

Scroll down for links or click on image to view the entire Yellow Book



January 2016

New York State Assembly Ways and Means Committee
YELLOW BOOK
Review and Analysis of the 2016-17 Executive Budget

STATE OF NEW YORK

Carl E. Heastie, Speaker
Herman D. Farrell, Jr., Chairman

Fiscal Year April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017



[Click here](#) to view the entire Yellow Book

[Committee Members](#)

[Letter from the Chair](#)

[Click here](#) to view the entire Yellow Book

New York State Assembly



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

HERMAN D. FARRELL, JR.
Assemblyman 71st District

Room 923
Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12248
(518) 455-5491
(518) 455-5776 FAX

CHAIRMAN
Ways and Means Committee

COMMITTEES
Rules
Black & Puerto Rican Caucus

January 20, 2016

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to provide you with this year's edition of *Yellow Book*, which represents a review and analysis of the Executive Budget proposal for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2016-17. This document is intended to provide the Members of the Committee, Members of the Assembly, and the general public with an overview of the fiscal and policy proposals that comprise the Executive Budget, as expressed in legislation submitted by the Governor on January 13, 2016. This publication is accessible on our website: www.assembly.state.ny.us/Reports/WAM/2016yellow/.

✓ *Yellow Book* is the Assembly's preliminary response to the Executive Budget, as required by Section 53 of the Legislative Law. Its publication marks the beginning of the Assembly's review of the Governor's budget proposal, and should serve as an informational resource for Members as we participate in public, joint legislative fiscal committee hearings on the budget—our next step in the budget process.

This document is divided into several sections which are intended to place the Executive Budget in context, by providing a broad review of the financial plan and revenues, and implications for spending, capital initiatives and debt. The review also includes an analysis of the current condition of the national economy.

Speaker Heastie and I know that you share our goal of enacting an on-time budget premised on a principle of fairness to all New Yorkers. At the same time we will continue to reinforce our commitment to the education of our children, to protecting our communities and to providing necessary support to the most vulnerable among us.

As the Legislature begins its work on the State Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budget, I would like to express appreciation to all of my Assembly colleagues for the time and commitment you will dedicate to creating and enacting this year's budget. I would also like to thank the public for their participation as well. Finally, I would like to express my thanks to the staff of the Ways and Means Committee for their outstanding efforts to produce this document, and for their support to our conference throughout the year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Herman D. Farrell, Jr." in a cursive style.

HERMAN D. FARRELL, JR.

**A REVIEW AND ANALYSIS
OF THE
2016-17 EXECUTIVE BUDGET**

YELLOW BOOK

January 2016

Herman D. Farrell, Jr.
Chairman
Assembly Ways and Means Committee

Prepared by the
Assembly Ways and Means Committee Staff

Blake G. Washington
Secretary to the Committee

Steven A. Pleydle
Deputy Secretary to the Committee

Philip A. Fields
Director of Budget Studies

Anthony Rodolakis
Director of Tax and Economic Studies

Michael L. Johnson
Counsel to the Committee

**A Review and Analysis
of the
2016-17 Executive Budget**

FINANCIAL PLAN.....	1
BUDGET SUMMARY	
EDUCATION.....	11
HEALTH.....	25
HIGHER EDUCATION	37
HUMAN SERVICES	47
MENTAL HYGIENE.....	59
ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE AND ENERGY.....	67
TRANSPORTATION.....	81
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	93
PUBLIC PROTECTION	103
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS	115
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	123
STATE OPERATIONS AND WORKFORCE.....	137
JUDICIARY	145
ECONOMY.....	147
REVENUE.....	153
CAPITAL AND DEBT	165
BUDGET BILLS AND HEARING SCHEDULE	175

BUDGET REVIEW AND ANALYSIS: JUDICIARY



The New York State courts are established and administered as an independent branch of government pursuant to Article VI of the State Constitution. The cost of operating the courts (excluding town and village courts) is borne by the State pursuant to the Unified Court Budget Act. The mission of the Unified Court System is to promote the rule of law and to serve the public by providing just and timely resolutions of all matters before the courts. The New York State Judiciary (Judiciary) carries out its mission through 11 different trial courts (courts of original jurisdiction), its intermediate appellate courts and its highest court, the Court of Appeals.

The Judiciary's proposed budget request recommends appropriations of \$2.9 billion, which is an increase of \$81.94 million or 2.9 percent from the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2015-16 level.

Table 54

Appropriations				
Agency	2015-16 Adjusted (\$ in Millions)	2016-17 Exec Request (\$ in Millions)	Change (\$ in Millions)	Change (%)
Office of Court Administration	2,795.55	2,877.49	81.94	2.93

Table 55

Disbursements				
Agency	2015-16 Adjusted (\$ in Millions)	2016-17 Exec Request (\$ in Millions)	Change (\$ in Millions)	Change (%)
Office of Court Administration	2,753.37	2,865.60	112.23	4.08

Civil Legal Services: The proposed budget includes a total of \$85 million to support the recommendations of Former Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman's task force to expand civil legal services, an increase of \$15 million from the SFY 2015-16 level.

Personal Service Costs: The Judiciary's budget includes a \$20.3 million increase in personal service over the SFY 2015-16 level. This includes the first year of full support for all 25 new Family Court judgeships created in 2014 and mandatory and negotiated salary increases for non-judicial employees.



Judicial Compensation: In December 2015, the Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation released its final recommendations on judicial salaries. The Commission recommended that State Supreme Court justices salaries be increased so that they are comparable to Federal District Court judges. Specifically, the Commission recommended that justices of the State Supreme Court salaries be fixed at 95 percent of the salary of a Federal District Court judge, effective April 1, 2016, and at 100 percent, effective April 1, 2018, with the salaries of all other state judges adjusted accordingly. The cost of the first year of salary increases is approximately \$27 million.

