

New York (NY-04) 2024

US House of Representatives

THE ISSUES

**ANTHONY
D'ESPOSITO**

REPUBLICAN • INCUMBENT



**LAURA
GILLEN**

DEMOCRAT



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ABORTION Ban or legal?	Mixed. Said he would “probably” vote for a 15-week ban, then rescinded that statement. Voted to ban funding abortion for military members. Opposed a ruling banning Mifepristone. Abortion is “a state issue ,” not national .	Legal. The overturning of Roe v. Wade was “disastrous” and a “shocking and potentially devastating setback.” Has “consistently been an advocate for reproductive rights.” “The government should not be dictating to women... what to do with their bodies.”
CLIMATE CHANGE Should climate change be a top priority?	No. Voted to cut funding for EPA greenhouse gas reduction. Voted to increase oil and gas production , encourage fracking , and repeal the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund . In 2023 voted to repeal clean energy tax credits ; in 2024 requested that the credits be saved. Supports “all of the above” energy strategy.	Yes. Would “ address the climate crisis and invest in climate resiliency projects to protect our homes.” In 2019 supported “limiting emissions, investing in renewable solar energy and working toward an all-electric fleet” for Hempstead town.
CRIMINAL JUSTICE How to ensure effectiveness and fairness in law enforcement?	Authored a bill to codify a federal “bill of rights” for officers, including protections in misconduct investigations. “Too many [police] officers have been unjustly targeted ”; will “fight for the men and women in blue.” Supports investing in de-escalation training.	“I support law enforcement” and “ funding law enforcement.” Calls for better access to mental health resources to deal with crime. Supported reversing the 2019 NY state elimination of cash bail: “Judges... should be the one who have the discretion to set this.”
ECONOMY Decrease or increase government investment in, and regulation of, the economy?	Mixed. Will “ put an end to wasteful government spending.” Opposes “regulatory barriers.” Supported funding infrastructure and economic opportunities for veterans .	Likely increase. In 2019 supported funding to solve the “affordable housing crisis” in Hempstead . As the town’s supervisor, supported funding infrastructure projects, including \$59 million to fix roads.
EDUCATION Limit teaching about racism and gender identity?	Unclear. “Bureaucrats... should not be dictating to parents, teachers and elected school boards.” Voted to restore Arlington Cemetery’s Confederate monument. Made posts celebrating Black History Month.	No position found. “On Juneteenth, we commemorate the end of slavery in America.”
ENVIRONMENT Loosen or tighten environmental regulations?	Mostly loosen. Voted to block EPA regulations on vehicles and block hunting restrictions on federal lands. Voted to allow access to public lands for energy development. Voted to ban funding to enforce the Clean Air Act . Sponsored a bill to conserve and restore Long Island Sound.	Tighten. “I will be a strong voice for clean air, clean water, and environmental protection.” In 2020, as Hempstead town supervisor expanded a shellfish hatchery which filtered water and reduced pollution. Monitoring of air and water quality needs “an enforcement mechanism.”
GUN LAWS Loosen or tighten gun regulation?	Mostly loosen. Would arrest those “ carrying illegal firearms,” not limit those “carrying them legally.” Sponsored a bill allowing federal officers to purchase retired firearms. Praised an indictment for illegal firearm sales.	Tighten. Supports “common sense gun safety laws,” universal background checks , and “red flag” laws. Would ban “carrying weapons in public places where our children play.” Would ban “deadly military style assault weapons.”

