



CSEA NEWS

The Voice of Connecticut's Public Service Employees & Retirees

November, 2025

CSEA SEIU Local 2001

VOL. 58, NO. 11

\$2B in State Surplus

The Time to Invest is Now

As the federal government shutdown reaches the longest in US history and program cuts dominate the headlines, it's falling to Connecticut to decide whether we'll let the bottom 80% of our state bear the brunt — or step up and balance the

playing field. Governor Lamont recently announced a \$500 million contingency fund to help soften the blow, but it's not nearly enough. Connecticut currently sits on over \$2 billion in surplus revenue from this year alone, even after reserves were filled up to the legal maximum and all of our additional

long-term debt payments were made. Those excess dollars can — and should — be used to protect residents and the public services we all rely on in the immediate present.

For 8 years, fiscal roadblocks have kept Connecticut from investing in the people who make this state work. These self-imposed restrictions have diverted billions into excess debt pay-

downs and bondholder accounts while schools, hospitals, and social services face staffing shortages and funding cuts. Now, with federal support vanishing, that approach isn't just unfair — it's dangerous. You don't make extra mortgage payments on a house with a dilapidated roof.

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2025 CT AFL-CIO Convention

Union leaders from across the state gathered this week for the Connecticut AFL-CIO's biennial convention, a powerful reminder of the solidarity and shared purpose driving the labor movement forward. Delegates re-elected Ed Hawthorne as President and Shellye Davis as Executive Vice President

The convention was also a moment to reflect on the legacy of those who built the foundation we stand on today, including Ed Daly, a late CSEA leader who served not only as Council 400 President but also as CSEA President. Daly's leadership left a lasting mark on our union and the broader labor movement—his

tireless advocacy, and unwavering belief in solidarity continue to inspire generations of workers.

As the movement faces new challenges, the spirit of leaders like Ed Daly remind us that when workers stand together, we can achieve lasting change for all.

Check out a few photos from the day on Page 7.

SJM Arbitration Update

Year 1 Award Anticipated in December

CSEA's seven state bargaining units are united in our ongoing demand for fair and honorable contracts. The work and progress made at one table, directly impacts the 34 other tables negotiating a contract right now, allowing workers the opportunity once again to leverage individual power into a strong coordinated movement.

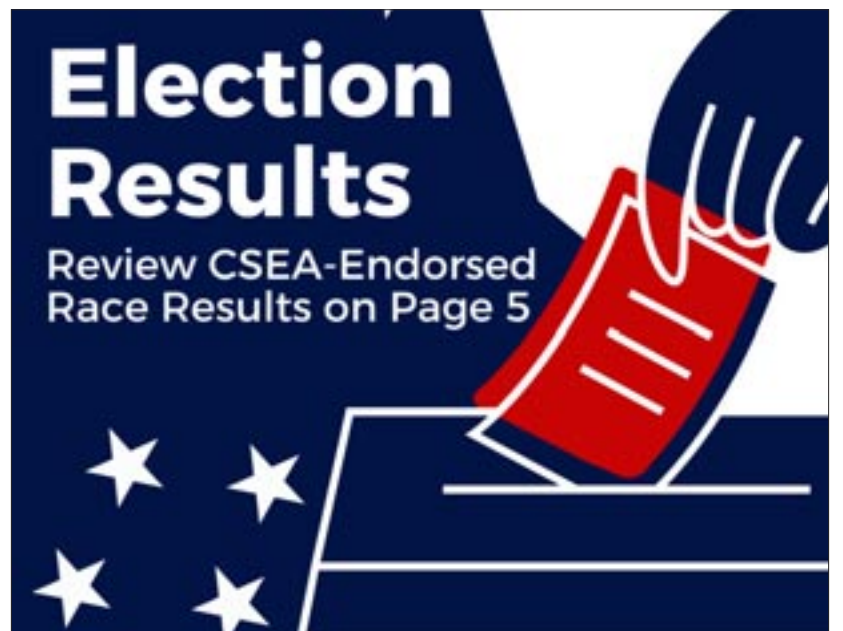
Having not made significant progress in negotiations, our Supervising Judicial Marshals (SJM) bargaining unit—together with our fellow Judicial unions, the Judicial Professionals Employees (JPE) Union, AFT Local 4200-B,

and IBPO Local 731—made the strategic decision to press the State into arbitration on just the first-year (2025–2026) core economics. Our goal was clear: to win the same 2.5% General Wage Increase (GWI) plus step that was agreed to by the Connecticut State Police Union. The Judicial Branch acted honorably by working with us to schedule arbitration quickly and focus on this first year.

On day 1 of that arbitration, we learned that we will be awarded the retroactive 2.5% General Wage Increase (GWI) for the current 2025-2026 fiscal year that we sought. This also includes a step increase and top-step lump sum payments where applicable.

