

From: Paul Newell <paul@newellnyc.org>  
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Subject: Submission on LEGISLATIVE & EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION  
To: <nyscompensation@gmail.com>

Paul Newell  
Democratic District Leader  
65th Assembly District

August 17, 2016

Sheila Birnbaum, Chair  
NYS Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation  
64 Beaver Street, Box 454  
New York, NY 10004

Ms. Birnbaum,

I write to encourage you not to propose any increase to legislative or executive pay in the absence of specific, meaningful reforms. While there is no doubt that increases are long overdue, to grant them without these reforms would be an unconscionable missed opportunity for a better governed New York.

The Commission should recommend compensation increases if and only if they are tied to the following list of reforms:

- 1) A strict limit on outside income for legislators of no more than 25% of the new base rate. In all circumstances, outside income for legislators carries the appearance of impropriety. In far too many circumstances it is actual impropriety.
- 2) A ban on legislators from receiving any compensation, directly or indirectly, for referring any client or customer who is lobbying or advocating on behalf of any pending state legislation or any other state action to any entity with which the member has a business relationship.
- 3) Require any and all outside income to be specifically and precisely publicly disclosed. In the case of compensation received from firms with multiple clients, the disclosure must include which clients the legislators worked for, and what specific work they did on their behalf.
- 4) Remove and end the practice of awarding leadership or committee stipends, also known as "Lulus". These Lulus grant party and legislative leaders an unhealthy and corrupting influence over legislators' personal incomes.
- 5) Remove and end so-called "per-diem" reimbursements. The new base salary proposed should take these costs into account.
- 6) Include all statewide elected officials in all of the above reforms.

Having used this leverage for ethics reform, base pay should be increased

substantially; because we need to pay people full-time for full-time work, allow non-wealthy people to live as a legislator without needing supplementary income, and disincentivize gaming the system.

I thank you for your effort and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Paul Newell  
Democratic District Leader and  
Candidate for State Assembly  
Assembly District 65, Lower Manhattan

CC: Hon. Barry A. Cozier (Ret.), Roman B. Hedges, Mitra Hormozi, Gary Johnson, Hon. James J. Lack (Ret.), Fran Reiter