



NEWS From
 Assemblymember
John T. McDonald III



Fall 2019

2019 Constituent Survey

Dear Neighbor:

We have reached the point in the year when the Legislature will return in a few months for the 2020 Legislative Session in January. Each year, I ask for your input on potential priorities for the NYS Legislature and feedback on the issues that are important to you. My job as a public servant is to serve and represent the interests of the 108th District.

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 at <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/John-T-McDonald-III/>.

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

Sincerely,

John T. McDonald III

2019 108th District Constituent Survey

Please find a constituent survey below that will allow you to provide input on the issues that have been discussed as potentially coming to a vote in the 2020 legislative session. These questions are meant to gauge your opinion on areas that are likely to arise or have been discussed during previous legislative sessions; however, note that these questions are not necessarily indicative of the policy issues that I am focusing on or legislation that I am seeking to advance. For many of the questions, especially on the more controversial issues, I ask for the reasoning behind the answer. Understanding the basis for the responses is incredibly helpful to me when considering pending legislation and I appreciate the thought and time constituents take when answering these questions.

Your survey responses help guide my work as your representative in the New York State Assembly. I look forward to receiving your input since I rely on it when voting on measures, sponsoring and supporting legislation, and prioritizing funding in the budget process. Please note that there are two spaces available to allow two members of your household to participate.

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 • Room 417, Legislative Office Building, Albany, New York 12248
- By filling out the form online on my website at <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/John-T-McDonald-III/>

1. The New York Medical Aid in Dying Act would allow a mentally competent, terminally ill patient to choose to self-administer medication to end his or her life. Do you support passing the Medical Aid in Dying Act into law?

A. Yes No

Why? _____

B. Yes No

Why? _____

**Survey questions have a “Yes” or “No” answer choice:
(select one) and some will have a blank line to write in a number or comment.**

2. There has been discussion around economic development spending and how we can improve how the state invests in funding projects and targeting incentives. Which of the following proposals, if any, do you support as economic development spending reforms?

- A.** The elimination of Local Development Corporations and Empowering Industrial Development Agencies with the authority to give grants and loans
- Tax credits applied to taxes due
- Grants
- Increased transparency measures
- A unified economic development budget
- None
- Other _____

- B.** The elimination of Local Development Corporations and Empowering Industrial Development Agencies with the authority to give grants and loans
- Tax credits applied to taxes due
- Grants
- Increased transparency measures
- A unified economic development budget
- None
- Other _____

3. There is a bill that would propose to legalize paid surrogacy agreements in New York State. The measure passed the NYS Senate in 2019 but did not advance in the NYS Assembly. Do you support the legalization of paid surrogacy agreements in NY?

A. Yes No

Why? _____

B. Yes No

Why? _____

4. Labor protections for “gig economy” workers (such as Uber, Lyft, DoorDash, Grubhub workers) are currently pending in the state of California and are being discussed here in New York. Gig economy workers are generally treated as independent contractors because of the nature of the work and services provided. In the California legislation, there were exemptions for some professions. Should gig employees be classified as independent contractors or as employees?

A. Independent Contractors

Employees

Why? _____

B. Independent Contractors

Employees

Why? _____

5. Do you support a consolidated primary date in April?
This would result in presidential, congressional, state, and local primaries all being held on the same day.

A. Yes No

Why? _____

B. Yes No

Why? _____

6. The burden of student loan debt has a profound impact on the economy and not only impacts the financial decisions of the student borrowers but also the parents and guardians who may assist in financing higher education. Which if any of the following do you believe would be the most beneficial in addressing the student loan crisis?

- A.** Tax credits to parents and borrowers
- Low interest loans
- Expanded loan forgiveness programs
- Better refinancing options
- Government subsidies for education
- Increased consumer protections for borrowers
- Other _____

- B.** Tax credits to parents and borrowers
- Low interest loans
- Expanded loan forgiveness programs
- Better refinancing options
- Government subsidies for education
- Increased consumer protections for borrowers
- Other _____

7. Do you support a single payer (Medicare-for-all) healthcare system?

A. Yes No

What is your reason for supporting or not supporting single payer?

B. Yes No

What is your reason for supporting or not supporting single payer?

8. The Governor has made it a priority to encourage shared services between municipalities. Which of the below services would you be most supportive in sharing?

