

2023 Constituent Survey Results

Assemblymember John T. McDonald III



As the New York State Legislature is working through the 2023 session, here are the results of the 2022 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 much higher than in past years; we received 443 total responses, including 288 electronic and 155 paper responses. For reference, last year we received 281 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, RPh
Member of Assembly

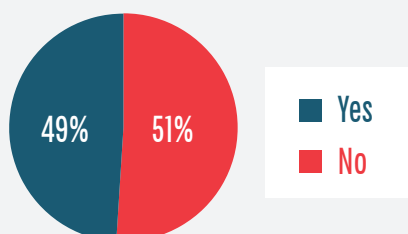
Question 1:

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.

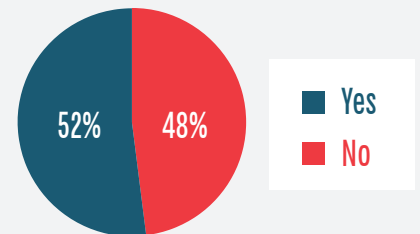
Concerns have been raised by some as to whether costs will be passed down to consumers (the bills do not require nor specify this), questions around the rebates for low to moderate income ratepayers, and general questions as to how the legislation will be implemented in practice including labor provisions in the bill.

1a. Understanding that it is not possible to explain the various components of complicated bills, are you familiar with these proposed bills?

Are you familiar with the CLCPA legislation?



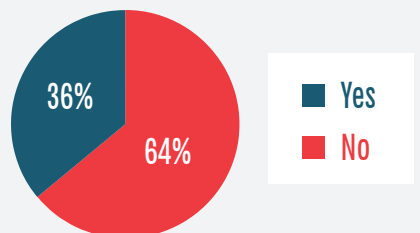
1b. Do you support or oppose passing the CLCPA into law?



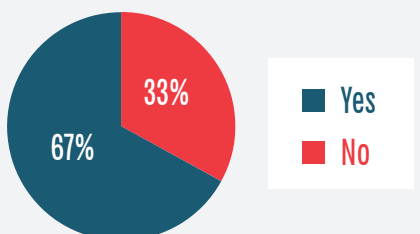
Question 2:

The Extended Producer Responsibility Act (S.1185-C) (“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.

2a. Are you familiar with the EPR legislation?



2b. Do you support or oppose passing the EPR into law?



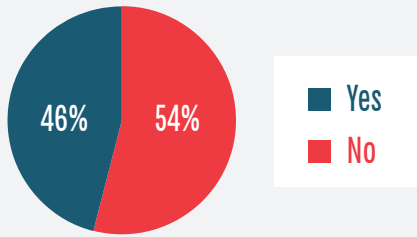
Question 3:

Clean Slate legislation (A.6399-A Cruz/S.1553B 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

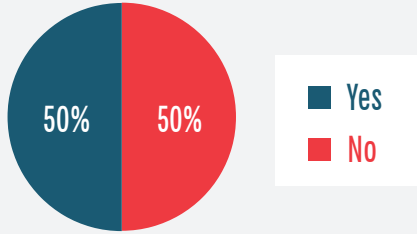
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for potential law enforcement officers, background checks for gun license applicants, and other fingerprint-based background checks required by law.

3a. Are you familiar with the Clean Slate legislation?



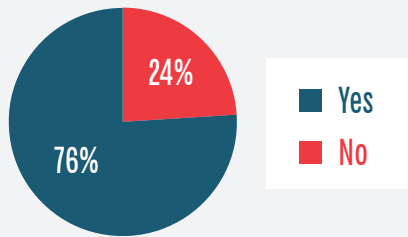
3b. Do you support or oppose passing the Clean Slate bill into law?



Question 4:

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 with additional protective measures in place.

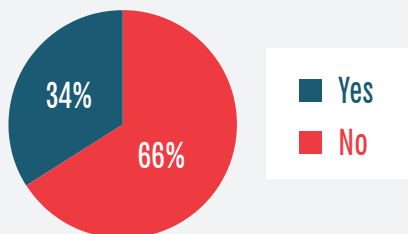
Do you support passing the Medical Aid in Dying Act into law?



Question 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 that they were convicted of, 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.

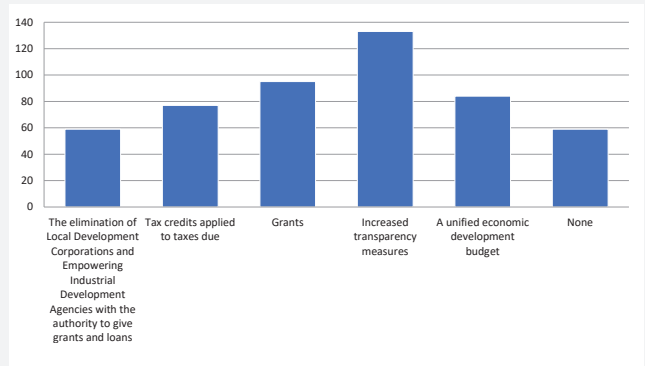
Do you support allowing the parole board to evaluate all inmates who are 55 years old and older for early release from prisons?



Question 6:

There has been discussion around economic development spending and how we can improve how the state invests in funding projects and targeting incentives.

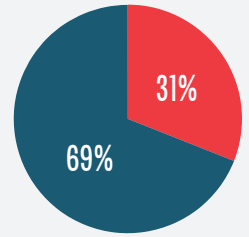
Which of the following proposals, if any, do you support as economic development spending reforms?



Question 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?

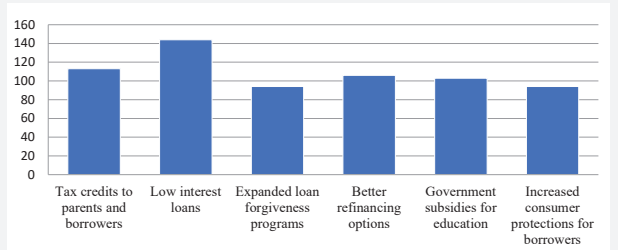


■ Independent Contractors
■ Employees

Question 8:

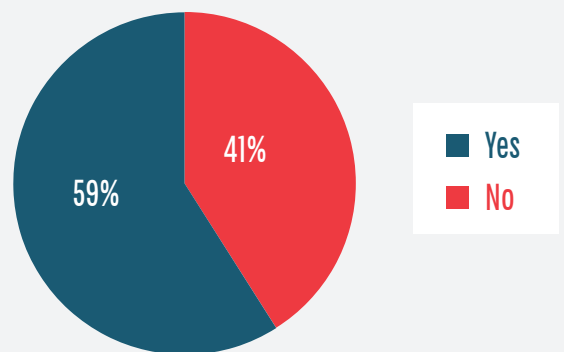
The burden of student loan debt has a profound impact on the economy and not only impacts the financial decisions of the student borrowers but also the parents and guardians who may assist in financing higher education.

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



Question 9:

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



Question 10:

What is your reason for supporting or not supporting single payer?

Please see below for the top 5 topics that came up the most often:

- 1 Insurance is too expensive.
- 2 Our current system doesn't work.
- 3 I don't want my taxes to increase and quality of care to decrease.
- 4 Look at what other countries do and replicate.
- 5 Don't eliminate health care choice and the free-market system.

Question 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?

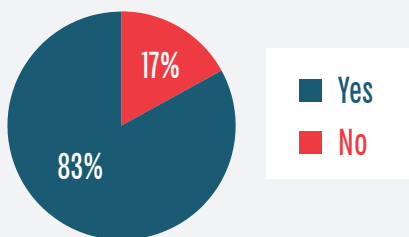
Please see below for the top 5 topics that came up the most often:

- 1 Government or Employer provided child care
- 2 Government subsidies
- 3 Tax incentives
- 4 Greater pay and resources for child care centers
- 5 Universal Pre-K

Question 12:

Vacation rental websites, such as Airbnb, HomeAway, and VRBO are online marketplaces that enables 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?

Would you support allowing home sharing in New York?

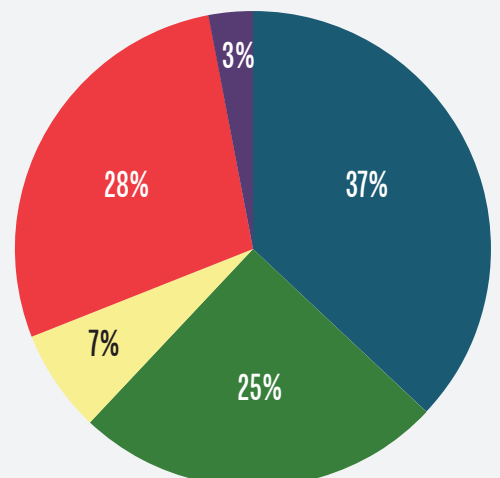


Question 13:

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?

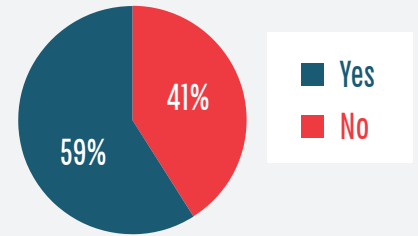
- Enhanced Disclosure Requirements
- Prohibiting Outside Income
- Pension Forfeiture
- Per Diem Reform
- Campaign Finance Reforms



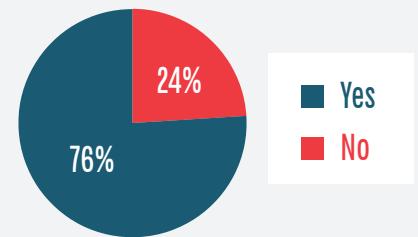
Question 14:

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

14a. Do you support legislators continuing to serve two-year terms (every two years having to run for re-election)?



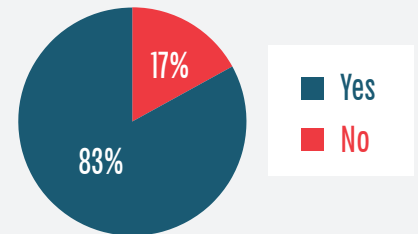
14b. If you answered no to (a), would you support a constitutional amendment that would increase in the length of a term of four years?



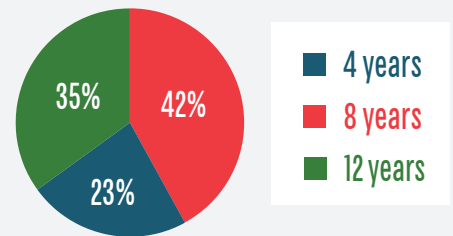
Question 15:

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.

15a. Should legislators be subject to term limits?

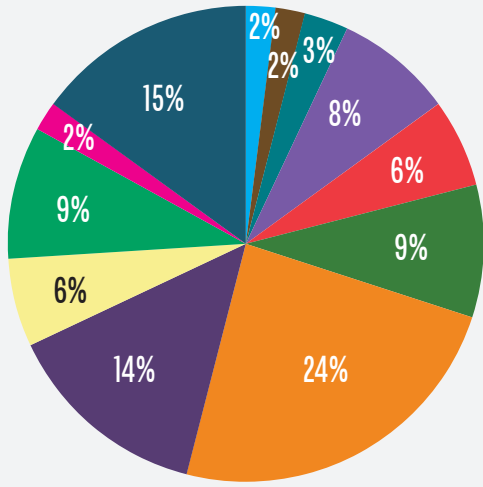


15b. If you answered yes to (a), how many total years of service should a legislator be limited to?



Question 16:

When considering how to allocate the State's financial resources, which categories are your highest priorities?



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

Question 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?

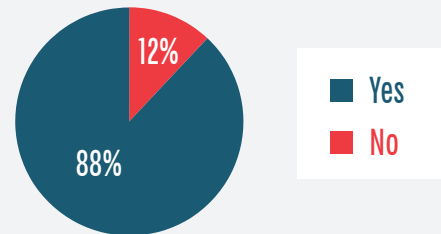
Please see below for the top 5 topics that came up the most often:

- 1 **Longer rehab and treatment**
- 2 **Prosecute drug dealers and suppliers**
- 3 **Make Narcan more widely accessible**
- 4 **Decriminalization**
- 5 **Education**

Question 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.

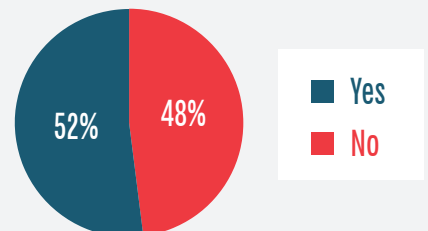
If you are prescribed opioids, do you think a health care professional should be notified if you have had a drug overdose on opioids or heroin or that such information should be placed on a registry available to health care providers before he/she prescribes additional opioids?



Question 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 life-saving 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.

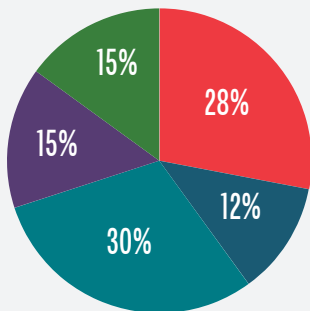
Would you support safe injection sites that allow supervised drug use?



Question 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?



- The Need for Increased Communication from Regulatory Agencies
- Health Care Costs
- Simplifying the Tax Code
- Licensing Requirements
- Lower Tax Rates

We received many responses to the open comment section and appreciate your responses.

These are the top 5 topics that came up the most often:

- 1 **Education Funding**
- 2 **Lower Health Care Costs**
- 3 **Lower Our Taxes**
- 4 **Protect the Environment/Climate Change**
- 5 **Student Loan Debt**