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Can the Democrats Keep Weiner's Seat?

What the New York congressman's sins could mean for his party.

Let Us Give Thanks

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I grew up in Queens, and my 92-year-old mother still lives in Forest Hills, a key neighborhood in Anthony Weiner's district. The aging voters in Queens and Brooklyn are increasingly conservative, along with the new immigrants from Asia and Eastern Europe. No one should assume that Representative Weiner is a sure bet for re-election, but most important, we should be grateful that New York City has been saved once again.

Mr. Weiner's self-destructive and deceptive behavior means that this seven-term congressman will never get elected mayor of New York City. New Yorkers are too smart and care about this city too much to elect Representative Weiner as mayor. He simply lacks the maturity for the job. Managing this city is not based on who shouts the loudest but who we trust to oversee a population of 8.3 million, a \$65.7 billion budget, a public school system of 1.1 million students, a police force larger than the F.B.I. and an economy with a work force of 3.3 million people and 50 million tourists a year.

The good news is that Weiner's self-destructive and deceptive behavior means he will never be elected mayor of New York City.

The mayor is the focal point of New York City. Almost all municipal power flows to and from the mayor. Unlike other jurisdictions, our city government affects every New Yorker: rich, poor and middle class, whether it's the water we drink, the public schools our children attend, the sidewalks we rely on, or the parks and beaches that provide relief from the summer heat. New Yorkers want a mayor who is in control of his emotions, who tells the truth, and who can command respect, not ridicule, in Albany and Washington.

That's why we should be thankful that Anthony Weiner's dream to be mayor, like his online activity, can now be dismissed as a fantasy. We should thank the Congressman; he has saved us from the juvenile behavior that he would have brought to City Hall.

As New York faces cutbacks in our budget from the state and federal government and the challenges of competing in a global economy, we should consider ourselves lucky that we will not have to include Anthony Weiner's private life among the day-to-day crises that the city will face in the 21st century.

Topics: Anthony Weiner, Democratic Party, New York, Politics