ISSUES	D'ESPOSITO (R)	GILLEN (D)
HEALTHCARE Increase or decrease government support for healthcare?	Mixed. “ <u>Will stop</u> ” a “government takeover of our health care system.” Would <u>strengthen</u> the employer-based insurance system. <u>Opposed</u> the Inflation Reduction Act, which included lowering Medicare drug prices, because of costs. Will work to “ <u>fully fund</u> ” Medicare, Social Security, & Medicaid.	Increase. Praises the <u>Inflation Reduction Act</u> for lowering Medicare drug prices and the <u>Affordable Care Act</u> for providing “health care for millions.” <u>Supports</u> reduced costs, expanding access, and <u>protecting</u> Medicare and Social Security.
IMMIGRATION How to handle immigration?	<u>Supports</u> deporting illegal migrants. <u>Would</u> invest in Border Patrol officers. <u>Authored</u> a bill mandating “a report on the border crisis’s impacts on law enforcement agencies.” <u>Voted</u> to <u>limit</u> asylum and to build a border wall. Called the Senate’s 2024 bipartisan <u>border security bill</u> “ <u>disastrous</u> .”	<u>Supports</u> the Senate’s 2024 “bipartisan border security deal.” <u>Seeks</u> “more border patrol-agents,” “advanced ‘smart’ technology,” “strategic physical barriers,” and expediting “the asylum and deportation processes.” <u>Supports</u> “a pathway to citizenship” for “ <u>members of</u> our workforce” and “ <u>those</u> who come legally.”
LABOR Make it easier or harder for unions to organize?	Easier. <u>Supports</u> “organized labor.” In the House <u>could not support</u> any measures with “a devastating effect for organized labor.” <u>Worked with</u> a local air traffic control union to <u>pass</u> an FAA reauthorization bill that would secure jobs in his district.	Easier. “ <u>Unions built</u> Long Island’s middle class, and I will always stand with them.” As Hempstead supervisor, <u>appointed</u> the first <u>labor union member</u> to the Industrial Development Agency. “Organized Labor has my back, and <u>I’ve got theirs</u> .”
LGBTQ RIGHTS Limit or expand LGBTQ rights?	Mixed. <u>Voted</u> to <u>deny</u> reimbursements for service members receiving gender-affirming medical care. <u>Voted</u> to <u>ban</u> transgender athletes in women’s sports. <u>Supports</u> marriage equality.	Expand. “ <u>Will be</u> a fierce defender of LGBTQ+ rights in Congress.” To those who <u>do not feel</u> “safe to be open about their sexuality or gender identity... I will always be your champion.” <u>Supports</u> marriage equality.
MARIJUANA Ban or legal?	Ban. <u>Hosted</u> “Legal Does Not Mean Safe” seminars warning about risks of marijuana. “The legalization of marijuana” <u>would worsen</u> the “opioid epidemic.” In 2019, regarding arrests for marijuana possession: “If they’re arrested, it’s because they <u>deserve</u> to be.”	Unclear. In 2019 <u>agreed with</u> a one-year moratorium on the sale of marijuana within Hempstead and a ban on smoking it in town parks. “We’re in a legal grey area... we need to press pause and see how the legal landscape shapes out.”
STUDENT FINANCIAL AID Support lowering interest on student loans and/or forgiving them?	No. <u>Voted</u> to <u>end</u> the 2022 student loan payment pause and forgiveness plan. <u>Signed</u> a brief <u>opposing</u> Biden’s loan forgiveness. “American taxpayers <u>should NOT</u> be paying off student loans for campus protesters.”	No position found.
TAXES Positions on taxes?	<u>Will</u> “fight to lower federal taxes.” <u>Opposed</u> raising the NY payroll tax to <u>fund</u> NYC’s MTA. <u>Voted</u> against <u>restoring</u> federal business deductions and expanding the child tax credit. Would <u>repeal</u> the State and Local Tax (SALT) cap and <u>fix the</u> SALT marriage penalty.	<u>Says</u> that, as Hempstead Town Supervisor, her cost-saving measures enabled the town to lower taxes. “I reached across the aisle to <u>cut taxes</u> .” <u>Supports</u> repealing the State and Local Tax (SALT) cap.
VOTING RULES Make voting harder or easier?	Harder. <u>Sponsored</u> a <u>bill implementing</u> voter ID, restricting vote by mail, and limiting who is allowed to drop off the ballot of another person.	Easier. <u>Wants</u> to “reinvigorate the Voting Rights Act.” <u>Supports</u> <u>requiring</u> states with voting rights violations to get <u>preclearance</u> before making changes to voting practices.

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