

**Citizens Budget Commission • Citizens Union of the City of New York • Common Cause New York  
Empire Center for Public Policy • League of Women Voters of New York State  
New York Public Interest Research Group • Reinvent Albany**

March 24, 2022

Hon. Kathy Hochul  
Governor of the State of New York

Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
President Pro Tempore and Majority Leader  
New York State Senate

Hon. Carl Heastie  
Speaker  
New York State Assembly

Re: Please publish basic financial tables when you reach agreement on the budget

Dear Governor Hochul, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, and Speaker Heastie:

We urge you to publish basic, multi-year financial plan tables when you agree on the Fiscal Year 2023 Enacted Budget. These should include at least one financial plan table each for All Funds, State Operating Funds, and the General Fund; and include reasonably disaggregated and totaled lists of receipts, disbursements, transfers, annual bottom line results, and allocations of fund balances.

New Yorkers are initially provided little information about the State's budget agreement. Typically, the Governor and Legislative leaders send out a press release with scant details on basic topline and program spending, year-to-year growth rates, and major fiscal actions. Confusingly, the first detailed information provided the public often is in the appropriations bills that do not reflect what the State plans to spend or when. New Yorkers may reasonably wonder whether the budget was passed without legislators knowing its size, balance, and multi-year impacts, and why this information is not made public.

Detailed information is provided when the Division of the Budget releases a "financial plan" about four weeks after the Enacted Budget, and with each Executive Budget and quarterly July and October updates. These "financial plans" are approximately 400-pages and include extensive

data and narrative description of the State’s fiscal condition that provides vital information to the public. We recognize that it is not feasible to produce a full “financial plan” immediately upon agreement. However, the financial plan tables we are requesting are essential to ensure legislators and the public have a timely, basic understanding of the budget and its implications.

We also urge both houses of the Legislature to include these tables with their one-house proposals for the same reasons. Finally, we recommend that this requirement be codified in State law for both the one-house budget bills and enacted budget.

Thank you for considering our recommendations.

Sincerely,

Andrew Rein  
President  
Citizens Budget Commission

Laura Ladd Bierman  
Executive Director  
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Cc:

Robert Mujica, Director of the NYS Division of the Budget  
Liz Krueger, Chair of the Senate Finance Committee  
Helene Weinstein, Chair of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee