



End of Session Review

The New York State Legislature adjourned its session last week on June 20th. The majority of the issues that impacted Long Island were addressed in the state budget (e.g. response to the federal tax law, a new round of Regional Economic Development Councils, Transformative Investment Program funding, etc.). Our review of the budget that we shared with you can be viewed again here: [2018 New York State Budget Summary](#).

High profile debates that dominated the end of the session about the legalization of sports gambling and recreational marijuana (and where the corresponding tax revenues would go), teacher evaluations, speed cameras, gun control and other matters were left unresolved. As the State Senate and State Assembly attempted to reconcile their differences, very little focus was on Long Island and economic development initiatives.

Here are some of the key issues important to our region and the business community that were part of the conversation as the session concluded:

- The Assembly failed to take up Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan’s bill to make the 2% property tax cap permanent. Enactment of the legislation is one of the LIA’s top priorities for the next session beginning in January.
- Governor Cuomo moved forward with an Offshore Wind Master Plan (the LIA hosted two open houses to help solicit input and educate businesses about the proposal) which is a vital step forward in building a clean energy economy on Long Island.
- The LIA advocated that the remaining funds in the Transformative Investment Program (more than \$100 million) were protected and will remain available to facilitate significant infrastructure projects in our region.
- The LIA participated in the efforts to ensure more New York Islanders home games will be played at the Nassau Coliseum next season – 20 total, which comprises half of their home schedule.
- The Department of Labor is continuing its process to evaluate (1) ending tipped wages for restaurant and hospitality employees, and (2) implementing an on-call scheduling system. The LIA has opposed both proposals.
- A legislative effort failed that would have imposed a public works prevailing wage mandate on private sector projects receiving any amount of state or local financial assistance.
- Giving Stony Brook University the ability to transfer land at its Southampton campus for a new location for Southampton Hospital.

There is talk the Governor may call the Legislature back to Albany for a Special Session to address unfinished business which could occur in the fall, either before or after Election Day.