The formal award from the arbitrator won't be issued until December 3, which means that the award

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Visit our union's website at: [CSEA-CT.com](https://www.CSEA-CT.com)

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CSEA, 760 CAPITOL AVE., HARTFORD, CT 06106

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Meetings And News

The November Delegates Meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting on Thursday November 20th at 10am at the CSEA Union Hall and via Zoom Chapter 401 (Hartford area) *Holiday Luncheon* Thurs, Dec. 4th at 11:30am The Hartford Armory 360 Broad St., Hartford Featuring live music from: Linda Ransom&Keith Cooper Cost is \$35/member \$40/guest Buffet to include Caesar Salad Roast Beef, Chicken, Coconut Shrimp, Penne Pasta, Veggies, Rolls and butter, dessert, tea, Coffee, soda, cash bar avail. RSVP by November 24th Checks should be made to: “CSEA Chapter 401” sent to: Sharon D. Mounds 53-C Brookwood Drive Rocky Hill, CT 06067 Questions? Call Sharon at: (860)529-9885 leave msg. Chapter 402 (Danbury area) Wed., November 12th - 10am Speaker: Daniel O. Tully Elder-law Attorney United Methodist Church 5 Clapboard Ridge Road Danbury, CT Linda Albanese:860 354-6965 *Holiday Luncheon* December 10, 2025 Chuck’s Steakhouse 20 Segar St Danbury, CT 12 noon to 2pm \$25 per member/guest Choose: Chop Steak, Lemon Chicken, or Baked Alaskan Cod Includes: Salad Bar, Dessert, coffee and tea RSVP Date: December 5th Send Checks made to: “CSEA CHAPTER 402”to: Krista L Judson 475 Berkshire Rd. Southbury, CT 06488 Krista Judson (203) 231-4176 Chapter 403 (Norwich area) Tues., Nov. 18th - 1:30pm Guest Speaker: Cigna Dental Representative, Angie Nelson Rose City Senior Center	8 Mahan Drive, Norwich Carol Burgess:860 303-7267 Chapter 403 (Norwich area) *Holiday Luncheon* Tuesday, December 16, 2025 Mr. Z's Restaurant and Lounge 788 Norwich Rd., Plainfield (Exit 28 off 395 N, turn left) Cash Bar, soft drinks included Buffet with: House Salad, Rolls and Butter, Penne Pasta and Meatballs, Chicken marsala and Penne Pasta, Shrimp Scampi with Penne. There will be a collection for Toys for Tots, if interested bring an unwrapped toy. Price is \$35 per person Reservations go to: Richard Kerrigan 83 Case Street Norwich, CT 06360 RSVP by: December 1st No refunds will be made after December 1st. Chapter 404 (Waterbury area) Tues. November 11th - 10am Speaker: Dr. Opoku; MD Trinity Orthodox Church 937 Chase Pkwy, Waterbury Chapter 405 (New Haven) Thurs. Nov. 13th - 10:30am Speaker: Kevin Sullivan CSEA Retiree Organizer Hamden Government Center Building, 3rd Floor 2750 Dixwell Ave., Hamden Sue Pierson (203) 376-7207 Chapter 405 (New Haven) Thursday December 11, 2025 12 noon - 3:00pm Lorenzo’s Restaurant 39 Elm St., West Haven, CT Luncheon will be buffet style including the following: Stuffed breads and pasta, Stuffed mushrooms-appetizer Entrées: Chicken marsala, Pork roast, Eggplant Parmesan with tossed salad, pasta, dessert, coffee, tea and soda Cost: Member: \$15, Spouse: \$20, Guest: \$25 RSVP by 12/5 Limited to 60 Mail to: CSEA Chapter 405 C/O Bill Morico 470 Ellsworth Avenue New Haven, CT 06511 For questions, contact Sue Pierson @ (203) 376-7207.	