

Gov. Cuomo in Rochester: "Grow the economy, grow the economy, grow the economy."

Posted at: 07/26/2011 12:10 PM

Updated at: 07/26/2011 6:02 PM

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It's all about jobs for Governor Andrew Cuomo. At MCC Tuesday, he announced he's creating regional councils in an effort to spur the economy and job growth statewide.

Today, Cuomo pointed out that what's going to grow business in Manhattan or Albany is not necessarily going to work here in the Rochester area. So to give local regions a chance to come up with their own ideas for growth and development, he's come up with a plan.

"Grow the economy, grow the economy, grow the economy." That's the idea behind Governor Cuomo's new economic development plan. Ten different regions across the state will form committees or what he calls regional councils to come up with ideas to improve the business climate of their region.

Today, the governor launched the Finger Lakes Regional Council at Monroe Community College.

"I love the 10 region strategy of growing New York State." Wegmans' CEO Danny Wegman and University of Rochester President Joel Seligman were chosen to be regional co-chairs -- meaning it's their job to work with local business leaders, officials, and community members to come up with ideas to make the finger lakes region grow.

Wegmans said, "I can't think of anything more important. I think it's a great honor and I won't be doing it all by myself. I'll be asking folks to help and I'm sure that they'll want to do it."

The man overseeing all of the councils is Lieutenant Governor Bob Duffy. Cuomo said, "He is the single, best, competent professional I have worked with in the state and that's why he's in charge. He is extraordinary."

Local educational, business and government leaders are excited. SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher released a statement today saying, "Governor Cuomo's 10 regional economic development councils give local communities a greater voice in their own economic destiny".

Rochester Business Alliance CEO Sandy Parker said, "Through these councils, the governor is giving employers a significant voice in determining the future of our region. A role that is both appropriate and appreciated."

Wegman said, "They've got me excited that they're sincere about this effort and they're going to use it to make a difference."

The governor has also come up with a competition for each region. The four regions who come up with the best long-term plan for economic development will receive millions of dollars in funding.

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