



Long Island Association Federal, State and Local Priorities and Initiatives for 2020

LIA
Long Island Association
LEADING LONG ISLAND

The Long Island Association's Priorities and Initiatives for 2020 include the critical issues, policies and projects we will advocate for on behalf of the Long Island business community this year. We are committed to achieving these objectives in order to create jobs, spur private investment, promote economic development, create affordable housing, reduce the federal, state and local tax burden and improve the overall business climate in our region. The LIA will continue to collaborate with other organizations on Long Island and throughout the state to build support for these initiatives.

The LIA's Top Priorities: 20/20

Federal

1. Advocate for the full reinstatement of SALT deductions as the federally approved cap on them inequitably impacts our region.
2. Oppose the proposed federal single payer health insurance plan commonly referred to as "Medicare for All."
3. Oppose federal proposals to permit oil and gas drilling off the coast of Long Island, which could considerably damage our environment and our economy.
4. Support congressional passage of the United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement to help manufacturers grow in the United States, compete globally and support manufacturing jobs across the country.

State

1. Oppose any new taxes or fees on businesses to close the state's projected \$6 billion budget deficit, and oppose any state efforts to shift additional Medicaid costs to county governments.
2. Oppose the New York Health Act which would eliminate private health insurance and impose \$139 billion in new state taxes to pay for a state-based single payer health insurance system, and oppose a wholesale reduction in provider reimbursement rates from current commercial levels which would cause a significant financial impact to hospitals, physicians and health systems, endangering access and quality of health care for all New Yorkers.
3. Support efforts to make Long Island the offshore wind capital of our country. Continue to support the Governor's call for 9,000 megawatts of offshore wind; and lead regional efforts to support the construction of 1,700 megawatts recently awarded to the Empire Wind and Sunrise Wind projects; ports for the manufacturing and assembly of wind turbines at Port Jefferson, Greenport and Shoreham and the new National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium at Stony Brook University and support efforts to create a

workforce training institute for jobs to be generated by this new renewable power source; and support use of the Dowling College campus in Shirley and/or the EPCAL site in Calverton for the manufacturing of Purpose-Built Unmanned Aircraft to support the offshore wind industry.

4. Continue to support the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project to meet the demand for natural gas for new development projects in our region.
5. Support a fair compromise on prevailing wage legislation that balances the needs of the labor community and the financial viability of construction projects; and oppose the expansion of recently passed rent regulations in New York State that could negatively impact the cost of new apartments on Long Island (which has the smallest percentage of rental housing of any metropolitan area in the country) as developers would struggle to attract the private financing necessary to build more affordable units despite the substantial demand in the region.
6. Support continued state funding for the creation of a Research Corridor from Brookhaven National Laboratory to the New York Genome Center in Manhattan and expand the corridor east to include research activities on Plum Island. Support increased federal funding for research at our world-class local institutions and facilities, and support the Bio-Residential Complex and the Artificial Intelligence Neuroscience Center (“Neuro-AI”) at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, the proposed Center for Autism and Therapeutic Modalities at Molloy College, the Wellbridge Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Research Center at Calverton, a new building for the school of engineering at Stony Brook University and the new Applied Social Sciences Center at Farmingdale State College.
7. Support and promote policies and programs that will make child care and early education more affordable and accessible to all working families on Long Island that will lead to additional economic development opportunities, workplace productivity and retention of more young professionals and families. Also, advocate for equitable state funding for pre-kindergarten education and a regional technical assistance center for Long Island.
8. Support a new five-year New York State Department of Transportation Capital Plan that fully funds critical road, highway and bridge projects on Long Island, including New York Route 347, the Oakdale Merge, Sagtikos Parkway widening, Northern State Parkway widening, Meadowbrook Parkway at Southern State Parkway capacity improvements and the Long Island Expressway at Shelter Rock Road, as well as a doubling of the CHIPs funding for local municipalities.
9. Support the Governor’s proposed \$3 billion “Restore Mother Nature” Bond Act to protect against extreme weather and rebuild our physical and environmental infrastructure, only if it is agreed to in an MOU ahead of the referendum that Long Island receives its fair share of said funds.

10. Support New York State Court of Appeals Chief Judge Janet DiFiore's proposed constitutional amendment to make the State court system more efficient, more accessible to litigants and less costly to businesses, and support the creation of a 5th Department of the Appellate Division for Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

Local

1. Support Nassau County's efforts to secure local approvals and state funding for the redevelopment at the Nassau Hub, including the creation of a live, work, play Innovation District with a Biotech Park surrounding anchor tenant Northwell Health; a Bus Rapid Transit system to the Hempstead and Mineola LIRR stations; affordable housing; and green pedestrian crossings to Hofstra University, Nassau Community College and RXR Plaza as well as a structured parking facility to maximize the usage for the remaining acreage surrounding the newly renovated Nassau Coliseum.
2. Support the efforts of Suffolk County and the Town of Islip to redevelop the south side of the Ronkonkoma Hub adjacent to Long Island MacArthur Airport, including a new structured parking facility and additional infrastructure improvements, a privately financed sports, entertainment and health care hub, along with a state-of-the-art convention center; and build regional support for the expansion of the airport with new airlines and destinations, and strengthen its connectivity to the LIRR station at Ronkonkoma.
3. Support more investment in sewage infrastructure and 21st century septic systems in the region that allows for mixed-use and transit-oriented development projects, especially those that will increase the supply of rental housing on Long Island.
4. Support a regional marketing effort with the Long Island IDA Coalition and other organizations to promote all the good investments being made in our region's infrastructure, environment, education and efforts to expand our life sciences industries.
5. Support equality and diversity on Long Island and speak out against racial steering, segregation and speech that breeds hatred, especially against undocumented immigrants, which is wrong and hurts the perception of our business region. Also, advocate for increased compliance and public awareness to curb housing discrimination while supporting updated zoning policies and additional tax incentives to encourage developers to build more multifamily housing, particularly affordable units, and support additional fair housing education efforts.
6. Support the Hauppauge Industrial Association's newly rebranded Long Island Innovation Park and its plans to cluster together industries there, while exploring the potential to add new apartments and recreational spaces in the park, as well as the development of a Workforce Training Center.

Our Other Important Priorities

Infrastructure



- Support additional investments in the LIRR, including electrification and/or system improvements to a new station at or near Brookhaven National Laboratory in Yaphank and eventually to Riverhead, as well as to Port Jefferson and Patchogue, the opening of a new Republic Airport rail station, and continue to educate the public and build support for the East Side Access tunnel which will bring the LIRR directly to Grand Central Station with a new two-level terminal constructed below the station.
- Support the Governor’s plans to transform Penn Station and the James A. Farley Post Office into a world-class transportation hub known as the Empire Station Complex which will include adding eight tracks at Penn Station while ensuring adequate space there for the LIRR, and improved subway service for Long Island’s commuters in New York City.
- Support the ongoing efforts of Governor Cuomo and the Port Authority to modernize and redevelop LaGuardia Airport and John F. Kennedy Airport to meet the needs of the 21st century economy with public-private partnerships that will leverage billions of dollars in new investments, enhance amenities, increase capacity, reduce congestion and establish a new AirTrain that will connect the airport and the Mets-Willets Point LIRR station in Flushing, Queens, which will give Long Islanders additional options and convenience for air travel.
- Support the Gateway Program to expand and renovate the Northeast Corridor rail line between New York and New Jersey, fully repairing the East River LIRR tunnels, and the Regional Plan Association’s proposal to take the existing Gateway plan and extend it beneath the East River to Queens to allow riders to travel from New Jersey to Long Island.
- Support efforts to upgrade and improve our telecommunications infrastructure, including the expansion of small cell technology to increase capacity for wireless devices and bringing gigabit broadband service to our region, which will attract new innovative businesses to Long Island, help existing businesses meet and exceed the needs of their clients and customers, generate additional job growth and expand the capabilities of our universities, hospitals and research institutions.
- Support the deployment of next generation telecommunication technology, including fiber-to-the-home and small cell antennae throughout Long Island to develop communications networks that enable Long Island companies to be competitive in a 21st century global economy.

- Support funding for Round X of the state’s Regional Economic Development Councils which includes core capital and tax credit funding combined with a wide range of existing agency programs. Also, support funding for Round V of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative which invests millions of dollars to help transform communities ripe for development into vibrant neighborhoods.
- Request the New York State Department of Transportation complete evaluations of new Long Island Sound crossings such as a bridge or tunnel to improve traffic on and off Long Island and better connect our economy to New England; and encourage the federal government to pay for it as part of any national infrastructure program that may be proposed by the federal government in 2020.
- Advocate for a fair portion of congestion pricing revenues be used for bus service in the suburbs such as NICE in Nassau County and Suffolk Transportation in Suffolk County, and work with Nassau and Suffolk Counties to ensure each county receives its fair share of state aid to support their bus systems.
- Support Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone’s Connect Long Island plan; a regional transportation and development proposal which includes the establishment of an enhanced Bus Rapid Transit to service the busy Route 110 corridor’s major office buildings, Amityville and Republic LIRR stations, SUNY Farmingdale and the Walt Whitman Mall; and the establishment of a new Bus Rapid Transit system along 15 miles of Nicolls Road, serving Stony Brook University, Suffolk County Community College, the Ronkonkoma Hub, multiple railroad stations and Long Island MacArthur Airport.
- Support new programs to increase connectivity between our region’s academic and research institutions with nearby downtowns, including a pilot shuttle bus service connecting Stony Brook University with the Villages of Stony Brook and Port Jefferson.
- Support the Port Authority’s Cross-Harbor Freight Program to improve the movement of freight and goods across the Hudson River and New York Harbor, which will spur job creation and enhance the region's economic competitiveness in a more efficient, environmentally friendly and cost-effective method for Long Island and other parts of the state.
- Support expansion of the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) program, which provides federal credit assistance to finance surface transportation projects of national and regional significance to small municipalities who can then use the funding to borrow against their projects.

Energy



- Support the transformation of the blighted former Shoreham nuclear power plant site in Suffolk County into Port Shoreham by developing a facility that could be used as a deep-water cargo port and manufacturing park for renewable energy companies.
- Support the use of biofuels while renewable energy options are pursued.
- Support modernizing grid infrastructure to increase hosting capacity for solar projects across Long Island.
- Support the expansion of natural gas by boosting imports and distributing it via existing and/or new petroleum pipelines, and support the importation of more hydropower from Upstate New York and Canada.
- Support settlements of LIPA’s remaining tax certiorari lawsuits against municipalities to ensure equity for the region and fairness for the host communities.
- Support the state’s Reforming the Energy Vision efforts to address climate change and create a clean energy economy on Long Island by encouraging the growth of the region's renewable energy industries, including the planned and recently approved offshore wind projects and the continued development of solar power, and electric and fuel-efficient vehicles.
- Support the expansion of the federal investment tax credit for solar, fuel cells, small wind and other clean energy technologies, which will begin to phase out in 2020, and support the proposed federal legislation that extends it from 2022 to 2027.
- Support developing a long-term energy plan for Long Island which incorporates renewables and ensures reliability and reasonable rates for businesses while fulfilling the goals of New York State’s Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, and the multi-state Transportation and Climate Initiative, without imposing unnecessarily onerous burdens on the business community.
- Promote the efforts of Stony Brook University and Brookhaven National Laboratory to advance micro grids, battery testing and development and super-conductivity on Long Island, attracting R&D-focused companies to take advantage of the human capital and physical plants of these institutions; and also support the creation of a world-leading, multi-scale bio-imaging facility at the lab.

- Support investments in Long Island’s energy infrastructure to ensure available and reliable power while strengthening the resiliency of the grid to withstand extreme weather events like Superstorm Sandy.
- Support expansion of the natural gas distribution system to presently underserved areas which will result in a more efficient, affordable and cleaner fuel source and support expeditious approvals by state agencies on permit and other regulatory requests so businesses can move forward and invest in a timely way.
- Support a standardized commercial wind permitting building code as was approved for the solar industry.