Chapter 406 (Middletown) Tues. November 18 - 12:30pm Speaker: State Senator Matt Lesser (9th District) American Legion Post 75 58 Bernie O’Rourke Dr. Middletown, CT President Bob Westindorf: (860) 343-0683 Chapter 406 (Middletown) *Holiday Luncheon* The Athenian Diner December 2nd at 11am 864 Washington St., Middletown, CT RSVP by November 18 Order from menu and attend January meeting for \$10 rebate! There will be CASH door prizes! Call or email Joe Carta: (860) 346-6213 or joe_carta@hotmail.com Chapter 407 (Bridgeport area) Wed., November 19th - 1pm National Catholic Church 1300 Stratford Rd., Stratford Zoom ID: 872 4952 3823 Passcode: 000891 Liz Anderson (203) 676-0659 Chapter 407 (Bridgeport area) Dec 10th 12:30pm at the Bistro in Stratford Ken Graham Chapter 408 (Windham Area) Wednesday, Nov. 12th, 1pm Speaker: Aetna Representative Mansfield Senior Center 303 Maple Rd., Storrs Doug Racicot (860) 234-2537 Chapter 408 (Windham Area) *Holiday Luncheon* Wednesday, December 3rd Georgina’s Italian Restaurant Social hour: 11:30am with cheese & crackers, fresh fruit & vegetables with dip Lunch options: Chicken Parmigiana, Sliced Sirloin w/ mushroom brown sauce, Baked Stuffed Sole. Served with salad, roasted potatoes, green bean almondine, soft drinks and dessert included Cash bar available \$30 for Chapter 408 members \$40 for guests. RSVP by November 22. Mail payment: Christine Ashe 141 Love Lane, Coventry,	CT 06238. Questions? Call Christine at (860) 742-0667 Chapter 409 (Retired State University Professors) Friday, November 21st - 10am CSEA Union Hall & Zoom 760 Capitol Ave., Hartford Zoom ID: 868 8922 7158 Dave Walsh (860) 684-4773 Chapter 410 (Windsor area) Monday, Nov. 10th - 1pm Speaker: Bernadette Conway CSEA Retiree Coordinator Kent Memorial Library 50 N Main St, Suffield Amelia Smith 860 687-1848 Chapter 411 (Rocky Hill area) Subby Puglisi (860) 529-8336 Chapter 412 (Putnam area) Tues., Nov. 18th - 1:30pm Speaker: Kevin Sullivan CSEA Retiree Organizer 200 School Street, Putnam Don Gladding (860) 933-9998 Chapter 414 (Torrington area) Monday, Nov. 17th at 10am Speaker: Cigna Dental Rep. Five Point Extension Bldg 852 University Dr., Torrington Kathryn Doan 860 324-8300 Chapter 414 (Torrington) The Venetian Restaurant December 15th - 11am 52 East Main St., \$25 members & guests Choice of chicken milanese, lemon filet of sole, or fresh homemade manicotti RSVP by Dec. 10th by calling: Laura Merek (860) 305-4529 Chapter 415 (Manchester) Monday, Nov. 24th - 1pm Speaker: Dan Tully Elder-law Attorney Elks Lodge in Manchester 30 Bissell Street Stu Clark: (860) 205-0657 Chapter 415 (Manchester) Monday, December 15, 2025 Market Grille, 110 Buckland Hills Drive, Manchester Social: Noon, Lunch 1pm \$30 per Ch415 Member and \$40 for one guest Starter: Beet & Goat Cheese Salad or NE Clam Chowder Entrée Selection: Salmon, Fish & Chips, Chicken Piccata, Eggplant Parmesan, or Mediterranean Grain	Bowl with Chicken or Shrimp Dessert: Chocolate Chip Cookies or Sorbet & Berries with Coffee or herbal tea RSVP by December 1, 2025 Space is limited! Refunds for cancellations will be extended to December 11th Mail your check, payable to: “CSEA Retiree Chapter 415” Send to: William Dorn, 848 Center Street, Manchester, CT 06040 Bill Dorn (860) 840-1688 or Dave Olandt (860)268-4614 Chapter 416 (New London) Monday, Nov. 10th at 12pm Guest: Lonnie Braxton, Esq. Attorney & CSEA Member Groton Public Library 52 Newtown Rd., Groton John Knaff: 860-857-4244 Chapter 416 (New London) Langley Restaurant at Great Neck Country Club 28 Lamphere Rd, Waterford Menu: Salad station, Top Sirloin, Chicken Piccata, Vodka Rigatoni, Roasted Potatoes, Grilled Vegetables, Dessert and Soft Drink incl. RSVP by December 9th Please send checks to: Mr. John A. Knaff 191 Rogers Road Groton, CT 06340 Questions? Call or email: (860) 857-4244 knaff@gmail.com Chapter 417 (Plainville area) Wed., November 12th - 1pm Speaker: Bernadette Conway CSEA Retiree Coordinator Plainville Public Library 56 East Main St., Plainville President Mark Kirschner (860) 882-2717 Chapter 418 (Community College Retirees) Tues., November 11th - 10am Speaker: Cigna Dental Rep 4C’s Union Hall in Hartford 907 Wethersfield Ave Zoom ID: 7421833716 Passcode: 6KUURC President Colleen Richard (860) 202-4128
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Fall in Love
With Our Auto Rates

