

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

March 29, 2023

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of the State of New York  
New York State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
President Pro Tempore and Majority Leader  
New York State Senate  
Legislative Office Building  
188 State Street, Room 907  
Albany, NY 12247

Hon. Carl Heastie  
Speaker  
New York State Assembly  
Legislative Office Building  
188 State Street, Room 932  
Albany, NY 12248

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 2024 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 to the public often is in 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. To be clear, we are not suggesting that a full “financial plan” report be produced at the time of budget agreement. We recognize that it is not feasible immediately at that time. However, the basic 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.

Finally, we recommend that this requirement be codified in State law for both the one-house budget bills and enacted budget.

Many organizations also urged that this action be taken in [advance of last year’s budget agreement](#), and also for the [Legislature to include these tables](#) with their one-house proposals for the same reasons. We hope that you will make this simple improvement this year to provide basic transparency on the size, balance, and out-year impacts of the enacted budget.

Thank you for considering our recommendations.

Sincerely,

Andrew S. Rein  
President  
Citizens Budget Commission

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President & CEO  
Empire Center for Public Policy

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Reinvent Albany

cc:

Robert Megna, Director of the New York State Division of the Budget  
Liz Krueger, Chair of the Senate Finance Committee  
Helene Weinstein, Chair of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee