city even safer," Bloomberg said. "We have achieved real progress by overcoming the partisanship that too often puts narrow interests above the common good. As a political independent, I will continue to work with those in all political parties to find common ground, to put partisanship aside and to achieve real solutions to the challenges we face."

When asked about the rumor he is setting up for a 2008 Presidential Race, Bloomberg responded, "I have no plans to announce my candidacy, because I plan to be mayor for the next 926 days."

Sportsbook.com has posted political betting odds to win the 2008 Presidential Race:

Hillary Clinton 2-1

Al Gore 6-1

John McCain 5-1

George Allen Jr 50-1

Rudy Giuliani 3-1

Sam Brownback 25-1

Bill Richardson 50-1

Mark Warner 30-1

Mitt Romney 8-1

Mike Huckabee 50-1

Evan Bayh 40-1

Chuck Hagel 200-1

Colin Powell 50-1
Joe Biden 50-1
Bill Frist 50-1
John Edwards 8-1
Newt Gingrich 20-1
Tom Vilsack 50-1
Russ Feingold 50-1
Barack Obama 7-2
Rick Santorum 80-1
Tom Tancredo 100-1
Mike Gravel 100-1
Tom Ridge 60-1
Tom Daschle 60-1
Bill Owens 100-1
Bob Kerrey 100-1
John Kerry 40-1
George Pataki 50-1
Condoleezza Rice 30-1
Gary Locke 100-1
Dick Gephardt 100-1
Wesley Clark 20-1
Dick Cheney 75-1
Howard Dean 100-1
Alberto Gonzales 100-1
Bob Ehrlich 100-1
Charles Schumer 100-1
Harold Ford Jr 100-1
Jack Kemp 100-1
Jeb Bush 100-1
Jay Rockefeller 100-1
Ralph Nader 100-1
Paul Bremmer 150-1

Joe Lieberman 150-1

Bob Graham 150-1

Michael Bloomberg 150-1

Tommy Franks 200-1

Jesse Jackson 200-1

George W Bush 200-1

Dennis Kucinich 200-1

Arnold Schwarzenegger 250-1

Bill Clinton 300-1

Paul Wolfowitz 750-1

Alan Keyes 750-1

Elizabeth Dole 750-1

Clint Eastwood 750-1

Ted Kennedy 750-1

Bill OReilly 750-1

Laura Bush 500-1

James Carville 1000-1

Jesse Ventura 1000-1

Al Sharpton 500-1

John Ashcroft 1500-1

Donald Rumsfeld 500-1

Pat Robertson 2000-1

Bill Maher 2500-1

Donald Trump 1000-1

Michael Moore 1000-1

Chris Dodd 100-1

Doug Stanhope 50-1

Wayne Root 1000-1

Ron Paul 15-1

Fred Thompson 20-1

Tommy Thompson 200-1

Duncan Hunter 200-1