



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

LIA
Long Island Association
LEADING LONG ISLAND

- 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.