New Car Rate
4.99% APR*

Used Car Rate
5.49% APR

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

Quick Tip: Apply for our Visa Platinum Rewards Credit Card to earn points on your purchases. Call or visit any of our locations for more information.

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

QUICK TIP: Apply for our Visa Platinum Rewards Credit Card to earn points on your purchases. Call or visit any of our locations for more information.

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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 Thanksgiving
Thursday, November 27, 2025**

Dividend Rates - Third 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 family, friends and loved ones.

Ardolino, Richard, Protective Services

Aronson,Arnold, Judicial

Barbieri, Frank, State Police

Bourey, Bernice, Service/Maintenance

Busque, Lorraine , Confidential Employee

Cameron, John, Correctional Supervisor

Campbell, Nancy, Confidential Employee

Clee, George, Engineer, Scien, Tech

Despins,Alan, Social And Human Services

Dube, Barbara, Healthcare

Dzwonkowski, Richard, Engineer, Scien, Tech

Gaines, James, Social And Human Services

Gentile, June, Judicial

Hutchinson, Jeffrey, Service/Maintenance

Iacoi,Vincent, Judicial

Iovene, Patricia, Confidential Employee

Izzo, Joseph, Judicial

Jones, Clifford, Social And Human Services

Lehman, Eugene, Service/Maintenance

Lopes, Michelle, Social And Human Services

Maehlenbrock, Donald, Judicial

Massey, Joanne, Judicial

Melvin, Hulda, Social And Human Services

Merrill, David, State University Faculty

Mitchell-Ager, Frances, Social And Human Services

Nelson, Roger, Protective Services

Patrick, Lorraine, Uconn - Non-Faculty

Patterson, Claston, Healthcare

Paulhus, Nancy, Healthcare

Polite, Nathan, Protective Services

Porter, Nancy, Healthcare

Rand,Allen, Service/Maintenance

Saucier, Beatrice, Service/Maintenance

Shapiro, Lester, Engineer, Scien, Tech

Taylor, Donald, State Police

Taylor, Phillip, Spousal Member

Thompson, Bonnie, Judicial

Waitkus, Robert, State Police

Wallace, Marysue, Service/Maintenance

Walsh, Joseph, Service/Maintenance

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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.

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Ongoing Fight for Fair & Honorable State Contracts

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won't be taken up by the Connecticut General Assembly until their next regular session which begins in February of 2026. In the meantime, the SJM Council will

focus on negotiations for years 2, 3, and 4 of the contract.

This award will be helpful to our six other state units who have already declared impasse or are still pushing for progress at

the table. Some may soon follow toward impasse and arbitration as progress remains slow. We are coordinating our strategies across units to build maximum leverage, and there will soon be opportuni-

ties for all members to make their voices heard directly to the Governor. Keep an eye on your email for updates and actions.



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Call for Donations: Thanks For Giving Drive

The holidays can be a difficult time for many, and the Good Works Committee has a tradition for providing for those in need at Thanksgiving for decades. Please consider making a donation to this worthy cause, it is never too early to be thinking about helping members in need during the holidays.

Checks can be made out to CSEA Good Works and sent to CSEA, 760 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT 06106, Attention: Good Works.
Thank you for your generosity.



Connecticut has \$2 Billion in Surplus to Spend. Working Families Need Relief. The Time is Now.

THE FEDERAL CUTS ARE HERE.



Insurance premiums
\$9,090
for a 55 y.o. earning \$63k per year getting coverage on the ACA marketplace

FOOD OFF THE TABLE FOR
237,000
children, veterans & families
DUE TO SNAP CUTS



14,000
JOBS LOST
due to cuts to Medicaid & SNAP alone



**186,580**
lose access to health care due to cuts to Medicaid (HUSKY)

WHAT CAN WE DO?
Connecticut has the money now to invest in our communities and put back into the pockets of the working class.

\$2 Billion in surplus revenue

→

CREATE AN EMERGENCY FUND

For years, Connecticut has prioritized the interests of bondholders, hedge funds, and credit rating agencies, while everyone else is told to wait. We can't afford to wait anymore. A \$2B Emergency Fund will give Connecticut the resources to protect residents.

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The upcoming special session gives lawmakers a chance to do what Washington won't: act decisively to protect working families. They must dedicate the \$2 billion surplus to an Emergency Fund — a smart, immediate investment that would shield residents from cuts to SNAP, Medicaid, childcare, and other essential programs. There are about 75 days between Special Session and General Session, we need enough put aside

now so that we aren't stuck in the same position we've been in this month as elected officials scramble to react to SNAP cuts.
As the special session convenes, CSEA will continue pressing legislators to invest in the people who serve, feed, teach, and care for our communities every day. Because when federal funding disappears, it's working people who hold the line — and they deserve a state ready to stand with them.

2025 Municipal Election Results

82 of 87 Endorsed Candidates Win

CSEA-endorsed candidates triumphed across Connecticut on November 4th, with all but five of our endorsed candidates cruising to victories, including six CSEA members: Swapna Das, Jan Lawrence, Sarah Jones, Warren Packer, John McNamara and Lois Dupointe. This resounding success reinforces what we know: Connecticut stands as a pro-worker, pro-union state.

Municipal elections matter. The decisions made by local leaders—on school budgets, staffing, public

safety, and essential services—shape our daily lives far more than most people realize. Politics start local, and electing leaders who understand and respect the value of public service sets the foundation for progress at every level of government.

