

From: Dan Campanelli <dan.campanelli@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Aug 31, 2016 at 7:42 PM
Subject: Robert Carroll - Assembly District 44 Submission on Legislative Compensation
To: <nyscompensation@gmail.com>
Cc: Robert Carroll <robert.c.carroll@gmail.com>

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

By email to: nyscompensation@gmail.com

Dear Chair Birnbaum:

Our State Legislature has been marred by ethics scandals for years. If people are ever going to trust the government and if the government is going to actually do the business of the people, then we must have real ethics reform.

With the prospect of a legislative pay raise on the immediate horizon, the Commission has an opportunity to play a role in helping to create a better government for all New Yorkers. As the Commission considers an annual increase in compensation for legislators, they also should consider recommending a series of reforms to go along with it.

We first must reclassify the New York State Assembly and State Senate as full time positions and all outside income should be limited to passive income such as investments or rental income. In addition, the Commission should do away with the lump sum cash payments for Chairing Assembly committees and holding other leadership positions, known as lulus.

Per Diem payments should only be given for documented travel expenses when the legislature or committee is in session and an independent ethics office overseen by the Attorney General should be established to monitor conflicts of interests of members and their spouses.

Setting a ban on outside income, ending the practice of lulus, limiting and monitoring per diem payments, and establishing an independent ethics office to monitor conflicts of interests in the Assembly would go a long way in restoring the public's trust in a legislative body that badly needs reform.

Finally, the Commission should release its findings prior to the November General Election so that voters have a chance to consider the findings of the report before casting their ballots.

Thank you for your hard work and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert Carroll
Candidate for State Assembly - 44th District

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