Innovation Economy and Our Workforce

Innovation Economy



- Support the growth of biotechnology companies in the region through partnerships with Empire State Development and other governmental and industry leaders, and the expansion of clinical diagnostic laboratory operations and advanced state of the art diagnostics manufacturing capacity; while also advocating for policies promoting the repatriation to New York companies of the substantial part of the New York State market for sophisticated clinical diagnostics testing that is currently sent to out of state labs for processing.
- Prepare for the transition to and harness the potential of artificial intelligence on Long Island to enhance, not replace workers, and to position Long Island as a region for AI research and development to flourish.
- Repurpose “LI-Bio” – a committee of the LIA that serves as a platform to help expand Long Island’s burgeoning sector of companies focused on biotechnology and life sciences and that acts as a forum for those in these industries to network and collaborate with “NY-Bio” activities. Also, build upon the life sciences initiatives proposed by Governor Cuomo and potential synergies and opportunities between New York City and Long Island.
- Support updated state rules and regulations for the gig economy that will foster innovation and allow employees to retain their right to choice and flexibility while also receiving real benefits and protections, and earning fair wages.
- Continue to assist our academic institutions with participating in the Excelsior Business Program and other state and local economic development efforts to spur the growth of high-tech and biotech startup companies on Long Island. Also, continue to administratively support Accelerate Long Island.

- Support increased federal investment in scientific research, the Long Island Bioscience Hub (“LIBH”) and continued funding of the National Institutes of Health Research Evaluation and Commercialization Hubs (“NIH REACH”); support funding for a Long Island regional proposal under the New York State Life Sciences Initiative that will spur biomedical innovation and accelerate commercialization in areas of critical importance to New York State public health; implement a Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer (“SBIR/STTR”) Phase I/Phase II matching funds program to help develop emerging bioscience companies; and support the LIBH Bioentrepreneur in Residence initiative to recruit serial entrepreneurs to the region, all of which will fuel economic growth, foster entrepreneurship and catalyze new company formation across New York State.
- Support Long Island University’s application for the Confocal Microscopy Core Laboratory which will house specialized equipment and ultimately support a five-lab cluster, including the new College of Veterinary Science as it will further efforts to create a Research Corridor on Long Island.
- Support federal immigration reform to increase the number of H-1B visas and ensure highly skilled immigrants can legally enter and stay in the U.S. to help drive Long Island's innovation economy.
- Support changing “Buy America” rules to include information technology and intellectual property.
- Support efforts to make our region safer from cybersecurity attacks and efforts to create a cybersecurity industry on Long Island.

Our Workforce



- Build on the success of the LIA’s Women’s Collaborative by supporting equal pay for equal work and educating businesses about workplace sexual harassment and sexual discrimination, while encouraging more women to enter careers in the STEM field and advance to C-Suite executive positions.
- Continue to support our local minority- and women-owned businesses by working with the Long Island African American Chamber of Commerce, the Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the LIA’s Women’s Collaborative, while protecting and supporting the rights of children and adults with disabilities to ensure fairness in the allocation of federal and state procurement opportunities for businesses and in matters of public policy.

- Work with Organized Labor to support efforts to create good-paying careers for its members and for our region.
- Support the LIA's Young Professionals Committee to help train the next generation of business leaders, provide opportunities for employees ages approximately 22-35 to network and collaborate, integrate their input in confronting the challenges facing young people on Long Island and take the necessary actions to attract and retain young people in the region such as more affordable rental housing and home ownership opportunities, incubating and cultivating efforts to become entrepreneurs and establish start-up businesses, better access to child care and help with student loan debt, such as the STAY-NY (Student Transition Assistance Year in New York) Loan Repayment Tax Credit which is a proposal for a one-time tax credit for New York college graduates who choose to live and work in New York while paying off their student loans; while also modifying the workplace to make it more appealing to millennials and Generation Z.
- Support Long Island's public and private colleges and universities; increased federal funding for student aid programs such as Pell Grants, Federal Work-Study, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants and the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need program; increased state funding for SUNY and our community colleges; and additional TAP and Bundy Aid, and the creation of a dedicated R&D fund for our private schools.
- Support Farmingdale State College's proposed new academic building for applied sciences which would strengthen the college's ability to attract prospective students, expand its curriculum and spur regional economic growth.
- Support our great K-12 schools and workforce development programs to ensure a strong labor force for the future, the retention of those talented graduates on Long Island, more participation in STEM programs and investments in modernized facilities while encouraging public-private partnerships in education using alternative education models and career and technical opportunities provided by Nassau and Suffolk BOCES.
- Support the ability for any student who desires training in a specific career to apply and be found eligible for participation in a BOCES career and technical education program.
- Support the reassessment and updating of secondary school graduation requirements to improve student achievement and graduation rates, college readiness and workforce preparedness to ensure our region's employers are supplied with the skilled employees needed to compete effectively in a knowledge-based economy.
- Continue to support existing and new manufacturing companies and the applied science industries.
- Continue to assist businesses with the Global NY program to expand international trade for Long Island companies with foreign countries, especially those linked to manufacturing.