As a reminder, our endorsement process is rigorous and transparent. It begins with candidates reaching out to CSEA for consideration. Only those who actively request endorsement move forward to receive an extensive questionnaire.

Upon submission, candidates participate in interviews conducted collaboratively with our SEIU siblings—SEIU 1199, SEIU 32BJ, 4Cs, and CEUI/MEUI. This nonpartisan process led us to endorse candidates from both major parties this year. The CSEA Legislative Action Committee (LAC) reviews each interview and makes recommendations, which are then brought to the CSEA Executive Council for final approval.

Any CSEA member can join the LAC and be part of this influential work. If you want to take a more active role in shaping the future of our state and supporting candidates who stand with labor, contact our Political Director, Danny Medress, at dmedress@csea760.com. Below you can review the election results for all of our CSEA-endorsed candidates.

Candidate First Name	Candidate Last Name	Office Sought	Municipality	Result
Jacquelyn	Daniels	Board of Aldermen - 1st Ward	Ansonia	Win
Adam	Prestin	Board of Aldermen - 3rd Ward	Ansonia	Win
Sean	Rallis	Board of Aldermen - 3rd Ward	Ansonia	Win
Patricia	DaSilva	Board of Aldermen - 5th Ward	Ansonia	Win
Daniel	Stahl	Board of Aldermen - 6th Ward	Ansonia	Win
Lisa	Glazer	Board of Aldermen - 7th Ward	Ansonia	Win
Frank	Tyszka	Mayor	Ansonia	Win
Robert	Traber	Board of Education	Bridgeport	Win
Joseph	Sokolovic	Board of Education	Bridgeport	Win
Nicole	Nelson	City Council - 130th District	Bridgeport	Win
Jennifer	Tagariello	City Council - District 2	Bristol	Loss
Mark	Dickau	City Council - District 3	Bristol	Win
Ellen	Zoppo-Sassu	Mayor	Bristol	Win
A. Fiona	Pearson	Town Council - At-Large	Cheshire	Win
Eric Arthur	Jackson	Board of Assessment Appeals	Colchester	Win
Augusta	Gilberti	Board of Education	Colchester	Win
Nancy	Nelson	Board of Education	Colchester	Win
Sean	Gillespie	Board of Finance	Colchester	Win
Krista	Kardys	Board of Finance	Colchester	Win
Jillian	Vinci	Board of Finance	Colchester	Win
Rosemary	Coyle	Board of Selectmen	Colchester	Win
Denise	Turner	Board of Selectmen	Colchester	Win
Bernie	Dennler	First Selectman	Colchester	Win
David	Koji	Treasurer	Colchester	Win
Megan	Boshuyzen	Board of Education	Coventry	Win
Lisa	Thomas	Town Council	Coventry	Win
Roberto	Alves	Mayor	Danbury	Win
Joelyn	Leon	Town Council	East Hampton	Win
Angie	Parkinson	Town Council	East Hartford	Win
Swapna	Das	Constable	Farmington	Win
Maurine	Crouch	Legislative Council - At-Large	Hamden	Win
Douglas	Foley	Legislative Council - At-Large	Hamden	Win
Shontá	Browdy	Board of Education	Hartford	Win
Jan	Lawrence	Board of Selectmen	Hebron	Win
Tiffany	Thiele	Board of Selectmen	Hebron	Win
Jessee	Muñiz-Poland	Board of Directors	Manchester	Win
Pamela	Floyd- Cranford	Board of Directors	Manchester	Win
Dennis	Schain	Board of Directors	Manchester	Win
Sarah	Jones	Board of Directors	Manchester	Win
Jerald	Lentini	Board of Directors	Manchester	Win
Alexandra	Lamb	Board of Education	Manchester	Win
Warren	Packer	Constable	Manchester	Win
Jay	Moran	Mayor	Manchester	Win
Carlita	Cotton	Town Council	Mansfield	Win
Stephany	Morales- Valentin	Board of Education	Meriden	Win

