

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 10:37 AM

To: Tim.Storey@ncsl.org; Arturo.Perez@ncsl.org; Diana.Noel@ncsl.org;
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Alex.Alavi@ncsl.org; Gene.Rose@ncsl.org

Cc: press-room@ncsl.org; josalyn.williams@ncsl.org; Sydne.Enlund@ncsl.org;
Mick.Bullock@ncsl.org

Subject: **OVERSIGHT MANDATED: Unresponded-to Feb. 28, 2023 e-mail requesting information -- & IMPERATIVELY-required scholarship on NYS' flagrantly dysfunctional Legislature...**

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

TO: National Conference of State Legislatures Executive/Management Team

Tim Storey, Chief Executive Officer
Arturo Perez, Vice President-State Services
Diana Noel, Vice President-Research & Policy
Kate Blackman, Vice President-Research & Policy
Molly Ramsdell, Vice President-State-Federal Affairs
Stacy Householder, Vice President-Leaders & International
Victor Vialpando-Nunez, Chief Operating Officer
Alex Alavi, Chief Financial Officer
Gene Rose, Chief Communications Officer

In the event you have not been apprised of my below February 28, 2023 e-mail entitled “Requested Information – & IMPERATIVELY-required scholarship on NYS' flagrantly dysfunctional Legislature, starting with its highest of all state legislative salaries”, addressed to NCSL Public Affairs Director Mick Bullock, to which NCSL Legislative Compensation Policy Specialist Josalyn Williams and NCSL Liaison to the NYS Legislature Sydne Enlund were cc'd, it is below.

I have received no response, presumably because there has been none. Is this acceptable to you as [the NCSL “team dedicated to strengthening the legislative institution”](#)? As EVIDENTIARILY-established by the links included in my February 28th e-mail, New York's “legislative institution” has utterly corrupted constitutional and lawful state governance and steals massive amounts of taxpayer monies through the state budget. This must be the subject of SCHOLARSHIP and guidance to the NYS Legislature by NCSL and utilized for assessing and assisting other state legislatures, consistent with [NCSL's stated purpose](#) of “providing objective, fact- and evidence-based (nonpartisan) research, technical assistance, skills training, and other resources to support the policymaking process.”

For starters, what does NCSL believe should have been the response of a properly-functioning “legislative institution” to [my February 7th testimony](#) and [my February 15th testimony](#) for the NYS Legislature's FY2023-24 state budget hearings? There has been ZERO response – and the NYS Legislature's flagrant “full-speed-ahead”, continued corrupting of the state budget, in collusion with NYS' Governor, Lt.

Governor, and Division of the Budget, is chronicled on CJA's webpage for the 2023 legislative session, [here](#).

Please advise – and as soon as possible – as TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.

If your e-mail addresses are not, as I assume them to be, first name, dot, last name, @ncsl.org, I request that Mr. Bullock, [Ms. Enlund, who works under him](#), and Ms. Williams ensure the forwarding of this e-mail to you.

Thank you.

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

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

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)
www.judgewatch.org

914-421-1200
elena@judgewatch.org

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 our 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
444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 515
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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