

Rochester Business Alliance releases 'Economic Survival Guide'

By **Mike Maslanik**, staff writer

Messenger Post

Posted Nov 18, 2010 @ 11:36 AM

Recommend

Be the first of your friends to recommend this.



Rochester, N.Y. — With the dust settling after the recent elections, the Rochester Business Alliance has outlined a list of its 10 priorities for strengthening New York's economy.

Released earlier today, the **New York State Economic Survival Guide - Ten Essential Reforms We Can't Live Without** revealed that more than 120,000 jobs moved from New York to other states between 1993 and 2008 and more than 1.7 million people moved out of the state in the last decade.

In order to reverse these trends, the Rochester Business Alliance urged lawmakers to lower taxes and cut government spending in order to spur economic growth.

"This report makes a compelling case for Governor-elect [Andrew] Cuomo and the new legislature to hit the ground running when they take office in January," Thomas F. Judson, Jr., chairman of the Rochester Business Alliance, said in a statement. "New York employers can create jobs and compete successfully in the global marketplace, but only if our state leaders are willing to make changes now to control taxes and government spending."

The 10 priorities outlined in the Rochester Business Alliance report are:

- Cap property taxes and state spending at no more than 2 percent.
- Reduce unfunded mandates using existing structures to assess the impact of laws or regulations and make needed reforms.
- End the double standard of public employee compensation versus private employees.
- Trim the cost of New York's Medicaid program.
- Control the debt burden through a cap on increases and a ban on back-door borrowing by state authorities.
- Improve the competitive climate for employers by completing Workers' Compensation reform while rejecting costly increases in unemployment insurance and other mandates.
- Reform economic development through regional councils under the leadership of the lieutenant governor.
- Encourage innovation in education by eliminating the cap on charter schools and passing the SUNY Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act.
- Reduce the number of state agencies, authorities and commissions by 20 percent.
- Lower the cost of energy through reduced utility taxes and assessments.