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NEWS RELEASE

**PROMINENT ENDORSERS URGE GOVERNOR-ELECT CUOMO TO ISSUE MODEL
EXECUTIVE ORDERS TO KICK-OFF CAMPAIGN TO CHANGE ALBANY**

**REPORT CALLS FOR NEW USE OF WEB TO PROMOTE
OPEN GOVERNMENT, ACCOUNTABILITY, ETHICS, VOTING REFORM**

Today in Albany, the group Reinvent Albany and co-authors from the New York Public Interest Research Group, Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law School, and Center for Research, Regional Education and Outreach (CRREO) at SUNY New Paltz released their report **Executive Orders: Actions the Governor can take to make New York government more open, accountable and democratic.**

The report includes eleven ready to issue, model executive orders which the governor can issue his first day in office. Each order is endorsed by good government, transit advocacy, voter rights and policy experts. (The model orders are listed on page 2.) Executive orders are formal A governor's declaration which has the force of law, and does not require legislation to take effect.

According to John Kaehny of Reinvent Albany,

> "These orders are tailor made for Governor Cuomo to use to launch his campaign to transform New York government. Governor Cuomo will have enormous unilateral power to make government more open and accountable. The ball is in his court to do that."

In addition to model executive orders, the report also includes new scholarship by noted NYS expert, **Gerald Benjamin** which describes the evolution, recent use and limits of executive orders. Additional policy experts include a team headed by **Lawrence Norden** of the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law School, which recommended specific new ways of boosting voting in New York State.

The report was anchored by a long-time leader of the Albany reform effort, **Blair Horner** of NYPIRG.

www.ReinventAlbany.org

Executive Summary

Eleven model orders Governor-Elect Cuomo can use to launch his reform efforts.
This report includes eleven model executive orders that Governor-elect Andrew Cuomo can use to open up New York State government, increase the accountability of state agencies and reduce barriers to voting. The orders are centered on the basic goal of empowering the citizenry with more and better information about what its government is doing, and how it is spending tax payer dollars. During his campaign, Governor-elect Cuomo pledged to make fundamental reforms to end the dysfunction in Albany. These model orders are specific, realistic actions he can use to launch his reform efforts.

The Governor Has The Power To Make Government More Open and Accountable.
Executive orders are formal instructions and policies the governor can issue unilaterally to the state agencies under his control. As our report makes clear, under the New York constitution, the Governor has broad powers to use Executive Orders to make state government more open and cost effective. In particular, the advent of the Internet has created enormous opportunities to save money by making government more transparent to the public. Even within areas where the Governor's authority is constrained by the constitution, he can still use executive orders to create meaningful reforms. For instance, the Governor can make the budget process more transparent and rational. Broad as the Governor's executive order powers are, there are clear constraints; among them, the Governor has a limited ability to reorganize state agencies established through legislation.

New Scholarship Which Describes The Evolution and Extent of Executive Order Powers
In addition to the eleven model orders, our report includes news scholarship by Gerald Benjamin which describes the evolution, recent use and limits of executive orders. Professor Benjamin recommends New Jersey as a model for granting the Governor new reorganization authority.

Extensive Resource Section With A Description of All Orders Dating to Rockefeller
The report also includes an extensive Resource section. Here, numerous tables and charts document and describe executive orders dating to Nelson Rockefeller. This section provides valuable context for our proposed model orders, and suggest that innovative and energetic governors can use their executive order powers to great effect.

Executive Orders Which Promote Openness, Accountability, Ethics Reform, and Voting.
Our report includes four chapters containing eleven executive orders.

- Open Up New York State Government Using the Internet
- Increase the Accountability of State Government
- Strengthen Ethics Reform
- Expand the Franchise and Improve the State's Election Performance

The model orders are diverse in scope and intent. But all of them are intended to help the citizenry better understand and participate in their government, and thus help bring about more open, accountable and effective government.

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Executive Orders

Actions the Governor can take to make New York government more open, accountable and democratic.

Model Executive Orders
The Executive Orders report contains 11 model executive orders in four areas:

Open Up New York State Government

1. Publish Freedom of Information Law Responses Online
2. Put All Non-Personal State Digital Data On The Internet
3. Put Public Meeting Presentations Online, Before and After Meetings.

Increase the Accountability of State Government

4. Create a More Rational and Open Budget Process
5. End the Diversion of Dedicated Funds With A "Governor's Locked Box"
6. Increase Agency Accountability With A Web Based "Governor's Performance Initiative"

Strengthen Executive Branch Ethics

7. Impose Stronger Ethics Rules for Executive Branch Employees

Expand the Franchise and Improve Election Performance

8. Automate the state's voter registration.
9. Simplify the Restoration of Voting Rights
10. Create A Task Force to Improve Elections
11. Create A Task Force to Improve Ballot Design