

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Department  
State House Boston, MA 02133  
(617) 725-4000

mitt romney  
governor

kerry healey  
lieutenant governor

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

February 13, 2003

**CONTACT:**

Shawn Feddeman

Karen Grant

(617) 727- 4025

**ROMNEY TARGETS JOB GROWTH THROUGH  
REGIONAL COUNCILS**

*Business, community and education leaders work together to  
bolster economic activity*

**WORCESTER** – Setting his sights on economic revival, Governor Mitt Romney today announced an innovative plan to spur job growth in every region of the Commonwealth by tapping the expertise of area business, community and education leaders through Regional Competitiveness Councils.

“In the past, state government has had a poorly coordinated approach to identifying our strengths and weaknesses, and as a result, our public policy has been clumsy in terms of maximizing our overall growth potential,” said Romney.

He added, “These Regional Competitiveness Councils will provide us with the information we need to boost regional growth and bring more jobs to the state.”

Romney, in naming the members of the regional councils, charged them with conducting an in-depth analysis of their region’s economic climate; assessing local abilities to attract new companies; identifying which companies and jobs are currently at risk; and devising a strategy to turn a region’s resources – human capital, infrastructure and financial investments – into the greatest economic opportunity.

Romney noted that he would use the blueprints the councils develop to market the unique regions of Massachusetts, growing economic development.

“These targeted plans will allow me, other public officials and private industry leaders to aggressively and effectively pursue specific business opportunities for the state,” said Romney.

Romney set up six competitiveness councils representing the following regions of the state: Berkshires, Cape and Islands, Central, Northeast, Pioneer Valley and the Southeast. Due to the size and diversity of the Greater Boston area, Romney said it will be approached on a cluster-by-cluster basis by working through existing organizations, such as the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council.

Each of the six councils is comprised of about 25 members from fields ranging from financial services and health care to manufacturing and tourism. In addition, all elected officials have been named as ex-officio members.

The chairs of each of the Regional Competitiveness Councils are:

\*

Berkshires: Matt Harris, Chief Executive Officer, Village Ventures

\*

Cape and Islands: Kathleen Schatzberg, President, Cape Cod Community College

\*

Central: Eric Schultz, President & Chief Executive Officer, Fallon Community Health Plan

\*

Northeast: Steven Kaufman, President & Chief Executive Officer, Avici System

\*

Pioneer Valley: Kerry Kuhlman, President & Chief Operating Officer, Western Massachusetts Electric

\*

Southeast: Peter Neville, President, Concord Foods

Each council is expected to convene its first meeting by mid-March.

“I look forward to working with the chairs and members as we lay the groundwork for a vigorous recovery that promises to sustain us far into the future,” said Romney.

Romney noted that the key difference between already established organizations and the regional competitiveness councils is the inclusion of higher education leaders.

“It is impossible to overstate the importance of education in protecting the Commonwealth’s ability to excel in the global economy,” said Romney. “State education leaders will be working to ensure that education reforms are properly coordinated with the strategies developed by the councils.”

## **REGIONAL COMPETITIVENESS COUNCILS**

### **Berkshire Regional Competitiveness Council**

**Chair: Matt Harris, Chief Executive Officer, Village Ventures**

Jeffrey Cook, Partner, Cain, Hibbard, Myers, & Cook

Mary Grant, President, Mass. College of Liberal Arts

Bill Hines, President & Chief Executive Officer, Interpret

Nathaniel Karns, Executive Director, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

Vicky Singer, Director, Berkshire Enterprises

Brad Svrluga, Partner, Berkshire Capital Investors

Joe Thompson, Director, Mass MoCA

Bill Wilson, President, Berkshire Visitor’s Bureau

### **Cape and Islands Regional Competitiveness Council**

**Chair: Kathleen Schatzberg, President, Cape Cod Community College**

Steve Abbot, President & Chief Executive Officer, Cape Cod Healthcare

John Burns, Economic Development Program Director, Lower Cape Cod Community Development Corporation