Candidate First Name	Candidate Last Name	Office Sought	Municipality	Result
Yvette	Cortez	City Council - Area 1	Meriden	Win
Diadette	Hernandez	City Council - Area 2	Meriden	Win
John	Hauselt	City Council - Area 3	Meriden	Win
Sarah	Taylor	City Council - Area 4	Meriden	Win
Yadira	Maldonado	Common Council - Ward 2	New Britain	Win
Candyce	Scott	Common Council - Ward 3	New Britain	Win
John	McNamara	Common Council - Ward 4	New Britain	Win
Bobby	Sanchez	Mayor	New Britain	Win
Mildred	Melendez	Board of Alders - Ward 13	New Haven	Win
Amanda	Martinelli	Board of Alders - Ward 8	New Haven	Win
Jefferey	Hart	Board of Education	New London	Win
Amy	Perrotti	Board of Education	Newington	Win
Jessica	Weaver	Board of Education	Newington	Win
Meri	Beatrice	Board of Education	Newington	Win
Sam	Sharma	Board of Education	Newington	Win
Shaun	Holloran	Board of Education	Newington	Win
Frank	DeMaio	Fire Commissioner	Newington	Win
Jon	Trister	Mayor	Newington	Win
A.J.	Tiniakos	Town Council	Newington	Win
Hilda	Nieves	Town Council	Newington	Win
Kathy	Gonzalez	Town Council	Newington	Win
Kim	Radda	Town Council	Newington	Win
Matt	Plourd	Town Council	Newington	Win
Lois	Dupointe	Police Commission and Board of Assessment and Appeals	Plainfield	Loss/Win
Melissa	Sweeney	Board of Education	Plainville	Win
Brittany	Bouchard	Board of Education	Plainville	Win
Benjamin	Gediman	Town Council	Plainville	Win
Mike	Duncan	Board of Aldermen - Ward 3	Shelton	Win
Cathy	Osten	First Selectman	Sprague	Loss
Brittany	Lawrence	Board of Represenatives - District 10	Stamford	Loss
Jeremy	Geller	Mayor	Vernon	Loss
Bernard	Sykes	Town Council	Vernon	Win
Laurie	Abernathy	Town Council	Vernon	Win
Maryann	Levesque	Town Council	Vernon	Win
Phyllis	Winkler	Town Council	Vernon	Win
Kenneth	Curran	Board of Aldermen - District 1	Waterbury	Win
Kay	Muñoz	Board of Education	Waterbury	Win
Joshua	Steele Kelly	Board of Finance	Waterford	Loss
Ursula	Moreshead	Representative Town Meeting - First District 2	Waterford	Win
Narciss	Green	Representative Town Meeting - First District 3	Waterford	Win
Becky	Jacobsen	Board of Education	Windsor	Win
Ojala	Naeem	Town Council	Windsor	Win

UConn Health & Aetna Medicare Letter Explained

You may have received a recent letter from UConn Health or Aetna regarding UConn Health’s participation in Aetna’s Medicare Advantage network. We know the language in these notices can be confusing and may have caused unnecessary concern — so we want to provide some clarity.

Here’s what you need to know:

- These letters are required by federal Medicare rules whenever a provider’s contract is within 60 days of expiring — even if negotiations are ongoing and even if no disruption is expected.
- The language in the letters is legally mandated and cannot include important context about state retiree coverage.

-For State of Retirees covered under the State of CT Medicare Plan contracted by Aetna, and not the normal Aetna Medicare plans, this situation is not expected to affect your access to care or your benefits.

Bottom line: You do not need to make any changes to your healthcare providers or coverage. We are confident this will be resolved without any interruption to your care.

The Comptroller’s Office will be sending official clarification soon, confirming that your benefits are not impacted. We will share additional updates if needed.

Public Service Loan Forgiveness is a Promise It Must Be Kept

Public Service Loan Forgiveness is not a handout — it’s a promise made to the public workers who keep our state running — and has a direct impact on the services these workers provide to our communities. Nurses and doctors, teachers and researchers, public safety officers and caretakers, engineers and social workers — all of them chose service over higher private-sector salaries with the understanding that after ten years of public service, their federal student loans would be forgiven.

Now the federal administration is attacking the once bipartisan PSLF promise, threatening the benefit for all of Connecticut’s public sector workers. Public sector workers are the people who keep our streets safe and our children fed and our

hospitals running. And just as private sector workers have been let down by broken promises — from the weakening of labor protections to the near-dismantling of the National Labor Relations Board — public sector workers are now facing the same playbook: make a promise, benefit from their labor, then pull the rug out from under them.

Public service workers face uncertainty, ridicule, lower pay and hard work every day. PSLF is a small way to repay them for their sacrifice. Failing to uphold this promise doesn’t just hurt workers, it undermines every classroom, clinic, and community that depends on these individuals and services in their everyday lives.

The Hunger Crisis SNAP Cuts Leaving Tens of Millions Hungry

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is one of the most effective anti-poverty programs in America, offering targeted assistance to working families, children, seniors, and people with disabilities. In Connecticut, it’s not an abstract policy — it’s a lifeline for hundreds of thousands of our neighbors.

Here’s a quick SNAP-shot (as of November 2025):

- One out of every five children in Connecticut relies on SNAP
- About 10.6 % of Connecticut’s population, or roughly 391,200 people, received SNAP benefits
- Nearly half of all SNAP recipients work full- or part-time jobs, often in low-wage sectors like retail, food service, and home care.
- Over 9,000 veterans in Connecticut rely on SNAP
- The annual cost of SNAP is far less than the

taxes evaded by the top 1 % of Americans each year — meaning hunger could be virtually eliminated if the wealthiest paid what they owed.

