

From: elena@judgewatch.org
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 7:32 AM
To: 'john.durso@nbcuni.com'

Subject: **The NYS Budget -- & the 2026 Elections for ALL 213 Legislative Seats, & for Gov, Lt. Gov, AG, Comptroller, D.A.s & Judges**

TO: John Durso/[NBC-NY Channel 4 News](#)

This follows the voice mail message I left for you at 3:40 pm yesterday, when I called the telephone number on the [NBC-NY Channel 4 website](#) (212-664-5247) to report that there appeared to be a problem with the website's "[Submit a Tip](#)" message feature. As your voice mail helpfully gave your e-mail address, please ensure that the below, largely identical to the message I had unsuccessfully tried to send, twice, reaches the proper parties.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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**The NYS Budget -- & the 2026 Elections for ALL 213 Legislative Seats,
& for Gov, Lt. Gov, AG, Comptroller, D.A.s & Judges**

TO: [NBC-NY CHANNEL 4 NEWS](#)

The NYS budget is "OFF THE CONSTITUTIONAL RAILS", rife with constitutional, statutory, and legislative rule violations, stealing taxpayer monies on a massive scale and unconstitutionally inserting non-fiscal, non-revenue-producing policy -- and I have previously and repeatedly alerted you to this.

To update you on what's been happening with the FY2026-27 state budget, below is my March 13th e-mail to Temporary Senate President Stewart-Cousins and the 62 other senators pertaining, *inter alia*, to the "One-House Budget Resolution" that Senator Stewart-Cousins introduced on March 10th, resting on unamended Legislative/Judiciary Budget Bill S.9001/A.10001, an unamended Debt Service budget bill, and Governor Hochul's other eight budget bills, purportedly "amended" by the Senate on March 9th. My comparable e-mail to Assembly Speaker Heastie and the 149 other Assembly members pertaining to the March 10th "One-House Budget Resolution" that Assemblyman Heastie introduced is [here](#).

If it is not your intention to report on this -- essential not only to the integrity of the budget, but to the 2026 elections for all 213 legislative seats, and for governor, lieutenant governor, AG, comptroller, D.A.s, and judges -- please furnish the reason and forward this e-mail to your highest editorial and managerial levels, including legal counsel at both NBC-NY Channel 4 News & Comcast, whose names and contact information I request.

I am available to answer questions and to assist you to the max. Feel free to call me, no matter how early or late. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE, both with respect to the budget and the elections.

Thank you.

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

Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 10:51 AM

To: 'scousins@nysenate.gov' <scousins@nysenate.gov>; 'addabbo@nysenate.gov' <addabbo@nysenate.gov>; 'ashby@nysenate.gov' <ashby@nysenate.gov>; 'senatorjbailey@nysenate.gov' <senatorjbailey@nysenate.gov>; 'Baskin@nysenate.gov' <Baskin@nysenate.gov>; 'borrello@nysenate.gov' <borrello@nysenate.gov>; 'bottcher@nysenate.gov' <bottcher@nysenate.gov>; 'brisport@nysenate.gov' <brisport@nysenate.gov>; 'brouk@nysenate.gov' <brouk@nysenate.gov>; 'Bynoe@nysenate.gov' <Bynoe@nysenate.gov>; 'canzoneri@nysenate.gov' <canzoneri@nysenate.gov>; 'chan@nysenate.gov' <chan@nysenate.gov>; 'cleare@nysenate.gov' <cleare@nysenate.gov>; 'comrie@nysenate.gov' <comrie@nysenate.gov>; 'cooney@nysenate.gov' <cooney@nysenate.gov>; 'Fahy@nysenate.gov' <Fahy@nysenate.gov>; 'fernandez@nysenate.gov' <fernandez@nysenate.gov>; 'gallivan@nysenate.gov' <gallivan@nysenate.gov>; 'gianaris@nysenate.gov' <gianaris@nysenate.gov>; 'gonzalez@nysenate.gov' <gonzalez@nysenate.gov>; 'gounardes@nysenate.gov' <gounardes@nysenate.gov>; 'griffo@nysenate.gov' <griffo@nysenate.gov>; 'harckham@nysenate.gov' <harckham@nysenate.gov>; 'helming@nysenate.gov' <helming@nysenate.gov>; 'hinchey@nysenate.gov' <hinchey@nysenate.gov>; 'jackson@nysenate.gov' <jackson@nysenate.gov>; 'kavanagh@nysenate.gov' <kavanagh@nysenate.gov>; 'lkrueger@nysenate.gov' <lkrueger@nysenate.gov>; 'lanza@nysenate.gov' <lanza@nysenate.gov>; 'liu@nysenate.gov' <liu@nysenate.gov>; 'martinez@nysenate.gov' <martinez@nysenate.gov>; 'martins@nysenate.gov' <martins@nysenate.gov>; 'mattera@nysenate.gov' <mattera@nysenate.gov>; 'may@nysenate.gov' <may@nysenate.gov>; 'smayer@nysenate.gov' <smayer@nysenate.gov>; 'murray@nysenate.gov' <murray@nysenate.gov>; 'myrie@nysenate.gov' <myrie@nysenate.gov>; 'omara@nysenate.gov' <omara@nysenate.gov>; 'oberacker@nysenate.gov' <oberacker@nysenate.gov>; 'Ortt@nysenate.gov' <Ortt@nysenate.gov>; 'palumbo@nysenate.gov' <palumbo@nysenate.gov>; 'parker@nysenate.gov' <parker@nysenate.gov>; 'Persaud@nysenate.gov' <Persaud@nysenate.gov>; 'ramos@nysenate.gov' <ramos@nysenate.gov>; 'rhoads@nysenate.gov' <rhoads@nysenate.gov>; 'grivera@nysenate.gov' <grivera@nysenate.gov>; 'rolison@nysenate.gov' <rolison@nysenate.gov>; 'chrisryan@nysenate.gov' <chrisryan@nysenate.gov>; 'salazar@nysenate.gov' <salazar@nysenate.gov>; 'sanders@nysenate.gov' <sanders@nysenate.gov>; 'spanton@nysenate.gov' <spanton@nysenate.gov>; 'sepulveda@nysenate.gov' <sepulveda@nysenate.gov>; 'serrano@nysenate.gov' <serrano@nysenate.gov>; 'skoufis@nysenate.gov' <skoufis@nysenate.gov>; 'stavisky@nysenate.gov' <stavisky@nysenate.gov>; 'stec@nysenate.gov' <stec@nysenate.gov>; 'sutton@nysenate.gov' <sutton@nysenate.gov>; 'tedisco@nysenate.gov' <tedisco@nysenate.gov>;

