



NEWS From Assemblymember John T. McDonald III

Winter 2016

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Dear Neighbor:

I hope this message finds you well and enjoying a happy and healthy holiday season with your loved ones. As 2016 comes to a close, I want to take this opportunity to highlight some of our achievements from this past year, hear what your priorities are for the upcoming Legislative session, and highlight some exciting things to look forward to in 2017.

As always, my office is available to assist in any way we can. If you are looking for assistance regarding state or local government issues, please do not hesitate to contact me by calling (518) 455-4474 or by emailing mcdonaldj@nyassembly.gov. To stay updated on community and legislative updates, please join my mailing list by visiting my New York Assembly website.

I always encourage you to reach out to me whether to provide feedback on issues, share any ideas you may have, or whether you have a problem that needs to be tackled. I am always willing to meet with constituents in my district office or out in the district. Thank you for completing the enclosed survey. Hearing your voice is extremely beneficial as we shape our legislative agenda and prioritize the needs of the 108th District. It is a privilege to serve you; it is an honor that I will never take for granted.

Sincerely,

John T. McDonald III



Assemblymember McDonald with a fifth grade class from Watervliet Elementary School

REDC Awardees

On December 8, 2016, the Regional Economic Development Council Awards were announced. The Regional Economic Development Council Initiative supports key investments to bolster economic growth in New York's ten regions. I am proud to say that the Capital Region Council was chosen as a "top performer" and received \$83.1 million in funding for projects in the region. The amount received was the second highest for all ten regions. Please see below for a list of projects impacting the 108th District.

Project Title	Description	Award
ACAP Career Services	Albany County Opportunity, Inc.'s Career Services Project will offer unemployed individuals residing in Albany County the opportunity to complete training in the following areas: Certified Nurse Aide/Assistant (CNA); Home Health Aide (HHA); and Construction Technologies.	\$998,710
Times Union Garage Egress	Construction of an egress at the Times Union Garage leading directly to Market Street to improve the functionality of the facility and reduce traffic congestion in downtown Albany.	\$200,000
AMC MS/ME Basement Rehabilitation	Albany Medical College will upgrade a section of its animal research facilities relative to research involving large animals by making improvements to the HVAC system.	\$500,000
Port of Albany Expansion	The Port of Albany will acquire an 80 acre parcel south of the Albany side of the Port and make infrastructure improvements including a new heavy capacity access bridge to connect the parcel to the Port and further expansion opportunities.	\$5,000,000
Water Music 2017	The Albany Symphony Orchestra is honoring the Erie Canal's Bicentennial with a one-of-a-kind journey from Buffalo to Albany on the iconic waterway. Musicians will travel the Canal, partnering with residents of eight communities and resident arts groups to perform newly commissioned orchestral works by emerging composers.	\$75,000 and \$296,055
Tivoli Lake Preserve Stream Daylighting	The Albany Water Board will daylight Patroon Creek in the Tivoli Lake Preserve. The project will mitigate erosive conditions, stabilize critical infrastructure within the preserve, and provide additional downstream flood protection.	\$1,000,000 and \$1,100,000
On-the-Go Touring Educational Theatre	Capital Repertory Theatre's On-the-Go touring educational theatre series will produce two shows to commemorate landmarks of New York History including They Built America: the Workers of the Erie Canal, and Petticoats of Steel: New York's Suffragettes. More than 10,000 students will participate.	\$44,000

