

NY residents leaving in droves



By Melissa Daniels, staff writer

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MPNnow.com — A recent study attaches numbers to the well-known trend of the brain drain in New York state, with figures showing that nearly 30,000 moved out of Monroe County in the last decade.

The Empire Center for New York State Policy found 1.6 million New York residents moved to other states between 2000 and 2010. At the same time, numbers show the state's population grew by 2 percent to 19.4 million. But the uptick was largely due to immigrants moving into New York City, according to the center's report: ["Empire State's Half-Century Exodus: A Population Migration Overview."](#)

Locally, new residents aren't coming in fast enough to make up for those who are leaving — Monroe County lost population at a rate of 2.2 percent. The county population was down 16,239 residents, calculated by a gain of 13,040 new residents and the loss of 29,279 people who moved out.

Ellen Rosen, vice president of marketing for the Rochester Business Alliance, says that a tough job market and high property taxes are typically what sends people from the area, or keeps them away.

"People go where the jobs are," she said. "It's not just a matter of having a job for the younger people, but it's also about having a career path."

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But she says new state efforts — like the Finger Lakes Economic Development Council — could be a strong start to funneling jobs, people and money back into the region, and making New York a friendlier place for business. In addition to having access to millions of dollars in state funds, the council can call out challenges to the region that it would like the state to address.

"It's what we've been calling for," she said of the council. "A central place for people to go with projects and ideas the community can get behind."

Assemblyman Sean Hanna, R - Mendon, says young people will follow opportunities elsewhere.

"We've known that for decades. And for just as long, we've known why companies are leaving, high taxes, expensive utilities, over regulation," Hanna said. "But the NYC crowd in Albany would rather form councils and commissions than address the problem. Until our spending is cut dramatically, and taxes are cut with it, upstate will continue to hemorrhage young families. It's that simple."

—Includes reporting by staff writer Julie Sherwood