



NEWS from Assemblymember John T. McDonald III

2019 Constituent Survey Results

As the New York State Legislature begins the 2020 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 380 total responses including 227 electronic and 153 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.

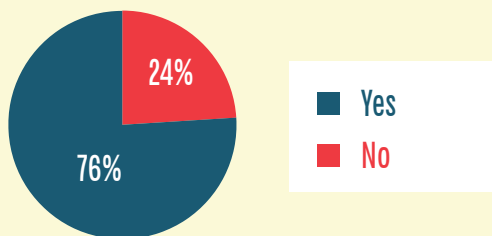
If you have any questions, or wish to discuss these items further, please feel free to email me at mcdonaldj@nyassembly.gov or call my office at 518-455-4474.

Thank you and happy New Year!

John T. McDonald III
Member of Assembly

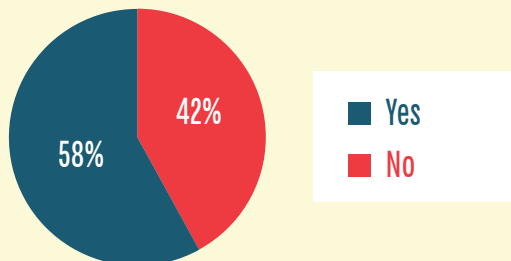
QUESTION 1:

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?



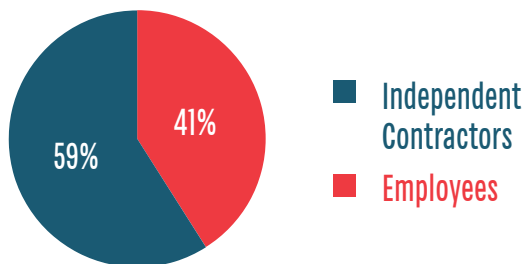
QUESTION 3:

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 New York?



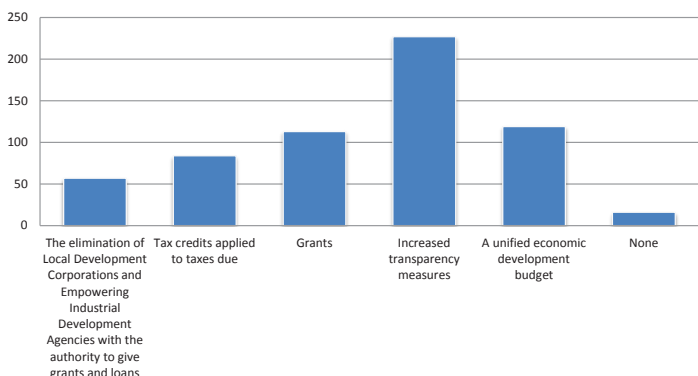
QUESTION 4:

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?



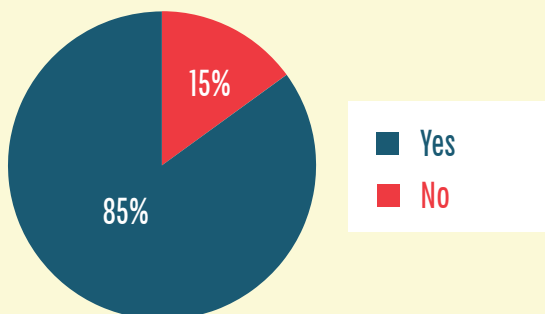
QUESTION 2:

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?



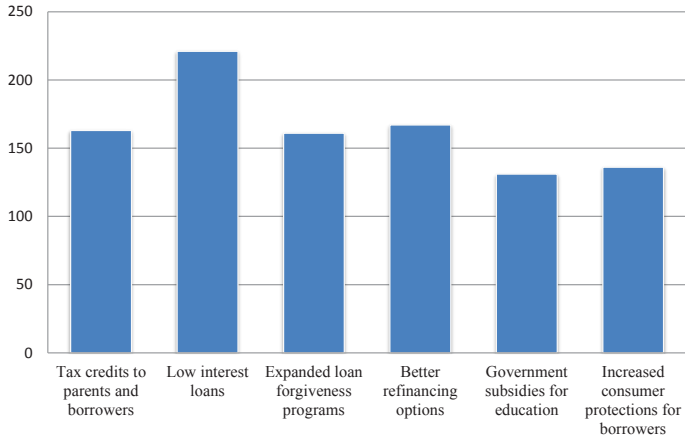
QUESTION 5:

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. Do you support a consolidated date in April?



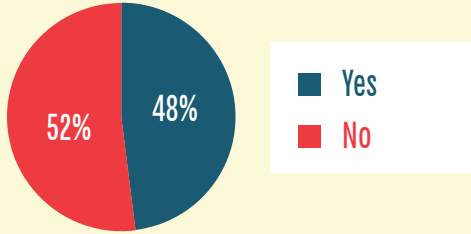
QUESTION 6:

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?