As the federal government shutdown continues, the Trump Administration has refused to use its authority to fund SNAP and WIC through contingency reserves, the same funds used in past crises to prevent hunger, despite court rulings. Instead, the USDA ran out of funds to pay benefits for roughly 42 million people starting November 1.

This isn’t just reckless — it’s cruel. Parents working full-time could soon be standing in food bank lines. Seniors on fixed incomes might have to choose between groceries and medication. Children — many already facing food insecurity — risk going hungry not because resources

aren’t available, but because of political gamesmanship.

Some of our union members rely on SNAP, and many of the people our members serve in their jobs rely on SNAP. This program touches all of us. When politicians target SNAP, they aren’t just targeting “someone else.” They’re targeting one out of ten of our neighbors, family and friends. Hunger is a labor issue. Food security is a public service issue. Ensuring that every family in Connecticut has enough to eat is a fight worth having.

Because no child, no senior, and no worker should go hungry while the rich get richer.

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Council 400 President's Corner: Mike O'Brien

PLAN AHEAD

I think we all have seen the above title on a bumper sticker or a bulletin board somewhere. The writer ran out of room before he ran out of letters. A lack of proper planning. Another way of saying it is measure twice, cut once.

I attended Comptroller Scanlon's Forum, "The Future of Retirement: Policy, Planning, Protection" at Quinnipiac University back in September. Council 400 was well represented with several officers and member activists in attendance. Also, our own Bette Marafino was a member of one of the discussion panels, on Social Security of course.

One thing I learned is that only about 50% of private sector workers even have access to a defined contribution plan such as a 401k. The rest would have to rely on private savings programs such as an IRA. That's if they even have the ability to put money aside for retirement.

Of course, I was there to hear what the thoughts are on the future of Social Security. If you are one of our members who took the Council

400 quiz on retirement security at a chapter meeting, then you know the answer to this question: Based on the latest Congressional Budget Office estimate, Social Security benefits will need to be cut by 21% in what year? The answer is 2033. Not all that far off but ask yourself what comes before that? Presidential election years of 2028 and 2032. One of the speakers on the Social Security panel posited that nothing will be done to fix Social Security until the 2032 election year when it would be an impending crisis.

My question is why wait until then? Hence the title of this column. Why not do something now? Why wait for a crisis? I have said many times that I don't understand why the appropriate fix is not in for Social Security already. It is not a Democratic or Republican or even a MAGA issue. It's an American worker issue.

Why do I say crisis? A 21% cut in Social Security benefits may not be a crisis for some but it will be for many families. Also think of it beyond the individual benefit issue. Approximately \$16.4 B in Social Security

benefits come into Connecticut in a year. Think of the impact of the loss of 21% of this (\$3.4B) on the state as a whole and businesses in particular if that amount is no longer able to be spent into our economy. Then multiply that by all 50 states.

I was happy to hear the AARP representative state that cuts to Social Security benefits don't have to be on the table. I know that Congressman Larson agrees with that and has been pushing legislation for years that fixes Social Security for decades to come, actually proposes increased benefits and in order to pay for it, raises the cap on premiums paid so that the people who can most afford it are paying their fair share.

Now I understand brinkmanship and working under a deadline. When writing this column, I do most of it the day or so before it is due. However, my work on a column won't affect the lives of millions of Americans. So I am calling on the leadership of both parties in Congress to come together and get something done that fixes Social Security without cutting much needed

benefits.

As I am finishing this up, it is a rainy Monday and Columbus Day holiday. Good thing it's raining or I might be working on this tomorrow night since it is due on Wednesday!

Since this column will be in the November edition of the CSEA News, I want to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving. Remember we all do have a lot to be thankful for.



Social Activities Committee: Yankees v. Dodgers Game

Due to the overwhelming demand, tickets to the Yankees vs Dodgers game in July 2026 have been sold out, but **a new offer is now available!**

Package details - \$469/pp which includes roundtrip transportation, drop off and pickup close to the entry gate, great food made to order, soft chairs, great view of the field, AC room. Soft drinks are included. Cash bar. Deposit must be made by Jan 1, 2026.

Could this be an early Christmas gift for you or a loved one? If you are interested in attending contact Tina Franco at (203) 721-4382.



(Left): The 2025 CT AFL-CIO Convention took place on Thursday November 6th- Friday, November 7th where President Ed Haworth and Vice President Shellye Davis were re-elected for a second term.

We would like to remember Lester Shapiro, Korean War veteran, who passed away in September at the age of 97. Lester was a long time member of Chapter 416 of Council 400. Lester served as delegate for his chapter to Council 400 and was a very active member of the Council 400 Legislative Action Committee for many years. He loved being a part of the union and never missed an opportunity to participate in actions that would improve the lives of others. He always had a smile on his face and something nice to say to everyone that knew him.



