



NEWS From Assemblymember John T. McDonald III


Winter 2019

2019 Constituent Survey Results

As the New York State Legislature gears up for the 2019 session, I am pleased to share the results of our constituent survey. The ideas expressed in the responses will help guide my decisions in Albany and I appreciate your participation and thoughtful responses. The level of participation this year was very impressive; we received 543 total responses including 294 electronic and 249 paper responses. Please keep in mind that your input is always welcome year-round and you should always feel free to reach out to my office with any thoughts or comments.

If you have any questions, or wish to discuss these items further, please feel free to email me at mcdonaldj@nyassembly.gov or call my office at 518-455-4474.

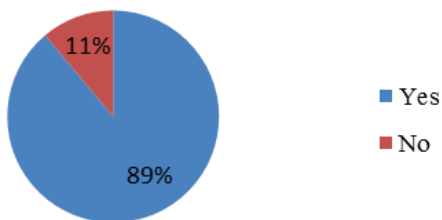
Thank you and happy New Year!



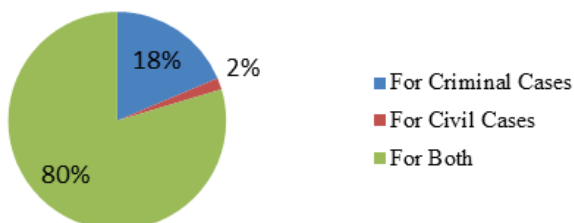
John T. McDonald III
Member of Assembly

QUESTION 1: 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.

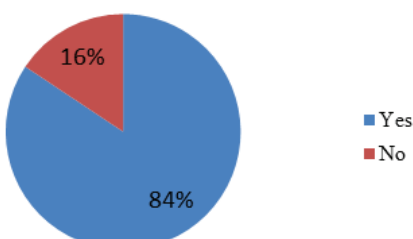
Do you support extending the statute of limitations for survivors of childhood sexual abuse?



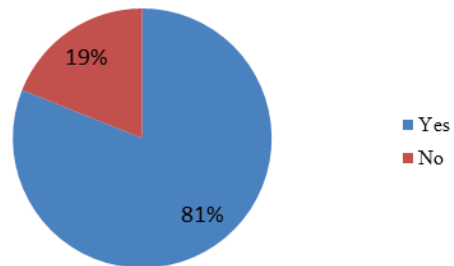
If answered Yes, do you support the extension for criminal cases, civil cases, or both



QUESTION 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?

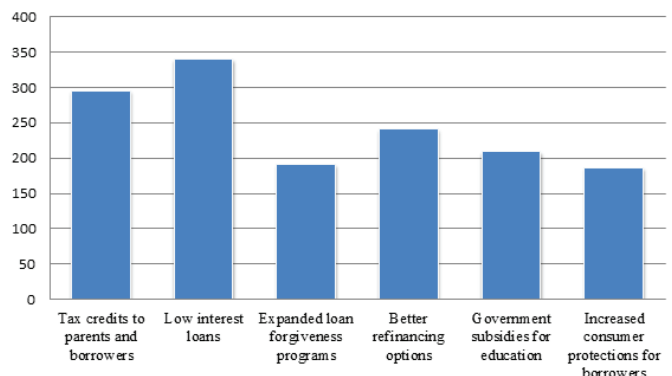


QUESTION 3: The Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA) is a bill that expands the rights of transgender individuals and seeks to prohibit discrimination based on gender identity or expression and expands New York State's hate crime laws to include crimes against people because of their gender identity or expression. Do you support the passage of GENDA into law?

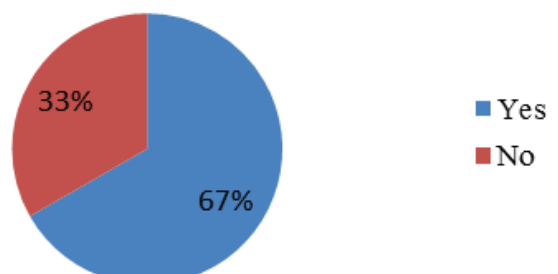


QUESTION 4: The burden of student loan debt has a profound impact on the economy and not only impacts the financial decisions of the student borrowers but also the parents and guardians who may assist in financing higher education.

