



Niagara County
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MEDIA RELEASE

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**STATE OF COUNTY ADDRESS TONIGHT
LEGISLATURE WILL ORGANIZE BEFORE ROSS'S SPEECH**

LOCKPORT—Niagara County Legislature Chairman William L. Ross, C-Wheatfield, will deliver his seventh State of the County address tonight during the Legislature's organizational meeting.

In a ritual-laden meeting at the Niagara County Courthouse in Lockport, Ross will be formally elected to his seventh term as presiding officer of the Legislature, and the Majority and Minority caucuses will formally organize and name their leadership.

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Lockport lawmaker Rick Updegrave will be named Majority Leader again while veteran Niagara Falls legislator Dennis F. Virtuoso will continue to lead the Minority Caucus.

Ross will follow the formal organization of the lawmaking body with an ambitious address that will cover a number of topics critical to county government. Ross will focus heavily on the strength of the 2010 county budget, which provided county taxpayers with a 2.5 percent tax cut, as well as key developments at the Niagara Falls International Airport, which has been a core vehicle for the county's economic development strategy.

Ross will also urge a renewed emphasis on economic development and job creation by the Niagara County Center for Economic Development through the county's Empower Niagara low-cost power program, low-tax Opportunity Zones, and brownfields rehabilitation.

The address will also urge county lawmakers to turn an eye to public safety, a duty being given to newly-named Community Safety and Security Committee Chairman Paul Wojtaszek, R-North Tonawanda.

Ross's remarks will likely conclude with an appeal to bipartisanship and a reiteration of the governing majority's commitment to smaller government, lower taxes, and wise use of economic development tools.

The organizational meeting will begin at 7 p.m.