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
LESTER SHAPIRO

JANUARY 3, 1928 -
SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

Are We a K-Shaped Economy?

The Rich Get Richer While the Rest of Us Struggle

Economic commentators have been describing today’s economy as K-shaped — with one arm rising and the other falling, indicative of a widening wealth gap. Over the past several years, policies have cushioned stock market-heavy households, those whose portfolios outsize some people’s entire lifetime earnings. Meanwhile, the majority of Americans have been tightening our belts, stretching groceries one more day just to make it through the month.

In a K-shaped economy, prosperity doesn’t lift everyone — it lifts the few. Some sectors and income brackets thrive while the rest struggle to keep pace. The top 10% of earners now account for 50% of consumer spending, and only the top 20% have seen personal spending growth exceed inflation in recent years. In other words, if you’re in the bottom 80%, you’re likely spending more just to buy the same goods as

before.

The gap isn’t limited to spending — it’s baked into savings, too. The top 20% of income households now hold over two-thirds of all household wealth. These are the families who benefit most from rising stock markets and real estate prices, while millions of working and middle-class Americans are priced out of homeownership, weighed down by debt, and forced to rely on savings that can evaporate with one unexpected bill.

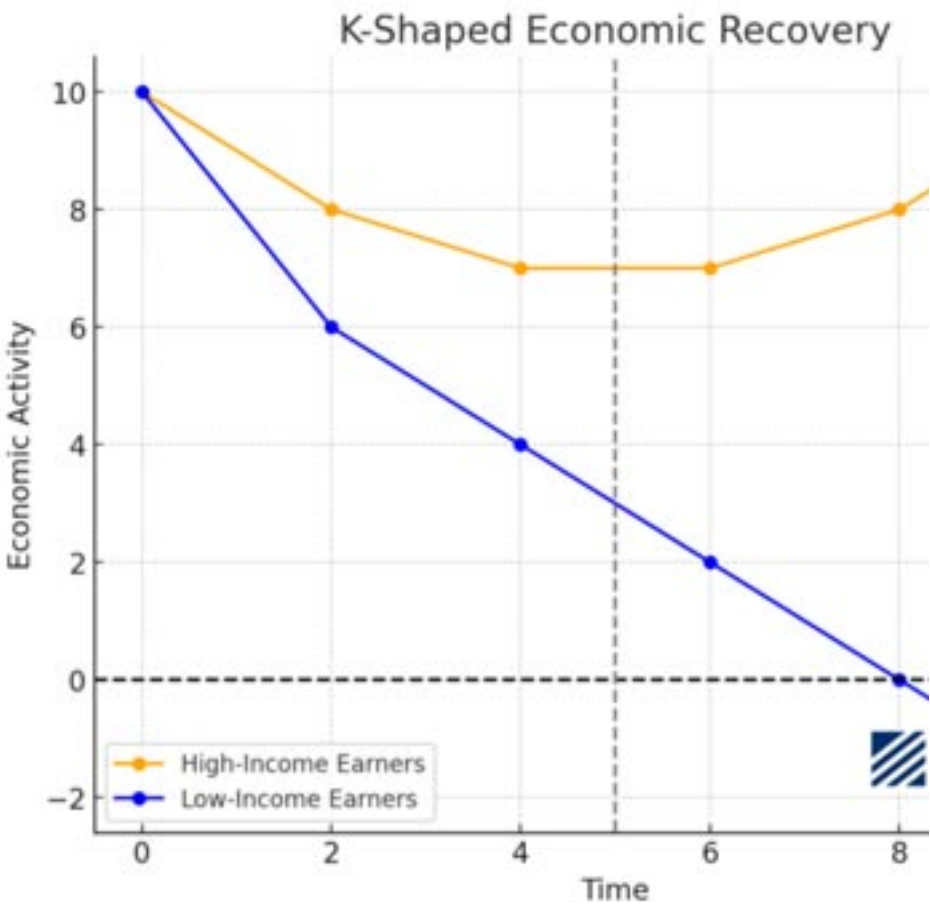
Here in Connecticut, this dynamic is nothing new. We’ve long talked about the reality of two Connecticuts: one with fully staffed schools, smooth roads, and well-funded public programs — and another where communities fight for scraps. When wealth and consumption are concentrated at the top, public revenue dries up, infrastructure crumbles, and community stability becomes harder to sustain.

But this doesn’t have to be

our story. We can enact progressive tax policies that ensure the ultra-wealthy — those reaping record profits and federal tax cuts — contribute their fair share. By reclaiming those lost tax dollars, we can reinvest in the things that make our com-

munities strong: quality public education, safe roads, reliable services, and the public workforce that keeps it all running.

Because the economy should work for everyone — not just those at the top of the “K.”



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