

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewidth.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 4:31 PM
To: 'press-room@ncsl.org'
Cc: 'josalyn.williams@ncsl.org'; 'Sydne.Enlund@ncsl.org'

Subject: **Requested Information -- & IMPERATIVELY-required scholarship on NYS' flagrantly dysfunctional Legislature, starting with its highest of all state legislative salaries**

Attachments: [2-24-23-email-to-ncsl.pdf](#)

TO: National Conference of State Legislatures Public Affairs Director Mick Bullock

Thank you for your below e-mail, which, though reflecting that it was sent to me on Friday afternoon, February 24th at 12:58 p.m., did not appear in my inbox until yesterday morning, Monday, February 27th, at 10:24 a.m.

If sent on Friday at 12:58 p.m., that was prior to my phone conversation with NCSL Legislative Compensation Policy Specialist Josalyn Williams. Shortly after that conversation I sent her the above-attached e-mail entitled: "The situation here in NYS, with respect to our NYS legislature is dire. Scholarship is so IMPERATIVELY needed – & I've been trying to do my part". I have received no response to my request therein for scholarship – and I am cc'ing Ms. Williams about that, as your own e-mail is not a response thereto.

The New York State Legislature is NOT operating at a constitutional level – and I testified about this, with EVIDENCE, on November 30, 2018 before the Committee on Legislative and Executive Compensation. My e-mail to Ms. Williams identified the [VIDEO of my November 30, 2018 testimony](#) as the "best" starting place for research as to what has been going on.

It is now four years and three months later – and the NYS Legislature continues its FLAGRANTLY unconstitutional dysfunctioning. The ONLY difference is that the legislators have since procured two fraudulent pay raises for themselves. **THE FIRST** was by the Committee on Legislative and Executive Compensation's December 10, 2018 report that gave the legislators a "force of law" salary increase on January 1, 2019 – from \$79,500 to \$110,000. Its fraud, statutory violations, and unconstitutionality, documented by [CJA's July 15, 2019 analysis of the December 10, 2018 report](#), was furnished to legislators then and repeatedly thereafter, including by [CJA's 62 grand jury/public corruption complaints to NYS's 62 district attorneys](#) – the most important of which was [CJA's June 4, 2020 grand jury/public corruption complaint to the Albany district attorney](#). **THE SECOND** was at a December 22, 2022 special session of the lame-duck NYS Legislature, convened solely so that the legislators could vote themselves a salary increase from \$110,000 to \$142,000, effective January 1, 2023 – the fraudulence of which I identified in my [written testimony for the Legislature's February 7, 2023 "public protection" budget hearing](#) and which will be the subject of upcoming analysis and ethics and criminal complaints based thereon. My subsequent [written testimony for the Legislature's February 15, 2023 "general government" budget hearing](#) gave further specifics, particularizing 38 questions to be asked of the Temporary Senate President and Assembly Speaker about the NYS' Legislature's own FY2023-24 budget.

I realize that NCSL, being funded by membership dues of state legislatures, may be loathe to engage in research that exposes the corruption of any of its dues-paying state legislatures – and certainly one as

important as that of New York. However, NCSL's stated "[Mission](#)" is to improve "the operations and management of state legislatures, and the effectiveness of legislators and legislative staff" and "standards of conduct by legislators and legislative staff", which NCSL cannot do in the absence of EVIDENCE of how they are actually operating. You recognize this in purporting to provide "[objective, fact- and evidence-based information to inform the policymaking process](#)".

As it is the taxpayers of each state who are paying the NCSL membership dues of their state legislatures – and I am a NYS taxpayer paying the NYS Legislature's membership in NCSL – I do not believe your below response to my e-mail is appropriate.

My first question was how the NYS Legislature's budget compares, in size, to the budgets of other state legislatures. Your response was "For budget questions, contact NASBO." I have googled "NASBO", which I knew nothing about – and it is the "[National Association of State Budget Officers](#)". Do you actually believe that my question about the comparative size of the NYS Legislature's budget is within its purview, as opposed to NCSL's?

My second question was how NCSL calculates the annual dues of its member legislatures and requested the exact figures of the NYS Legislature's dues for each of the last 10 years. You responded that it is "determined by population. For exact figures, check with your states legislative budget office. That's the best I can offer." Surely this is not "the best [you] can offer". NCSL of course has figures of the NYS Legislature's membership dues. Also, since it is the census which, every ten years, determines state populations, I assume dues would not change for ten years, unless there were adjustments for inflation or other factors. Is that correct? I imagine that NCSL has charts or lists for each of the past ten years, with the annual membership dues of its constituent state legislatures. Can you not furnish any of this to me?

Please advise as to the foregoing.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
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From: press-room <press-room@ncsl.org>
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2023 12:58 PM
To: elena@judgewatch.org

Subject: Re: NEW! NCSL Website Contact Form Submission

The below was sent to me for response.

Here is out page on legislative salaries: <https://www.ncsl.org/about-state-legislatures/2022-legislator-compensation>. We do not rank and is up to your interpretation.

For budget questions, contact NASBO.

On NCSL dues, is determined by population. For exact figures, check with your states legislative budget office. That's the best I can offer.

-mick

Mick Bullock | Public Affairs Director
Uyen Vong | Public Affairs Senior Manager
National Conference of State Legislatures
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Washington, D.C. 20001



From: info <info@ncsl.org>
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2023 9:23 AM
To: Sydne Enlund <Sydne.Enlund@ncsl.org>

Subject: NEW! NCSL Website Contact Form Submission

A new Contact Form Request submitted from this page:
<https://www.ncsl.org/about-us/ncsl-staff-directory>

Email	elena@judgewatch.org
Full Name	Elena Ruth Sassower
What is your role?	Other

I am doing research on the NYS legislative budget. (1) How does its budget compare, in size, to the budgets of other state legislatures; and (2) how are its annual dues for its membership in NCSL calculated. and (2) how are its annual dues for its membership in NCSL calculated. I'd like the figures for the last 10 years. Also, I understand from news reporting that NYS legislators are the highest paid state legislators in the country. Is that correct? Thank you. 914-421-1200.

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