

**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 26, 2023 11:23 AM

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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: NEW YORK FOCUS –**

Editor-in-Chief Akash Mehta  
General Manager Rebecca Klein  
Managing Editor Maia Hibbett  
Co-Founder/Contributing Editor Lee Harris  
Senior Reporter Sam Mellins  
Criminal Justice Investigative Reporter Chris Gelardi  
Advisory Board Member Ross Barkan, Esq.

Have you examined, at all, the Legislature's OWN budget – the necessity of which I alerted you to three weeks ago, by the below.

To assist you in providing such vital information to New York taxpayers about the purported "\$273,921,877" legislative budget for FY2023-24 that they will be paying for and as to which there has been NO legislative budget hearing, above-attached is my February 15<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> e-mail to Senate Finance Committee Chair Krueger and Assembly 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 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)  
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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 5, 2023 10:59 AM  
**To:** 'maia@nysfocus.com' <[maia@nysfocus.com](mailto:maia@nysfocus.com)>

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

**TO: NEW YORK FOCUS Managing Editor Maia Hibbett**

The below was inadvertently misaddressed to you and bounced back. I trust this will reach you now.

I look forward to speaking with you directly about this major story.

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

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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)>  
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**Subject: Prepping for the Legislature's Budget Hearings -- & "Blowing the Whistle" on the Legislature's OWN budget**

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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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