



NEWS From Assemblymember John T. McDonald III



Fall 2018

2018 Constituent Survey

Dear Neighbor:

We have reached the point in the year when the weather cools down and soon enough it will be 2019 and the Legislature will come back into session. Each year I ask for your input on legislative priorities and 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 always 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 <http://assembly.state.ny.us/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

2018 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. These questions are meant to gauge your opinion on areas that are likely to arise or have been discussed during previous legislative sessions.

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>

- During the 2018 session, the NYS Assembly passed the “Child Victims Act” as a one-house bill; the legislation proposes to extend the statute of limitations for sexual abuse criminal and civil cases. Under current law, the five year statute of limitations for bringing a criminal case begins when the victim reaches age 18. Under the bill, the five year statute of limitations would begin when the victim reaches age 23. As for civil cases, the current law starts the statute of limitations at age 18, under the proposed legislation, the victim would be able to bring a suit up to the age of 50 years old.

<p>a. Do you support extending the statute of limitations for survivors of childhood sexual abuse?</p> <p><i>i. If your answer is yes, do you support the extension:</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1. For criminal cases</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2. For civil cases</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 3. For both</p> <p>4. How long do you think the statute of limitations should be extended for? <input type="text"/></p> <p><i>ii. Why do you support extending the statute of limitations in these cases?</i></p>	<p>a. Do you support extending the statute of limitations for survivors of childhood sexual abuse?</p> <p><i>i. If your answer is yes, do you support the extension:</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1. For criminal cases</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2. For civil cases</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 3. For both</p> <p>4. How long do you think the statute of limitations should be extended for? <input type="text"/></p> <p><i>ii. Why do you support extending the statute of limitations in these cases?</i></p>
<p>b. If you do not support extending the statute limitations, why?</p>	<p>b. If you do not support extending the statute limitations, why?</p>

**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. The Reproductive Health Act aligns New York State law with protections guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution. The bill removes abortion from the Penal Law which was enacted three years before the Roe v. Wade decision. Under the proposal, duly licensed health care practitioners may perform the procedure within 24 weeks of pregnancy, when there is an absence of fetal viability, or when necessary to protect the woman’s life or health. Would you support passage of the Reproductive Health Act into law?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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3. The Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA) is a bill that expands the rights of transgender individuals and seeks to prohibit discrimination based on gender identity or expression and expands New York State’s hate crime laws to include crimes against people because of their gender identity or expression. Do you support the passage of GENDA into law?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Why? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Why?
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4. 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?

<input type="checkbox"/> a. Tax credits to parents and borrowers <input type="checkbox"/> b. Low interest loans <input type="checkbox"/> c. Expanded loan forgiveness programs <input type="checkbox"/> d. Better refinancing options <input type="checkbox"/> e. Government subsidies for education <input type="checkbox"/> f. Increased consumer protections for borrowers <input type="checkbox"/> g. Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> a. Tax credits to parents and borrowers <input type="checkbox"/> b. Low interest loans <input type="checkbox"/> c. Expanded loan forgiveness programs <input type="checkbox"/> d. Better refinancing options <input type="checkbox"/> e. Government subsidies for education <input type="checkbox"/> f. Increased consumer protections for borrowers <input type="checkbox"/> g. Other:
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5. Would you support a ban on the sale of flavored e-cigarettes?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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6. Increasing civic engagement and voter turnout has become a frequently discussed topic. Do you support the following voting reforms?

a. Early voting (voting before Election Day) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	a. Early voting (voting before Election Day) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
b. No-Excuse Absentee Voting (being able to vote absentee without a reason) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	b. No-Excuse Absentee Voting (being able to vote absentee without a reason) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
c. Automatic Voter Registration (automatically being registered to vote when you interact with a state agency such as the NY State Department of Motor Vehicles) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	c. Automatic Voter Registration (automatically being registered to vote when you interact with a state agency such as the NY State Department of Motor Vehicles) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
d. Same-Day Voter Registration (being able to register the same day you go to vote at the polls) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	d. Same-Day Voter Registration (being able to register the same day you go to vote at the polls) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
e. Ranked Choice Voting (ranking your preferred candidates in order of preference, otherwise known as instant-runoff voting) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	e. Ranked Choice Voting (ranking your preferred candidates in order of preference, otherwise known as instant-runoff voting) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
f. Do you have a suggestion as to how voter turnout can be increased?	f. Do you have a suggestion as to how voter turnout can be increased?

