

**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 11, 2020 11:01 AM

**To:** tips@ithacavoiced.com; alamb@ithacavoiced.com; dpatte@ithacavoiced.com; mbutler@ithacavoiced.com; bcrandall@ithacavoiced.com

**Subject:** **AGAIN -- Request for your journalism: What salary is to be paid to Tompkins County's 2 re-elected & 2 newly-elected state legislators--\$79,500 or \$110,000? And what about the \$200,000-plus salary of re-elected D.A. Van Houten, paid by county taxpayers?**

**Attachments:** [tompkins-6-15-20-complaint-vanhouten.pdf](#); tompkins-signature.pdf; [tompkins-7-28-20-da-foil.pdf](#)

**TO: Ithaca Voice**

I was most disappointed to have received no response to my below e-mail, sent 2-1/2 weeks ago. Was it overlooked?

Please advise.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)  
[www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org)  
914-421-1200  
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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 24, 2020 3:18 PM

**To:** 'tips@ithacavoiced.com' <[tips@ithacavoiced.com](mailto:tips@ithacavoiced.com)>; 'alamb@ithacavoiced.com' <[alamb@ithacavoiced.com](mailto:alamb@ithacavoiced.com)>; 'dpatte@ithacavoiced.com' <[dpatte@ithacavoiced.com](mailto:dpatte@ithacavoiced.com)>; 'mbutler@ithacavoiced.com' <[mbutler@ithacavoiced.com](mailto:mbutler@ithacavoiced.com)>; 'bcrandall@ithacavoiced.com' <[bcrandall@ithacavoiced.com](mailto:bcrandall@ithacavoiced.com)>

**Subject:** **Request for your journalism: What salary is to be paid to Tompkins County's 2 re-elected & 2 newly-elected state legislators--\$79,500 or \$110,000? And what about the \$200,000-plus salary of re-elected D.A. Van Houten, paid by county taxpayers?**

**TO: Ithaca Voice**

**What salary is to be paid to Tompkins County's 2 re-elected & 2 newly-elected state legislators -- \$79,500 or \$110,000? And what about the \$200,000-plus salary of re-elected D.A. Van Houten, paid by Tompkins County taxpayers?** Consistent with your admirable description of yourself on [your website](#): "a nonprofit digital news site with a mission to improve civic and political understanding in

Ithaca and Tompkins County by publishing and sustaining in-depth, educational, rigorous, timely and ethical journalism”, will you investigate the answers to these two straight-forward salary questions affecting the pocket-book of Tompkins County taxpayers and the integrity of their county and state government?

Such investigative journalism is EASY, as the [open-and-shut, prima facie EVIDENCE](#) proving the larceny and fraud that has taken place is furnished by the above-attached June 15, 2020 public corruption/grand jury complaint that now-re-elected Tompkins County D.A. Van Houten has been “sitting on” -- with the knowledge of Tompkins County’s four state legislative incumbents – who are the subjects of the complaint -- the candidates who ran to replace them, and such Tompkins County “local journalism” as The Ithaca Journal, Ithaca Times, and Cornell Daily Sun [see, [here](#), and [here](#), and [here](#), and [here](#), and [here](#), and [here](#)].

Below are my June 15<sup>th</sup> and July 28<sup>th</sup> e-mails to D.A. Van Houten transmitting the June 15<sup>th</sup> complaint to him, as well as the above-attached July 28<sup>th</sup> FOIL request concerning the functioning of his office with regard to **other** public corruption complaints. By contrast to the June 15<sup>th</sup> complaint, to which, **to date**, I have received NO response from D.A. Van Houten, I did receive a response to the July 28<sup>th</sup> FOIL request: an [August 5<sup>th</sup> e-mail](#) from Tompkins County’s deputy FOIL officer – to which D.A. Van Houten was cc’d – that it has “no documents responsive”.

**Please let me hear from you, as soon as possible, about this explosive post-election story, whose non-partisan, good-government ramifications for Tompkins County and the rest of the state are obvious.** For your further convenience, here’s CJA’s webpage for [Tompkins County](#) – on which is posted my correspondence with Tompkins County going back to 2016. At that time, I also reached out to Tompkins County “local journalism” – and my October 14, 2016 e-mail to The Ithaca Voice, to which then D.A. candidate Van Houten was cc’d, is [here](#).

I am available to assist you and answer your questions, from early in the morning to late at night – and over the holiday.

Thank you.

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

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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 28, 2020 2:05 PM

**To:** 'mvh@tompkins-co.org' <[mvh@tompkins-co.org](mailto:mvh@tompkins-co.org)>

**Subject:** Reasonable questions arising from your nonfeasance: June 15, 2020 public corruption complaint in support of grand jury inquiry, pursuant to Article I, §6 of the NYS Constitution, of Tompkins County state legislators...

**TO: Tompkins County District Attorney Matthew Van Houten**

I have received no acknowledgment or other response to my June 15, 2020 public corruption/grand jury complaint against Tompkins County state legislators, which I sent you by the below e-mail, with a direct link to the substantiating evidentiary webpage: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/2020-legislative/grand-juries.htm>.

As the complaint presents evidence so *prima facie* and open-and-shut as to leave no doubt that a grand jury would speedily indict – and a trial jury speedily convict – the complained-against Tompkins County state legislators and their accomplices, your nonfeasance raises reasonable questions as to your performance with respect to *other* public corruption complaints filed by *other* members of the public. To help answer these questions, I have today filed a FOIL/information request with Tompkins County Administrator & Records Access Officer Jason Molino – to which you are cc'd. It is attached.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
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[www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org)  
914-421-1200

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**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)>

**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 1:22 PM

**To:** 'mvh@tompkins-co.org' <[mvh@tompkins-co.org](mailto:mvh@tompkins-co.org)>

**Subject:** CORRUPTION COMPLAINT in support of grand jury inquiry, pursuant to Article I, §6 of the NYS Constitution, of Tompkins County state legislators for "wilful misconduct in office", including larceny & fraud...

**TO: Tompkins County District Attorney Matthew Van Houten**

Attached is my above-entitled corruption/grand jury complaint of today's date addressed to you – with a separate scanned signature page. The link for CJA's "Grand Juries" webpage for the complaint, hyperlinking, linking, and posting all referred-to evidence, is here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/2020-legislative/grand-juries.htm>.

Should you require an original signed complaint, please notify me – and I will send it, immediately.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director  
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[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)  
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