

- ▶▶ AFT Connecticut
- ▶▶ American Association of University Professors – Connecticut State University
- ▶▶ American Association of University Professors – UCONN
- ▶▶ American Federation of State, County, & Municipal Employees - Council 4
- ▶▶ Congress of Connecticut Community Colleges/ SEIU Local 1973
- ▶▶ Connecticut Association of Prosecutors
- ▶▶ Connecticut Employees Union Independent/ SEIU Local 511
- ▶▶ Connecticut Federations of School Administrators Local 61
- ▶▶ Connecticut Police and Fire Union/IAFF-IUPA
- ▶▶ Connecticut State Police Union
- ▶▶ CSEA SEIU Local 2001
- ▶▶ International Brotherhood of Police Officers/SEIU Local 731
- ▶▶ New England Healthcare Employees Union, District 1199/SEIU

The State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition

January 20

Response to Gubernatorial Candidates' Comments on State Worker Concessions

State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition (SEBAC) leaders and members are reacting to the comments of several gubernatorial candidates regarding concessions State workers agreed to last year. Any serious candidate for governor would not consider three quarters of a billion dollars in labor cost savings for State taxpayers over a three-year period a "joke."

Cathy Osten, President of CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 and First Selectman of Sprague, was in attendance at today's Council of Small Towns (COST) candidate's forum. "Without the near billion dollars in savings to the state budget, Connecticut and our 169 municipalities would be in even worse shape than we are now" she said. "State workers were one of the first groups to contribute in such a meaningful way toward solving our deficit problem. Now that these candidates are running for governor, they should be offering real solutions, not looking for scapegoats."

Rather than attack working families who are already worried about Connecticut's growing unemployment, candidates who hope to replace Governor M. Jodi Rell must be the adults in the room and offer a serious 21st-century economic recovery plan. They need to address the real problems facing Connecticut workers and small businesses, such as rising healthcare costs, the lack of affordable housing, a crumbling transportation infrastructure, and underfunded schools and colleges.

In addition to the hard savings from their concessions last spring, Connecticut's State workers have consistently offered concrete ideas on how to advance the efficiency of government, improve the quality of services they deliver, jump-start the economy, and save taxpayers' money. The candidates for governor should be willing to listen to their ideas for solving the state's fiscal crisis rather than proposing further cuts to vital services that will cost thousands of private sector jobs and further drag Connecticut deeper into recession.

SEBAC leadership is committed to come to the table with elected leaders and candidates to be part of a comprehensive solution that will help lead to a stronger better Connecticut for all of us. To learn more about the coalition's campaign for a fair budget and a livable state with great public services visit **www.InThisTogetherCT.org**.