Rental Housing/Land-Use/Regionally Significant Projects



- Help attract and facilitate private investment and encourage capital investment to underserved areas on Long Island.
- Support specific mixed-use and rental projects that are significant to our region, including Syosset Park in Oyster Bay and projects in downtown Lindenhurst, Hicksville, Baldwin, Westbury, Wyandanch, Hempstead, Bay Shore, Long Beach, Port Jefferson, Oceanside and other communities while continuing to support the overall redevelopment of EPCAL in Riverhead. Also, support Governor Cuomo’s proposal to invest in the growth of the business districts in Smithtown and Kings Park, and advocate for similar investments in St. James, with sewer investments in those downtowns.
- Support the Long Island Builders Institute’s proposed legislation that would require a bond be submitted by the party appealing a land-use decision pursuant to Article 78 of the New York State CPLR in order to protect project sponsors from associated costs relating to delays caused by these appeals of municipal decisions.
- Support state legislation that would allow municipalities to implement a “professional certification” program in order to save commercial landlords time and money when they are making non-complex changes to their buildings in order to attract or keep tenants, thus allowing a municipality in certain circumstances to issue a building permit/certificate of occupancy by relying on the certification of a Professional Engineer or Registered Architect that the building renovations were completed in compliance with applicable building and zoning laws and codes.
- Support specific affordable, rental and multifamily housing goals for each municipality on Long Island and increased funding for the Employer Assisted Housing Program to support businesses in recruiting and retaining needed and qualified personnel on Long Island.
- Support relocating and combining all downstate horse racing at Belmont Park to make it a sports, entertainment and tourism destination center.
- Support efforts to improve New York State’s Brownfields program that would increase the construction of rental housing on these sites.
- Improve the State Environmental Quality Review Act to streamline municipal permitting programs in order to give developers and businesses a more certain, workable timetable for the environmental review of major projects.

- Support the creation of a special New York State Supreme Court for land-use litigation to allow courts to develop expertise in the field and to accelerate judicial decisions.
- Continue working with the Long Island Business Collaborative (a group of the business organizations in the region) and the Long Island IDA Coalition (a consortium of the region’s IDAs), both of which were created by the LIA, to support policies that will help attract and retain companies and jobs on Long Island, and improve the overall business climate in the region.

Environment and Tourism Economy, Health Care, and Our Communities

Environment and Tourism Economy



- Support Suffolk County District Attorney Tim Sini’s efforts to strengthen laws against illegal sand mining and illegal dumping activities and ensure those new laws do not negatively impact the regional sand mining and construction industries, and economic growth in our region.
- Support the implementation of the state’s \$2.5 billion Clean Water Infrastructure Act, approved in 2017, and ensure Long Island receives its fair share of funding in 2020 for investments in clean drinking and surface waters, new sewers and upgraded septic systems and other environmental protection measures.
- Support capital investments in critical sewage infrastructure projects such as the Nassau County Aqueduct connecting the Bay Park Sewage Treatment Plant to the Cedar Creek Sewage Treatment Plant ocean outfall pipe and the proposed creation or expansion of Suffolk County sewer districts that incorporate proven technology, good science and reasonable costs that ensure practicality and affordability.
- Support the work of the groundwater resource protection plans being prepared by the Long Island Regional Planning Council and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (while not overregulating or hindering the business community) to reduce nitrogen and other harmful pollutants as our economy is strengthened by a healthy environment and a degraded environment produces fewer jobs.
- Encourage collaboration with municipalities to develop regional solutions that address the looming crisis in solid waste management, landfill closure and the volatile recycling market.

- Help ensure fair and equitable federal and state rules to expand and promote sustainable agriculture, fisheries, wineries, craft breweries, aquaculture and the tourism industries, particularly on the East End.
- Advocate for the New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets to declare cannabis an agricultural crop under its jurisdiction in order to facilitate Long Island's farmers to grow it and benefit from any legalization efforts.
- Support new forms of transportation like micromobility as bikes and scooters should help clear roads, achieve sustainability goals, make transit-oriented developments and downtowns more vibrant, and drive innovation.
- Support Discover Long Island, the region's official tourism promotion agency for Nassau and Suffolk Counties and efforts to leverage resources for the region for destination marketing and economic development opportunities, including state-enabling legislation that would allow counties to opt-in to establish Tourism Improvement Districts, and ensure equitable state funding for the region from the "I Love NY" campaign.

