

## Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewidth.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 20, 2019 1:39 PM  
**To:** 'Senate Foil'; 'Robin Marilla'  
**Subject:** FOIL/Records Access -- Appointments of members & chairs of the Senate and Assembly "Legislative Commissions" & "Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research & Reapportionment" since Nov. 30, 2018

**TO:** Senate Records Access Officer/Secretary of the Senate Alejandra Paulino  
Assembly Records Access Officer Robin Marilla

On June 15, 2019, I examined the Assembly's webpage of "Committees, Commissions & Task Forces": <https://nyassembly.gov/comm/>. This is what I discovered with respect to its 13 enumerated "Legislative Commissions", in the order in which they are listed:

1. Legislative Commission on Administrative Regulations Review, whose homepage, <https://nyassembly.gov/comm/?id=44>, reflects no members other than its Assembly chair Dan Quart – and no activity since a Dec. 2015 hearing;
2. Legislative Commission on Council on Health Care Financing, whose homepage, <https://nyassembly.gov/comm/?id=45>, reflects no members, including no chair – and no activity whatever;
3. Legislative Commission on Critical Transportation Choices, whose homepage, <https://nyassembly.gov/comm/?id=46>, reflects no members other than its Assembly chair David Gantt – and no activity whatever;
4. Legislative Commission on Governmental Administration, whose homepage, <https://nyassembly.gov/comm/?id=49>, reflects no members other than its Assembly chair David Buchwald (removing the name of its former Assembly chair Thomas Abinanti) – and no activity for more than five years (May 2013), other than an April 15, 2019 press release: "[Assemblyman David Buchwald Calls for New York State to Develop Federal Government Shutdown Response Plans](#)"; and an April 30, 2019 press release: "[How Can We Improve State Government?](#)", essentially the same as his "[Survey on Improving Efficiency of New York State Government](#)";
5. Legislative Commission on Legislative Ethics, whose homepage, <https://nyassembly.gov/comm/?id=48>, reflects no members other than its Assembly chair Avarella Simotas – and no activity whatever;
6. Legislative Commission on Rural Resources, whose homepage, <https://nyassembly.gov/comm/?id=47>, reflects that it has three Assembly members: Angelo Santabarbara, who is its Assembly chair, and Barbara Lifton and Carrie Woerner – and no activity for more than eight years (summer 2012);
7. Legislative Commission on Science and Technology, whose homepage: <https://nyassembly.gov/comm/?id=51>, reflects no members other than its Assembly chair Patricia Fahy (removing the name of its former Assembly chair Sean Ryan) – and no activity for more than four years (May 2014);
8. Legislative Commission on Skills Development and Career Education, whose homepage, <https://nyassembly.gov/comm/?id=52>, reflects no members other than its Assembly chair Walter Mosley (removing the name of its former Assembly chair Harry Bronson) – and no activity since an October 2017 posting of a legislative report;

9. Legislative Commission on Solid Waste Management, whose homepage, <https://nyassembly.gov/comm/?id=53>, reflects no members, including no chair – and no activity since a Feb. 2016 hearing;
10. Legislative Commission on State-Local Relations, whose homepage, <https://nyassembly.gov/comm/?id=54&sec=hearings>, reflects no members other than its Assembly chair Victor Pichardo – and no activity since a Nov. 2016 posting of a notice of roundtable;
11. Legislative Commission on Tax Study, whose homepage, <https://nyassembly.gov/comm/?id=55>, reflects no members, including no chair – and no activity whatever;
12. Legislative Commission on Toxic Substances and Hazardous Wastes, whose homepage, <https://nyassembly.gov/comm/?id=56>, reflects no members, including no chair (removing the name of its former Assembly chair Christine Pellegrino) – and no activity since a Jan. 2018 posted notice of hearing;
13. Legislative Commission on Water Resource Needs of New York State, whose homepage, <https://nyassembly.gov/comm/?id=57>, reflects no members, including no chair – and no activity for more than five years (Oct. 2013).

**Only 2 of these “Legislative Commissions” are posted on the Senate’s webpage for “Senators & Committees”:** <https://www.nysenate.gov/senators-committees> – and this is what I discovered in examining them, also on June 15, 2019:

- Administrative Regulations Review Commission, whose homepage, <https://www.nysenate.gov/committees/administrative-regulations-review-commission-arrc>, reflects NO chair, NO members, and no activity since January 4, 2018 hearing and little before that (removing the name of its former Senate chair Christopher Jacobs and its two Senate members Liz Krueger and Senator Phil Boyle;
- Legislative Commission on Rural Resources, whose homepage: <https://www.nysenate.gov/committees/legislative-commission-rural-resources>, reflects five Senate members: its Senate chair Rachel Ray and Pamela Helming, Patty Ritchie, Neil Breslin, Jen Metzger – and that its only recent activity is a February 11, 2019 announcement of new director, who will "continue the good work the Rural Resources Commission has done in recent years" and a March 11, 2019 "Mission Statement".

**Additionally, with respect to the Legislature’s December 1, 2018 proposed budget for this 2019-2020 fiscal year, requesting funding for the “Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research & Reapportionment”** in the amount of \$1,991,868 – identified as an increase of \$39,056 from the fiscal year 2018-2019 funding of \$1,952,812 – the Senate webpage for the Task Force, <https://www.nysenate.gov/committees/task-force-demographic-research-and-reapportionment>, reflects no activity, ever, and no members, and the Assembly webpage, <https://nyassembly.gov/comm/?id=60>, shows no activity since 2012 and that it has a single member, its Assembly chair Robert Rodriguez.

**Pursuant to Senate Rule XIV [“Freedom of Information”] and Assembly Rule VIII [“Public Access to Records”], request is made for ALL records reflecting the appointment of Senate and Assembly members and chairs of the above 14 entities since November 30, 2018.**

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
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