Project Title	Description	Award
Albany Skyway Project	Capitalize Albany Corporation will conduct planning and feasibility studies that will ultimately result in conversion of the northbound exit ramp from I-787 from Quay Street to Clinton Avenue to the region's first and only highline park. Upon conversion, the former ramp will serve as a promenade, bike route, and linear park making valuable connections, dramatically increasing accessibility to both downtown and waterfront.	\$325,000
Construction of the City of Albany South End Bikeway	The City of Albany will design and construct the South End Multi-Use Trail, located in the South Waterfront District, that will link the Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail and the Mohawk-Hudson Hike-Bike Trail, filling a gap in a more than 360-mile multi-use trail network. The proposed treatment is a two way Separated Bike Lane, also known as a cycle track, extending along the east side of South Pearl Street where sidewalks exist.	\$325,000
South End Multi-Use Design and Construction	The City of Albany will complete final design and construction of 1.5 miles of the South End Multi-Use Trail, a two-way cycle track linking the Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail to the Mohawk-Hudson Hike-Bike Trail through the South Waterfront District.	\$325,000
City of Cohoes Sidewalk Improvement Project	Funds will be used to replace non-compliant sidewalks in the Historic District along Remsen Street from Cayuga to Ontario Streets.	\$300,000
The City of Cohoes' Erie Canal Bicentennial Celebration	The City of Cohoes will develop canal-related exhibits in time for the Erie Canal Bicentennial, featuring a model of a working lock, a Harmony Mills machinery model, and interactive kiosks. The project will celebrate the Canal's legacy to the development of Cohoes and New York State.	\$62,500 and \$62,000
City of Watervliet Municipal Water System Study	Funds will be used for a comprehensive study of the Watervliet Municipal Water Supply System.	\$47,500
City of Watervliet Senior Center and Library Project	Funds will be used to repair the roof and install handicap access doors at the Watervliet Senior Citizens Center and Library.	\$300,000
Watervliet Waste Water Planning Grant 2016	The Town of Colonie will complete an engineering report that will focus on identifying locations in the Watervliet Dry River Gas House Creek Storm Water Control System where there may be connections or infiltration of sanitary sewers and e coli contaminations.	\$30,000
Matton Shipyard Structural Preservation Initiative	This project will stabilize three original buildings at the Matton Shipyard in Cohoes at the junction of the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers.	\$148,000
Erie Canal Water Trail	Funds will be used to support a project that will extend current water trail planning to the remainder of the Erie Canal system and to develop and produce a printed Water Trail Guide and Navigational Map Set, along with a mobile responsive website that will allow users to build travel itineraries that facilitate short day trips or more involved multi-day trips.	\$182,936
Hudson River Sojourn	Grant funds will be used to develop and promote a new event, the Hudson River Sojourn, a multi-day kayaking trip between Albany and Manhattan for kayakers of varied abilities.	\$100,000
48 Hudson Avenue Restoration	The restoration of 48 Hudson will have a great impact by contributing to the preservation of a highly significant historic property. The outcome will ensure that Dutch architectural features will not be lost.	\$268,032
IPH 2016	Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless' Ambassador Program provides individuals who have experienced homelessness opportunities to build professional and life skills, a sense of community, and financial well-being. Participants provide hospitality services to the community during performances at Capital Rep Theater and Park Playhouse.	\$38,693
LASNNY Legal Services Center	The Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York will acquire and renovate 95 Central Avenue in Albany to create a respectful, welcoming and professional environment that will better serve its diverse clients, staff and volunteers.	\$300,000
Nipper Redevelopment	Redevelopment of vacant properties to establish commercial and retail space, residential apartments and parking in downtown Albany's warehouse district.	\$500,000
Master Plan for Art in Public Places in Troy, NY	The Master Plan for Art in Public Places in Troy will create a comprehensive plan for art in public places in the Capital Region, using Troy as a pilot, which will highlight the beauty of the region's cities and, through its implementation, transform the region into an arts destination.	\$49,500
Brown's Brewery Sustainable Development	Funds will be used to support a portion of the costs of constructing a new addition on the west side of the building to house an elevator shaft and elevator in order to create universal access to the basement, ground floor, and upper two floors.	\$107,450 and \$450,000
Ingalls Avenue Shoreline Park	The City of Troy seeks to acquire land on President St. between Ingalls Avenue and Middleburgh Street in Troy upon which the City intends to ultimately construct a park with environmental and historic interpretive amenities to support the funded boat launch construction immediately adjacent to and north of this Park acquisition site. This park could become the Gateway entrance to the Erie canal.	\$454,006
American Theater	Dauchy River Triangle will renovate the historic American Theater in Troy to establish a new movie theater and contribute to the revitalization of downtown Troy.	\$600,000