Which if any of the following do you believe would be the most beneficial in addressing the student loan crisis?

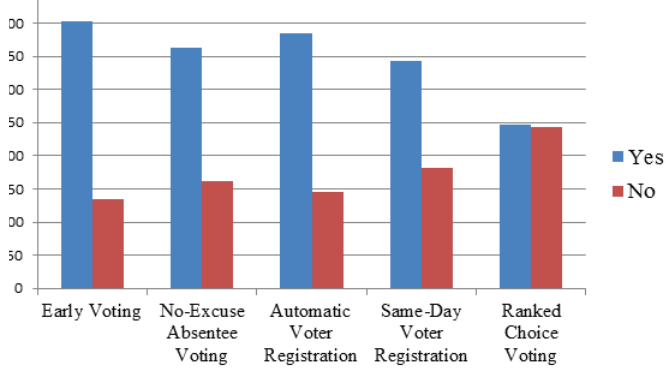


QUESTION 5: Would you support a ban on the sale of flavored e-cigarettes?

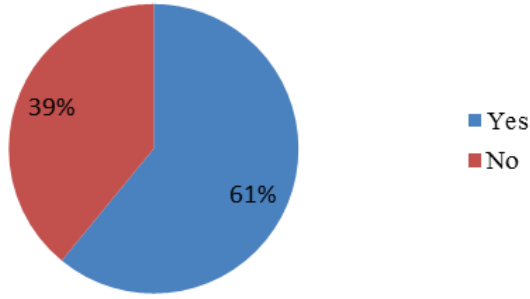


QUESTION 6: Increasing civic engagement and voter turnout has become a frequently discussed topic.

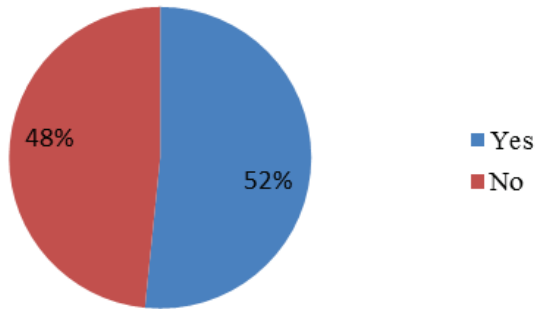
Do you support the following voting reforms?



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

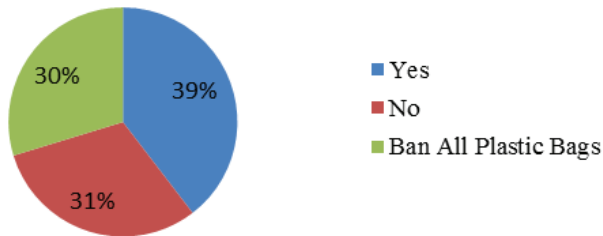


QUESTION 8: Would you support allowing sports gambling/betting in New York State?

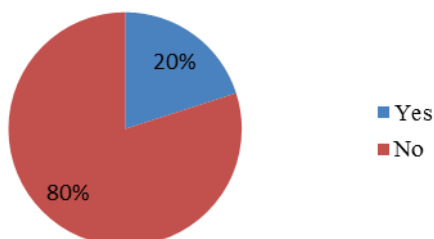


QUESTION 9: Other states have imposed a ban on polystyrene and/or plastic bags by replacing them with paper, recyclable material, and/or biodegradable products in the interest of environmental protection.

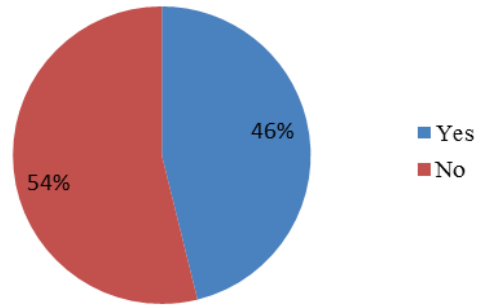
Do you support a similar plastic bag ban in New York if retailers also charged a 10 cent fee for the new bags to offset the additional costs for these bags?



