

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 11:37 AM
To: 'acooper@nypublicradio.org'; 'blehrer@wnyc.org'; 'bbergin@wnyc.org';
'elkim@nypublicradio.org'; 'rkhalifeh@nypublicradio.org';
'smax@nypublicradio.org'; 'sbrown@wnyc.org'; 'cwerth@wnyc.org';
'press@wnyc.org'
Cc: 'jimmy.vielkind@gmail.com'; 'jvielkind@wnyc.org'; 'jcampbell@wnyc.org';
'jcampbell@nypublicradio.org'; 'Jeongyoon Han'; 'sclary@nypublicradio.org'
Subject: **ALERT: NYS Budget is violating the NYS Constitution, statutes,& legislative rules to steal taxpayer money & corrupt governance by policy changes**

TO: [WNYC/New York Public Radio](#)

My below self-explanatory e-mail, sent earlier this morning to the entire roster of the Albany Legislative Correspondents Association, bounced back with respect to your two reporters Jimmy Vielkind and Jon Campbell. The bounce-back message read:

* [jcampbell@nypublicradio.org]: 550 Administrative prohibition - envelope blocked - <https://community.mimecast.com/docs/DOC-1369#550>
[LPI1kAD7PESn0JlcmqylkQ.us474] Server "170.10.132.221:25" returned an error:
* [jvielkind@wnyc.org]: 550 Administrative prohibition - envelope blocked -
<https://community.mimecast.com/docs/DOC-1369#550>
[52AqDxVnN4SiZxglrWGzow.us336] Server "216.69.141.71:25" returned an error:".

I have repeatedly alerted you to the block, which you have not removed. Quite obviously, it has STILL not been removed, after most recent [March 19th e-mail, sent from my personal e-mail address](#).

Please IMMEDIATELY forward this e-mail to [President & CEO LaFontaine E. Oliver and General Counsel Ivan Zimmerman](#) for appropriate explanation and action – and, additionally, to each and every member of your Board of Trustees and Honorary Board, so that they can be alerted to the situation.

Thank you.

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

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 10:19 AM
To: 'susan.arbetter@charter.com' <susan.arbetter@charter.com>; 'jack.arpey@charter.com' <jack.arpey@charter.com>; 'grace.ashford@nytimes.com' <grace.ashford@nytimes.com>; 'jbeeferman@politico.com' <jbeeferman@politico.com>; 'editor@nysfocus.com' <editor@nysfocus.com>; 'jcampbell@nypublicradio.org' <jcampbell@nypublicradio.org>;

'Dan.Clark@timesunion.com' <Dan.Clark@timesunion.com>; 'Keshia.clukey@newsday.com' <Keshia.clukey@newsday.com>; 'tconnolly514@gmail.com' <tconnolly514@gmail.com>; 'kcordero@politico.com' <kcordero@politico.com>; 'gwen@adironackexplorer.org' <gwen@adironackexplorer.org>; 'jdeline@news10.com' <jdeline@news10.com>; 'SDestra@wmht.com' <SDestra@wmht.com>; 'SDestra@wmht.org' <SDestra@wmht.org>; 'bianca@nysfocus.com' <bianca@nysfocus.com>; 'mfrench@politico.com' <mfrench@politico.com>; 'agault@wdt.net' <agault@wdt.net>; 'rgavin@buffnews.com' <rgavin@buffnews.com>; 'chris@nysfocus.com' <chris@nysfocus.com>; 'vgolden@nypost.com' <vgolden@nypost.com>; 'michael.gormley@newsday.com' <michael.gormley@newsday.com>; 'lynn.halliburton@statewatch.com' <lynn.halliburton@statewatch.com>; 'Jeongyoon Han' <jhan@wxix.com>; 'mhill@ap.org' <mhill@ap.org>; 'lucy.hodgman@hearst.com' <lucy.hodgman@hearst.com>; 'bernadettejhogan@gmail.com' <bernadettejhogan@gmail.com>; 'kevin@statewatch.com' <kevin@statewatch.com>; 'Kyle Hughes' <khughes@nysnys.com>; 'aizaguirre@ap.org' <aizaguirre@ap.org>; 'Ajefferson@cityandstateny.com' <Ajefferson@cityandstateny.com>; 'raga.justin@hearst.com' <raga.justin@hearst.com>; 'shaneking@statewatch.com' <shaneking@statewatch.com>; 'colin@nysfocus.com' <colin@nysfocus.com>; 'EKline@wmht.org' <EKline@wmht.org>; 'kkozak@wmht.org' <kkozak@wmht.org>; 'blee@alm.com' <blee@alm.com>; 'rlewis@cityandstateny.com' <rlewis@cityandstateny.com>; 'Kate.Lisa@charter.com' <Kate.Lisa@charter.com>; 'David.lombardo@wcny.org' <David.lombardo@wcny.org>; 'seamus.lyman@charter.com' <seamus.lyman@charter.com>; 'BLYons@TimesUnion.com' <BLYons@TimesUnion.com>; 'billmahoney@politico.com' <billmahoney@politico.com>; 'akash@nysfocus.com' <akash@nysfocus.com>; 'sam@nysfocus.com' <sam@nysfocus.com>; 'matthew.mirro@statewatch.com' <matthew.mirro@statewatch.com>; 'ben.oreskes@nytimes.com' <ben.oreskes@nytimes.com>; 'bphillip@nysenate.gov' <bphillip@nysenate.gov>; 'nreisman@politico.com' <nreisman@politico.com>; 'julia@nysfocus.com' <julia@nysfocus.com>; 'jay.root@nytimes.com' <jay.root@nytimes.com>; 'yancey.roy@newsday.com' <yancey.roy@newsday.com>; 'JSheridan@news10.com' <JSheridan@news10.com>; 'Maryfrancis.Stoute@charter.com' <Maryfrancis.Stoute@charter.com>; 'jvielkind@wnyc.org' <jvielkind@wnyc.org>; 'Peter.Wendler@wcny.org' <Peter.Wendler@wcny.org>; 'zwilliams@bloombergindustry.com' <zwilliams@bloombergindustry.com>; 'timothy.p.williams@charter.com' <timothy.p.williams@charter.com>; 'jenny@nyfocus.com' <jenny@nyfocus.com>

