



NEWS FROM

Assemblymember

John T. McDonald III

**CONSTITUENT
SURVEY RESULTS**

Winter 2015

Happy New Year!

As 2015 draws to a close, I want to wish all the residents of the 108th district a very happy New Year and best wishes for 2016. I look forward to continuing to represent your interests and opinions before the NYS Assembly in the upcoming session. As always, you can reach out to me directly by email at mcdonaldj@assembly.state.ny.us with questions and comments.

SUCCESSES IN THE 108TH DISTRICT

Regional Economic Development Council Awards

Governor Andrew Cuomo announced the Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) awards on December 10th. The Capital Region received \$98.1 million, of which our district received \$27.7 million. The projects that received awards were diverse and creative, ranging from small business incubators to rehabilitating historic buildings. For more information on the REDC awards in the capital region, please visit regionalcouncils.ny.gov.

Water Infrastructure Improvement Grants

In order to upgrade and modernize infrastructure for clean drinking water, Governor Cuomo distributed grant money across the state to municipalities with aging water systems. Between Rensselaer, Troy, and Albany, the 108th district received \$18.5 million in grants and loans to invest in improved water quality.

Constituent Survey Results

Before the 2016 session begins, I want to share the results of our constituent survey. The 108th district had a total of 417 people share their opinions on critical issues facing our community. The ideas expressed in the responses will help guide my decisions in Albany.

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

*John T. McDonald III
Member of Assembly*

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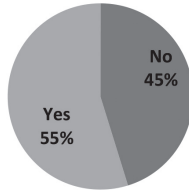
www.assembly.state.ny.us/mem/John-T-McDonald-III

CONSTITUENT SURVEY RESULTS

1. Question 1a: Do you believe that New York should join other states to protect our environment by imposing a ban on polystyrene and/or plastic bags replaced by paper, recyclable material, or biodegradable products provided that retailers were to charge a 10 cent fee for the new bags to offset the costs to small businesses?

Yes: 228 No: 188

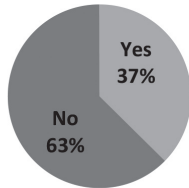
Plastic Bag Ban and Fee



(b) If you said “no” to question (a), would you change your answer if 5 cents of that fee would be used to fund our state parks?

Yes: 74 No: 124

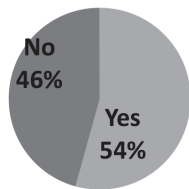
5 Cents to State Parks



2. The proposed Education Tax Credit would give a boost to private and parochial schools by allowing tax exempt donations to these schools as well as to public schools. Do you think we should allow this?

Yes: 226 No: 190

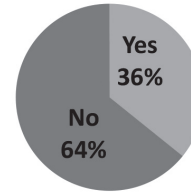
Education Tax Credit



3. In today’s society it is important to provide a quality education to everyone. Do you believe that we should provide financial aid for those trying to get a college education (a) while in prison or (b) children whose parents may be undocumented residents (as the DREAM Act would do)?

Yes: 149 No: 267

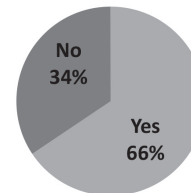
DREAM Act



4. To begin to address voter engagement, should we allow 16 and 17-year-olds to pre-register to vote with their county boards of elections so that when they turn 18, they will automatically be added to the voter rolls?

Yes: 292 No: 153

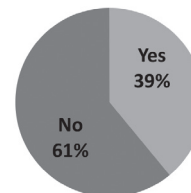
Pre-Voter Registration



5. (a) Should we increase the minimum wage to \$15 an hour statewide for fast-food employees (i.e. employees of fast food companies with 30 or more locations)?

Yes: 164 No: 256

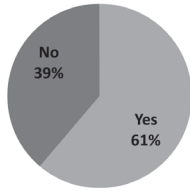
Fast Food Minimum Wage



(b) Should we introduce legislation to help lessen the impact of a potential minimum wage increase on our small businesses?