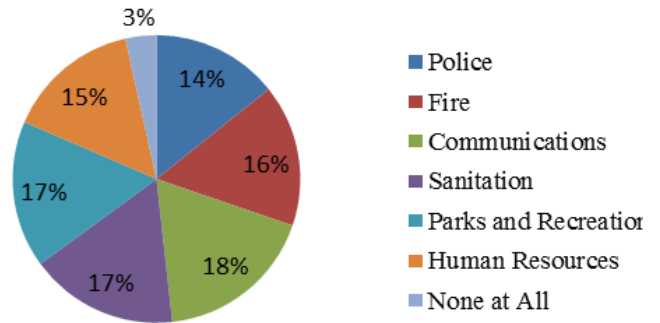
Would you change your answer if 5 cents of the fee were used to fund New York State Parks?



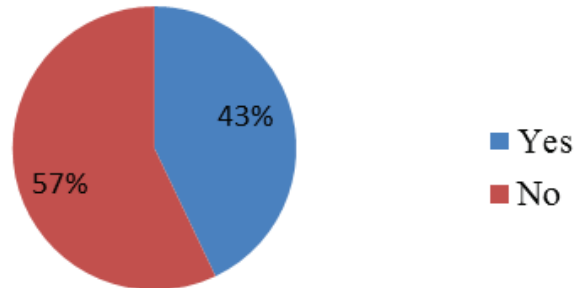
QUESTION 10: The proposed New York State DREAM Act would provide funding for the children of immigrants to attend college. Do you support the DREAM Act?



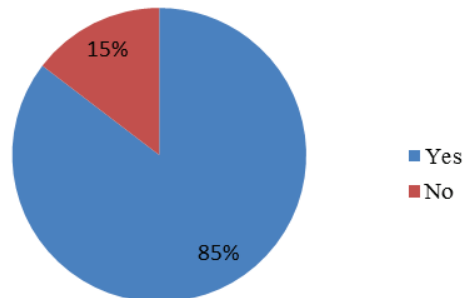
QUESTION 11: The Governor has made it a priority to encourage shared services between municipalities. Which of the below services would you be most supportive in sharing?



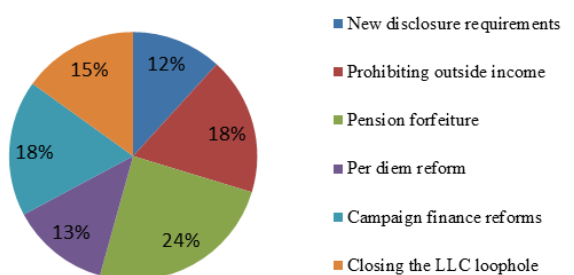
QUESTION 12: Medicaid is generally the highest cost to county governments. It would cost the state \$2.3 billion to take over Medicaid management from the fifty-five counties outside New York City. Would you be willing to assume the cost of a state takeover in the State budget if it meant either an increase in State taxes or decrease in State services in order to lower your local property taxes?



QUESTION 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?

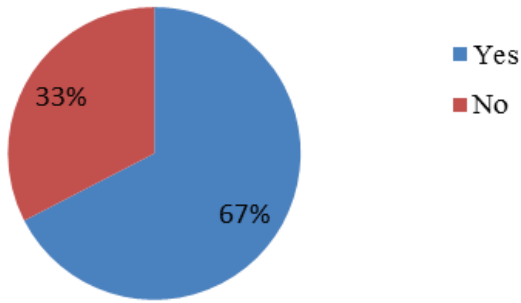


QUESTION 14: Despite additional charges of corruption there has been little progress in the way of meaningful ethics reform. What in your opinion is the most important ethics reform measure that New York should enact?

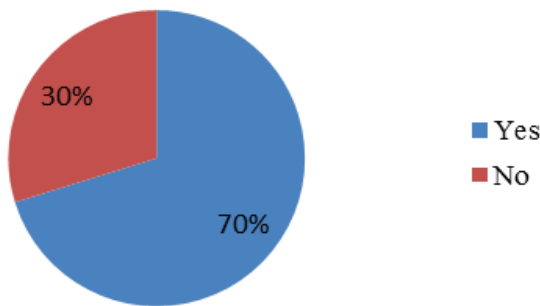


QUESTION 15: Term Length - Currently, New York State legislators are elected to a two year term.