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Subject: Questions & FOIL/Records Request about the Senate's Non-Transparent Legislative "Process" with Respect to the FY2026-27 State Budget

TO: [Temporary Senate President Andrea Stewart-Cousins & the 62 Other Members of the NYS Senate](#)

According to the Senate webpages for Governor Hochul's ten budget bills comprising her Executive Budget, on March 9th the Senate "amended" eight of the bills – the same eight as the Governor had amended on February 20th by her 30-day amendments. The bills, which became:

- [State Operations Budget Bill – S.9000B](#)
- [Aid to Localities Budget Bill – S.9003B](#)
- [Capital Projects Budget Bill – S.9004B](#)
- [Public Protection Budget Bill – S.9005B](#)
- [Education, Labor, Housing, & Family Assistance – S.9006B](#)
- [Health & Mental Hygiene – S.9007B](#)
- [Transportation, Economic Development, & Environmental Conservation – S.9008B](#)
- [Revenue Budget Bill – S.9009B](#),

were, from the time of their introduction in January, committed to the Finance Committee, whose meetings are live-streamed and recorded. [The Finance Committee did not meet on March 9th](#) – and nothing pertaining to the budget took place in the [13-minute March 9th Senate floor proceedings](#). Notably, the Senate webpages for the bills show no votes – and none are furnished by Temporary Senate President Stewart-Cousins' March 10th "One-House Budget Resolution", [R-1722](#).

How then did the Senate "amend" the aforesaid eight budget bills on March 9th – and by what votes of the senators?

As for [Governor Hochul's Legislative/Judiciary Budget Bill S.9001/A.10001](#), which, like her [Debt Service Budget Bill S.9002/A.10002](#), the Senate did not amend, please advise why you have not amended it, notwithstanding **larcenies of scores, if not hundreds, of millions of dollars** were particularized by my [January 28th questions to Temporary Senate President Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Heastie](#) and my [January 26th FOIL/records request to Chief Administrative Judge Zayas](#) and its [February 6th supplement](#) – embodied by my [February 11th written testimony](#) for the Legislature's budget hearing on "local government officials/general government" and [February 12th written testimony](#) for the Legislature's budget hearing on "public protection".

Who, if anyone, made findings of fact and conclusions of law with respect to these two sets of written questions and two written testimonies, what were they, and at which Senate committee meetings – or closed-door party conferences – were they discussed?

Likewise, who, if anyone, made findings of fact and conclusions of law with respect to my [February 24th written testimony](#) for the Legislature's February 24th budget hearing on higher education, what were they, and at what Senate committee meetings – or closed-door party conferences – were they discussed?

By copy of this e-mail to the Secretary of the Senate, who functions as your FOIL/records access officer, I request records responsive to the foregoing pursuant to [Senate Rule XIV "Freedom of Information"](#). Additionally, please furnish a copy of Temporary Senate President Stewart-Cousins' signed March 10th Introduction of Resolution form, comparable to that of [Assembly Speaker Heastie](#), as the [Senate webpage for R.1722](#), although appearing to post a pdf, does not.

Finally, I take this opportunity to point out that rivalling the mystery as to how eight of Governor Hochul's ten budget bills were "amended" on March 9th – five of which were her so-called "Article VII Bills" – is the mystery of how these five "Article VII Bills", which the Governor presented as **draft bills**, requiring Senate and Assembly sponsors, morphed into **actual bills**, without Senate and Assembly sponsors, allegedly submitted by her "pursuant to article seven of the Constitution" – the subject of my [January 23rd FOIL request](#). The Senate's [January 30th response](#), the Assembly's [February 2nd response](#), the Legislative Bill Drafting Commission's [January 27th response](#), and the Division of the Budget's [January 26th response](#) were that they had no responsive records. The Governor's deceitful [January 29th response](#), purporting I had not requested records, is the subject of my pending [February 28th appeal](#).

Thank you.

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