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

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No What is your reason for supporting or not supporting single payer? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No What is your reason for supporting or not supporting single payer?
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8. Would you support allowing sports gambling/betting in New York State?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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9. The proposed New York State DREAM Act would provide funding for the children of immigrants to attend college. Do you support this Act?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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10. a. Other states have imposed a ban on polystyrene and/or plastic bags by replacing them with paper, recyclable material, and/or biodegradable products in the interest of environmental protection. Do you support a similar plastic bag ban in New York if retailers also charged a 10 cent fee for the new bags to offset the additional costs for these bags?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Ban all plastic bags	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
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b. Would you change your answer if 5 cents of that fee were used to fund New York State Parks?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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11. 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?

<input type="checkbox"/> a. Police	<input type="checkbox"/> b. Fire	<input type="checkbox"/> c. Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> a. Police	<input type="checkbox"/> b. Fire	<input type="checkbox"/> c. Communications
<input type="checkbox"/> d. Sanitation	<input type="checkbox"/> e. Parks and Recreation		<input type="checkbox"/> d. Sanitation	<input type="checkbox"/> e. Parks and Recreation	
<input type="checkbox"/> f. Human Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> g. Not at all		<input type="checkbox"/> f. Human Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> g. Not at all	

12. 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?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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13. Vacation rental websites, such as Airbnb, HomeAway, and VRBO, are online marketplaces that enable 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?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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14. 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 (6) to least important (1)*

<input type="checkbox"/> a. New disclosure requirements	<input type="checkbox"/> a. New disclosure requirements
<input type="checkbox"/> b. Prohibiting outside income	<input type="checkbox"/> b. Prohibiting outside income
<input type="checkbox"/> c. Pension forfeiture	<input type="checkbox"/> c. Pension forfeiture
<input type="checkbox"/> d. Per diem reform	<input type="checkbox"/> d. Per diem reform
<input type="checkbox"/> e. Campaign finance reforms	<input type="checkbox"/> e. Campaign finance reforms
<input type="checkbox"/> f. Closing the LLC loophole	<input type="checkbox"/> f. Closing the LLC loophole
<input type="checkbox"/> g. Other	<input type="checkbox"/> g. Other:

15. Term Length – 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)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	a. Do you support legislators continuing to serve two year terms (every two years having to run for re-election)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 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? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 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? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

16. 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.

a. Should legislators be subject to term limits? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	a. Should legislators be subject to term limits? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
b. If you answered yes to (a), how many total years of service should a legislator be limited to (choose one response)? <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 12	b. If you answered yes to (a), how many total years of service should a legislator be limited to (choose one response)? <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 12

17. a. 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?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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b. If legalization did not occur, would you be supportive of the expungement of certain marijuana drug charges from criminal records?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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18. 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)*

<input type="checkbox"/> a. Education (K-12)	<input type="checkbox"/> a. Education (K-12)
<input type="checkbox"/> b. Higher Education/College	<input type="checkbox"/> b. Higher Education/College
<input type="checkbox"/> c. Housing	<input type="checkbox"/> c. Housing
<input type="checkbox"/> d. Healthcare/Opioid/Heroin	<input type="checkbox"/> d. Healthcare/Opioid/Heroin
<input type="checkbox"/> e. Environment	<input type="checkbox"/> e. Environment
<input type="checkbox"/> f. Local Governments/Property Tax Relief	<input type="checkbox"/> f. Local Governments/Property Tax Relief
<input type="checkbox"/> g. Bridge and Road Infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/> g. Bridge and Road Infrastructure
<input type="checkbox"/> h. Water and Sewer Infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/> h. Water and Sewer Infrastructure
<input type="checkbox"/> i. Parks	<input type="checkbox"/> i. Parks
<input type="checkbox"/> j. Workforce Development (Trades, Apprenticeships, Nursing, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> j. Workforce Development (Trades, Apprenticeships, Nursing, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/> k. Resources for the Aging community	<input type="checkbox"/> k. Resources for the Aging community
<input type="checkbox"/> l. Nutrition and Healthy Food	<input type="checkbox"/> l. Nutrition and Healthy Food
<input type="checkbox"/> m. Childcare	<input type="checkbox"/> m. Childcare

19. 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?

<input type="checkbox"/> a. The need for increased communication from regulatory agencies	<input type="checkbox"/> a. The need for increased communication from regulatory agencies
<input type="checkbox"/> b. Health care costs	<input type="checkbox"/> b. Health care costs
<input type="checkbox"/> c. Simplifying the tax code	<input type="checkbox"/> c. Simplifying the tax code
<input type="checkbox"/> d. Licensing requirements	<input type="checkbox"/> d. Licensing requirements
<input type="checkbox"/> e. Other (please explain):	<input type="checkbox"/> e. Other (please explain):

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

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21. 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?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Why? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Why?
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22. Controlled safe injection sites have been proposed as a method of preventing deaths from overdoses. Would you support safe injection sites that allow supervised drug use?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Why? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Why?
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23. Please share any thoughts on what issues are important to you that you would like to see addressed in the 2019 session.

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New York State Assembly • Albany, New York 12248

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