



# Legislature Of The Virgin Islands

CAPITOL BUILDING, P.O. 1690 ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS 00804

THE HONORABLE

**Carla J. Joseph**

SENATOR

34TH LEGISLATURE OF  
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Tel.(340)693-3515

Fax.(340)693-3633

[senatorcarlajoseph@legvi.org](mailto:senatorcarlajoseph@legvi.org)

[senatorcarlajoseph.com](http://senatorcarlajoseph.com)

## CHAIR

Committee on Government Operations &  
Consumer Protection

## MEMBER

Committee on Rules & Judiciary  
Committee on Education & Workforce Development  
Committee on Disaster Recovery & Infrastructure  
Committee on Youth, Sports, Parks & Recreation

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Contact: Senator Carla Joseph Office

(340) 693-3515

[senatorcarlajoseph@legvi.org](mailto:senatorcarlajoseph@legvi.org)

## **SEN. JOSEPH INTEGRALLY INVOLVED IN FY 2022 BUDGET HEARINGS AND LOBBYING FOR LINE ITEMIZED BUDGET**

ST. THOMAS, USVI –Senator Carla Joseph, a non-member of the 34th Legislature, has been integrally involved in the FY 2022 Budget Hearings to include the budget mark-up process.

Of note, Senator Joseph, a Democratic Party freshman senator, and non-member of the Committee on Finance, was invited by the Finance Committee to participate in the budget mark-up process. The budget mark-up process is complex wherein senators as well as post audit staff take a deeper look at the various departments presentations to arrive at the government’s projected revenue generating activities in order to project the government’s expenditures. Joseph stated that the invitation was indeed welcomed as she attended several Budget Hearings to get a full understanding of the government finances and a thorough assessment of agency needs and stewardship of moneys allotted.

“During the budget mark-up process, I was able to exam and inspect in greater detail the management of our taxpaying dollars across the board for operations, services, programs, and staffing,” Joseph said.

“This is a very learning experience for me as a freshman legislator. I made time to attend the Finance Committee meetings. I carved out time because it was very critical that I be there given my background and that I am at the table. I am here to do the work. One of the most critical responsibilities that we have as a legislator is passing a balanced budget,” Joseph said.

“One of the key factors that I was able to lobby for was to get a line itemized budget. Specifically, when we look at Bill 34-0109, personnel services and fringed benefits are itemized. Excellent! So that we can manage how much money that they are paying into the GERS System and our health care system,” Joseph added.

“Another point I want to touch on is collections. We need the executive branch to do their part in generating the revenues, and in collecting the revenues and enforcement fines. Our work in this most recent budget process shows statesmanship in action as we are elected to work together and, in some instances, amicably negotiate,” Joseph concluded.

Senator Joseph extended thanks to Finance Committee Chairman, Senator Kurt Vialet, the committee membership, the Post Audit Division, legal counsel, and the governor’s financial team in working together to put forth a balanced budget for the people of the Territory. ###