



CSEA NEWS

The Voice of Connecticut's Public Service Employees & Retirees

May, 2025

CSEA SEIU Local 2001

VOL. 58, NO. 5

Thousands Turn Out to Celebrate May Day

Advocates Demand Better for Working Families

On May 1, 2025, CSEA SEIU Local 2001 members joined thousands of union, community and faith advocates in Hartford and New Haven to demand justice, equity, and investment in public services. These actions were part of a nationwide mobilization marking International Workers' Day, with over 1,000 demonstrations across the U.S., including nearly 20 in Connecticut.

In Hartford, CSEA members marched alongside fellow unionists from SEIU 1199, 32BJ,

and faith leaders. The rally, organized by Make the Road Connecticut, 32BJ SEIU, and CT For All, focused on pressing state-level issues such as housing, healthcare, and labor rights. Speakers criticized the anti-worker politics coming out of Washington and called on Connecticut legislators to fill gaps left by federal funding cuts.

In New Haven, the New Haven Green became a hub of activism as students, educators, and union

continue onto page 4



CSEA Members Urge Lamont to Declare Fiscal Emergency

Members Double Down Following Reports of Historic State Surplus

Connecticut is poised to end the fiscal year with a projected \$2.3 billion surplus, the second-largest in state history, according to the latest consensus revenue report released on April 30. Despite this financial windfall, stringent fiscal "guardrails"—including spending caps and the volatility adjustment—restrict the state's ability to allocate these funds toward pressing needs such as state contracts, paraeducator wage increases, and healthcare for child care providers.

Advocates, including union members across

the state, are advocating for Governor Ned Lamont to declare a fiscal emergency. Such a declaration would permit the legislature to responsibly adjust these fiscal constraints, enabling the state to invest in essential public services and support its workforce. These measures, particularly the volatility adjustment, inadvertently divert stable revenue streams away from essential services. This redirection has led to underfunding in critical sectors, including education and healthcare.

Connecticut's fiscal guardrails—specifically the spending cap and the volatility cap—were originally enacted to

instill long-term budget discipline and rebuild the state's rainy day fund after decades of fiscal mismanagement. While these mechanisms helped stabilize the state's finances, they are now operating in a way that prevents Connecticut from responding to today's needs with common sense flexibility.

The spending cap limits how much the legislature can appropriate, even when the state is bringing in more revenue than expected. This means that even with a projected \$2.3 billion surplus, lawmakers are legally barred from using a significant portion of that money on current needs. The volatility cap compounds the issue by forcing the state to deposit any income tax revenue above a certain threshold into the rainy day fund or use it strictly

continue onto page 4

Tax Day Actions Call for Ultra-wealthy to pay Fair Share

Members Demand Fairness for Working Families

On April 15th, Tax Day, CSEA members joined hundreds of advocates, lawmakers, and allies for a powerful Tax Day action calling on Connecticut lawmakers to fix the state's upside-down tax system. The rally, organized by the Connecticut For All coalition and led by the Tax Equity Caucus, highlighted how working- and middle-class families continue to shoulder the greatest burden under our current tax structure—while the ultra-wealthy and big corporations pay far less than their fair share.

The event began with a press conference at the Legislative Office Building where coalition leaders spoke about the urgency of reforming Connecticut's regressive tax code. Speakers emphasized the need for a

system that invests in public services, addresses long-standing racial and economic disparities, and generates stable revenue to meet the needs of every community.

CSEA members then joined the march to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), demanding policies that prioritize people over profits. The crowd's message was clear: working families are doing their part—now it's time for the state's wealthiest residents and corporations to do the same. As part of a growing movement, CSEA continues to stand with coalition partners in the fight for progressive taxation that lifts everyone—not just those at the top.



Labor, community and faith advocates marched to the Office of Policy Management on Tax Day to demand progressive taxation.

Visit our union's website at: **CSEA-CT.com**

Postmaster: Please forward address changes to:
CSEA, 760 CAPITOL AVE., HARTFORD, CT 06106

Also in this Edition:

Page 2:

May & June Council 400
Retiree Meetings

Page 4:

Members in DC!

Page 4:

Childhood Advocacy
Day

Page 5:

Healthcare Benefit
News

Page 5:

Millionaire Migration

Page 6:

Take Action!

Page 7:

Statewide SEBAC
Meeting

Page 8:

State Employees Under
Attack in Republican
Budget Proposal



Meetings
And News

The May Delegates Meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting on Thursday May 15th at 10am at the CSEA Union Hall and via Zoom

Chapter 401 (Hartford area)
*Spring Meeting/Luncheon
June 5th at 11:30am
Hartford Armory
\$40 per person, RSVP by 6/2
Buffet including Roast Beef, Chicken, & Coconut Shrimp
Checks to: CSEA Chapter 401
Sent to: Sharon D. Mounds
53 Brookwood Dr
Rocky Hill, CT 06067
(860) 529-9885
(voice mail only)

Chapter 402 (Danbury area)
Wed., May 14th - 10am
United Methodist Church
5 Clapboard Ridge Road
Danbury, CT
Linda Albanese:860 354-6965

Chapter 402 (Danbury area)
Spring Luncheon
June 6th at 12pm
Chuck's Steakhouse
20 Segar St., Danbury
Cost is \$25 per person
Checks to: CSEA Chapter 402
Sent to: Krista Judson
475 Berkshire Road
Southbury, CT 06488

Chapter 403 (Norwich area)
Tues., May 13th - 1:30pm
Rose City Senior Center
8 Mahan Drive, Norwich
Carol Burgess:860 303-7267

Chapter 403 (Norwich area)
Spring Luncheon
Tuesday, June 17th
11:30am Social hour
12:30pm Guest Speakers
1:00pm Buffet Luncheon
Holiday Inn,Chelsea Rose Rm
10 Laura Blvd., Norwich, CT
Menu includes: Baked Cod, Beef Tenderloin Tips, Chicken Picatta, Herb Roasted Potatoes
Warm Rolls w/butter, Salads, NY style cheesecake, soda, Coffee & Assorted Teas

Cash bar too! \$41 per person
RSVP by June 5th make check Payable to "Chapter 403"
Mail to: Richard Kerrigan
83 Case Street
Norwich, CT 06360

Chapter 404 (Waterbury area)
Tues. May 13th - 10am
Speaker: Jennifer Miccaci,
Best Life Hearing Center
Trinity Orthodox Church
937 Chase Pkwy,Waterbury

Chapter 404 (Waterbury area)
Summer Luncheon
Wed., June 11th - 11:30am
Imperial China Buffet
615 Straits Tnpk,Watertown
Buffet & Hibachi \$15/member
One non-member guest - \$15
Checks to: CSEA Chapter 404
RSVP by June 3rd to:
Tina Franco
45 Peach Orchard Road
Prospect, CT 06712-1052
Tina Franco: (203) 721-4382

Chapter 405 (New Haven)
Thurs. May 8th - 10:30am
Speaker: Cigna Dental
Hamden Government
Center Building, 3rd Floor
2750 Dixwell Ave., Hamden
Sue Pierson (203) 376-7207

Chapter 405 (New Haven)
Spring Luncheon
Thursday, June 12, 2025
Anthony's Ocean View
450 Lighthouse Rd,
New Haven. \$25/member,
\$35/spouse, \$45/guest
Buffet with hors d'oeuvres:
Crostini, Stuffed Breads,
Pizzas, Cheese Display,
Stuffed Clams, Meatballs
and Buffalo Wings.
Salad options include:
Garden, Spinach, or Caesar
Entrees: Chicken Marsala,
Sliced Filet Mignon,
Seafood Stuffed Sole with
Roasted Potatoes,
Seasonal Vegetables and a
Dessert station
LIMIT of 60 participants
RSVP by May 30th
Checks to: CSEA Chapter 405
Sent to: Bill Morico
470 Ellsworth Ave.,
New Haven 06511-2584

Chapter 406 (Middletown)
Tues. May 13th - 12:30pm
Speaker:Aetna Representative
American Legion Post 75
58 Bernie O'Rourke Dr.
Middletown, CT

Chapter 406 (Middletown)
Tues. June 3rd - 12:30pm
Guests order off of the menu
A \$10 rebate will be given
out to those who also attend
the September Chapter mtg.
Door Prizes will be raffled
RSVP by May 20th

Chapter 407 (Bridgeport area)
Wed., May 21st - 1pm
Speaker: Probate Judge
St. Josephs of Stratford
National Catholic Church
1300 Stratford Rd., Stratford
Zoom ID: 872 4952 3823
Passcode: 000891
Liz Anderson (203) 676-0659

Chapter 407 (Bridgeport area)
*Pre Summer Break Luncheon
Wed., June 11th - 12:30pm
Riverview Bistro Restaurant
946 Ferry Blvd., Stratford
Order from menu, pay for
what you order!

Chapter 408 (Windham Area)
Wednesday, May 14th, 1pm
Speaker: Bette Marafino, CT
Alliance Retired Americans
Mansfield Senior Center
303 Maple Rd., Storrs
Doug Racicot (860) 234-2537

Chapter 408 (Windham Area)
Spring Luncheon
Wednesday, June 11th
Luncheon Buffet includes;
Cheese & Crackers, BBQ
Chicken, Hotdogs, Ziti with
Marinara, Hamburgers, Pasta
Salad, Potato Salad, Fruit,
Cookies and Cash Bar!
PLUS: Magic by Derek
11:30am - 3pm at the Franco
American Club Pavilion
116 Club Road,Windham
\$20 per person RSVP by 6/2
Christine Ashe 860 742-0667

Chapter 409 (Retired
State University Professors)
Friday, May 16th - 10am
CSEA Union Hall & Zoom
760 Capitol Ave., Hartford

Zoom ID: 868 8922 7158
Dave Walsh (860) 684-4773

Chapter 410 (Windsor area)
NEW MEETING SPACE
Monday, May 12th - 1pm
Speaker:Aetna Representative
Kent Memorial Library
50 N Main St, Suffield
Amelia Smith 860 687-1848

Chapter 410 (Windsor area)
Spring Luncheon
Monday, June 9th - 12pm
Figaro Restaurant
90 Elm St., Enfield, CT
Entree choice: Eggplant
Parmesan, Chicken Francaise,
Chicken Parm, Filet of Sole,
Ziti w/meatball or sausage
With cheese, crackers, veggies
and dip, vegetables, pasta,
coffee, tea and dessert.
RSVP by June 2nd
No checks at the door
Cost: \$18 per member
\$25 per guest
Check to: CSEA Chapter 410
Sent to: Oscar Gomez
Chapter 410 Treasurer
33 Sylvester Street
Springfield, MA 01109
Oscar Gomez 413 246-2829

Chapter 411 (Rocky Hill area)
Summer Luncheon
Thurs., June 19th at 12:30pm
Elaine's Restaurant
1841 Berlin Tnpk.,Wethers.
Entree Choices: Prime Rib,
Chicken marsala, Salmon filet
Meals include: hors d'oeuvres,
salad, pasta, potato, veggies,
dessert, coffee or tea
\$20/member and \$40/guest
RSVP by June 11, 2025
Send checks made payable to
"CSEA Chapter 411" to:
Joy Gutis, 34 Farview Rd.,
Brookfield, CT 06804
Joy (860) 966-3340

Chapter 412 (Putnam area)
Tues., May 20th - 1:30pm
Putnam Town Hall
200 School Street, Putnam

Continue on Page 7

Important numbers to have on hand:

Retirement Division Payroll: 860-702-3528

Aetna Customer Service: 1-855-648-0391

Retirement Division Life Insurance: 860-702-3537

Caremark: 1-800-318-2572

Retirement Division Health Insurance: 860-702-3533

Cigna: 1-800-244-6224

Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield: 1-800-922-2232

CSEA Retiree Organizer, Kevin Sullivan:
860-951-6614 x118

HEP Care Management Solutions: 1-877-687-1448 or visit them at their portal:
<https://www.connect2yourhealth.com/ParticipantPortal/Default.aspx>



Car Dealers Know Cars but We Know Financing

Our auto loan puts you in the driver's seat. Take control at the dealership and apply through CSE for a better rate.

New Car rate	Used Car Rate
4.99% APR*	5.49% APR*

*Annual Percentage Rate. Certain restrictions apply. Cannot be applied toward existing car loans. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Rate is subject to change at any time.

Terms available up to 7 years!*Annual Percentage Rate. Certain restrictions apply. Cannot be applied toward existing car loans. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Rate is subject to change at any time.

QUICK TIP: Join our email list to be notified of credit union news and rate changes. To sign up, visit: **www.CSECreditUnion.com** and scroll down to the Email Alerts section at the bottom of the homepage.

Locations & Hours

Forms

Membership

CSE-BANKING LOGIN

Accounts

Loans

Services

Rates

About Us

With CSE Credit Union, Auto Loans Are a Breeze

Find all the essential information about the products and services we have to offer. You can even print a loan application online! Best of all, it's accessible from your personal computer 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

www.CSECreditUnion.com

Closed
Monday, May 26th Memorial Day

Dividend Rates - First Quarter 2025 Rates

	Dividend Rate	Percentage Yield
REGULAR SHARES	2.50%	2.53%
SHARE DRAFTS (Checking)	1.25%	1.26%
CLUB ACCOUNTS	2.00%	2.02%

Minimum opening balance \$25.00. The annual percentage yield is accurate as of the last dividend declaration date. Rate may change after the account is opened. Fees or other conditions may reduce the earnings on the account.

7 Full Service Offices To Serve You

NORWICH Uncas on Thames 401 West Thames St. Norwich, CT 06306 (860) 889-7378	HARTFORD 84 Wadsworth St. Hartford, CT 06106 (860) 522-5388 (Savings) (860) 522-7147 (Loans)	NEW HAVEN 1666 Litchfield Turnpike Woodbridge, CT 06525 (203) 397-2949
MIDDLETOWN 15 Ward Street Middletown, CT 06457 (860) 347-0479	STORRS 1244 Storrs Rd. Storrs, CT 06268 (860) 429-9306	SOUTHBURY Southbury Training School P.O. Box 644 Southbury, CT 06488 (203) 267-7610
		NEWINGTON O'Neil Plaza 2434 Berlin Turnpike Newington, CT 06111 (860) 667-7668

Hours: Main Office: Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm Branches: Mon-Fri, 9:30am-4pm
Drive-Up Teller (Hartford & Middletown): Mon-Fri, 8:30am-4pm; Paydays Open Until 5pm

**Gone too Soon:
CSEA Members Who Have Passed On**

The Office of the State Comptroller has provided CSEA with the following members that have recently passed away. Our condolences are with their friends, family and loved ones.