Subject: ALERT: NYS Budget is violating the NYS Constitution, statutes,& legislative rules to steal taxpayer money & corrupt governance by policy changes

TO: [Albany Legislative Correspondents Association Roster](#)

Why does your reporting on the New York State budget conceal that it is “OFF THE CONSTITUTIONAL RAILS”, rife with constitutional, statutory, and legislative rule violations – and that it is massively-larcenous?

Have you not read [Article VII, §§1-7 \[of the New York State Constitution\]](#) – whose §4 mandates that the Governor’s appropriation bills – other than for the legislative and judiciary budgets – “shall...be a law immediately without further action by the governor” once the Senate and Assembly reconcile their separate amendments of those bills, limited to striking out or reducing items of appropriation. Do you

dispute that New York has a financially constrained, ROLLING BUDGET – with most of the budget NEVER going back to the Governor.

How is the behind-the-closed doors, “three-men-in-a-room” budget dealmaking of Governor Hochul, Temporary Senate President Stewart-Cousins, and Assembly Speaker Heastie, that you have been reporting on for the past three weeks, remotely constitutional?

And what about the Senate and Assembly one-house budget resolutions – each respectively purporting that the [Senate](#) and [Assembly](#) amended the same eight budget bills. This is fraud. NONE of those eight bills were ever amended, in fact. There are NO votes by ANY senators and ANY assembly members on a single one of them.

And what about Governor Hochul’s five so-called “Article VII” bills that contain policy? Here, too, these are fraud. Governor Hochul NEVER introduced any of these five bills, in fact. Rather, she submitted them to the Legislature as draft bills, requiring Senate and Assembly sponsors. How did they then each mysteriously morph into actual bills, without Senate and Assembly sponsors, falsely stating that they were introduced by the Governor?

Here’s [CJA’s FOIL requests pertaining to the FY2025-26 state budget](#), from which you can verify the TRUTH about the ten budget bills comprising Governor Hochul’s executive budget. Start with:

- [CJA’s February 7, 2025 FOIL request](#) entitled “FY 2025-26 State Budget – for records reflecting: (1) how Governor Hochul’s five proposed ‘Article VII Bills’ each became actual bills, allegedly submitted by her ‘pursuant to article seven of the Constitution’; (2) why these actual bills are not posted on her Division of the Budget’s website; and (3) findings of fact and conclusions of law made with respect to CJA’s March 18, 2020 letter to Governor Cuomo”;
- [CJA’s March 21, 2025 FOIL request](#) entitled “Records reflecting how & where the Senate & Assembly ‘amended’ 8 of the Governor’s FY2025-26 budget bills”.

Will you be investigating and reporting this – and the billions and billions of dollars of larcenies of taxpayer monies contained in the Governor’s ten budget bills, including for “false instrument” pay raises – whose cumulative cost, since 2012, is itself on the order of a billion dollars. If not, please explain why – and IMMEDIATELY forward this e-mail to your editors and to managerial levels of your publications, including your legal counsel, so that there is no question as to culpability for your *knowingly* false journalism, having NO First Amendment protection and entitling the defrauded public to massive compensatory and punitive damages against all involved.

Finally, as I have received no response from you to my fully-documented [March 18th press release](#) pertaining to the three testimonies I submitted for the Legislature’s budget hearings and its direct relevance to this year’s elections, including to the TOP New York City offices that are on the ballot, I take this opportunity to again bring it to your attention.

I am available to answer your questions – and those of your editors, management, and legal counsel – no matter how early or la[te]. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

www.judgewatch.org

914-421-1200

elena@judgewatch.org