

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2023 12:52 PM
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Subject: **The Legislature's OWN Budget & 38 Questions for Stewart-Cousins & Heastie about it & about Gov Hochul's Legislative/Judiciary Appropriation Bill #S.4001/A.3001 expanding it**
Attachments: [cja-feb-15-23-written-testimony-general-govt-budget-hearing.pdf](#)

TO: HELLGATE –

Christopher Robbins, Max Rivlin-Nadler, Nick Pinto, Esther Wang, Sydney Pereira

Have you examined, at all, the Legislature's OWN budget – the necessity of which I alerted you to three weeks ago, by the below, with a request that you forward to other journalists, if this and other state budget/corruption issues were not within your scope of investigation and reporting.

There has been NO legislative budget hearing on the Legislature's OWN budget. Above attached is my February 15th written testimony exclusively on that subject, setting forth 38 questions to be asked of Temporary Senate President Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Heastie about the [Legislature's OWN budget](#) and Governor Hochul's expansion of it in [Legislative/Judiciary Appropriation Bill #S.4001/A.3001](#).

This written testimony, timely-submitted for the Legislature's February 15th budget hearing on "local government officials/general government", was NOT posted on the Senate and Assembly webpages for the hearing, [here](#) and [here](#), until AFTER [my February 22nd e-mail to Senate Finance Committee Chair Krueger and Assembly Ways and Means Committee Chair Weinstein](#) about its non-posting. However, I have yet to receive ANY response to the e-mail's inquiry as to whether the testimony was distributed to ALL Senate and Assembly members for their review – and to which staff.

I am available to answer your questions – and to give you the lead on further developments in this important story, to be embodied in a third press release following Governor Hochul's 30-day amendments, due this Friday, March 3rd. FORWARD TO OTHER JOURNALISTS if this is NOT something you will investigate and report.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>

Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 11:10 AM

To: 'tips@hellgatenyc.com' <tips@hellgatenyc.com>; 'chris@hellgatenyc.com' <chris@hellgatenyc.com>; 'max@hellgatenyc.com' <max@hellgatenyc.com>; 'nick@hellgatenyc.com' <nick@hellgatenyc.com>; 'nick@nickpinto.net' <nick@nickpinto.net>; 'esther@hellgatenyc.com' <esther@hellgatenyc.com>; 'sydney@hellgatenyc.com' <sydney@hellgatenyc.com>

Subject: Prepping for the Legislature's Budget Hearings -- & "Blowing the Whistle" on the Legislature's OWN budget

TO: HELLGATE –

Christopher Robbins, Max Rivlin-Nadler, Nick Pinto, Esther Wang, Sydney Pereira

If you are not covering the New York state budget, or state “public protection” entities, or state public officers such as Attorney General James, please pass this on.

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Shouldn't the press be inquiring about [the Legislature's structuring of its budget hearings, by "programmatic area\[s\]", not bills](#) – concealing [violations of Article VII, §§2, 3, and 4 of the New York State Constitution](#)?

Above-attached is my already-submitted written testimony addressed to that subject, at the outset. CJA's EVIDENTIARY webpage posting it is [here](#).

I am available to answer questions – and to provide important scoops on the [Legislature's own budget](#), expanded in [Legislative/Judiciary budget bill #S.4001/A.3001](#). How about asking Temporary Senate President Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Heastie why they are NOT testifying on behalf of their budget and the legislative portion of the combined Legislative/Judiciary budget bill at any legislative budget hearing? Or are they?

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