

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



TONY AVELLA
SENATOR, 11TH DISTRICT

ASSISTANT CONFERENCE LEADER
FOR POLICY & ADMINISTRATION OF THE
INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE

ALBANY OFFICE: ☐

ROOM 902, LOB
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
(518) 455-2210 OFFICE
(518) 426-6736 FAX

DISTRICT OFFICE: ✎

38-50 BELL BOULEVARD
SUITE C
BAYSIDE, NEW YORK 11361
(718) 357-3094 OFFICE
(718) 357-3491 FAX

INTERNET ADDRESS:

AVELLA@NYSENATE.GOV

CHAIR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES
TASK FORCE ON THE
DELIVERY OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN NYC

VICE-CHAIR
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

COMMITTEES
BANKS
CULTURAL AFFAIRS, TOURISM,
PARKS & RECREATION
EDUCATION
ELECTIONS
HOUSING
INSURANCE
JUDICIARY
TRANSPORTATION
NYC EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
LIBRARIES SELECT COMMITTEE

Statement
New York State Senator Tony Avella

**The New York State Commission on
Legislative, Judicial, & Executive Compensation**

June 14th, 2016

I submit these comments to the New York State Commission on Legislative, Judicial, & Executive Compensation to be considered for your final report on Legislative compensation.

First and foremost, it is essential that this Commission releases its determinations and recommendations at least 30-days prior to the November 3rd general election. Although the current statute allows the Commission to issue its report as late as the 15th of November, doing so would deny voters access to critical information. If this Commission decides to increase the compensation for the legislature, voters may find that information salient to their considerations for this year's general election. Therefore, the Commission's findings should be given ample time to circulate to the general public.

In addition, any increase should not be applied retroactively. I ask that this Commission observe current statutes for the State Legislature, which requires any and all increases to be prospective so that they take effect, not for the legislative body that voted for the increase, but for the body immediately after it. It is unethical to allow a body to vote itself a raise. Voters have the right to weigh-in on whether their legislator is deserving of more taxpayer money.

Another recommendation, which I have advocated for throughout my time in the New York City Council and State Senate, in return for an increase your recommendation should include the elimination of lucrative stipends known as "lulus". Lulus create an unethical dynamic between legislators and their party leaders, wherein party loyalty is bartered for additional income.

Sincerely,



Tony Avella
State Senator
11th Senatorial District