

# Long Island Association



## 2022 POLICY PRIORITIES

[www.longislandassociation.org](http://www.longislandassociation.org)



Long Island's  
Future is our Business

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# Long Island's Future is Our Business.

The Long Island Association (LIA) is the leading business organization in the region. With the support of our members, we amplify the voice of the business community. To achieve our vision for an economically thriving Long Island, we will advocate for the following policies and initiatives in the year 2022 on the federal, state, and local levels.

## Advocate for Long Island's economic recovery from the pandemic.

- Our lives are forever changed by our collective experiences as a result of Covid-19; including how we operate our businesses, how our children learn, and how we receive healthcare. The LIA will support efforts to revitalize our economy and mitigate the negative impact of the pandemic.
- Support the viability of Long Island's world class hospitals and our frontline workers.
- Curb the growth of inflation and ease supply chain bottlenecks.

## Support small businesses - the backbone of Long Island's economy.

- Ensure that any public health regulations also keep our economy open and avoid any shutdowns.
- Provide relief to small businesses of all sectors that are still navigating the operational limitations of Covid-19.
- Support the New York State budgetary proposals that would provide a total of \$1 billion in assistance to small businesses and advocate for our region's fair share of any grant funding.

## Make Long Island more affordable and address our high cost of living.

- Advocate for the federal reinstatement of the State and Local Tax Deduction (SALT).
- Cultivate an environment that attracts and retains young professionals to live, work, and raise their families here.
- Support the expansion of safe and accessible child care.
- Advocate for more diverse housing options (including rental, multi-family, and home ownership), including near downtowns and transit centers.
- Oppose any new taxes or fees that negatively impact the business community.
- Oppose federal and state single-payer healthcare legislation.

### Create a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive economy.

- Encourage businesses to diversify their workforce and corporate boards by hiring and appointing more people of color and women, which will contribute to their company's growth and overall success.
- Support participation for businesses founded by people of color, women, and veterans in federal, state, and local contracting opportunities.
- Support equality and diversity on Long Island and speak out against racial steering, segregation, and speech that breeds hatred, especially against undocumented immigrants, which hurts the perception of our business region.
- Ensure equitable distribution of new economic public investments in marginalized communities.

### Support investments in our infrastructure to modernize and upgrade our roads, bridges, transit network, sewer and water systems, and broadband.

- Ensure that Long Island receives an equitable share of funding from the federal infrastructure package.
- Support the game-changing transformative projects identified by the Long Island Regional Economic Development Council (LIREDC), especially the Nassau Hub and the Ronkonkoma Hub.
- Support the LIRR and ensure the Third Track and East Side Access launch on-time.
- Expand sewers, which is key to improving water quality, protecting our environment, and attracting businesses in our downtowns.
- Bridge the digital divide in low income communities with reliable broadband access.
- Capitalize on the potential of Long Island MacArthur Airport by attracting more carriers and destinations.

### Protect and preserve our environment and develop clean energy, which will simultaneously boost our economy.

- Support the state's efforts to address climate change by fostering a clean energy economy, including the continued development of offshore wind, solar, hydrogen, battery storage, electric vehicles, and other opportunities to decarbonize our energy portfolio.

**Continued: Protect and preserve our environment and encourage clean energy, which will simultaneously boost our economy.**

- Advocate for the South Fork Wind, Sunrise Wind, Empire Wind, and Beacon Wind projects; and new offshore leasing spaces in the New York Bight.
- Reevaluate the electric utility model on Long Island, including whether or not the system should be fully municipalized, fully privatized, or remain in a public-private partnership with certain improvements.
- Ensure that supply chain opportunities in the clean energy industry will be available for the small business community.

**Turbo-charge the economy by cultivating innovation.**

- Support the continued development of our Research Corridor, a network of Long Island's world renowned research and academic institutions that is fueling technological innovation.
- Connect the business community with students from our K-12 schools, colleges and universities, and workforce development programs, and support opportunities for union jobs.
- Support the manufacturing sector and the growth of international trade.
- Advance the growth of startup companies and commercialization of research.

**Support commonsense public safety measures, which fosters a positive business climate.**

- Support 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 additional reforms to state bail laws and strengthen gun control laws, in order to maintain our low crime rate and the region's high standard of public safety.

# Appendix

Long Island is a special place to live, work, and play, and the Long Island Association has been working on behalf of our region since 1926. The following Appendix to the Long Island Association Policy Priorities contains additional federal, state, and local issues we will be advocating for in 2022 to keep Long Island that way for generations to come.



- Advocate for our nationally recognized K-12 schools and world class public and private colleges and universities as they educate our future workforce.
- Seize opportunities to repurpose underutilized commercial space for affordable housing.
- Advocate for Long Island's equitable share of funding for child care and pre-kindergarten.
- Public transportation priorities:
  - Electrification of the LIRR east of Ronkonkoma and/or system improvements like battery technology;
  - A relocated and modernized Yaphank Train Station;
  - A new Republic Airport LIRR Station;
  - Preservation of service on the West Hempstead LIRR line;
  - The Penn Station rebuild and revitalization proposal;
  - Implement and expand the Gateway Program;
  - A bus rapid transit plan for the Route 110 Corridor; and
  - The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey's Cross-Harbor Freight Program.
- Road improvement priorities:
  - Route 347 project;
  - Sagtikos Parkway widening;
  - Northern State Parkway widening;
  - Meadowbrook Parkway at Southern State Parkway capacity improvements;
  - Long Island Expressway at Shelter Rock Road capacity improvements; and
  - Road safety mitigation measures in collaboration with the Long Island Contractors' Association.



- Support the Midway Crossing project in Ronkonkoma.
- Develop a long-term energy plan for Long Island which fulfills the goals of New York State’s Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act and the multi-state Transportation and Climate Initiative, without imposing onerous burdens on the business community and taking into account their reliance on natural gas.
- Ensure Long Island is not saddled with an inequitable share of the transmission distribution costs to accommodate energy from offshore wind and other projects.
- 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.
- Curb local government costs and its impact on taxpayers through New York State reforms:
  - Reign in soaring Medicaid costs for county governments by requesting the state take over each county’s local share, as is done in most states;
  - Support legislation that would end binding arbitration for public sector labor disputes and/or support a cap on mandatory arbitration awards; and
  - Repeal the portion of the Triborough Amendment that requires automatic salary step increases to be paid to public employees after labor contracts expire.
- Maintain funding for higher education student aid programs such as Pell Grants, Federal Work-Study, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants and the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need program.
- Support additional resources to SUNY schools and private colleges, expand TAP eligibility, and advocate for increasing the funding level of Bundy Aid for private independent colleges.
- Support modernizing grid infrastructure to ensure reliability and capacity for clean energy.
- Oppose the expansion of rent regulations in New York State that could negatively impact the cost of apartments on Long Island.
- Develop regional solutions that address the looming crisis in solid waste management, landfill closure and the recycling market.



- Advocate for the long-term reauthorization of the Brownfields Cleanup Program and the reauthorization of tax credits under the New York State Brownfield Cleanup Program that expire at the end of 2022.
- Support efforts to meet the needs of food insecure Long Islanders and advocate for a new Presidential Commission on Food Insecurity in the United States; the New York State Restaurant Resiliency Program; and increased funding for the New York State Department of Health Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program.
- Support law enforcement, non-profit agencies, and employers in combating the opioid crisis.
- Support efforts to eliminate disparities in healthcare.
- Modify the federal poverty limit so it reflects our region's higher cost of living.



- Support a myriad of proposals that have long been discussed to cut red tape with our multiple layers of government and make it easier to do business, including:
  - State legislation to implement “professional certification” like New York City;
  - 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;
  - The proposal by the Long Island Builders Institute and Association for a Better Long Island for a Long Island Covid-19 Municipal Modernization Plan to adjust to a post-pandemic climate;
  - Streamline the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) process;
  - New legislation that adds certainty to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) timeline;
  - Create a special New York State Supreme Court for land-use litigation to accelerate decisions;
  - Repeal the state Wicks Law;
  - Reform the state Scaffold Law by making liability standards against owners of construction projects less onerous; and
  - Support the expansion and permanent extension of the design-build method of project delivery.



- Secure an equitable share of funding to support Long Island’s offshore wind supply chain and port facilities, workforce training programs, and the creation of union jobs.
- Support next generation technologies in the sectors of life sciences and biotechnology, artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing and engineering, quantum communication, battery storage, machine learning, accelerator technology, blockchain, and clean tech.
- Support state legislation that will freeze unemployment insurance rates and avoid increases for employers.
- Oppose reforms to New York State’s antitrust law that would negatively impact small businesses and hinder innovation.
- Oppose any further expansion of prevailing wage legislation.
- Advocate for reforms to the New York State Hero Act to reduce burdens on small businesses.
- Support career and technical opportunities administered by Nassau and Suffolk BOCES and Long Island’s community colleges.
- Support the New York State constitutional amendment proposed by the Court of Appeals to make the state court system more efficient and less costly to businesses, and support the creation of a 5th Department of the Appellate Division for Nassau and Suffolk Counties.
- Support federal immigration reform to increase the number of H-1B visas and ensure highly skilled immigrants can legally enter and stay in the United States.
- Support the HIA-LI’s Long Island Innovation Park and its plans to cluster together industries there.



- 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.
- Support Discover Long Island's proposed Tourism Recovery & Improvement Districts (TRID).
- Continue developing a sports economy on Long Island, supporting the New York Islanders and their new home at UBS Arena, the Long Island Nets G-League basketball team, the Long Island Ducks minor league baseball team, the New York Riptide lacrosse team, the New York Lizards lacrosse team, the Long Island Rough Riders soccer team, and the New York Cosmos soccer team, and attract prestigious golf tournaments and other sports competitions.
- Support relocating and combining all downstate horse racing at Belmont Park to make it a sports, entertainment, and tourism destination center.
- Ensure that the revenues resulting from the recent state expansion of sports betting and any new casinos in our region will benefit Long Island.



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For updates on our advocacy work,  
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