

From: Senate Foil <foil@nysenate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 4:40 PM
To: elena@judgewatch.org

Subject: RE: FOIL -- NYS Independent Redistricting Commission's budget

Attachments: [rules and regulations relating to public inspection and copying of legislative records - january-2019 blue.pdf](#)

Dear Ms. Sassower,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your email dated February 14, 2023 pursuant to the Freedom of Information Law.

You are requesting, “Pursuant to FOIL [Public Officers Law Article VI, Senate Rule XIV, Assembly Rule VIII], this is to request all publicly-accessible records reflecting:

(1) why the Legislature’s FY2022-23 budget that Temporary Senate President Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Heastie transmitted to Governor Hochul by their December 1, 2022 coverletter included (at pp. 1, 6, 10) the Independent Redistricting Commission – and, likewise, why their December 1, 2021 coverletter to Governor Hochul, transmitting the Legislature’s FY2022-23 budget included (at pp. 1, 6, 10) the Independent Redistricting Commission....”

In terms of your request for answers to various questions, Freedom of Information Law is not a vehicle to answer questions but rather to produce records.

I have attached a copy of the Senate’s Rules and Regulations Relating to the Public Inspection and Copying of Legislative Records for your information.

Sincerely,

Alejandra N. Paulino, Esq.
Secretary of the Senate

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2023 4:59 PM
To: records.access@exec.ny.gov; Senate Foil <foil@nysenate.gov>; whylandfm@nyassembly.gov; foil@budget.ny.gov
Cc: blattk@nyirc.gov; breakelld@nyirc.gov; mcintoshgreenn@nyirc.gov; schaeferd@nyirc.gov; goodwinraabm@nyirc.gov; cameronp@nyirc.gov; giffordj@nyirc.gov; futiad@nyirc.gov

Subject: FOIL -- NYS Independent Redistricting Commission's budget

**TO: Records Access Officers
for the Senate, for the Assembly, for the Governor, for the Division of the Budget**

This FOIL request is necessitated by the non-responsiveness of the [New York State Independent Redistricting Commission](#) to my below two e-mails to its co-executive directors, its deputy co-executive directors, and its two directors of public engagement, sent at 10:17 am on Friday,

February 10th and 9:38 am on Monday, February 13th – with the latter e-mail also sent to its two assistant directors of engagement.

Pursuant to FOIL [Public Officers Law Article VI, Senate Rule XIV, Assembly Rule VIII], this is to request all publicly-accessible records reflecting:

- (1) why the Legislature's FY2022-23 budget that Temporary Senate President Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Heastie transmitted to Governor Hochul by their [December 1, 2022 coverletter](#) included (at pp. 1, 6, 10) the [Independent Redistricting Commission](#) – and, likewise, why their [December 1, 2021 coverletter](#) to Governor Hochul, transmitting the Legislature's FY2022-23 budget included (at pp. 1, 6, 10) the Independent Redistricting Commission;
- (2) why, for FY2021-22, the behind-closed-doors “three people in a room” – consisting of Governor Cuomo, Temporary Senate President Stewart-Cousins, and Assembly Speaker Heastie – popped a \$4,000,000 appropriation for the Independent Redistricting Commission into their [March 30, 2021 and April 3, 2021 amendings of the legislative portion of the FY2021-22 Legislative/Judiciary appropriation bill](#), moving it from the [State Operations appropriation bill](#), where Governor Cuomo had originally placed it;
- (3) whether, prior to the FY2021-22 budget, any appropriations were made for the Independent Redistrict Commission – and, if so, by which bills;
- (4) why, since redistricting is every ten years, is the FY2023-24 appropriation for the Independent Redistricting Commission back to the \$4,000,000 appropriated in FY2021-22 – represented, by the Legislature's FY2023-24 budget (at p. 1) as being a “restoration...to a full fiscal year of activity”;
- (5) how the \$4,000,000 was calculated as being needed for FY2023-24, considering, in the [FY2022-23 Legislative/Judiciary appropriation bill](#) (at p. 63), there was a whopping \$2,641,106 left over for “reappropriation” from the FY2021-22 appropriation of \$4,000,000;
- (6) Why, since the [FY2023-24 Legislative/Judiciary appropriation bill](#) (at pp. 71-72) contains \$2,838,050 left over for “reappropriation” from FY2021-22 and FY2022-23, those reappropriated funds were not deducted from the \$4,000,000 needed for the Independent Redistricting Commission for FY2023-24, if it was actually needed.

Thank you.

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

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2023 9:38 AM

To: 'blattk@nyirc.gov' <blattk@nyirc.gov>; 'breakelld@nyirc.gov' <breakelld@nyirc.gov>
Cc: 'mcintoshgreenn@nyirc.gov' <mcintoshgreenn@nyirc.gov>; 'schaeferd@nyirc.gov' <schaeferd@nyirc.gov>; 'goodwinraabm@nyirc.gov' <goodwinraabm@nyirc.gov>; 'cameronp@nyirc.gov' <cameronp@nyirc.gov>; 'giffordj@nyirc.gov' <giffordj@nyirc.gov>; 'futiad@nyirc.gov' <futiad@nyirc.gov>

Subject: AGAIN: Questions about the NYS Independent Redistricting Commission's budget

TO: [NYS Independent Redistricting Commission Co-Executive Directors Karen Blatt & Douglas Breakell](#)

I have received no response to my below e-mail, sent Friday morning, and am therefore re-sending it.

As my February 10th e-mail had cc'd your deputy co-executive directors and your directors of public engagement, but NOT your assistant directors of (public) engagement, I am cc'ing those assistant directors who I thought unnecessary to include in my initial e-mail.

Please let me hear from someone as soon as possible.

Thank you.

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

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2023 10:17 AM
To: 'blattk@nyirc.gov' <blattk@nyirc.gov>; 'breakelld@nyirc.gov' <breakelld@nyirc.gov>
Cc: 'mcintoshgreenn@nyirc.gov' <mcintoshgreenn@nyirc.gov>; 'schaeferd@nyirc.gov' <schaeferd@nyirc.gov>; 'goodwinraabm@nyirc.gov' <goodwinraabm@nyirc.gov>; 'cameronp@nyirc.gov' <cameronp@nyirc.gov>

Subject: Questions about the NYS Independent Redistricting Commission's budget

TO: [NYS Independent Redistricting Commission Co-Executive Directors Karen Blatt & Douglas Breakell](#)

I have questions about the NYS Independent Redistricting Commission's budget. Can you kindly call me?

Thank you.

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