Altobello, Emil, Legislative Management	Rafala, Helen, Administrative Clerical
Bill, Mary-Ellen, Service/Maintenance	Ross, Sally, Administrative Clerical
Bowie, James, Service/Maintenance	Sabotka, Edward, Social And Human Services
Burnell, Dennis, Service/Maintenance	Santoni, Nelson, Correctional Supervisor
Carlascio, Patricia, Healthcare	Schneider, Ellen, Judicial - Professional
Chabot, Alfred, Service/Maintenance	Sekulski, William, Service/Maintenance
Chetta, John, Service/Maintenance	Shepard, Gary, Correctional Officer
Dow, Kevin, Social And Human Services	Sirois, Michael, Managerial
Escobar, Maria, Service/Maintenance	Stacy, Leslie, Judicial - Professional
Gannon, John, Cscu Exempt	Thomas, Hugo, Judicial - Professional
Hayes, Rosaleen, Legislative Management	Thomas, Thomas, Managerial
Hightower, Gertie, Healthcare	Thompson, Pearl, Service/Maintenance
Hussey-White, Patricia, Health Professional	Trowbridge, Phyllis, Administrative Clerical
Johnson, Gilroy, Protective Services	Turner, Roberta, Service/Maintenance
Jubrey, Shirley, Administrative Clerical	Wentworth, Mary, Administrative Clerical
Kozikowski, Maria, Administrative Clerical	
Mantzaris, John, State University Faculty	
Marchinski, Josephine, Admin And Residual	
Marchione, Dale, Comm College Faculty	
Marroquin, Barbara, St Vocation Federation Teacher	
Mathieu, Albert, Education	
Mathieu, Lucienne, Administrative Clerical	
Mollica, Antonia, Service/Maintenance	
Niedzwiecki, John, Uconn	
Pandolfi, Barbara, Education	
Popolizio, Madeline, Administrative Clerical	
Pyka, Raymond, State Police	
Quarti, Robert, Education	

CSEA NEWS

*The Voice of Connecticut's
Public Service Employees & Retirees*

USPS # 224-100 ISSN # 0273-6055

Published Monthly by:

CONNECTICUT STATE EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION

Local 2001, Service Employees International Union, CTW/CLC

Travis Woodward	President
Diane Murphy	Secretary/Treasurer
David Glidden	Executive Director
Drew E. Stoner	Communication Director
Jason P. Webster	Graphic/ Technical Assistance

INSERTION DEADLINE: 1st of prior month.

MAILING ADDRESS: CSEA/SEIU Local 2001, 760 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106;
PHONES: (860) 951-6614, toll-free: (800) 894-9479, FAX: (860) 951-3526; INTERNET:
www.csea-ct.com.

"CSEA NEWS" (USPS 224-100, ISSN 0273-6055) is published monthly for \$2.80 per year members, \$5.00 per year non-members, by CSEA/SEIU Local 2001, 760 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT 06106-1263. Periodicals postage paid at Hartford, CT. Postmaster: Send address changes to "CSEA NEWS," 760 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT 06106-1263.

The inclusion of advertising in the CSEA News
does not constitute an endorsement



May Day Celebrations in Connecticut

Thousands Turn Out Across 20 Events

continued from page 1 members gathered for a May Day rally organized by over 36 groups in the Connecticut for All Coalition. The event, titled “Hands off our Democracy,” featured speeches from clergy, educators, and activists who denounced budget cuts to education and social services, tax breaks for the wealthy, and attacks on marginalized communities. The streets around the New Haven Green were shut down by over 3,000 people taking to the streets with signs and chants, demanding a



3,000 people gathered on the New Haven Green on May Day to demand that our state invests in working families.

new future for our state.

May Day is more than a moment of protest—it’s a powerful reminder of our collective history and our shared future. For over a century, working people have taken to the streets on May 1st to demand justice, dignity, and rights on the job. This year was no different. From Hartford to New Haven, CSEA members showed up not just to be counted—but to lead. But rallies alone aren’t enough. As we approach the end of Connecticut’s



CSEA Childcare Council President Maria Reyes joined 1,000 people outside the State Capitol.

legislative session in early June, the fight intensifies. We must keep the pressure on to secure funding for vital public services, win fair contracts, raise wages for paraeducators and child care providers, and ensure that the wealthy pay their fair share. May Day was a spark—now we organize to turn it into lasting change.



Advocates in Hartford marched around Bushnell Park and ended at the State Capitol.

CSEA Child Care Providers Lead the Way

Early Childhood Advocacy Day Highlights Childcare Crisis in CT

On April 9, 2025, the halls of Connecticut’s State Capitol resonated with the passionate voices of early childhood educators, parents, and advocates during the annual Early Childhood Advocacy Day. Among the most active participants were members of CSEA SEIU Local 2001, who played a pivotal role in highlighting the urgent need for substantial investments in the state’s early care and education system.

Organized by the Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance and the Connecticut Association for the Education of Young Children, the event featured a legislative breakfast, a press conference, and meetings between advocates and lawmakers

Maria Reyes, a family child care provider and President of CSEA SEIU Local 2001, delivered a compelling speech during the press conference. She underscored the systemic issues plaguing the child care sector, stating, “We are calling for greater state investment in child care. Invest in us, because investing in child care is investing in Connecticut’s future.”

The advocacy efforts of CSEA members are part of a broader movement to address the longstanding underinvestment in early childhood education. Despite a projected \$2.3 billion state surplus, stringent fiscal policies like the spending and volatility caps limit the allocation of

funds to essential services, including child care. As the legislative session progresses, CSEA members continue to urge lawmakers to prioritize early childhood education and invest in the state’s future.



CSEA Childcare Providers participating in Childhood Advocacy Day



Childcare Provider and CSEA member Tashieanna O’Conner (far right) took time away from her child care center to bring CT’s story to DC — meeting with Representative Jim Himes, Rep Jahana Hayes, Senator Richard Blumenthal & Senator Chris Murphy to talk about the importance of progressive taxation and federal support to solve our nation’s childcare crisis. Her advocacy is a reminder: when we speak up, leaders listen.

Amid Historic Surplus, Calls for Fiscal Emergency Emerge

continued from page 1 for debt payments—regardless of how urgently that money is needed elsewhere. The current cap level has been set at an irresponsible level, resulting in too much revenue being marked as “volatile” with the cap consistently capturing an average of \$1.4B a year.

These constraints don’t distinguish between one-time spikes in revenue and sustainable, ongoing growth. Worse, they prevent proactive investment in the very services that help communities thrive—public education, health care, housing,

and transportation—especially at a time when federal COVID relief dollars are drying up and costs are rising. Not to mention the positive economic impact that broad and fiscally responsible investment has on our economy.

Declaring a fiscal emergency is one of the legal avenues available to bypass these restrictions. Under state law, a fiscal emergency allows the legislature to adjust the caps and make full use of surplus funds to meet immediate needs. Union members are calling on Governor Lamont to take this step—not to abandon fiscal responsi-

bility, but to exercise it. An emergency declaration would reflect the reality that underfunding public services and underpaying workers in the middle of a surplus is not prudent policy; it’s austerity by another name.

As the legislative session progresses, union members continue to rally for a more flexible fiscal approach that prioritizes the well-being of Connecticut’s public servants and the communities they support.

State Employee Healthcare Benefit News

Open Enrollment Happening Now

Open enrollment for active employees will continue through May 31st. While our active employee and retiree health plan continues to outperform trends in the healthcare markets – both in keeping members healthier, and in the cost of providing health care -- health care cost increases throughout the country have been much higher than usual this year and our plan is no exception. The overall costs of health premiums for the state and for active employees will increase 9.86% as of July 1, 2025. Non-Medicare retirees will see a cost increase of 10.70%. While the overall trend of rising healthcare costs is not something we can control, we will continue to do whatever we can to minimize cost increases while protecting the critical benefits that keep state employees healthier and better able to serve the public. These increases would have been higher had they not already been mitigated by numerous initiatives of the joint Health Care Cost Containment Committee with the State Comptroller, and it is hoped that next years' experience will be better.

Narrow Network

We have good and bad news about the high-quality Narrow Network plan that was added to state employee plan choices in October of 2020. This plan is not a contractually required option, but an option the parties (SEBAC and the State) agreed to add because it was in their mutual interests. Now called "Quality First Select," the plan is an ongoing joint effort to keep costs down and quality up by offering a limited network of top tier providers who are measured first on quality, and then on reasonable cost. Out-of-network coverage is available under this plan, but at a

significantly higher cost.

Originally, to encourage employees to give that plan a try, the State agreed that in addition to the cost savings that are inherent in the product, 67% of the state's cost savings would also go to employees in the early years of the plan. However, the plan has never attracted significant numbers of state employees because, unlike the standard plan options, it was not required nor able to include all the hospitals and hospital systems in the state. Hartford Healthcare was unwilling to participate in the narrow network plan. The good news is that Hartford Healthcare will be joining the narrow network effective July 1, 2025. That will make the narrow network an option for many more members. And it will remain significantly cheaper than other plan options.

The bad news is that the health care actuaries project smaller savings than we've previously seen, and the 67% state share of the savings which employees were offered in prior years will be reduced to 50%. Still far better than is offered in any other product where the state keeps all its share of any savings that are achieved.

So, in addition to the medical trend increases that the other plans are seeing, the premium share percentages that employees pay will go up. Single coverage will increase from 9% to 10.5%, one plus one will increase from 11% to 12.5% and family will increase from 11.5% to 13%. These are still the best rates available of any plan, despite the increase.

This increase will take effect immediately for employees moving from other products to the Quality First product as of July 1, 2025, since even with that increase, the overall

cost will be a savings for those employees as compared to staying with their current plan. Employees on the Quality First product prior to July 1, 2025, and remaining on that product will see the increase phased in over three years. So, their premiums share percentages will be only 9.5% for single, 11.5% for one plus one, and 12% for families as of 2025.

Because these increases are high in comparison to what we've seen from the market in recent years, employees are advised to look carefully at their plan choices to see if alternative plans may be available. For instance, the big change in the Quality First Select (narrow network) Plan described below – now including Hartford Healthcare among in network providers – may make it more appropriate for many members. The Standard Access plan for families will increase over \$48 per month to \$534.23. Even after the increases described below, the members switching their family coverage from the Standard Access to the Quality First Select plan will pay only \$412.59 per month. Other options also exist – as always, members are asked to carefully review their choices to make sure their providers are in network with whatever choice they make.