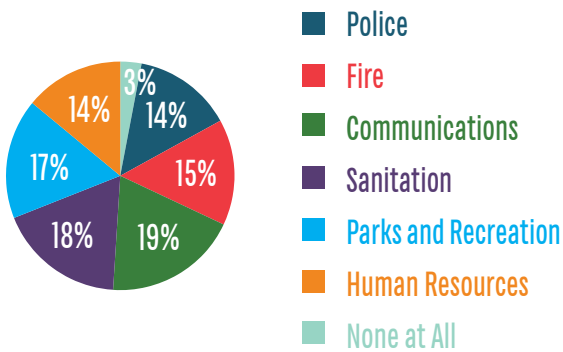
QUESTION 7:

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



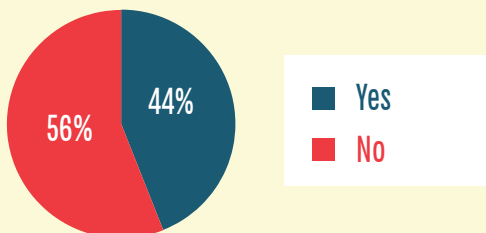
QUESTION 8:

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?



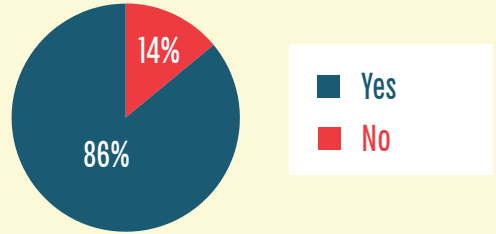
QUESTION 9:

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?



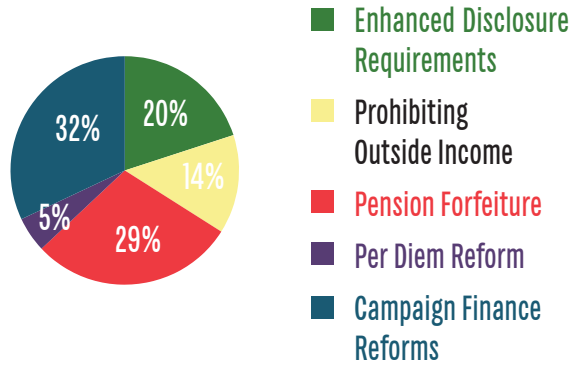
QUESTION 10:

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?



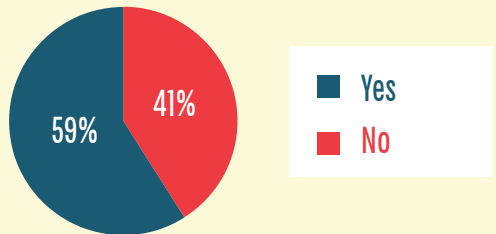
QUESTION 11:

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?

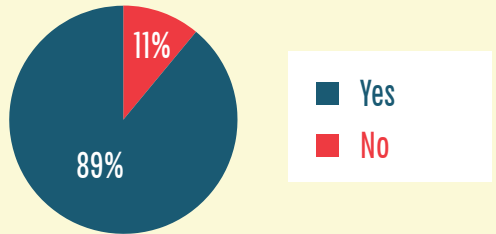


QUESTION 12:

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)?

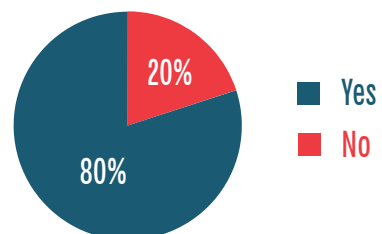


If you answered no to (a), would you support a constitutional amendment that would increase in the length of a term to four years?



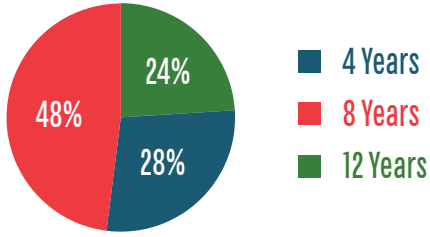
QUESTION 13A:

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?



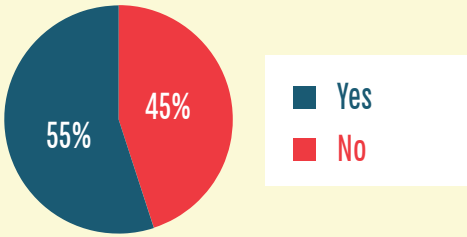
QUESTION 13B:

If you answered yes to 13A, how many total years of service should a legislator be limited to?



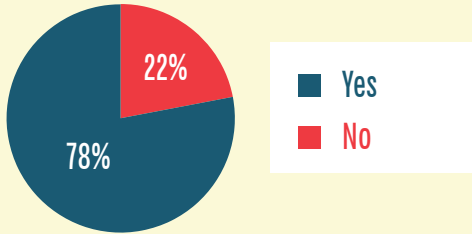
QUESTION 14A:

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?