Do you support legislators continuing to serve two year terms (every two years having to run for re-election)?

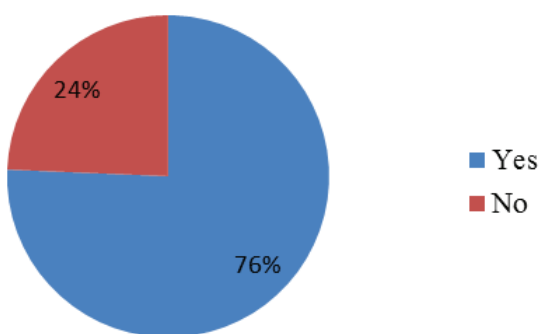


If you answered no to (a), would you support a constitutional amendment that would increase in the length of a term to four years?

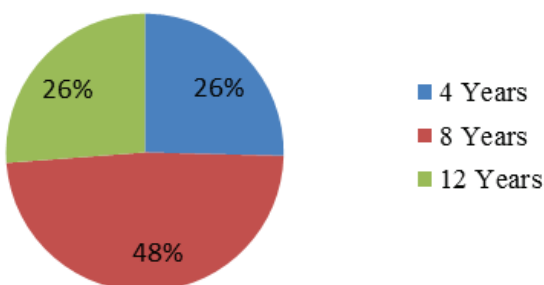


QUESTION 16: Term Limits – Currently New York State legislators are not subject to term limits, which means they can run for an unlimited number of two year terms.

Should legislators be subject to term limits?

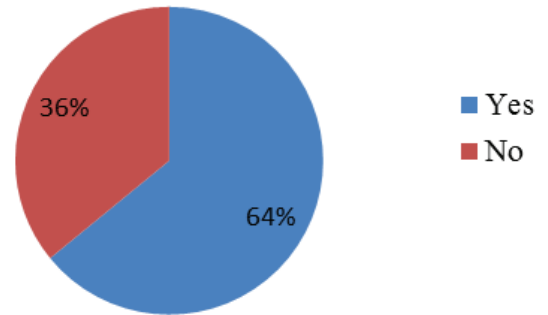


If you answered yes to 16A, how many total years of service should a legislator be limited to?

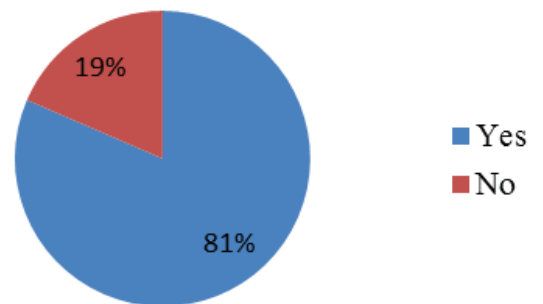


QUESTION 17: Currently, New York has a medical marijuana program in place; however it has not legalized marijuana for recreational use. To date, seven states, including neighboring Massachusetts, have legalized marijuana for recreational use.

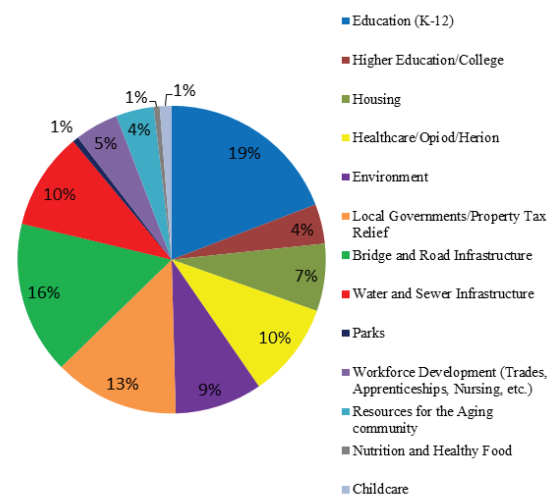
Do you support the full legalization of marijuana in New York?



If legalization did not occur, would you be supportive of the expungement of certain marijuana drug charges from criminal records?



QUESTION 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)



QUESTION 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?

