



## NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATE HOUSE  
PO BOX 098  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0098  
(609) 847-3400

June 9, 2021

The Honorable Phil Murphy  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625

The Honorable Elizabeth Maher Muoio  
Department of the Treasury  
P.O. Box 002  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Murphy and Treasurer Muoio:

We cannot fathom what you are trying to hide by refusing your traditional responsibility to provide revenue updates to the Assembly Budget Committee. If it was the decision of our colleagues in the legislature, please do not demur.

There are only two possibilities that come to mind: that your administration is woefully unprepared to explain how you plan to spend the newly expected money and the more than \$6 billion in federal aid, or your disdain for transparency and the legislative process satiates your hunger for unilateral power.

It will not be surprising when, in routine business, the budget is introduced and signed into law before anyone can carefully read it. In this consistent lack of transparency, it is clear you and your party are content.

Due to your unprecedented decision, we are submitting the below questions regarding the fiscal year 2022 budget, and ask for a response within twenty-four hours that actually answers the questions. That is ample time considering these questions would have been asked directly.

Please recall that Republican districts comprise over three-million state residents. Do not continue to disenfranchise them by ignoring their representatives.

## Questions:

1. Why were the Assembly Budget Committee hearings, scheduled on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, cancelled?
2. Why should we trust your revenue estimates now when your projections have been so incredibly wrong for over a year?
3. How much will spending be above recurring revenue, creating a budget deficit?
4. Revenue is expected to be lower in fiscal year 2022 than fiscal year 2021. How do you plan to raise revenue to meet spending increases in the upcoming year and beyond?
5. Will budget language be changed to guarantee appropriations of more than \$6 billion of federal funds goes through the normal legislative process? If not, why should the funds not be guaranteed to go through the legislative process?
6. How do you plan to spend the federal funds? Please provide a list of each item and the amount for each item. Federal guidance, the interim final rule, was provided on May 7, 2021. It would be incompetent not to have a plan by now.
7. How do you plan to spend the unexpected state revenue? Please provide a list of each item and the amount for each item.
8. What are the economic growth expectations for each of the next few years, including but not limited to employment growth, personal income and gross domestic product?
9. How did inflation factor into your revenue forecasts? Please provide your inflation projections for each of the next few years and a quantified impact on revenue, if you can.
10. How does inflation affect the budget? Do you expect revenue increases to precede government cost increases? How much do you expect costs to increase as a result?
11. What are your plans if inflation remains higher than the Federal Reserve target long-term? If you have no plans, why will you not plan and prepare for the possibility?
12. Why aren't earned income tax credits expected to increase in FY22 despite the expansion to taxpayers at least 21 years of age without dependents? That means low-income workers either are not working, they are not receiving the pay increases that are advertised everywhere you look along with "help wanted" signs, or people aren't aware they have to send in two tax returns to ensure they don't receive a lower credit than last year, which is an incredibly unnecessary hassle for low-income taxpayers when the state could simply compare the past two years for tax filers.

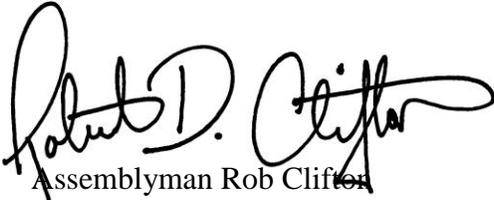
Sincerely,



Assemblyman Hal Wirths  
Republican Budget Officer  
24th Legislative District



Assemblywoman Nancy Munoz  
Republican Conference Leader  
21st Legislative District



Assemblyman Rob Clifton  
12th Legislative District



Assemblywoman Serena DiMaso  
13th Legislative District

- c. Craig Coughlin, Assembly Speaker  
Eliana Pintor Marin, Assembly Budget Chair  
John Burzichelli, Assembly Budget Vice-Chair  
Jon Bramnick, Assembly Republican Minority Leader  
Anthony Cimino, Assembly Majority Executive Director  
Aaron Binder, Assembly Majority Budget Director  
Thomas Koenig, Legislative Budget and Finance Officer  
David Drescher, Revenue Section Chief, Office Legislative Services