Ken Cirillo, Vice President & General Manager, C-Map/USA

Eugene Curry, Esq., Eckert, Seamans, Cherin, and Mellott

Steve Lawson, President & Chief executive Officer, Cape Cod Bank and Trust  
Thomas Novitsky, President, Associates of Cape Cod

Bob Rogers, Retired, Chairman Emeritus, The Kaufman Foundation

Gay Wells, Economic Development Officer, Cape Cod Commission

### **Central Regional Competitiveness Council**

**Chair: Eric Schultz, President & Chief Executive Officer, Fallon Community Health**

Daniel Asquino, President, Mount Wachusett Community College

Mahmud Awan, President, Techman International

David Begelfer, Chief Executive Officer, I-495 Initiative

Bruce Bennett, Publisher, Worcester Telegram & Gazette

Dennis Bunell, President, Smurfit-Munksjo Paper

Rosemary Chandler, Executive Director, North Central Regional Employment Board

David Forsberg, President, Worcester Business Development Corporation

Kathleen Marcum, President, Millbury National Bank

David McKeehan, President, North Central Chamber of Commerce

Roberta Schaeffer, Executive Director, Worcester Regional Research Bureau

Stephen Stockman, Vice President, St. Gobain Abrasives

### **Northeast Regional Competitiveness Council**

**Chair: Steven Kaufman, President & Chief Executive Officer, Avici System**

Deborah Belanger, President, Greater Merrimack Valley Visitor's Bureau

Joe Bevilacqua, President, Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Gaylord Burke, Executive Director, Merrimack Valley Planning Commission  
Orit Goldstein, President, Ozzy Property Management  
Bob Halpin, President, Merrimack Valley Economic Development Council, Inc.  
David Hartleb, President, Northern Essex Community College  
Elkin Montoya, Assistant Treasurer, Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union  
David Outhouse, President, First and Ocean Bank  
William Piercey, President, Greater Newburyport Chamber of Commerce  
Miriam Regan, Director, First Community Bank

### **Pioneer Valley Regional Competitiveness Council**

**Chair: Kerry Kuhlman, President & Chief Executive Officer,  
Western MassElectric**

David Bartley, President, Holyoke Community College  
Alan Blair, President & Chief Executive Officer, WestMass Development  
Tim Brennan, Executive Director, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission  
Michael Daly, President, Baystate Health Systems  
John Doleva, President & Chief Executive Officer, Basketball Hall of Fame  
Tony Dophin, President, Springboard  
Ann Hamilton, Franklin Chamber of Commerce  
Thomas Hazen, President, Hazen Paper  
Jim Heyes, Project Director, New England Forestry Foundation  
John Lombardi, Chancellor, University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Jeff Morse, President, Oxford Foods  
Lorna Peterson, Executive Director, Five Colleges  
Peter Picknelly, Chairman, Picknelly Companies

Steve Richten, President & Scientific Director, MicoTest Labs  
Stephen Roberts, President, F.L. Roberts & Co.  
David Starr, President, Springfield Union-News  
Fred Woodward, President, Westfield State College  
Mary Kay Wydra, President, Greater Springfield Convention  
Center and Visitor's Bureau

### **Southeast Regional Competitiveness Council**

**Chair: Peter Neville, President, Concord Foods**

Patrick Apel, Executive Director, Plymouth County Visitors'  
Bureau  
Leonard Cariaty, Executive Director, New Bedford Regional  
Employment Board  
Bonnie Coughlin, Public Affairs Coordinator, Verizon  
Tom Davis, Director, Greater New Bedford Industrial Foundation  
Michael Faulkner, Regional Manager, Pomerantz Staffing Group  
James Karam, President, First Bristol Corporation  
Jean MacCormack, Chancellor, University of Massachusetts,  
Dartmouth  
Dick Shafer, Executive Director, Taunton Development  
Corporation  
Charles Wall, President, Massasoit Community College

\*Partial list of members