- A.** Police
- Fire
- Communications
- Sanitation
- Parks and Recreation
- Human Resources
- Not at all

- B.** Police
- Fire
- Communications
- Sanitation
- Parks and Recreation
- Human Resources
- Not at all

9. Medicaid is generally the highest cost to county governments. It would cost the state \$2.3 billion to take over Medicaid management from the fifty-five counties outside New York City. Would you be willing to assume the cost of a state takeover in the State budget if it meant either an increase in State taxes or decrease in State services in order to lower your local property taxes?

A. Yes No

B. Yes No

10. Vacation rental websites, such as Airbnb, HomeAway, and VRBO, are online marketplaces that enables home-sharing. Provided that they are required to pay all related taxes and are compliant with current building codes, would you support these types of businesses in New York?
A. Yes No B. Yes No

11. Despite additional charges of corruption there has been little progress in the way of meaningful ethics reform. What in your opinion is the most important ethics reform measure that New York should enact? Please rank from most important (1) to least important (5)

- | | |
|---|---|
| A. Enhanced disclosure requirements ____
Prohibiting outside income ____
Pension forfeiture ____
Per diem reform ____
Campaign finance reforms (i.e. Lower limits for political contributions) ____
Other _____

_____ | B. Enhanced disclosure requirements ____
Prohibiting outside income ____
Pension forfeiture ____
Per diem reform ____
Campaign finance reforms (i.e. Lower limits for political contributions) ____
Other _____

_____ |
|---|---|

12. Term Length - Currently, New York State legislators are elected to a two year term.

Do you support legislators continuing to serve two year terms (every two years having to run for re-election)?
A. Yes No B. Yes No

If you answered no, would you support a constitutional amendment that would increase in the length of a term to four years?
A. Yes No B. Yes No

13. Term Limits – Currently New York State legislators are not subject to term limits, which means they can run for an unlimited number of two year terms. Should legislators be subject to term limits? A. Yes No B. Yes No
If you answered yes how many total years of service should a legislator be limited to (choose one response)?
A. 4 8 12 B. 4 8 12

14. 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?

A. Yes No B. Yes No

Do you support expansion of the existing medical marijuana program?

A. Yes No B. Yes No

15. When considering how to allocate the State's financial resources, which categories are your highest priorities? Rank highest priority as 1 – lowest priority as 13

- | | |
|---|---|
| A. Education (K-12) ____
Higher Education/College ____
Housing ____
Healthcare/Opioid/Heroin ____
Environment ____
Local Governments/Property Tax Relief ____
Bridge and Road Infrastructure ____
Water and Sewer Infrastructure ____
Parks ____
Workforce Development (Trades, Apprenticeships, Nursing, etc.) ____
Resources for the Aging community ____
Nutrition and Healthy Food ____
Childcare ____ | B. Education (K-12) ____
Higher Education/College ____
Housing ____
Healthcare/Opioid/Heroin ____
Environment ____
Local Governments/Property Tax Relief ____
Bridge and Road Infrastructure ____
Water and Sewer Infrastructure ____
Parks ____
Workforce Development (Trades, Apprenticeships, Nursing, etc.) ____
Resources for the Aging community ____
Nutrition and Healthy Food ____
Childcare ____ |
|---|---|

16. Supporting small businesses is a priority of mine and I frequently hear about the need for regulatory reforms to remove onerous burdens on small businesses to allow them to grow and succeed. Currently, I carry a bill that would attempt to relieve some of the burden by providing relief from regulatory fines for first-time offenses that do not impact health, safety, or the environment. What do you think is the biggest impediment for small businesses?

- | | |
|---|---|
| A. <input type="checkbox"/> The need for increased communication from regulatory agencies
<input type="checkbox"/> Health care costs
<input type="checkbox"/> Simplifying the tax code
<input type="checkbox"/> Licensing requirements
<input type="checkbox"/> Lower tax rates
Other (please explain) _____

_____ | B. <input type="checkbox"/> The need for increased communication from regulatory agencies
<input type="checkbox"/> Health care costs
<input type="checkbox"/> Simplifying the tax code
<input type="checkbox"/> Licensing requirements
<input type="checkbox"/> Lower tax rates
Other (please explain) _____

_____ |
|---|---|

17. The unfortunate reality of the heroin epidemic is that many of us have been touched by it in some shape or form. What obstacles do you see in prevention, treatment, and recovery?