Yes: 233 No: 148

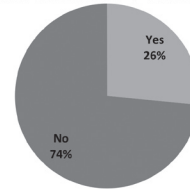
Minimum Wage Support for Small Businesses



(b) Should the position of such a special prosecutor be a permanent one?

Yes: 129 No: 258

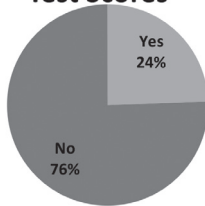
Special Prosecutor-Permanent



6. Do you believe students' state standardized test scores should make up a significant part of a teacher's performance evaluation?

Yes: 102 No: 315

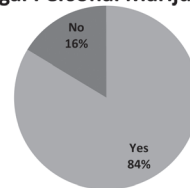
Test Scores



9. Should the state erase misdemeanor convictions for possessing a small amount of marijuana for personal, non-medical use provided that the person convicted does not reoffend for 12 months?

Yes: 349 No: 68

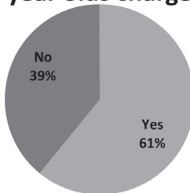
Legal Personal Marijuana



7. Should 16 and 17-year-olds charged with a crime be able to be tried as adults?

Yes: 254 No: 163

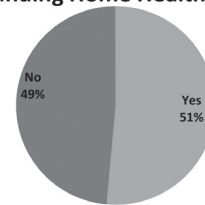
16 and 17 year olds charged as adults



10. Would you support increased state funding for home health aid if it were to increase your taxes?

Yes: 214 No: 202

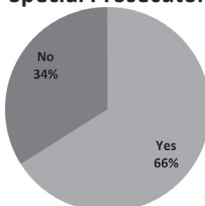
Funding Home Health Aides



8. (a) Do you believe the state should appoint a special prosecutor to investigate the death of unarmed individuals who died at the hands of law enforcement officers?

Yes: 282 No: 145

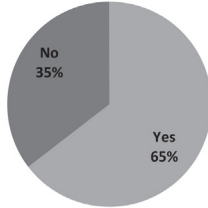
Special Prosecutor



11. 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 if it were spread out over your state taxes for a number of years if it meant lower property taxes?

Yes: 257 No: 151

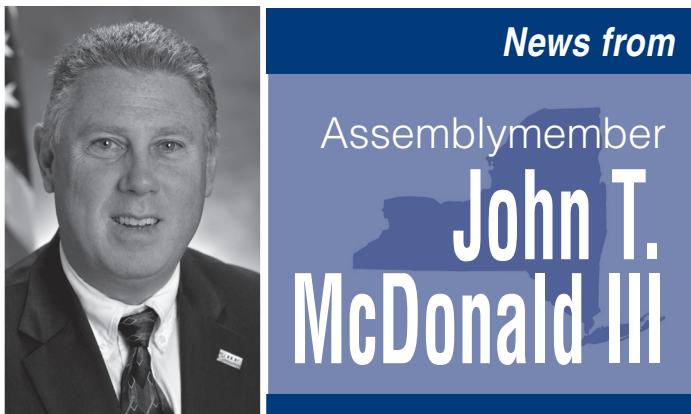
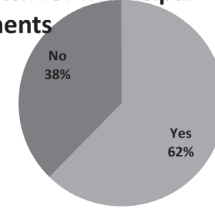
State Taxes for Medicaid Funding



12. In an effort to help lower property taxes would you support, possibly through an increase in state taxes, a program where the state would match municipal governments 50 cents for every \$1 saved by increased municipal aid to be used at their discretion?

Yes: 240 No: 145

State Match for Municipal Governments



NEED A SPEAKER?

I am always interested in speaking to new groups and hearing what they have to say in the district. If your organization would like an update on what is happening in Albany or would like to weigh in, please contact my office at 518-455-4474.

