

From: elena@judgewatch.org
Sent: Saturday, February 28, 2026 9:00 PM
To: 'Records.Access@exec.ny.gov'

Subject: **FOIL Appeal: R001881-012626 --CJA's Jan 23, 2026 FOIL Request: Gov Hochul's 5 "Article VII Bills"/FY2026-27 Executive Budget**

Attachments: [jan23-2026-foil-request-article7-legislation.pdf](#)

TO: [Executive Chamber FOIL Appeals Officer Bella Satra](#)

Pursuant to Public Officers Law §89(4)(a), I hereby appeal the below January 29, 2026 response to my above-attached & here-linked [January 23, 2026 FOIL request](#).

The response – which does not identify the person who rendered it, as, for instance, Executive Chamber FOIL Counsel/Records Access Officer Christopher Ritchey – is both disingenuous and nonresponsive, stating: “It has long been established that FOIL does not require responses to specific questions but instead governs release of government records”.

As is obvious from my FOIL request, I did not request “responses to specific questions”. Rather, I requested, three times, “records reflecting...” – and the response does not state that the Executive Chamber “does not have possession” of the requested records or that such records “cannot be found after diligent search”.

Needless to say, if that is the case for the three specific “records reflecting” requested, I am entitled to a certification of same pursuant to [Public Officers Law §89.3\(a\)](#).

Thank you.

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

From: NYS Executive Chamber Records Access Office <governorny@govqa.us>
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 10:35 AM
To: elena@judgewatch.org

Subject: [Records Center] FOIL Records Request :: R001881-012626

--- Please respond above this line ---



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

RE: FOIL Records Request of January 26, 2026., Reference # R001881-012626.

Dear Elena Sassower,

This letter responds to your request dated January 26, 2026, which pursuant to FOIL, requested:

Pursuant to FOIL (Public Officers Law Article VI, Senate Rule XIV, Assembly Rules VIII), above-attached is CJA's FOIL/records request pertaining to the morphing of Governor Hochul's five proposed budget bills into actual bills.

It has long been established that FOIL does not require responses to specific questions but instead governs release of government records. See Public Officers Law § 89(3)(a) (indicating that an agency is not required to create a record in response to a request). "There is nothing in the Freedom of Information Law or the Open Meetings Law that requires that government officers or employees respond to questions, supply information in response to questions or offer explanations for their governmental activities. New York State Committee on Open Government Advisory Opinion 16632a (June 18, 2007).

Pursuant to Public Officers Law § 89(4)(a), you have thirty (30) days to take a written appeal of this determination. You may appeal by writing: FOIL Appeals Officer, Executive Chamber, State Capitol, Albany, New York, 12224; or by email at Records.Access@exec.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

New York State Executive Chamber Records Access Office

To monitor the progress or update this request please log into the [Records Access Center](#)

