

uneducated voters, the two candidates were equally unknown and they simply voted for the first name they saw. Another possible explanation is that Green is a popular last name among African Americans. Many South Carolina voters chose the name that looked more familiar.

Green capitalized on the wave of

popularity following his upset victory to present his plans. He told a British newspaper that he would create new jobs for Americans by encouraging the manufacture of "toys of me, especially for the holidays. Little dolls. Me. Like, maybe little action dolls. Me in an army uniform, air force uniform, and me in my suit. That's something that would create

jobs. So you see, I think out of the box like that. It's not something a typical person would bring up. That's something that could happen, that makes sense. It's not a joke."

A local sports group responded by distributing miniature figures with Green's image pasted over them. His Senate contender, however, was unimpressed. He said those

figures were of poor quality and didn't look enough like him.

To confound his chances of landing himself in the Senate, prosecutors announced that they were charging Green for various crimes. It emerged that Green has a long criminal record. He received 17% of the votes in the general election. ■

Exclusive Interview with the Man behind Today's Most Popular Purim Shpiel

Jimmy McMillan Uncensored

*The Mayoral Candidate
for the City of New York
and Founder of "The
Rent Is Too High" Party*

Jimmy McMillan became an international celebrity after appearing in the New York gubernatorial debate in 2010. He definitely stood out with the black gloves on his hands, his unorthodox beard and dated handlebar moustache. He answered virtually every question posed to him with the identical response: "The rent is too high!"

Now McMillan is running again for mayor of New York, this time on the Republican Party ticket, and this time he will "definitely" win, he says. Zman visited the headquarters of The Rent is Too High Party and was granted an opportunity to discuss every important issue on the agenda.

Y. Lefkowitz

If the results of the upcoming mayoral election in the City of New York rest in the hands of New York voters, then a fellow named Jimmy McMillan will undoubtedly be the city's next leader. At least that's what was indicated by the results of the most recent public survey—carried out by none other than Jimmy McMillan himself.

This was the first interview he granted a New York tabloid since he announced last September that he decided to run in the New York City mayoral election as the Republican Party candidate. That's right. The party that provided New York City with some of its best leaders, including Fiorello La Guardia, Rudolph Giuliani and Michael Bloomberg (granted, Bloomberg is no longer a Republican) is now sending us Jimmy McMillan, the popular leader of "The Rent Is Too High" Party.

Jimmy McMillan has been in politics since 1993, but he first attracted international interest in 2010. He ran in that year's New York gubernatorial race. This was not the first race McMillan ran in, but it was the first one in which he was permitted to appear in the public debate, alongside the other gubernatorial candidates. Speaking to *Zman*, McMillan laughs to himself, "They [the major-party candidates] invited us so we would make them look good...."

Regardless of what their intentions were, the debate proved to be a great success for McMillan. He suddenly found himself to be a worldwide sensation. The public had become so bored by the stereotypical political process that they enjoyed McMillan's... well, different type of performance.

In fact, McMillan occupied the seat of honor, right between the two major party candidates. With his aristocratic beard and moustache (we promise you they are not Purim costumes, but the real McCoy) and black gloves, he truly stood out among the other candidates.

"Let me introduce myself," he thundered. "I represent The Rent Is Too High Party. People work eight hours a day, forty hours a week and some even hold three jobs. Women cannot allow themselves to take care of their children, to serve their children

breakfast, lunch and supper. My highest priority is to make sure you have a roof over your head, food on your table and money in your pocket. Enough with political games. The Rent Is Too High movement, the people I am representing here, cannot afford to pay rent. They are losing their jobs even as I speak. They cannot eat breakfast, lunch or supper. Just listen"—here McMillan put his left hand to his ear—"A child's stomach just grumbled from hunger. Did you hear it...? You must hear it as I do. Let's speak about this issue. People cannot afford to pay their rent because the rent is too high."

Throughout the debate McMillan stuck steadfastly to his line that rent is too high and that is the source of all of the world's problems. When he was asked how he planned to create jobs McMillan replied, "Reducing rent will create three to six million jobs since there will be more cash circulating in the streets, giving businesses the possibility of hiring new workers."

At one point during the course of the debate McMillan acknowledged that he was a "one-issue candidate," but the reason for that, he explained, was because... "The rent is too high."

By the end of the debate the public knew when to expect that line, and when McMillan asked rhetorically, "Why?" the spectators answered in a loud chorus, "Because the rent is too high!" Even Democratic candidate Andrew Cuomo admitted to McMillan—while struggling to control his urge to laugh—that the rent *is* too high.

In the aftermath of the debate, the viewers and pundits agreed unanimously that McMillan had emerged as the evening's winner. He had listeners in stitches.

After the debate, reporters asked McMillan why he was wearing black gloves. He explained that as a war veteran who spent two-and-a-half years in Vietnam he had been harmed by exposure to Agent Orange.

"When I get home tonight I will not be able to breathe if I take them off," he declared. He quickly acknowledged that, "It could be that it's a psychological thing, I don't know, but I put them on and wear them anyway."

In the following days McMillan received many requests for interviews from major media stations. He even received an important endorsement from the American Moustache Institute. He confidently told the reporters that, "If the elections would take place tomorrow I would definitely win."

The media had a field day with McMillan and they guaranteed that he got the publicity he needed to present his platform to the public. In the end he drew 40,000 votes in the general election—enough to win a seat in New York's City Council but not enough to win the gubernatorial election.

Now McMillan is running for mayor of New York. And this time it's not just for the sake of getting into the race. This time he plans to win and he has no doubt that this time the voters will choose him.

Why?

Because... the rent is too high.

A Message to All New Yorkers

We met with McMillan at his office on the day that former New York City Mayor Ed Koch passed away. He felt it was very important to release a statement before our interview, and he asked us to share it. He wanted our readers to know that due to Koch's death his campaign was temporarily suspended to give New Yorkers a chance to mourn the late mayor.

"Whoever wants to interview me will have to wait until tomorrow."

Except us. We were the only journalists that McMillan agreed to speak to that day. The mayoral candidate must have noticed the astonishment on this writer's face because he quickly explained, "I didn't know that he died until this morning. I wouldn't have made the interview with you if I had known before, but this is the only interview I am giving today."

"Did you know Ed Koch personally?"

"No," he replied, "but I used to deliver his sister's mail. I was a mailman after I returned from Vietnam and his sister lived on the block that I served. At that time it didn't occur to me that one day I would be in

politics. But something happened to me in Vietnam when I was critically wounded. I don't know how I got mixed into the political foolishness. I'm not at all that sort of guy, but the nightmarish experience changed my entire thought process. It changed the way my mind works."

Racism and the Ku Klux Klan

Jimmy McMillan was born on December 1, 1946 in New Smyrna Beach, a town 15 miles south of Daytona Beach, Florida. Because he



The most popular Purim *shpiel*...