Project Title	Description	Award
Hudson River Train Mobile Tour App	Grant funds will be used to create a hybrid app that will provide passengers on Amtrak and Metro-North's Hudson River line trains a guided tour of the region's history, scenery and natural resources right outside their window.	\$100,000
Echoes of Lock One	"Echoes of Lock One" is an interdisciplinary youth multimedia arts project focused on the Erie Canal legacy. Working at the confluence of the Canal and the Hudson River Estuary in one of New York's most challenged communities, neighborhood teens will craft their stories of hope from lived history.	\$68,000
155 River Street	Renovation of a vacant historic building, infrastructure improvements and construction of a parking garage to create new commercial, restaurant and entertainment space, residential units and a boutique hotel in downtown Troy.	\$1,000,000
TVCOG Community Based Business Cultivation	The Tech Valley Center of Gravity (TVCOG) will expand their makerspace significantly by adding co-working space, a community room for workshops and a kids' makerspace they've named the THINQubator that builds a rich pipeline of next generation makers and entrepreneurs.	\$125,000
Capital Region All-Star Event	The Tri-City Valley Cats will use the grant funds to host the NY-Penn League All-Star Baseball Game, a 2-day premier sporting event that will attract visitors both statewide and nationally.	\$135,000
Certified Nurse Aide Special Populations Training	Questar III BOCES Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene will train unemployed individuals to obtain a Certified Nurse Aid (CNA) certificate. Trainees obtaining the certificate and subsequent employment will put themselves in a position to obtain higher level employment as EMTs, LPNs, and RNs.	\$91,381
Administrative Workforce Expansion	Albany Pro Musica is prepared to expand its administrative team to include a new position of Development Director. This new position will be a leadership role within the organization, tasked with securing funding to support the chorus' superior artistic vision and repertoire.	\$41,000
Special Populations Vocational Training	Albany-Schoharie-Schenectady-Saratoga Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) will train students and workers in skills to enter the healthcare and construction industries in the Capital Region. This project focuses on workforce development and job creation by training workers for industries that have a high number of job openings, then facilitating a direct connection between workers and businesses at the completion of each course of study.	\$100,000
SCCC UWT 2016	Schenectady County Community College, in partnership with Albany Can Code, will implement the Capital Region Software Talent Training program. This New York State Department of Labor funded pilot will address the issue of a shortage of web and software developers.	\$49,812
Capital Region Shared Student Transportation Project	The Capital Region Shared Student Transportation Project will coordinate the sharing of buses for out-of-district locations, including to private schools, special education sites and BOCES programs. Districts will be able to eliminate some bus runs altogether reducing spending on student transportation.	\$182,160



Assemblymember McDonald speaking at the groundbreaking of the City of Rensselaer Riverfront Esplanade - photo credit to Dan Levy, WNYT

New York State Water Infrastructure Improvement Grant Program

I was proud to work with my Assembly colleague Steve Otis of Westchester to champion the creation of the municipal water infrastructure grant program last year. In the 2016-17 Budget, in recognition of the importance of this funding an additional \$200 million was committed to the NYS Water Infrastructure Improvement Act to assist municipalities in funding water quality infrastructure projects. Since we are both former mayors, Steve and I understand the challenges that municipalities face in replacing aging infrastructure with limited available resources and funding for these large projects. The Assembly continues to address the financial crises that many localities face when securing funding for critical wastewater and drinking water infrastructure projects with this one-of-a-kind program that now is fully funded to \$425 million. I am hopeful that funding will continue for this important program and applaud all of the partners who supported the effort and made it possible.

The following 108th District projects received funding in the 2016-2017 Budget:

NYS Water Grant	Recipient	Estimated Grant Award	Project
Clean Water	Albany Municipal Water Finance Authority	\$837,500	Upper Washington Avenue Corridor Infrastructure Project
Drinking Water	City of Cohoes	\$1,452,701	Cohoes Water Treatment Plan Project
Drinking Water	City of Watervliet	\$2,262,384	Watervliet Comprehensive Drinking Water Improvement Project - Phase 1
Drinking Water	Town of North Greenbush	\$2,172,000	North Greenbush Water Quality, Pressure & Access Improvement Project
Clean Water	Rensselaer County Sewer District #2	\$2,099,887	Design and upgrades to County pump stations
Drinking Water	City of Troy	\$1,939,800	A project that will replace the existing aged and deteriorated 33-inch finished water transmission main, which is a critical component necessary to provide water to the City of Troy and several nearby communities.