Health Care



- Support programs and policies to respond to the opioid crisis which is also negatively impacting employers, employees and the overall economy, as well as more state funding for drug education and prevention in our schools.
- Support the financial viability of Long Island's 23 non-profit and public hospitals which provide the highest quality clinical and wellness care to millions of our residents and which generate 17% of all private sector jobs; and the hospitals' commitment to nurse staffing practices that set safe, effective and collaborative staffing practices which deliver high caliber patient care. Oppose rigid, unfunded, governmentally mandated nurse staffing ratios which threaten rather than promote best practice patient care.
- Oppose cuts to Medicaid and Disproportionate Share Hospital funding that would impact the ability of certain hospitals to provide safety net care to under-insured Long Island residents.
- Support improvements to the federal Affordable Care Act to make health insurance more accessible and less expensive, ultimately achieve universal coverage through the private marketplace and address the underlying cost of care – such as the rising cost of prescription drugs.

- Support continued funding for the Stony Brook Cancer Center’s application to the National Institutes of Health to obtain National Cancer Institute status.

Our Communities

- Participate in an Island-wide campaign to advocate for a fair and accurate 2020 Census as the data is used by the federal and state governments to allocate money to our region; businesses rely on the demographic information to find customers and workers; and congressional representation is dependent on the findings.
- Support new laws, education and the efforts of the Nassau and Suffolk County Police Departments, and other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, to address and reduce crime and eradicate gangs, and support commonsense reforms to recently approved state bail laws, in order to maintain our low crime rate and the region’s high standard of public safety.
- Strengthen New York State gun control laws, including legislation mandating background checks of proposed buyers prior to the sale of any firearms by both dealers and private firearm sellers to ensure workplace and school safety.
- Support measures to improve and expedite New York’s foreclosure process to address the problem of vacant and abandoned properties in foreclosure, relieve the backlogged court system, reduce the amount of time homes sit in disrepair and promote neighborhood stability.
- Support our cultural arts, environmental and recreational activities to promote Long Island as a great place to live, work, visit and play.
- Help sustain and strengthen the not-for-profit industry on Long Island as it is a significant economic generator and an essential social services resource for the region.
- Support the burgeoning film and television industry on Long Island, and the extension of the New York production tax credit program for an additional five years.
- Work with local Chambers of Commerce to encourage shopping in our downtowns, establish business-to-business communications to serve the needs of the small business community and maintain Long Island as an appealing destination for major retailers.
- Support Long Island’s veterans’ population – the largest in New York State – and programs that would provide additional funding for job training, employment placement and other essential assistance to the heroes who served our country.

- Support the Long Island State Senate and Assembly delegations' request to provide funding to Long Island Cares to deliver emergency food to between 3,000-4,000 seniors living in Nassau and Suffolk Counties that were impacted by the closing of the Catholic Charities Commodity Supplemental Food Program and lost their access to these critical resources.

Reduce the Property Tax Burden and Support Tax Policies to Enhance the Business Climate in our Region

Mandate Relief

- Curb soaring Medicaid costs for county governments by requesting the state take over each county's local share, as is done in most states. This would help stabilize the finances for both Nassau and Suffolk Counties and support state efforts to control costs and curb waste, fraud and abuse in Medicaid.
- Support efforts to ensure that the state's family and medical leave law and proposed regulations to establish a 14-day advance notice for employee scheduling do not create additional burdens on businesses and encourage the state to allow for exemptions for small businesses.
- Support measures to provide tax credits for employers who offer benefits in addition to paying minimum wages, increase the minimum wage tax credit available for student employees ages 16 to 19 years old as the credit has held at \$1.35 since 2016 and increase the age limit to capture full-time enrolled undergraduate college students.
- Eliminate unfunded and underfunded mandates imposed by the state to help local governments and school districts comply with the property tax cap and oppose any new unfunded and underfunded mandates.
- Reduce the cost of construction by repealing the state's Wicks Law which adds to the cost of public projects.
- Support relief from the New York State Department of Financial Services through an "Insurance State of Emergency" to provide a fair and competitive insurance market for construction projects while continuing to pursue reform of the state's Scaffold Law by making liability standards against owners of construction projects less onerous and fairer in terms of fault allocation and liability standards.
- Support the expansion and permanent extension of the design-build method of project delivery.
- Support a new, comprehensive reform package for workers' compensation and unemployment insurance to help lower costs to businesses such as reviewing and

modifying the 2017 Scheduled Loss of Use (“SLU”) guidelines as its earlier incarnations would have had an impact on awards while limiting the ability of a judge’s discretion; and with unemployment at low levels but wage base increases resulting in higher unemployment taxes, the state should provide commensurate relief.

