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MARKETS: TOPIX 1,520.42 ↑ 5.43 | NIKKEI 225 18,976.71 ↑ 58.51 | DOW\* 20,071.46 ↑ 186.55 | NASDAQ\* 5,666.77 ↑ 30.57 (\*Friday close)

TOKYO FOREIGN EXCHANGE (Monday 5 p.m.): ¥/\$ 112.73 ↑ .38 | ¥/€ 121.21 ↑ .47 | \$/€ 1.0751 ↑ .0005

# Koike's party aims for majority in Tokyo poll

A win by Tomin First no Kai in metro assembly would pose threat to LDP

KYODO

A political party effectively led by Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike is considering fielding more than 60 candidates in the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly election this summer to win an overall majority — a move that could threaten seats held by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, political sources said Monday.

Tomin First no Kai, literally meaning a "group that puts Tokyo residents first," is planning the move for the July 2 election, given a pro-Koike candidate's landslide victory

a candidate backed by the LDP and its coalition partner Ko-meito by a wide margin.

She has vowed to initiate drastic reforms of the metropolitan government as Tokyo faces the escalating costs of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games and grapples with the controversial relocation of the Tsukiji fish market, which the new governor has temporarily halted over environmental concerns.

Sources close to the Koike-led party had said earlier that it planned to field 30 to 40 candidates in the assembly election in an attempt to wrest control

tion in hopes of capturing a majority, according to the political sources.

The incumbent mayor garnered more than 16,000 votes, more than triple the ballots cast for his competitors, including one supported by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's LDP.

"We saw a bigger-than-expected victory in the ward mayoral election," said a political source close to Koike.

Koike, whose political academy is operated by Tomin First no Kai, told reporters Monday, "We will explore various possibilities" regarding the fielding of candidates in the Tokyo metropolitan assembly election.

Currently, the LDP and Ko-meito together have a majority in the assembly, with the LDP

Ishikawa beat the 41-year-old LDP-backed challenger, Makoto Yosano, a company employee and a nephew of former Finance Minister Kaoru Yosano, and independent Asao Igarashi, a 41-year-old former company employee and brother of Tatsuo Igarashi, the mayor of the city of Tsukuba in Ibaraki Prefecture.

Ishikawa garnered 16,371 votes against 4,758 cast for Yosano and 3,976 for Igarashi. The voter turnout was 53.67 percent, up 11.40 points from the previous election in February 2013.

The defeat of Yosano will deal a blow to the LDP, because Chiyoda Ward is the electoral home base of Shigeru Uchida, an LDP bigwig in the assembly. The party could face a need to

## THE FESTIVAL AWAKENS