108th District Constituent Survey

Please find a constituent survey below that will allow you to provide input on the issues that are important to you and subjects that may come up during the next legislative session.

Your survey responses help guide my work as your representative in the New York State Assembly. I look forward to receiving your input. *There are two ways that you can submit the survey:*

- By returning the enclosed survey by mail to our Albany office located at the following address:
Assemblymember John T. McDonald III
LOB 417, Albany, NY 12248
- By filling out the form online on my website at <http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/John-T-McDonald-III/story/72102>

All survey questions have a "Yes" or "No" answer choice: (select one). Some will have a blank line to write in a number or comment.

1. On the issue of voter turnout, currently in 37 states, voters can cast early ballots either in person or by mail. Would you support an effort to implement early voting in New York allowing you to vote within the eight days prior to Election Day? Yes No
2. Currently, serving in the New York Legislature is a part-time job that allows legislators additional employment and outside income.
 - (a) Should legislators be permitted to earn outside income? Yes No
 - (b) Do you support a constitutional amendment for a full time legislature, understanding that a full time legislature would also provide the legislators with a pay raise? Yes No
 - (c) If serving in the Legislature was a full time job, provided that legislators are required to disclose all income, should full time legislators be permitted to make an outside income? Yes No
3. Currently, New York State legislators are elected to a two-year term.
 - (a) Do you support legislators continuing to serve two-year terms (every two years having to run for re-election)? Yes No
 - (b) If you answered no to (a), would you support a constitutional amendment that would increase in the length of a term to four years? Yes No
4. Currently New York State legislators are not subject to term limits, which means they can run for an unlimited number of two-year terms.
 - (a) Should legislators be subject to term limits? Yes No

(b) If you answered yes to (a), how many total years of service should a legislator be limited to (choose one response)?

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5. Maintaining and growing our infrastructure is an important issue that impacts us all. Please rank the following in order of priority (1-highest to 4-lowest)
 - (a) Bridges _____
 - (b) Water _____
 - (c) Sewers _____
 - (d) Roads _____
6. Do you support legislation that would permit ridesharing companies (such as Uber or Lyft) to operate in the Capital Region? Yes No
7. Knowing that 75% of heroin dependencies start with legal prescription opioid products and knowing we need more funding for treatment and recovery:
 - (a) Would you support a tax on prescriptions in the amount of 2 cents per prescription to help fund opioid treatment and recovery centers? Yes No
 - (b) Would you support a surcharge paid by the pharmaceutical industry to increase funding for treatment and recovery? Yes No
8. Would you support a bill that would allow a doctor to prescribe medication that a terminally ill person could take to end his/her life provided that the person would have to self-administer the medication, witnesses must verify that the person has chosen to end his/her life, and other protections were in place? Yes No
9. Knowing that this would not apply to violent felonies, should 16 and 17 year olds charged with a crime be able to be tried as adults?
 - (a) If the crime is a misdemeanor (minor) crime, should they be tried as adults? Yes No
 - (b) If the crime is a non-violent felony, should they be tried as adults? Yes No
10. Currently, New York has a medical marijuana program in place; however it has not legalized marijuana for recreational use. To date, seven states, including neighboring Massachusetts, have legalized marijuana for recreational use. Do you support the full legalization of marijuana in New York? Yes No
11. If you have any other comments/thoughts/suggestions, please feel free to add them here:

NEWS From

Assemblymember

John T. McDonald III

Capital Center Opening

It has been incredible to see the progression of the Albany Capital Center since construction began. The long anticipated opening is set to occur on March 1, 2017. For more information and to keep updated on the progress, visit <http://www.albanycapitalcenter.com/>

