

Community leaders weigh in on Duffy news

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Bob Duffy is a person of integrity, a dedicated public servant, someone we hope could have a profound impact on the dysfunctional culture of our state government. He's a leader who has demonstrated a strong commitment to fiscal restraint, something Albany also desperately needs. His experience as mayor of the state's third largest city gives him the needed executive credentials as well as a perspective on how the state's actions can really harm local government.

Sandy Parker, CEO, Rochester Business Alliance

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Adam Urbanski, president, Rochester Teachers Association; Heidi Zimmer-Meyer, president, Rochester Downtown Development; Joel Seligman, president, University of Rochester; Malik Evans, president, Rochester city school board

I am disappointed that Mayor Duffy, even after being tapped to run for our state's lieutenant governor, reiterated his intent to continue to push for mayoral control of city schools. Instead, he should use his remaining months as mayor to mend the differences and divisions that his ill-conceived proposal caused. He should invite the voices of parents, students, teachers and community representatives.

Adam Urbanski, president, Rochester Teachers Association

It will be very important for us to have someone close to the next governor who understands upstate, downtown development and the challenges in managing cities, and Bob Duffy will be a strong and articulate advocate for us in Albany.

We need a leader who can step in and keep momentum going in Rochester, and guarantee that we don't lose the focus of his high-impact administration.

Heidi Zimmer-Meyer, president, Rochester Downtown Development

Mayor Duffy is a tireless leader and champion for our community. His exemplary record of public service, fiscal accountability and commitment to reform make him an ideal choice. Mayor Duffy will be a strong advocate for all New Yorkers and a unique and important voice in a Cuomo administration. This announcement is also bittersweet. Rochester's potential loss will be New York's gain.

Joel Seligman, president, University of Rochester

Many in upstate New York believe that our voices are not being heard in Albany. Mayor Duffy has the potential to speak from his experience as mayor and police chief. My hope is that the mayor can bring much needed reform to Albany particularly as it relates to the state budget, ethics and campaign finance reform. I applaud Andrew Cuomo for his choice.

Malik Evans, president, Rochester city school board