- | | |
|--|--|
| A. _____

Other (please explain) _____

_____ | B. _____

Other (please explain) _____

_____ |
|--|--|

What if any thoughts do you have on how we can be more effective in battling this growing problem?

A. _____ B. _____

If opioid settlement funds become available similar to tobacco settlement funds, how do you think any funds received by New York State should be directed?

A. _____ B. _____

18. Just over 90 % of patients continued to receive prescription opioids after an overdose. More than half receive the prescription from the same doctor who prescribed the drugs that led to the overdose. If you are prescribed opioids, do you think a healthcare professional should be notified if you have had a drug overdose on opioids or heroin or that such information should be placed on a registry available to healthcare providers before she/he prescribes additional opioids?

A. Yes No B. Yes No
Why? _____ Why? _____

19. Controlled safe injection sites have been proposed as a method of preventing deaths from overdoses. Safe injection sites allow individuals to inject heroin in a clean and safe environment and prevents overdoses by having immediate access to life-saving resources. There are also options available at the sites for entering treatment. Would you support safe injection sites that allow supervised drug use?

A. Yes No B. Yes No
Why? _____ Why? _____

20. Please share any thoughts on what issues are important to you that you would like to see addressed in the 2020 session.

A. _____ B. _____

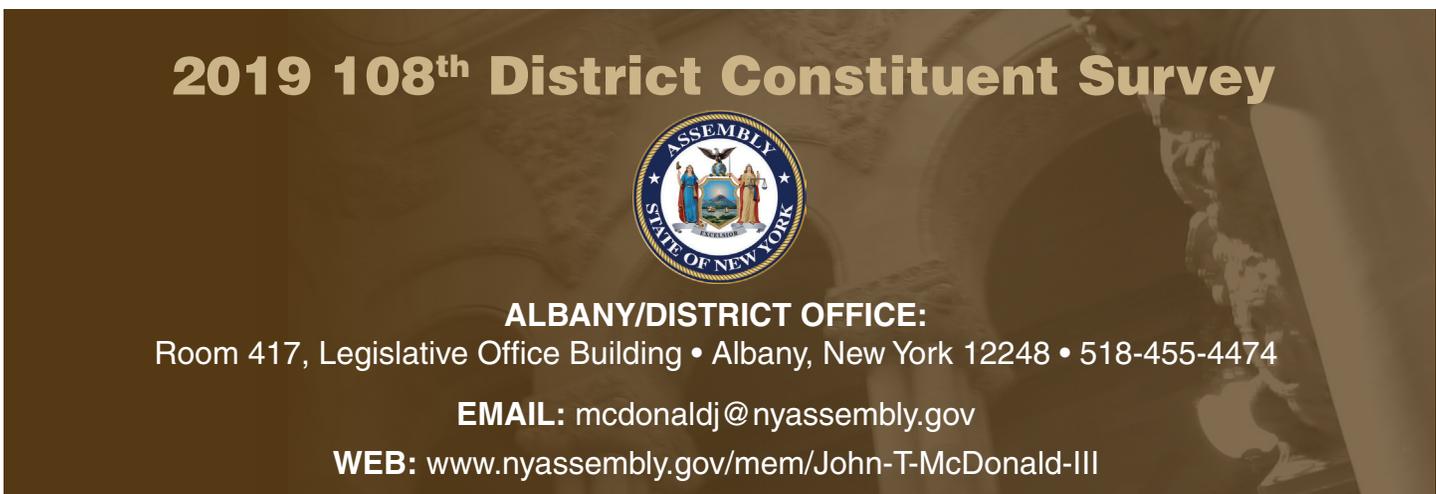
New York State Assembly • Albany, New York 12248

PRSR STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Albany, New York
Permit No. 75



NEWS From

Assemblymember
John T. McDonald III
2019 Constituent Survey



2019 108th District Constituent Survey

ALBANY/DISTRICT OFFICE:
Room 417, Legislative Office Building • Albany, New York 12248 • 518-455-4474
EMAIL: mcdonaldj@nyassembly.gov
WEB: www.nyassembly.gov/mem/John-T-McDonald-III