Controlling the Cost of Public Pensions, Salaries and Benefits



- Support legislation that would require all public employees participating in the New York State Retirement System to contribute 25% towards their health insurance costs.
- Expand the New York State retirement system Tier VI's optional defined contribution plan (currently available to non-union employees salaried at \$75,000 and higher) to include all existing and future employees.
- Support legislation affecting all public employees who participate in the New York State Retirement System to reduce the future retirement earnings credit for a year of government service to 1.5%; to increase the retirement age to 66; and prohibit use of any overtime in calculating the final salaries pensions are based upon, all of which will help stabilize the pension fund.
- Support legislation that would end binding arbitration for public sector labor disputes and/or support a cap on mandatory arbitration awards.
- Repeal the portion of the Triborough Amendment that requires automatic salary step increases to be paid to public employees after labor contracts expire.
- Support school, special district and municipal consolidation measures.
- Support ethics reforms and campaign finance reforms as corruption in all levels of government hurts the region’s business climate.

Taxes and Regulatory Policies



- Support the Governor’s proposal to lower tax rates for small businesses, including: reducing the corporate tax rate for small businesses from 6.5 percent to 4 percent; tripling

the current income exclusion for farmers and sole proprietors; making the investment tax credit refundable for farmers; and repealing the penalty on S corporations for underpayment of estimated taxes.

- Advocate for any revenues generated by the proposed legalization of adult use cannabis be directed toward property tax relief for residential and commercial property owners, or be limited to addiction recovery facilities and communities that have been historically negatively impacted from marijuana and drug dealing.
- Advocate that the proposed legalization of sports betting not be limited to upstate casinos so Long Island has equitable opportunities to benefit from this new revenue source that could be allocated to tax relief and infrastructure investments.
- Support empowering Industrial Development Agencies to utilize funds they generate to provide loans, grants and equity financing tools to the regions they serve.
- Support the title insurance industry against attempts to constrain necessary and appropriate practices of their business and help insurers and agents properly protect homeowners and employers against financial loss from defects in title to real property and from the invalidity or unenforceability of mortgage loans.
- Advocate for a more equitable share of federal and state government funding as our updated Balance of Payments Report shows Long Islanders send \$27 billion more to Albany and Washington, D.C. in tax revenues than we receive in state and federal aid and benefits in return, which will only increase in light of the cap on SALT deductions.
- Support broad based federal and state tax relief measures to modernize business, make our tax structure more competitive, lower costs on businesses and keep New Yorkers from leaving the state.
- Eliminate the New York State estate tax.
- Modify the federal poverty limit so it reflects our region's higher cost of living.
- Advocate for increased cooperation among states to reform and ease shipping and tax laws so Long Island wines can reach new markets.
- Cut the federal and New York State capital gains taxes to incentivize businesses to locate here and reward savings and investment as we have one of the highest combined rates on the top marginal tax rate in the country.
- Advocate for payment of past due real property tax refund judgments to Nassau County commercial property owners.
- Further reduce federal and state corporate tax rates.

- Oppose any additional federal and state taxes, assessments, fees and unnecessary regulations that hurt job growth and economic development.
- Support the amendment of General Business Law §349 and General Business Law §350 to clearly state that statutory damages do not apply in class actions in accordance with the original intent of the State Legislature as it was not intended for those statutes to allow for statutory damages to apply in class actions.
- Work with the Suffolk County Alliance of Chambers to support federal and state legislation that would offer small businesses with fewer than 50 employees an option to create a tax deferred savings account similar to a 401k or IRA with tax-free deposits of funds and withdrawals that would be limited to the purposes of creating or retaining full-time jobs during an economic downturn or to recover from a natural disaster.