

BIZfact

\$77,040

Median annual wage of Long Island's 1,140 diagnostic medical sonographers

Source: New York State Labor Department

MORE TRADEMARKS FOR IVANKA IN CHINA

SHANGHAI — The Chinese government has granted Ivanka Trump's company preliminary approval for another five trademarks this month, as her father's administration pushes ahead on trade negotiations with China.

Four trademarks, including child care centers, sunglasses and wedding dresses, were approved Sunday. A fifth, covering brokerage, charitable fundraising and art valuation services, was approved Jan. 6, according to online trademark office records. The applications were filed in 2016 and 2017. If no one objects, they will be finalized after 90 days.

Ivanka Trump's expanding intellectual property holdings have long raised ethical concerns. Ivanka Trump's lawyers in China did not respond immediately to a request for comment.

Critics argue that by asking a foreign government for valuable intellectual property rights, White House officials could open themselves to pressure in government negotiations. There is also concern that the family's global trademark portfolio would open the way for lucrative business opportunities once Donald Trump leaves office.

Ivanka Trump closed her fashion brand in July.

China has said it treats all trademark applications equally under the law.

— AP

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LIA targeting taxes

BY JAMES T. MADORE
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Making permanent the state cap on increases in property taxes, abolishing the \$10,000 federal cap on deductions of state and local taxes, and winning new research equipment for Brookhaven National Laboratory are among the top priorities of Long Island's largest business group.

The Long Island Association on Tuesday releases its 2019 priorities for governmental action at the federal, state and local levels.

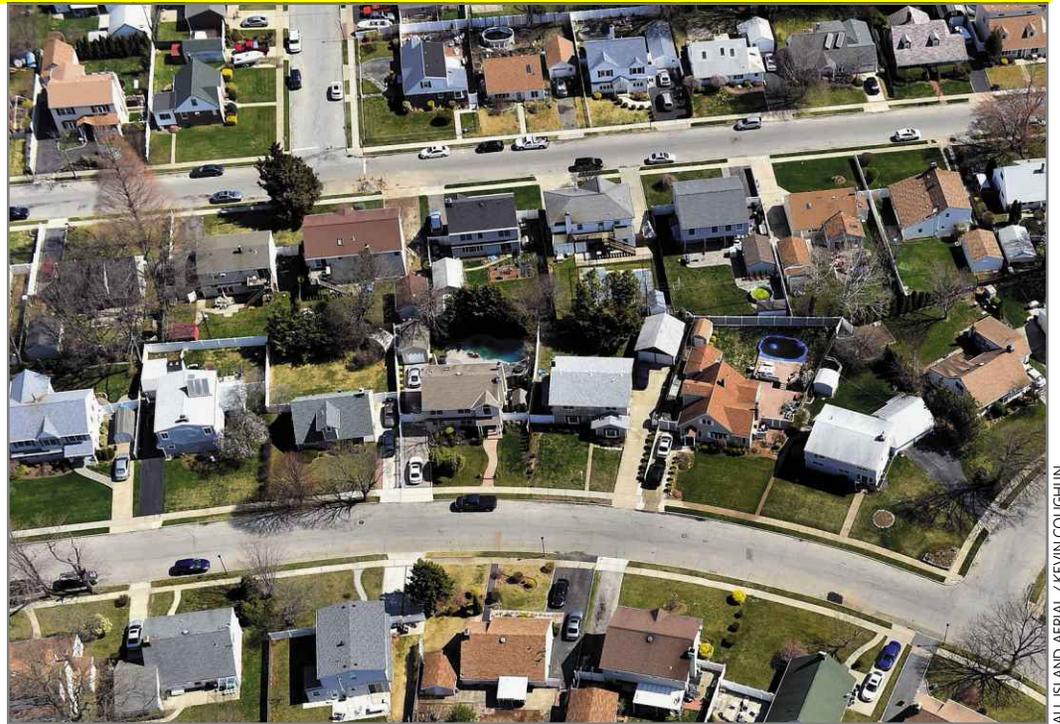
By making public its policy agenda now, the business group hopes to influence negotiations between Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo and the State Legislature for the 2019-2020 state budget, which is due by the April 1 start of the fiscal year.

"Our No. 1 priority, hands down, is the property tax cap, making it permanent," LIA president Kevin Law said, referring to a state law that limits to 2 percent the annual increases in property taxes by school districts and other local governments.

The cap, first enacted in 2011 during Cuomo's first year in office, must be renewed periodically. School districts and teachers' unions have opposed it.

Last week, Cuomo included making the cap permanent in his proposed state budget, saying the typical homeowner has saved \$3,200 in the past six years.

In addition, the LIA endorsed efforts by Cuomo and the Legislature to roll back a



The state law on limiting annual property tax increases to 2 percent should be made permanent, the Long Island Association says. The cap applies to levies by school districts and local governments.

2017 federal tax law change that capped the amount of state and local tax deductions at \$10,000. The governor has said losing full deductibility equals a 30 percent tax increase for state residents.

Law said the LIA also supports BNL's bid in a nationwide competition to host an electron-ion collider. He said, "this research machine that would explore the subatomic world would bring a multimillion investment by the federal government to Long Island."

The LIA also is calling for the establishment of a port where turbines could be manufactured and assembled for offshore wind farms and the production of drones to be used to monitor the farms. "We think these are opportunities to make Long Island a capital of offshore wind jobs," Law said.

Included in the LIA's top 15 priorities is opposing a proposed single-payer health insurance system in the state, which it said "would impose unnecessary or onerous costs"

on businesses.

Besides the 15 priorities, which Law said were the most achievable this year, the LIA released 97 "long-term" priorities. These include support for further study of a Long Island Sound bridge or tunnel crossing, more H-1B visas for foreign workers and housing near Long Island Rail Road stations. The group opposes a reinstatement of the commuter tax.

The entire policy agenda was approved last week by the LIA's 73-member board of directors.

CEOs' optimism waning amid trade tensions

The Associated Press

DAVOS, Switzerland — A survey of hundreds of corporate leaders shows "a record jump in pessimism" about the world economy, with sentiment doused by trade spats, a global downturn and fading benefits from President Donald Trump's tax cuts.

Consulting firm PwC says the latest edition of its annual survey of CEOs found 30 percent feel growth will decline this year, a six-fold increase from a year earlier — when 57 percent were optimistic.

The survey, released Monday on the eve of the World Economic Forum opening in Davos, Switzerland, tallies responses from about 1,300 CEOs worldwide and is billed as a good predictor of economic results.

In an interview, PwC chairman Bob Moritz said: "There's a not-surprising increase in the amount of pessimism from the CEOs and the global economy as they look at the next 12 months." He said "confidence is waning" amid rising trade tensions and protectionism.

Thirty-five percent of CEOs cited the perennial concern

about over-regulation as the top threat to their businesses. But "policy uncertainty" — a new metric introduced this year — came a close second in the survey.

The survey of CEOs in 91 territories was conducted online, in person and by phone in September and October.

The souring mood was perhaps most pronounced about the United States: The survey found a 41 percentage point drop in CEOs choosing the United States as a top market for growth. Optimism among North American executives

dropped the most sharply — from 63 percent to 37 percent.

Moritz suggested U.S. dominance in world affairs isn't what it once was, noting how the center of gravity of capital markets had been the United States over almost a half-century. "Now you've got it shifting a little bit more east" to China and other parts of Asia, he said.

The Trump administration's salvos over trade with key partners have taken a bite: PwC found 98 percent of U.S. CEOs and 9 in 10 Chinese counterparts voiced concerns about the U.S.-China trade issues.