



NEWS From Assemblymember John T. McDonald III



2023 108th Assembly District Constituent Survey

Dear Neighbor:

Happy New Year! We have reached the point when the Legislature has returned for the 2023 Legislative Session. While some of you are accustomed to receiving this constituent survey, for others this is an introduction to your new Assemblymember. Each year, I send a constituent survey asking for input on potential priorities for the NYS Legislature in the upcoming session, bills that may be considered, 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. For those of you who do not know me, I pride myself on responsiveness and I work with my office to assist constituents with navigating state agencies and cutting through red tape.

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. Something that many people know about me is that I do check and respond to my own emails. To receive community and legislative updates, please join my mailing list by visiting my New York Assembly website at www.nyassembly.gov/mem/John-T-McDonald-III.

I 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, out in the district, by phone or virtually through Zoom. Hearing your voice and what matters to you is extremely beneficial as we shape our legislative agenda and prioritize the needs of the district. It is a privilege to serve you and it is an honor that I will never take for granted. Thank you for completing the enclosed survey, my door is always open and I look forward to talking to you soon.

Sincerely,

John T. McDonald III, RPh

2023 108th District Constituent Survey

Please find a constituent survey below that will allow you to provide input on the issues 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; 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 my 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 • LOB 417, Albany, New York 12248
- **By filling out the form online on my website at** www.nyassembly.gov/mem/John-T-McDonald-III

**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.**

1. As we continue to see the impacts of climate change, discussions have been ongoing as to what the next steps are beyond the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act ("CLCPA") that was enacted into law in 2019 and how to fund the objectives of the law. There are multiple bills proposed that would implement a polluter fee structure for carbon and greenhouse gas emissions among other provisions. Proponents of these bills estimate that the fees would generate approximately \$15 billion per year. These revenues would be split toward funding for community-based organizations located in or serving environmental justice communities, funding renewable energy projects, and funding energy rebates for low- and moderate-income New Yorkers. In addition, a percentage of funds are committed toward offsetting the loss of fossil fuel-related jobs and revenues.

Concerns have been raised by some as to whether costs will be passed down to consumers (the bills neither require nor specify this), questions around the rebates for low- to moderate-income ratepayers, and general questions as to how the legislation will be implemented in practice, including labor provisions in the bill. Understanding that it is not possible to explain the various components of complicated bills, are you familiar with these proposed bills? Do you support or oppose passing these proposed bills into law? Why?

Continued on next page

- a. Yes,
- b. No
- c. Support
- d. Oppose

Why? _____

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Support
- d. Oppose

Why? _____

2. The Extended Producer Responsibility Act (S.1185-C of 2022) ("EPR") is a proposed environmental bill that would require producers (person or companies that create the products) of consumer packaging and paper products to pay to recycle these materials. Producers are prohibited from selling or distributing any covered materials in New York unless they have an approved producer responsibility plan.

The program will also create a funding mechanism to cover the costs of the program or cover the cost of a municipality for partaking in the program. The funding program will be structured in a way that includes incentives to reward producers for product design that reduces waste, increases the recyclability of the product, and removes toxics in packaging. Charges will also be adjusted based on the post-consumer recycled content rate of the covered material. Are you familiar with the EPR legislation? Do you support or oppose passing the EPR into law? Why?

- a. Yes, I am familiar with the EPR legislation
- b. No, I have not heard of the EPR legislation
- c. Support
- d. Oppose

Why? _____

- a. Yes, I am familiar with the EPR legislation
- b. No, I have not heard of the EPR legislation
- c. Support
- d. Oppose

Why? _____

3. Clean Slate legislation (A.6399-C of 2022 Cruz/S.1553-D of 2022 Myrie) has been proposed that would allow for automatic sealing of certain criminal convictions. The bill would apply to records of misdemeanor and felony convictions subject to certain conditions. The bill is proposed to seal the records of misdemeanor convictions after 3 years and felony convictions after 7 years. Among these conditions are waiting periods for traffic infractions, misdemeanors, and felonies. Other conditions require that the defendant not have a pending criminal charge in this state, not currently be on probation or parole for the eligible conviction, and that the defendant is not currently required to register as a sex offender. In addition, there are ten exceptions to the automatic sealing provision, such as for background checks for potential law enforcement officers, background checks for gun license applicants, and other fingerprint-based background checks required by law. Are you familiar with the Clean Slate legislation? Do you support or oppose passing the Clean Slate bill into law? Why?

- a. Yes, I am familiar with the Clean Slate legislation
- b. No, I have not heard of the Clean Slate legislation
- c. Support
- d. Oppose

Why? _____

- a. Yes, I am familiar with the Clean Slate legislation
- b. No, I have not heard of the Clean Slate legislation
- c. Support
- d. Oppose

Why? _____

4. The New York Medical Aid in Dying Act (A.4321-A of 2022 Paulin/S.6471 of 2022 Savino) would allow a mentally competent, terminally ill patient to choose to self-administer medication to end his or her life with additional protective measures in place. Do you support passing the Medical Aid in Dying Act into law?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Why? _____

- a. Yes
- b. No

Why? _____

5. There are groups who are advocating for legislation that would allow early release of all elderly New York inmates, irrespective of the nature of the crime for which they were convicted, who are 55 years of age and older out of prisons and onto early parole. Do you support allowing the parole board to evaluate all inmates who are 55 years old and older for early release from prisons? Note: the proposed bill does not mandate release but allows the Board of Parole to make the evaluations and the discretion to make the decisions.

- a. Yes
- b. No

Why? _____

- a. Yes
- b. No

Why? _____

6. 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
- b. Tax credits applied to taxes due
- c. Grants
- d. Increased transparency measures
- e. A unified economic development budget
- f. None
- g. Other _____

Why? _____

- a. The elimination of Local Development Corporations and empowering Industrial Development Agencies with the authority to give grants and loans
- b. Tax credits applied to taxes due
- c. Grants
- d. Increased transparency measures
- e. A unified economic development budget
- f. None
- g. Other _____

Why? _____

7. Gig economy workers are generally treated as independent contractors because of the nature of the work and services provided. Should gig employees be classified as independent contractors or as employees?

- a. Independent Contractors
- b. Employees

Why? _____

- a. Independent Contractors
- b. Employees

Why? _____

8. 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
- b. Low interest loans
- c. Expanded loan forgiveness programs
- d. Better refinancing options
- e. Government subsidies for education
- f. Increased consumer protections for borrowers
- g. Other _____

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- c. Expanded loan forgiveness programs
- d. Better refinancing options
- e. Government subsidies for education
- f. Increased consumer protections for borrowers
- g. Other _____

9. Do you support a single-payer (Medicare-for-all) health care system?

- a. Yes
- b. No

- a. Yes
- b. No

10. What is your reason for supporting or not supporting single-payer?

11. Many families struggle to find affordable and reliable child care and child care centers struggle to retain staff due to salary constraints. What do you think would be helpful to address the current child care crisis?

12. 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?

- a. Yes
- b. No

- a. Yes
- b. No

13. Despite additional charges of corruption in politics, 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 (6).

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

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

14. **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)?

- 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

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- 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

15. **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 limit

- Yes No

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

- 4 8 12

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)?

- 4 8 12

16. 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) ____
- b. Higher Education/College ____
- c. Housing ____
- d. Health Care/Opioid/Heroin ____
- e. Environment ____
- f. Local Governments/Property Tax Relief ____
- g. Bridge and Road Infrastructure ____
- h. Water and Sewer Infrastructure ____
- i. Parks ____
- j. Workforce Development (Trades, Apprenticeships, Nursing, etc.) ____
- k. Resources for the Aging community ____
- l. Nutrition and Healthy Food ____
- m. Child Care _____

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- m. Child Care _____

17. 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. What do you think is the biggest impediment for small businesses? (rank highest priority as 1 – lowest priority as 6)

- a. The need for increased communication from regulatory agencies ____
- b. Health care costs ____
- c. Simplifying the tax code ____
- d. Licensing requirements ____
- e. Lower tax rates ____
- f. Other (please explain) _____

- a. The need for increased communication from regulatory agencies____
- b. Health care costs ____
- c. Simplifying the tax code ____
- d. Licensing requirements ____
- e. Lower tax rates ____
- f. Other (please explain) _____

18. 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?

19. 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 health care 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 health care providers before she/he prescribes additional opioids?

- a. Yes
- b. No

- a. Yes
- b. No

Why? _____

20. Overdose Prevention Centers (OPCs) have been proposed as a method of preventing deaths from overdoses. The sites provide a clean and safe environment and prevent overdoses by having immediate access to lifesaving resources. Individuals can use pre-obtained drugs under the supervision of medical professionals. Staff members of these programs will provide sterile injection supplies, collect used hypodermic needles and syringes, and teach patients about safe consumption practices. Patients will also be able to access referrals to treatment, job training, and other social services. Would you support safe injection sites that allow supervised drug use?

- a. Yes
- b. No

- a. Yes
- b. No

Why? _____

21. Please share any thoughts on what issues are important to you that you would like to see addressed in the 2023 session

New York State Assembly • Albany, New York 12248

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NEWS From




Assemblymember

John T. McDonald III

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