

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewidth.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 1:33 PM
To: 'tgolway@politico.com'; 'EDurkin@politico.com'; 'agronewold@politico.com'; 'billmahoney@politico.com'; 'NNiedzwiadek@politico.com'; 'mfrench@politico.com'
Subject: How can NYC voters vote intelligently when Politico & other NYC press have NOT reported on the on-the-job performance of NYC's 92 state legislators -- &, certainly, NOT based on relevant EVIDENCE

TO: POLITICO – NY

This is now the third day that your “New York Playbook”, which arrives in my inbox by 7:30 a.m., has included the following:

“A message from Facebook:

Visit Facebook's Voting Information Center today

Facebook is building the largest voting information effort in US history, starting with the new Voting Information Center, where you can find the latest resources about voting in the 2020 election. Our goal is to help register 4 million voters.

[Visit our new Voting Information Center now”](#)

The link leads to a "Voting Information Center" for New York City --

https://www.facebook.com/votinginfocenter/?utm_source=politico_nl&utm_medium=state_playbook&utm_campaign=9_23

How can New York City voters vote intelligently when Politico and other New York City press have NOT reported on the on-the-job performance of New York City's 70 re-election-seeking state legislators – or the 2 seeking election to Congress – and, certainly, NOT by reporting based on relevant EVIDENCE, as, for instance, pertaining to their legislative salaries. **What salary is to be paid the winners of New York City's 92 state legislative races? Is it \$110,000 – or \$79,500? Shouldn't New York City voters be informed on that issue?**

The EVIDENCE establishing the lawful salary – and, simultaneously, establishing that New York City's 92 incumbent state legislators have NOT been doing their jobs to such a degree that the Legislature does NOT function at a constitutional level -- is embodied in five materially-identical public corruption/grand jury complaints that CJA filed with each of New York City's five district attorneys, who are “sitting on” them. They are: (1) a June 9, 2020 complaint filed with Manhattan D.A. Vance; (2) a June 8, 2020 complaint filed with Bronx D.A. Clark; (3) a June 9, 2002 complaint filed with Brooklyn D.A. Gonzalez; (4) a June 9, 2020 complaint filed with Queens D.A. Katz; and (5) a June 9, 2020 complaint filed with Staten Island D.A. McMahon. These 5 complaints are also posted on CJA's website, here, together with the 57 other materially-identical complaints filed with New York State's 57 other district attorneys, who, likewise, are all “sitting on” those complaints. The direct link to CJA's separate webpage of the EVIDENCE substantiating the complaints is here.

As is IMMEDIATELY obvious, the EVIDENCE presented by the complaints on the salary issue more than meets the standard of “probable cause” for a grand jury to indict. It is open-and-shut, *prima facie* – and would compel any trial jury to convict, speedily. Its starting point is my July 16, 2019 e-mail to the Legislature's 15 stipend-receiving leaders requesting that they forward it to the 198 other legislators, with its attached July 15, 2019 written

NOTICE and substantiating analysis that the December 10, 2018 Report of the Committee on Legislative and Executive Compensation – raising their legislative salaries from \$79,500 to \$110,000 – is “a **fraud** on the People of the State of New York – and a **larceny** of their tax dollars’, violating a succession of penal laws, and that their duty was to void it, to return the pay-raise monies they had already received, and to initiate criminal prosecutions of the Committee’s four members and abetting attorneys.” Six of these 15 legislative leaders are from New York City:

- Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie,
- Deputy Senate Majority Leader Michael Gianaris,
- Senate Finance Committee Chair Liz Krueger,
- Assembly Ways and Means Committee Chair Helene Weinstein,
- Assembly Speaker *Pro Tempore* Jeffrion Aubry, and
- Assembly Codes Committee Chair Joseph Lentol.

Five of these six are running for re-election. The exception is Lentol, whose re-election bid ended when he was defeated in a primary – and whose *salary-based* pension will be calculated with the \$110,000 figure.

Will you ask these six top New York City state legislators – three of them lawyers – what they did upon receiving the July 15, 2019 NOTICE and analysis. Did they not furnish it to their 198 legislative colleagues, as requested – most also running for re-election in races either uncontested or not competitive, thanks to their self-interested derelictions as legislators in failing to oversee what has been going on with New York’s eight recognized political parties and elections. The analysis is 46 pages, excluding exhibits. Will these six top legislators – so instrumental in the Legislature’s “dysfunction” – furnish you with their findings of fact and conclusions of law? How about New York City’s other state legislators, such as those specified by the complaints, including:

- Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Brad Hoylman, a Harvard Law School graduate (like Deputy Senate Majority Leader Gianaris) and member of the Senate Finance Committee and Senate Rules Committee, running for re-election;
- Assembly Judiciary Committee Chair Jeffrey Dinowitz, a lawyer and member of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee and Assembly Rules Committee, running for re-election;
- Senate Committee on Ethics and Internal Governance Chair Alessandra Biaggi, a lawyer and member of the Senate Committee on Investigations and Government Operations, running for re-election.

New York City’s five district attorneys have had the complaints for 3-1/2 months, but have not contacted me for further information about them, or with questions, or to get testimony from me, under oath. Have they communicated with any of the complained-against 92 state legislators? How about the above nine? Have they questioned them about their legislative salaries – and about the complaints’ balance, such as their very next issue: the larceny in the Legislature’s own fiscal year 2020-21 budget.

The above nine legislators and the above five district attorneys are ready to be questioned by you. So, too, New York City’s other state legislators, all of whom I provided with notice to prepare for inquiries from the press – excepting those who had resigned to pursue other opportunities. My e-mails so-advising them were on September 8th and September 21st – with a further e-mail to D.A. Vance on September 22nd. These are posted on CJA’s webpage of 2020 Elections Outreach to the New York City Press, which is where this e-mail will be posted. It is part of series of webpages entitled “GOOD NEWS FOR THE PRESS -- Reporting on the electoral races for NYS’ 213 legislative seats, on NY’s 15 D.A. races, & on congressional races involving NYS legislative incumbents is EASY. It ALL rests on a single, fully-documented story of fraud and larceny involving the state legislators’ own salaries & the Legislature’s own budget.”

I am available to answer your questions and assist you, to the max. As is obvious from the complaints – and their starting point, CJA’s July 15, 2019 analysis – your reporting will upend this year’s elections for ALL 213 state legislative seats and 15 district attorney offices – **and that’s for starters**.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
www.judgewatch.org
914-421-1200