

## **Local Republicans stump for Molinaro ahead of election day**

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CORNING — Republican candidate for Governor, Marc Molinaro, spent the beginning of the weekend before election day barnstorming across the Southern Tier accompanied by the region's GOP politicians.

The Dutchess County executive rallied at The Center at Sullivan Kitchen and Bath in South Corning Friday afternoon alongside Republicans Rep. Tom Reed, NY Senator Tom O'Mara, and Assemblyman Phil Palmesano, among others. Molinaro hinged his speech on attacking Governor Cuomo, claiming the two-term Democrat has neglected the Southern Tier's manufacturing sector.

"He's left us with no business," Molinaro said. "He's left us with jobs leaving the state of New York, people leaving the state of New York."

He touted that his experience as a county executive gives him a first-hand understanding of unfunded state mandates, which he claims need to be lifted off of county tax rolls. One of those includes Medicare. Like many Republicans in the state legislature, Molinaro is a proponent of having expenses for the program administered on the state level instead of each individual county, which have had to subsequently raise property taxes.

Molinaro, however, spoke knowing he's facing an uphill battle to the governor's mansion. Polls from Sienna College and Real Clear Politics have him in double digits behind Cuomo.

"Marc's got his underdog pin on. You know why? Because he is an underdog. And we're all Buffalo Bills fans in this room. We know what it's like to root for underdogs," O'Mara said, rallying the crowd.

Molinaro pleaded for upstaters to turn out and vote against Cuomo, who's views he considers disproportionately engineered for areas downstate.

"If we show up, 60 and 65 and 70 percent of the vote shows up in upstate — we win," Molinaro said, comparing the race to the election of Republican George Pataki. "If we vote in our interests, we win."

Local Republican leaders praised the presence of Molinaro, alleging Governor Cuomo has made few visits to the region.

Steuben County Republican Chairman Joe Sempolinski explained, "I kept hearing from his campaign staff. 'Marc's going to be in Steuben County. We want to do more in Steuben County. We want to do more in Steuben County. He's going to be in Cohocton. He wants to be in Hornell. We're going to take him around Corning. That is the kind of attention we're going to get from a Molinaro administration. I'm tired of being forgotten. I'm tired of being left behind."

Democratic Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul was in Corning Friday as well, stumping for Reed's Democratic challenger, Tracy Mitrano.

After the rally in Corning, Molinaro traveled west to Jamestown, spending the rest of the weekend bouncing around to events in Monroe, Oneida and Broome County ahead of Tuesday's election. Cuomo spent the weekend in New York City and Albany before making a stop in Erie County.

Molinaro and Cuomo will share the ballot with Libertarian Candidate Larry Sharpe, Green Party Candidate Howie Hawkins, and independent candidate on the Serve American Movement line, Stephanie Miner.

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