

GUIDE FOR TOMPKINS COUNTY “LOCAL JOURNALISM”

INFORMING THE VOTERS:

Tompkins County’s Uncontested Re-Election-Seeking D.A. Van Houten & its Uncontested Re-Election-Seeking Assemblywoman Kelles, & Re-Election-Seeking State Senator Webb, Etc.

The duty of the Tompkins County D.A. is to enforce New York’s penal laws and obey conflict of interest protocols. That is the subject of the [Center for Judicial Accountability’s July 18, 2024 grand jury/public corruption complaint](#) to [Tompkins County D.A. Matthew Van Houten](#), sent to him by the below e-mail. It involves his \$221,100 D.A. salary, statutorily-linked to the Tompkins county court judge salary. Of this, \$101,300 is the product of three “false instrument”, penal law-violating commission reports that Tompkins County’s two state legislators, each running for re-election, are knowledgeable of and complicit in.

D.A. Van Houten is himself running for election, uncontested – and did not respond to the July 18, 2024 grand jury/public corruption complaint, which requested his response by August 1st to two simple questions:

- (1) whether he would be repudiating the \$101,300 salary difference and advising Tompkins County to secure a judicial declaration voiding the three “false instrument”, penal law-violating commission reports?;
- (2) whether he would be recusing himself from the July 18, 2024 grand jury/public corruption complaint and securing an independent prosecutor?

D.A. Van Houten will surely be more responsive to inquiries from you – and he is ready to field them, as I sent him e-mails alerting him to press inquiries.

What does he have to say about the \$221,100 Tompkins County D.A. salary – and about Tompkins County’s state legislators whose public corruption is prioritized by the July 18, 2024 grand jury/public corruption complaint (at pp. 2-4). Will he disclose his political, professional, and personal relationships with them – and with the other public officers complained-against and implicated by the grand jury/public corruption complaint?

And can D.A. Van Houten explain how it is possible that notwithstanding [Tompkins County has a population of 102,555 and median household income of \\$69,995](#) and [state legislator salaries are \\$142,000, the highest in the nation](#), on top of which, as with D.A. salaries, are thousands of dollars more in non-salary compensation benefits:

- [Assemblywoman Anna Kelles \(AD125\)](#) is uncontested for re-election and is running on both Democratic and Working Families lines for which she faced no primaries for either line;
- [Senator Leah Webb \(SD52\)](#) is running for re-election on both Democratic and Working Families lines for which she faced no primaries for either line, against [Mike Sigler](#), running on the Republican line for which he faced no primaries, plus his own “Local 607 Party” line.

Indeed, can D.A. Van Houten explain how he himself is running uncontested in the general election on both Democratic and Working Families lines for which he faced no primaries for either line.

I look forward to discussing with you the above questions and assisting your investigative journalism about Tompkins County's D.A. race, two state legislative races, and judicial races for supreme court to city court – all involving “false instrument”, penal law-violating salaries for these offices. Meantime, here's [CJA's webpage for the 2024 Tompkins County D.A. election](#).

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2024 8:49 PM
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Subject: NOTICE & grand jury/public corruption complaint -- Your D.A. salary increases, the judicial salary increases on which they are based, & the violations of NY penal laws by state legislators within your jurisdictions

Attachments: [7-18-24-daasny-notice-complaint.pdf](#);
 [7-17-24-complaint-vs-soares-to-albany-ethics.pdf](#);
 [7-17-24-transmittal-to-soares.pdf](#)

District Attorneys Association of the State of New York (DAASNY)

**ATT: President/Richmond County D.A. Michael McMahon
 NYS' 61 Other D.A. and Acting D.A. Members**

Above-attached are CJA's July 18, 2024 NOTICE & grand jury/public corruption complaint and underlying July 17, 2024 ethics complaint to the Albany County Ethics Commission against Albany County D.A. Soares and its accompanying transmittal letter to him.

So that I may be guided accordingly, please let me hear from each of you by no later than two weeks from today, August 1, 2024, with respect to both the NOTICE and July 18, 2024 grand jury/public corruption complaint, herewith filed with you.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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