



NIAGARA COUNTY  
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LEGISLATURE BEGINS PROCESS OF HIRING NEW COUNTY MANAGER  
SEARCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS NAMED

LOCKPORT—Niagara County lawmakers have begun the process of moving county government forward by forming the nucleus a search committee to hire a new county manager, Legislature Chairman William L. Ross, C-Wheatfield, said.

Ross said Wednesday he had received the names of nominees to the panel from both the Majority and Minority Caucuses of the Legislature. Under the county law adopted at the time the county manager post was formed in 2002, the two caucuses each present three county legislators and one private citizen to serve on the committee.

"The formation of the *ad hoc* Committee for Screening County Manager Candidates is an important step forward," Ross said. "And the members both parties have submitted are competent, experienced leaders who, I trust, will help identify the right person to hold this critical post in our government."

Ross worked closely with fellow Majority Caucus lawmakers before naming Legislature Vice Chairman Clyde L. Burmaster, R-Ransomville, Deputy Majority Leader Gerald K. Farnham, R-Pendleton, and Legislator Wm. Keith McNall, R-Lockport, to fill the Majority's three seats on the committee. Burmaster and Farnham are veteran lawmakers whose service stretches back into the 1990s, while McNall, as chairman of the Legislature's Administration Committee, is a key leader in the lawmaking body.

Farnham served on the first county manager search committee in 2003.

Ross said that Minority Leader Dennis F. Virtuoso, D-Niagara Falls, had named himself, Deputy Minority Leader Renae Kimble, D-Niagara Falls, and Legislator Jason Cafarella, D-Niagara Falls. Virtuoso and Kimble are among the longest-serving county lawmakers, and both served on the 2003 county manager search committee, while Cafarella has served on other recent hiring committees, including 2008's public information officer search committee.

"These are all solid picks, whose experience will be a real asset to county taxpayers as we go forward with this process," Ross said. "I look forward to working with both the Majority and Minority members, and know we're going to find the right kind of manager for our county's day-to-day operations."

The two citizen committee members have not yet been named by the Majority and Minority Caucuses. Those individuals will be nominated and confirmed by the entire Legislature. The two individuals will serve in a non-voting advisory capacity, and must be residents of Niagara County.

"These two citizens will be performing an important—and uncompensated—public service," Ross said. "We're hoping to see two individuals with experience in the private sector as well as the public sector, who can really understand the totality of issues impacting this hire."

The *ad hoc* screening committee will then advance as many as five candidates to the Legislature's Administration Committee, before that committee advances a final candidate for the consideration of the full Legislature.

"Our goal is to do a thorough search and find the right person for the job," Ross said.

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