It is our hope that the Quality First product will continue to grow and provide a positive alternative option to the standard plan for many employees. And as with all the plans, we will continue to do whatever we can to keep the quality as high as possible and the costs as low as possible in the interests of state employees and the public we serve.

Millionaire Migration Myth Busted (Again)

Massachusetts Gains Millionaires Despite Millionaire Tax

On April 28, the Institute for Policy Studies and the State Revenue Alliance released a timely, essential new report, "New Data Shows Wealth Expands After Higher State Taxes on High-Income Earners: Revenue and Potential in MA, NY, RI, and VA."

Right now, Americans across the political divide in communities around the country are growing frustrated with rampant wealth inequality and the rising gap between enormous wealth that high-income individuals accumulate and the average paycheck that ordinary Americans earn. Over the past fifty years, the share of national income that goes to the working-class has been on a gradual decline and, in 2022, reached its lowest level since the Great Depression. Meanwhile, a wave of tax cuts at the state and federal level that overwhelmingly benefited the rich has fueled a new era of extreme inequality and wealth concentration.

One main proposed solution is for states to tax the ultra-wealthy and high-income earners at a higher rate and to use that revenue to fund vital programs and services that help communities thrive. This report provides a detailed analysis of the impact of higher state taxes on high-income

earners in two states that have enacted such taxes – Massachusetts and Washington – and the potential impact of levying taxes on the highest earners and the wealthiest individuals in New York, and in Rhode Island, where a bill in the State Senate would add a 1% tax on worldwide wealth. The general performance of the economy and the resilience of wealthy individuals' financial growth played significant roles.

Key Findings:

Two years into Massachusetts' millionaires' tax and a higher tax rate on \$250,000 in capital gains in Washington state shows that the millionaire class grew by 38.6 percent in Massachusetts and 46.9 percent in Washington, respectively. Their wealth grew by more than \$580 billion in current dollars in Massachusetts and \$748 billion in Washington state between 2022 and 2024.

In New York and Rhode Island, the total wealth of those with at least \$1 million in assets grew as well. From 2010 to 2024, these four states saw a total wealth increase of about 200 percent, from \$3.7 trillion to \$11.2 trillion.

The top 0.7 percent of tax return filers in New York received a greater share of the

gross adjusted income than the bottom 76 percent of filers in 2022.

A two percent wealth tax on individuals with a net worth of \$50 million or more has the potential to raise \$7.4 billion in Massachusetts, \$21.9 billion in New York, \$700 million in Rhode Island, and \$8.2 billion in Washington.

Key Policy Takeaways:

Wealth flight fears are misguided. The number of wealthy individuals and their cumulative wealth grew after the enactment of higher taxes on high earners in Massachusetts and a progressive capital gains tax on high-wealth Washingtonians.

Progressive taxation on million-dollar incomes in Massachusetts and capital gains in Washington succeeded in collecting additional revenue and are popular with voters.

A wealth tax that targets ultra-high net worth individuals – those with \$50 million or more – puts a minor constraint on the rate of accumulation, but has the potential to raise significant revenues that can be used to support broad healthcare, economic, and educational programs that benefit all state residents.

Take Action Now! Scan the QR Codes & Email Legislators

Invest in our Communities and Protect CT Against Federal Cuts!

In recognition of May Day, our members and community allies across Connecticut took action with thousands of members rallying in Hartford and New Haven from 60+ social and economic justice organizations to demand a government that prioritizes the needs and concerns of the working people of our state, and protects our communities against attacks from the Federal Administration.

No more Union busting,
No more Mass firings,
Fair wages,
Fair taxes,
Strong public services,
Civil rights,
Liveable climate,
Immigrant rights,

...we stand united in the struggle for justice!

Email your legislators now to tell them to protect our state against threats from the federal government and stop the billionaire agenda in CT!



SCAN ME

Pass Unemployment Insurance for Striking Workers

Labor law favors employers and corporate CEOs over workers when it comes to bargaining a contract.

But a proposal to allow workers to access unemployment insurance after they have been on strike for two weeks will help restore balance to collective bargaining.

Employers' refusal to fairly negotiate is a feature of their bargaining strategy, not a bug. During the 2023 Writers Guild strike, one studio executive said: "The endgame is to allow things to drag on until union members start losing their apartments and losing their homes."

Current law permits employers to leverage the threat of evictions, foreclosures and repossessions to suppress wages and

working conditions because striking workers cannot access unemployment insurance.

Legislation allowing striking workers to access unemployment insurance is working its way through the General Assembly, but Governor Lamont is already threatening to veto it.

Contact Governor Lamont NOW and ask him to stop siding with powerful employers and stand with working people!



SCAN ME

Does CSEA
have your
correct
contact
info on file?

Update your
info by
scanning
the QR code
below.



