

A. J. ...
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Cuomo holding Island forum Thursday night

Staten Island residents wishing to discuss the state budget with Gov. Mario Cuomo will get a chance to do just that Thursday night at the College of Staten Island's Sunnyside campus.

Cuomo has picked the Island for one of six forums on the budget he is conducting statewide. The governor is "anxious to hear what's on the minds of Staten Islanders," Allen Cappelli, a St. George resident and state Department of State employee who is organizing Thursday's forum, said.

Cappelli said the governor regards the forums as a chance for the state's citizens to make their own recommendations and voice their concerns about the budget, which the governor must submit to the Legislature by the middle of next month.

While the focus will be on the budget, Islanders will also be

able to discuss other issues with the governor. Other topics expected to be raised include pollution, the Fresh Kills landfill and future use of the Staten Island Developmental Center.

Those wishing to speak will be asked to sign up in advance the night of the forum. Speakers will be given access to the governor on a first-come, first-served basis.

Cuomo will be accompanied by several state commissioners who will listen in on Islanders' remarks.

Borough President Ralph Lamberti will moderate the forum, and Assemblywoman Elizabeth Connelly, D-West Brighton, will deliver welcoming remarks.

The forum will run from 7 to 9:30 p.m. in the Williamson Theater at the College of Staten Island's Sunnyside campus.