



Division of the Budget

KATHY HOCHUL

Governor

SANDRA BEATTIE

Acting Director of the Budget

Via Electronic Mail

February 22, 2023

Ms. Elena Sassower
Director, Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.
elena@judgewatch.org

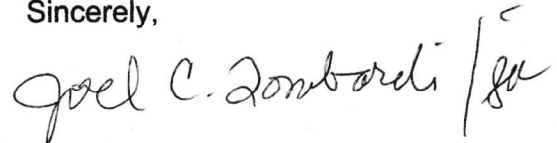
Dear Ms. Sassower:

This is in response to your request for information to the New York State Division of the Budget (the "Division")'s Freedom of Information Law ("FOIL") office, dated February 14, 2023 in which you seek answers to the following questions: "(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 cover letter included (at pp. 1, 6, 10) the Independent Redistricting Commission – and, likewise, why their December 1, 2021 cover letter 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."

With regard to your request for information related to bill language, please refer to the Legislation Information website at the following link:
<http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/navigate.cgi>.

Regarding the remainder of your questions, because you are seeking information as opposed to records, please direct your inquiries to the Division's Press Office at dob.sm.press@budget.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Joel C. Lombardi in cursive script, with a vertical line and a flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Joel C. Lombardi
FOIL Officer