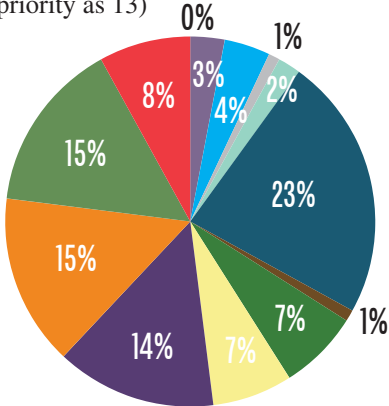
QUESTION 14B:

Do you support expansion of the existing medical marijuana program?



QUESTION 15:

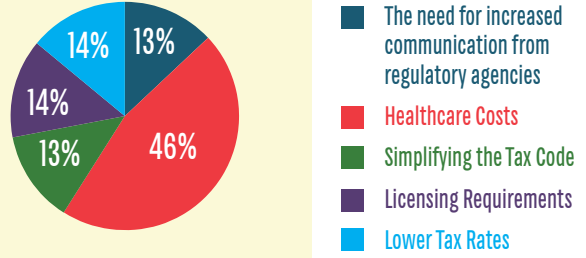
When considering how to allocate the State's financial resources, which categories are your highest priorities? (rank highest priority as 1 – lowest priority as 13)



- Education (K-12)
- Higher Education/College
- Housing
- Health Care/Opioid Heroin
- Environment
- Local Government/Property Tax Relief
- Childcare
- Bridge and Road Infrastructure
- Water and Sewer Infrastructure
- Parks
- Workforce Development (Trades, Apprenticeships, Nursing, etc.)
- Resources for the Aging Community
- Nutrition & Healthy Food

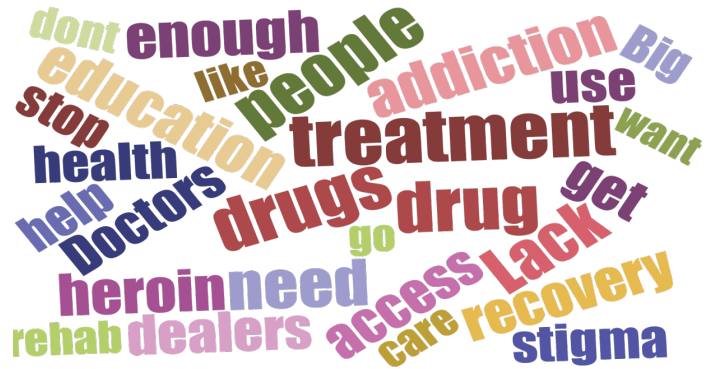
QUESTION 16:

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?



QUESTION 17A:

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?



QUESTION 17B:

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



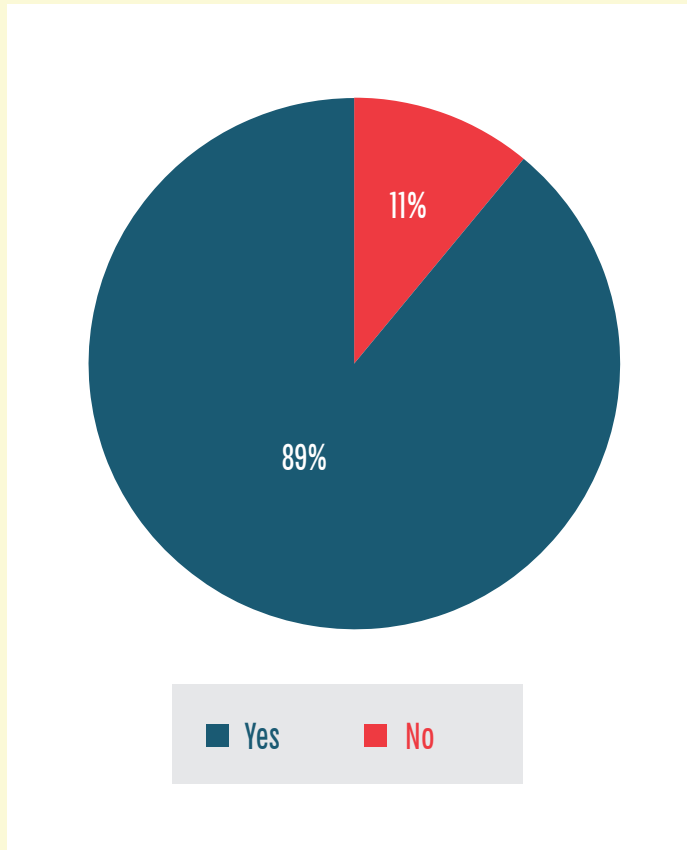
QUESTION 17C:

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?



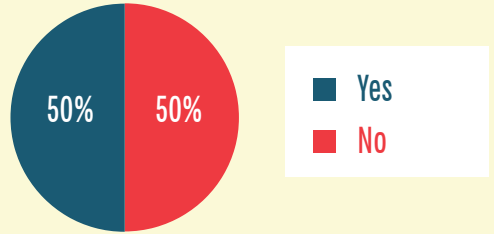
QUESTION 18:

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?



QUESTION 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?



We received many responses to the open comment section and appreciate your responses. Please see below for a word cloud that shows some of the topics that came up the most often.



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Assemblymember

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