Threats to Federal Funding Shakes Up CT State Budget

The federal debate over tax cuts for billionaires and large corporations is far from an abstract national issue—it's one that will reverberate deeply in Connecticut. As elected officials in Washington, DC weigh options to extend tax breaks to the ultrawealthy that could force drastic spending cuts elsewhere, our state budget and the future of key public services hang in the balance.

Connecticut relies heavily on federal funding to sustain vital programs, particularly Medicaid and SNAP. Current proposals suggest that in order to extend tax cuts, Congress might slash funding to programs that support over 1.2 million Connecticut residents. Such changes could jeopardize healthcare for

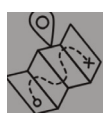
359,000 children, seniors, and other working families. One stark scenario envisions the federal matching rate for Medicaid plummeting, leaving Connecticut to shoulder an extra \$1.5 billion just to maintain existing coverage levels. This shortfall would only add to the mounting budget fights, forcing tough choices on a state already grappling with rising costs in food, housing, and healthcare.

These budgetary strains are not merely numbers on a ledger—they will directly affect negotiations in 2025 for state employees and critical legislative fights for CSEA members. With fewer dollars available, the state will find itself under pressure to cut back on wage increases, benefits, and other

essentials.

The potential federal cuts to Medicaid and other programs threaten the very fabric of Connecticut's social safety net. Reduced federal support for Medicaid would not only mean higher costs for the state—it could also lead to job losses in the healthcare sector and disrupt services across small towns and rural areas.

The path forward should build a robust middle class—not one that leaves our essential services gasping for breath while providing further tax breaks to our most wealthy US residents.



SOCIAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE (SAC)

Review the latest trip offerings on
our website or contact SAC at
CSEATrips@gmail.com



Scan me



Council 400 Chapter Meeting Dates
(Continued from Page 2)

Chapter 412 (Putnam area) *Spring Pot Luck Luncheon Please bring a dish to share! Tues., June 17th - 1:30pm Putnam Town Hall 200 School Street, Putnam Don Gladding (860) 933-9998	Chapter 415 (Manchester) *Spring Luncheon* June 23rd at 1pm Elks Lodge in Manchester 30 Bissell Street Buffet with Sandwich platters, salads, chips, cookies, and beverages Ch 415 Members: \$10 One guest: \$15 Checks:CSEA Chapter 415 RSVP by June 13th to: Bill Dorn 848 Center Street Manchester, CT 06040 Questions? Call Bill at (860) 840-1688	Chapter 417 (Plainville area) Wed., May 14th - 1pm Plainville Public Library 56 East Main St., Plainville Mark Kirschner (860) 882-2717	Colleen Richard (860) 202-4128
Chapter 414 (Torrington area) *Spring Luncheon after mtg* Monday, May 19th at 10am Five Point Extension Bldg 852 University Dr., Torrington Speaker: Bernadette Conway CSEA Retiree Coordinator RSVP by 5/12 Farm to Table Luncheon will be catered \$20 per person. Make checks: "CSEA Chapter 414" send to: Laura Marek 3511 Torrington Street Torrington, CT 06790 Kathryn Doan 860 324-8300	Chapter 416 (New London) Tuesday May 13th at 12pm Speaker: Bernadette Conway CSEA Retiree Coordinator Waterford Public Library 49 Rope Ferry Rd, Waterford John Knaff: 860-857-4244	Chapter 417 (Plainville area) *Summer Picnic* Wednesday, June 11th at 1pm Location: Paderewski Park (Covered Pavilion) 93 Cooke St., Plainville, CT 06062 Members: \$10.00 RSVP by: May 30, 2024 Special Offer: Receive a \$10 rebate when you attend the Chapter meeting on September 10, 2024! Please make checks payable to: CSEA Chapter 417 and mail to: Susan Cavanna 52 Parkside Drive Plainville, CT 06062	Chapter 421: (Daytona, FL) Tuesday, June 17th, 2025 Louie's Pizza House 1347 Beville Road Daytona Beach, FL 32119 Social begins at 11:30am Lunch at 12pm Meeting and Guest Speaker (to be determined) to follow Cost: A fixed fee of \$10.95 plus tax and tip per person All-you-can eat pizza buffet Includes Greek salad & garlic knots. Drinks and choices off the menu not included Please RSVP by June 10th via text or phone call to Ruth Finizio, President, at 860-680-1860 or via email to ruthfinizio@gmail.com
Chapter 415 (Manchester) Monday, May 19th - 1pm Speaker: Cigna Dental Rep Elks Lodge in Manchester 30 Bissell Street Stu Clark: (860) 205-0657	Chapter 416 (New London) *Spring Get Together* Tuesday June 10th 12pm Par 4 Restaurant at Shennecossett Golf Course 93 Plant St, Groton, CT 06340 John Knaff: 860-857-4244	Chapter 418 (Community College Retirees) Tues., May 20th - 10am Speaker: Aetna Representative 4C's Union Hall in Hartford 907 Wethersfield Ave Zoom ID: 7421833716 Passcode: 6KUURC	Chapter 441: Cape Cod, MA Wednesday, May 21 at 10am Speaker: Kevin Sullivan, CSEA Retiree Organizer S. Yarmouth Public Library 312 Old Main Street South Yarmouth, MA Richard Peterson (203) 507-1189

Pratt & Whitney Machinist on Strike!

