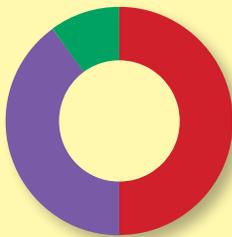




# Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo 2018 CONSTITUENT SURVEY RESULTS

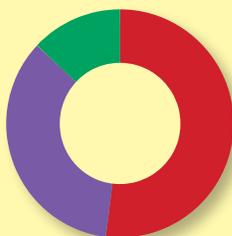
**1. Are you concerned about the federal government's decision to cap the state and local tax (SALT) deduction at \$10,000?**



**Yes: 50.3%**  
**No: 30.1%**  
**Undecided: 17.2%**

The final budget included language that creates two new options in an effort to help address the potential negative effects of the federal tax bill. New York employers will have the ability to opt in to a payroll tax; this would provide less taxable income for employees, while employers would still be able to deduct the new payroll tax. The other option creates healthcare and education charitable funds that taxpayers could donate to and claim the contributions as deductions on their taxes, as well as claim a state tax credit equal to 85 percent of the donation amount. The payroll option may be too complicated for many employers to opt into, but the new charitable donation could be beneficial. I'll be monitoring all this very closely.

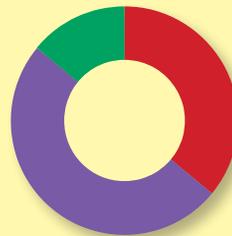
**2. Do you support the creation of a surcharge on prescription drugs that contain opioids (\$0.02/milligram)? Funds would be dedicated to prevention, treatment, and recovery services.**



**Yes: 52.1%**  
**No: 35.7%**  
**Undecided: 11.2%**

The final budget included a \$100 million Opioid Stewardship Fund. It will be dedicated to defraying the cost of the state's alcoholism and substance-abuse programs, as well as the state's prescription-monitoring initiative meant to flag those who obtain opioid prescriptions from multiple doctors. Companies that manufacture or distribute opioids in New York State will split the cost of this fund based on their share of the market. The Legislature will keep an eye on this program to make sure that costs are not passed down to pharmacies and customers who are properly using these medicines for pain management. Many of us are concerned that this could happen.

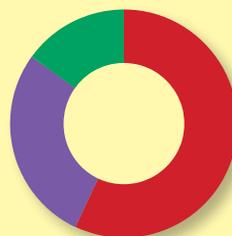
**3. Do you support the collection of sales tax on all online sales from sites such as Amazon and eBay? Current laws only require the collection of sales tax from New York residents if the seller is based in New York.**



**Yes: 36.3%**  
**No: 50.6%**  
**Undecided: 12.4%**

This proposal was not included in the final budget. The proposal was advanced as a way to even the playing field for local (and mainly small) businesses that have to charge sales tax. Many municipalities across the state also advocated for this change to help their local budgets. However, many residents across the state voiced concern about a new tax and that advocacy played a big role in its exclusion from the final budget. There is, however, a case moving through the Supreme Court which could determine this issue on a national basis.

**4. Do you support establishing a full minimum wage for all tipped workers? Currently, many are paid a lower rate with tips added as part of their wages.**



**Yes: 56.7%**  
**No: 28.6%**  
**Undecided: 13.3%**

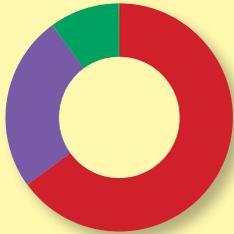
Raising the minimum wage for tipped workers was not included in the final budget. Currently, these employees are paid \$7.50/hour in Upstate and \$8/hour in New York City. Advocates for this change argue that a higher wage will help provide a better wage and prevent harassment toward tipped workers. Opponents argue that this will hurt businesses by driving up costs, forcing them to cut hours and lay off workers. Hearings are being held around the state to get input from a variety of stakeholders including workers, business owners, and others. If you would like to provide testimony you can send written comments to [hearing@labor.ny.gov](mailto:hearing@labor.ny.gov) by July 1. A report, which will be the basis for action at the state level, is expected after the hearings conclude.



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## 2018 CONSTITUENT SURVEY RESULTS (continued)

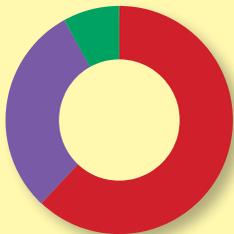
**5. Do you support the Comprehensive Contraception Coverage Act which will guarantee insurance coverage for contraceptive products and education?**



**Yes: 65.3%**  
**No: 24.6%**  
**Undecided: 8.6%**

Unfortunately, language was not included in the final budget to guarantee insurance coverage for contraceptive products and education. I am one of many sponsors of the standalone version of this legislation which has passed the Assembly each year since it has been introduced. It has yet to pass in the State Senate.

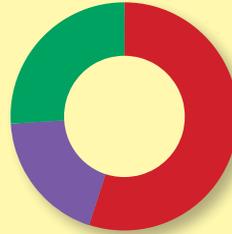
**6. Do you support early voting to help boost voter turnout during elections?**



**Yes: 62.2%**  
**No: 29.8%**  
**Undecided: 6.9%**

No major voting reforms were included in the final state budget. However, the Assembly recently passed a group of bills that I strongly support designed to increase voter turnout. Bills included would allow for early voting, as well as no-excuse absentee voting, online voter registration, and closure of the so-called "LLC loophole," a central part of our efforts to strengthen campaign finance laws. Each of these measures still needs to be passed by the State Senate.

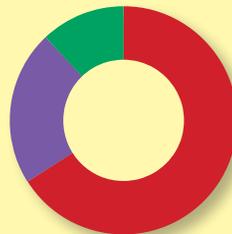
**7. Do you support a full-time State Legislature which would include a ban on outside income?**



**Yes: 55.2%**  
**No: 19.4%**  
**Undecided: 23.9%**

Making the State Legislature a full-time job with no outside income has been discussed for a number of years. It continues to be part of a larger conversation about recruiting good candidates to run for office and limiting the influence of money in government. Some legislators, like me, already work full time; but many others have income outside of state government. While we certainly want to eliminate all possible conflicts of interest, there is a concern that professionals with a variety of backgrounds and expertise would no longer want to run for these offices. It's more likely that additional scrutiny and limits on outside income will be imposed, rather than an outright ban.

**8. Do you support the taxation and regulation of marijuana in New York State?**



**Yes: 66.3%**  
**No: 21.7%**  
**Undecided: 9.9%**

Opinions about marijuana have evolved over the past few years. Given the number of surrounding states — and Canada — legalizing marijuana for adult use, the issue is being examined more closely in New York. Earlier this year, the Governor convened a panel to study the effects of taxation and regulation in New York State. And while neither house of the Legislature has passed pending legislation, the Assembly is considering taking up the measure before our session ends in June. I am a sponsor and supporter of the bill.

### What do you think should be the Legislature's top priority in 2018?

Many respondents shared similar thoughts on what the Legislature should focus on this year. As in past years, continued work to improve the local economy and lower taxes were frequent responses. Another common response this year involved taking steps to reduce gun violence and enhance school safety. The final budget did include language that will prevent people who are convicted of domestic violence from possessing firearms. The Assembly has also passed a series of bills to keep guns out of the hands of those who pose a serious risk to themselves or others, enhance background checks, and ban bump stocks. There is also active legislation that would enhance school safety, such as a bill to enable school districts to hire more resource officers.

