

**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 7, 2025 8:57 AM  
**To:** 'foil@nysenate.gov'; 'Fern Whyland'

**Subject:** **FOIL/records request: "Joint Budget Conference Committee" required by Joint Rule III, §2 of the Permanent Joint Rules of the Senate and Assembly**

**TO: Senate Records Access Officer/Secretary of the Senate Alejandra Paulino, Esq.  
Assembly Records Access Officer Fern Whyland**

[Senate](#) and [Assembly](#) Permanent Joint Rule III, §2 entitled “Joint Budget Conference Committee” reads:

“In accordance with [section 54-a of the Legislative Law](#), within ten days of the submission of the budget by the Governor pursuant to article VII of the Constitution, the Temporary President of the Senate and the Speaker of the Assembly shall jointly establish a Joint Budget Conference Committee and, as they deem necessary, any number of subcommittees subordinate to such Joint Budget Conference Committee, to consider and reconcile such budget resolution or bills passed by, or as may be passed by, the Senate and Assembly. Such Joint Budget Conference Committee shall be constituted and conducted as prescribed in Joint Rule II and shall file its written report in accord with the schedule established pursuant to section 1 of this rule.”

Governor Hochul submitted the budget on January 21, 2025 – making January 31, 2025 the date by which Temporary Senate President Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Heastie were required to “jointly establish a Joint Budget Conference Committee” and necessary subordinate subcommittees. Nevertheless, no announcement of same appears on the Senate and Assembly websites – nor other indicia of their establishment.

Pursuant to [Senate Rule XIV](#) [“Freedom of Information”] and [Assembly Rules VIII](#) [“Public Access to Records”], request is made for records of the establishment of the required Joint Budget Conference Committee for the FY2025-26 state budget, its membership, any subcommittees thereto, and their membership.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)  
[www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org)  
914-421-1200  
[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)