On May 4th, 3,000 Pratt & Whitney machinists from IAM Local 1746 in East Hartford and Local 700 in Middletown voted overwhelmingly to reject management's last best offer and authorize a strike to begin at 12:01 AM on Monday, May 5. Management's last, best, and final offer provided inadequate wage increases, weakened retirement benefits, rising health insurance costs, and a lack of job security commitments. Join the members of IAM Locals 700 and 1746 as they maintain 24-hour picket lines to fight for a fair contract: MIDDLETOWN – 1 Location 1 Aircraft Rd (Google Maps)	EAST HARTFORD – 5 Locations Corner of Silver Lane & Roberts Street (Google Maps) Corner of Willow Street & Main Street (Google Maps) Corner of Brewer Street & Glenn Rd (Google Maps) Corner of Ensign Street & Main St (Google Maps) IAM Local Lodge 1476 Union Hall (Google Maps) Picket lines will be running 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Come out when you can, bring some food, and walk the line. We'll get additional information about how you can support the IAM members as soon as it becomes available.
---	---



@CSEA2001



@CSEA_CT



@cseaseiulocal2001



CSEA-CT.com

*In-Person Statewide
SEBAC Meeting*

NEGOTIATION TEAM &
STEWARDS MEETING TO
DISCUSS 2025 & BEYOND

Wednesday, May 14th
5:30-8:00PM
West Hartford Conference
Center - 50 South Main St.

Pizza available starting at 5:00PM

Attacks on Workers Heat Up in the Legislative Session

In a move that has raised concerns among state employees and advocates for public services, Connecticut House Republicans have introduced a \$54.4 billion two-year budget proposal that includes significant cuts affecting state workers and critical programs.

A central feature of the Republican budget plan is a proposed two-year wage freeze for our 45,000 state employees. House Minority Leader Vincent Candelora emphasized the need for fiscal restraint, stating that the budget aims to "trim" government expenses. But this trimming comes at the cost of undermining both the critical public services that we all rely on while also decimating the working class jobs that lift up whole families.

Further savings of \$67 million, representing a 5% cut across all state agencies, will impact the delivery of essential public services, from education to infrastructure maintenance,

raising concerns about the state's ability to meet the needs of its residents effectively. As we head towards a possible recession, investing in the public workforce and maintaining robust public services will be crucial for the state's recovery and growth.

This Republican budget is unserious and mimics the dangerous and unpopular federal cuts under the Trump administration and will disproportionately affect working families and essential services, potentially leading to long-term socioeconomic challenges.

As budget negotiations continue, it's imperative for state employees and the public to stay informed and engaged. The decisions made will have lasting impacts on the workforce and the quality of public services in Connecticut.

See for yourself the way that some legislators view working people:

- "Asking workers to forgo

raises one year wouldn't be too painful given the healthy increases they've received in recent years.

The rest of Connecticut hasn't seen those raises," House Republican Leader Vincent Candelora said.

- "The state has over-budgeted for staffing consistently in recent years. [Most of the Republican savings target involves keeping positions unfilled that are currently vacant.] Government has gotten kind of fat, and I think it's time to trim," she said State

Representative Tammy Nuccio.

- "As a moderate policymaker, I believe that:

1) We have to decide what CT's priorities are, fund those and fund them effectively.

2) We must freeze state employee pay raises for at least two years.

The rate of increases is unsustainable," said Representative Tina Courpas.



Republican Legislators announced their 2-year budget proposal, with state employee wage freezes at the forefront.

Sponsored Content

Farmers GroupSelectSM

AUTO AND HOME* INSURANCE THAT FIT YOUR UNIQUE NEEDS



CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 members, take advantage of special savings today!

Farmers GroupSelect offers the following discounts and benefits:

- Group discounts of up to 15%[†]
- Automatic payment discount
- Good driving rewards
- A loyalty discount for your years of service**
- Multi-vehicle savings
- 24/7 superior service

Call today for free quotes: 800-438-6381
Provide your discount code: BAR

[†]Home insurance has limited availability in MA and is not part of Farmers GroupSelect benefit offering in FL.

^{**}Not available in MA.

[†]Based on the average nationwide discount available in 2020 through the Farmers GroupSelectSM program for eligible individuals. In some instances discount is higher.

Advertisement produced on behalf of the following specific insurers and seeking to obtain business for insurance underwritten by Farmers Property and Casualty Insurance (a MN licensee) and certain of its affiliates: Economy Fire & Casualty Company, Economy Premier Assurance Company, Economy Preferred Insurance Company, Farmers Casualty Insurance Company (a MN licensee), Farmers Direct Property and Casualty Insurance Company, Farmers Group Property and Casualty Insurance Company, or Farmers Lloyds Insurance Company of Texas, all with administrative home offices in Warwick, RI. Coverage, rates, discounts, and policy features vary by state and product and are available in most states to those who qualify. 3875242.1 © 2021 Farmers Insurance®.

