

2012 LEGISLATIVE SURVEY – SHARE YOUR VIEWS AND HAVE YOUR SAY!

RIGHT DIRECTION/WRONG TRACK FOR NEW YORK STATE

1. Do you feel things in New York State are headed in the right direction or are they on the wrong track?

Right Direction Wrong Track

RATE NEW YORK'S ECONOMY

2. How would you rate New York State's economy?

- Good
- Stronger and improving
- Average
- Weak and worsening
- Poor

RANK MY LEGISLATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

3. The 2011 and 2012 Legislative Sessions saw many accomplishments and have been described as two of the most productive legislative years in New York's history. Which of my 2011 and 2012 legislative achievements would you rate as the most important? (check all that apply)

- Enacting a two percent property tax cap
- Delivering Medicaid mandate relief
- Closing \$13.5 billion in State Budget deficits
- Passing two on-time State Budgets
- Reducing government spending
- Instituting ethics reform
- Expanding the State's DNA Databank
- Consolidating and merging State Agencies
- Increasing State aid to local schools
- Enacting pension reform

BIGGEST OBSTACLE(S) TO NEW YORK'S ECONOMY

4. In your view, what are the biggest obstacles to making New York's economy more competitive, along with creating and retaining good-paying jobs? (check all that apply)

- Taxes, fees and surcharges
- Price of energy
- Labor costs
- State regulations
- Albany bureaucracy
- Perception that New York is not business-friendly

BEST WAYS TO GROW OUR ECONOMY

5. In your view, what are the best ways to grow New York's economy, support private sector job creation and promote economic development? (check all that apply)

- Support small businesses already operating in New York
- Offer targeted tax incentives to keep companies here
- Enact pro-growth economic policies and reduce government's cost
- Leverage State funding to match private sector investment

- Provide tax credits to businesses that hire unemployed workers
- Cut bureaucratic red tape
- Build an “innovation economy” by investing in education, emphasizing vocational (career) skills training and encouraging entrepreneurship
- Transform State Agencies from roadblocks to job creation into partners that help private sector job creators and attract new investment

VIEWS ON CASINO GAMING

6. Earlier this year, the State Legislature passed legislation that would enact a State Constitutional Amendment to expand casino gaming in New York State. Do you support an expansion of casino gaming?

- Yes No Undecided

UTILIZATION OF CASINO GAMING REVENUES

7. If casino gaming were expanded in New York State, how should the billions in new revenue expected to be generated be used? (check all that apply)

- Increase education funding
- Deliver property tax relief
- Support road and bridge repair
- Enact tax relief for businesses
- Pay off State debt
- Provide unfunded mandate relief for local governments
- Expand public sector services and programs
- Put toward the State’s Rainy Day Fund for emergencies
- Provide public financing of legislative campaigns with tax dollars

RATE THE PROPERTY TAX CAP’S EFFECTIVENESS

8. In 2011, with my support, New York finally enacted a property tax cap that capped the growth of local property taxes at two percent or the rate of inflation – whichever is lower – to protect homeowners. One year later, how would you rate the effectiveness of New York’s property tax cap law in terms of controlling the growth of your local property tax levies?

- Effective, the property tax cap is working
- Ineffective, the property tax cap has not done enough to control property tax hikes
- Undecided, more time is needed to determine the tax cap’s effectiveness

REMAINING PRIORITIES FOR ALBANY

9. Going forward, what should be Albany’s top legislative priorities? (check all that apply)

- Deliver real tax relief for families
- Grow the private sector to create more jobs
- Provide relief from Albany’s unfunded mandates on local governments, school districts and taxpayers
- Strengthen New York’s economy so it is more competitive
- Invest in education by providing more State aid to local schools
- Reduce health care costs for small businesses and families
- Continue reducing the size and cost of government
- Enact a State Constitutional Amendment to establish an independent Legislative Redistricting Commission to take politics out of the redistricting process
- Help local governments reduce their pension costs

_____ Expand casino gaming

WHAT CAN STATE GOVERNMENT DO TO HELP IMPROVE NEW YORK'S QUALITY OF LIFE?

10. In one sentence (if possible), describe the **ONE THING** that, in your opinion, State government could do to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Which social media services, if any, do you use? (Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn)

To help save taxpayer dollars, please provide an e-mail address if you would like to receive my Albany Legislative Updates via e-mail:

If you would like to provide additional comments for me on any issue pertaining to New York State government, please print them in the space below:
