

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



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**Statement**  
**New York State Senator Tony Avella**

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

**June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

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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 3<sup>rd</sup> general election. Although the current statute allows the Commission to issue its report as late as the 15<sup>th</sup> 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  
11<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District