

From: FOIL <FOIL@nycourts.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 12:07 PM
To: elena@judgewatch.org; FOIL; records.access@exec.ny.gov

Subject: **RE: FOIL/Records Request - The 2% Salary Increase for Judges & Justices in the Judiciary's FY2026-27 Budget Submission -- & in Governor Hochul's Legislative/Judiciary Budget Bill S.9001/A.10001**

The Office of Court Administration acknowledges receipt of your FOIL request dated 1/26/26, seeking:

records reflecting the dollar amount requested by the Judiciary's FY2026-27 budget submission for what it identifies in its "Introduction" under the heading "Core Operations Funding Summary" (at p. ii) as:

"A salary increase of 2% for all judges and justices, as authorized by the New York State Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation in 2023" (underlining added) – then transmogrified in the budget's section on "Courts of Original Jurisdiction" as "Funding is also included for a 2% judicial salary increase, as required by law" (at p. 4) and repeated as "a 2% judicial salary increase, as required by law" (at pp. 11, 14, 16, 18, 21, 23, 29) and, likewise, in its sections on the "Court of Appeals" (at p. 56) and "Appellate Court Operations" (at p. 59) as "a 2% judicial salary increase, as required by law (underlining added).

No line item for the dollar amount of this 2% increase appears in the 17-page Judiciary Appropriation Bill that is part of the Judiciary's budget submission or, based thereon, in Governor Hochul's Legislative/Judiciary Budget Bill #S.9001/A.10001, seemingly unaccompanied by any recommendation by her – the subject of CJA's below January 23, 2026 FOIL request for the Governor's recommendations pursuant to Article VII, §1 of the New York State Constitution.

We have begun to process your request, and we will provide you with a response on or before February 26, 2026.

Sincerely,

FOIL Officer
Office of Court Administration
Agency Building 4 ESP, Suite 2001
Albany, NY 12223



From: elena@judgewatch.org <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2026 9:58 AM
To: FOIL <FOIL@nycourts.gov>; records.access@exec.ny.gov
Cc: Hon. Joseph A. Zayas <jzayas@nycourts.gov>; smartucci@nycourts.gov; lkrueger@nysenate.gov; financechair@nysenate.gov; omara@nysenate.gov; PretloJ@nyassembly.gov;

wamchair@nyassembly.gov; rae@nyassembly.gov; sepulveda@nysenate.gov; Palumbo@nysenate.gov;
LavineC@nyassembly.gov; tannousism@nyassembly.gov

Subject: FOIL/Records Request - The 2% Salary Increase for Judges & Justices in the Judiciary's FY2026-27 Budget Submission -- & in Governor Hochul's Legislative/Judiciary Budget Bill S.9001/A.10001

**TO: [Office of Court Administration FOIL Officer/Assistant Deputy Counsel Sevil Barber](#)
[Governor Hochul's FOIL Counsel/Records Access Officer Christopher Ritchey](#)**

Pursuant to [Public Officers Law Article VI](#) ("Freedom of Information Law") and [Part 124 of the Rules of the Chief Administrative Judge](#) ("Public Access to Records"), this is to request records reflecting the dollar amount requested by the [Judiciary's FY2026-27 budget submission](#) for what it identifies in its "Introduction" under the heading "Core Operations Funding Summary" (at p. ii) as:

"A salary increase of 2% for all judges and justices, as authorized by the New York State Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation in 2023" (underlining added) –

then transmogrified in the budget's section on "Courts of Original Jurisdiction" as "Funding is also included for a 2% judicial salary increase, as required by law" (at p. 4) and repeated as "a 2% judicial salary increase, as required by law" (at pp. 11, 14, 16, 18, 21, 23, 29) and, likewise, in its sections on the "Court of Appeals" (at p. 56) and "Appellate Court Operations" (at p. 59) as "a 2% judicial salary increase, as required by law (underlining added).

No line item for the dollar amount of this 2% increase appears in the [17-page Judiciary Appropriation Bill](#) that is part of the Judiciary's budget submission or, based thereon, in [Governor Hochul's Legislative/Judiciary Budget Bill #S.9001/A.10001](#), seemingly unaccompanied by any recommendation by her – the subject of CJA's below January 23, 2026 FOIL request for the Governor's recommendations pursuant to [Article VII, §1 of the New York State Constitution](#).

Thank you.

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

cc: Chief Administrative Judge Joseph Zayas
Senate Finance Committee Chair Krueger & Ranking Member O'Mara
Assembly Ways & Means Committee Chair Pretlow & Ranking Member Ra
Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Sepulveda & Ranking Member Palumbo
Assembly Judiciary Committee Chair Lavine & Ranking Member Tannousis

From: elena@judgewatch.org <elena@judgewatch.org>

Sent: Friday, January 23, 2026 1:03 PM

To: 'records.access@exec.ny.gov' <records.access@exec.ny.gov>; 'foil@nysenate.gov' <foil@nysenate.gov>; 'whylandfm@nyassembly.gov' <whylandfm@nyassembly.gov>; 'foil@nycourts.gov' <foil@nycourts.gov>

Subject: Governor Hochul's "recommendations" pertaining to the Legislative & Judiciary budgets for fiscal year 2026-27

TO: Governor Hochul's FOIL Counsel/Records Access Officer Christopher Ritchey
Secretary of the Senate/Records Access Officer Alejandra Paulino, Esq.
Assembly Records Access Officer Fern Whyland
OCA Records Access Officer/Assistant Deputy Counsel Sevil N. Barber

[Article VII, §1 of the New York State Constitution](#) empowers the Governor to make "recommendations" to the Legislature pertaining to the legislative and judiciary budgets.

The website of the Governor's Division of the Budget, www.budget.ny.gov, posts the Governor's combined [Legislative/Judiciary Budget Bill #S.9001/A.10001, dated January 20, 2026](#), that she submitted to the Legislature, but seemingly no "recommendations" by her pertaining thereto.

Consequently, pursuant to FOIL [[Public Officers Law Article VI](#), [Senate Rule XIV](#), [Assembly Rules VIII](#), [Chief Administrator's Rules Part 124](#)], this is to request a copy of Governor Hochul's "recommendations", if any, pertaining to the Legislature's and Judiciary's budgets for fiscal year 2026-2027 and, presumably, furnished to them.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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