

The Hidden State Surplus: *The Story Continues*

If you've been following our updates this summer, you know that Connecticut's revenue picture has been shifting almost by the week, to the tune of hundreds of millions of taxpayer's dollars. Now, the Lamont Administration has announced the biggest forecast bump of the calendar year—another major wave of unbudgeted money showing up after the budget was finalized.

This newest projection brings the total to nearly \$1.5 billion in unexpected revenue this year alone. Add in the billions already locked away by Connecticut's restrictive "fiscal guardrails," and we're staring at more than \$2.5 billion dollars sitting on the sidelines. And this is all before we address our upside down tax structure that is allowing the ultrawealthy to hoard billions of dollars at the top.

Another important piece of the puzzle is the \$600 million that must be allocated by November 1st. This funding exists because lawmakers and the Governor agreed to a

volatility adjustment during the last session. If the legislature fails to act in a special session before that deadline, the money won't reach the communities that need it—it will be automatically diverted to paying down legacy pension debt, exactly where it was headed before the adjustment was passed.

For CSEA members, the stakes couldn't be clearer. We live with the consequences of understaffed agencies, underfunded schools, and unmet community needs every day. We're told "there's no money" for fair contracts, competitive wages, or stronger public services, even as hundreds of millions sit idle. We cannot allow November 1st to come and go without directing this \$600 million toward the priorities it was meant to address.

Think about what these "extra" funds could mean:

- Affordable health-care for childcare providers.
- Living wages and retirement security for paraeducators.
- Fair contracts

that help state employees keep up with the cost of living.

- Stable funding for our public colleges so students aren't paying more for less.

- A stronger Medicaid system that supports both patients and caregivers.

Instead, Connecticut continues to operate under outdated caps and self-imposed restrictions that prioritize saving and debt payments over investment in people. The result? Wealthy corporations and billionaires remain protected, while public workers and working families are told to make do with less.

Here's the truth: Connecticut doesn't have a revenue problem—it has a priorities problem. And the longer we accept "business as usual," the more we allow those priorities to be set in a way that hurts our members and the communities we serve.

As taxpayers and public servants, CSEA members have every right to demand a budget that reflects reality—not one that hides behind guardrails while the needs of our state go unmet. The resources are here. What's missing is the political will to use them.



Back to School, Back to the Fight *Students & Staff Face Uncertainty in the New School Year*

As students return to classrooms across Connecticut this fall, thousands of dedicated paraeducators, tutors, behavioral techs, custodians, secretaries, clerical staff, bus monitors, and drivers and other staff are returning to work under enormous strain. In many districts, CSEA para units are at the bargaining table, fighting for new contracts that reflect the value of their work. In other districts, members are organizing to demand solutions to chronic understaffing, low pay, and underfunded programs that hurt both workers and students.

The truth is that Connecticut's public schools are stretched thin. Paraeducators often take on multiple roles—supporting students with special needs, managing behavior, and helping keep classrooms safe—yet are still

among the lowest paid in the education system. When positions go unfilled, it's not just our members who suffer. It's the students who lose out on one-on-one support, and the parents who rely on safe, reliable care.

These challenges don't exist in a vacuum. Connecticut's so-called "fiscal roadblocks"—a set of restrictive budget controls—are forcing lawmakers to set aside billions of dollars instead of investing in schools, healthcare, and public services. At the same time, our upside down tax structure and looming federal cuts to education funding are making a

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Connecticut heads back to school and our para units from Tolland to Groton are preparing to make the 2025-2026 school year the best yet for students, staff and parents. These Danbury High Paras enjoyed a moment of sunshine before school started!

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

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Meetings And News

The September Delegates Meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting on Thursday September 18th at 10am at the CSEA Union Hall and via Zoom

Chapter 401 (Hartford area)
October 2nd at 1pm
CSEA Union Hall & Zoom
Zoom Mtg ID: 895 3209 6902
Patrice Peterson 860 416-0306

Chapter 402 (Danbury area)
Wed., September 10th - 10am
Guest Speaker: Jennifer Birdseye from Webster Bank United Methodist Church
5 Clapboard Ridge Road Danbury, CT
Linda Albanese:860 354-6965

Chapter 403 (Norwich area)
Tues., September 9th - 1:30pm
Guest: Bernadette Conway, CSEA Retiree Coordinator
Rose City Senior Center
8 Mahan Drive, Norwich
Carol Burgess:860 303-7267

Chapter 404 (Waterbury area)
Tues. September 9th - 10am
Speaker: Kevin Sullivan,
CSEA Council 400 Organizer and Cigna Dental Rep.
Trinity Orthodox Church
937 Chase Pkwy, Waterbury

Chapter 405 (New Haven)
Thurs. Sept. 11th - 10:30am
Speaker: Probate Judge Hamden Government Center Building, 3rd Floor
2750 Dixwell Ave., Hamden
Sue Pierson (203) 376-7207

Chapter 406 (Middletown)
Tues. September 9 - 12:30pm
Speaker: Bette Marafino, Connecticut Alliance for Retired Americans
American Legion Post 75
58 Bernie O'Rourke Dr. Middletown, CT

Chapter 407 (Bridgeport area)
Wed., September 17 - 1pm
Speaker: Aetna Representative
St. Josephs of Stratford National Catholic Church
1300 Stratford Rd., Stratford
Zoom ID: 872 4952 3823
Passcode: 000891
Liz Anderson (203) 676-0659

Chapter 408 (Windham Area)
Wednesday, Sept. 10th, 1pm
Speaker: Cigna Dental Rep.
Mansfield Senior Center
303 Maple Rd., Storrs
Doug Racicot (860) 234-2537

Chapter 409 (Retired State University Professors)
Friday, Sept., 19th - 10am
CSEA Union Hall & Zoom
760 Capitol Ave., Hartford
Zoom ID: 868 8922 7158
Dave Walsh (860) 684-4773

Chapter 410 (Windsor area)
Monday, September 8 - 1pm
Speaker: Michael O'Brien
CSEA Council 400 President
Kent Memorial Library
50 N Main St, Suffield
Amelia Smith 860 687-1848

Chapter 411 (Rocky Hill area)
Thurs., September 18th - 1pm
Speaker: Aetna Representative
CSEA Union Hall & Zoom
Zoom Mtg ID: 876 7278 2961
Subby Puglisi (860) 529-8336

Chapter 412 (Putnam area)
Tues., Sept. 16th - 1:30pm
Speaker: Kevin Sullivan,
CSEA Council 400 Organizer
Putnam Town Hall
200 School Street, Putnam
Don Gladding (860) 933-9998

Chapter 414 (Torrington area)
Monday, Sept. 15th at 10am
Speaker: Aetna Representative
Five Point Extension Bldg
852 University Dr., Torrington
Kathryn Doan 860 324-8300

Chapter 415 (Manchester)
Monday, Sept. 22nd - 1pm
Elks Lodge in Manchester
30 Bissell Street
Stu Clark: (860) 205-0657

Chapter 416 (New London)
Tuesday, Sept 16th at 12pm
Speaker: Bob Rinker, CSEA Council 400 Regional VP
Groton Public Library
52 Newtown Road, Groton
John Knaff: 860-857-4244

Chapter 417 (Plainville area)
Wed., Sept 10th - 1pm
Plainville Public Library
56 East Main St., Plainville
Mark Kirschner
(860) 882-2717

Chapter 418
(Community College Retirees)
Tues., Sept 9th - 10am
Guest: Bernadette Conway, CSEA Retiree Coordinator
4C's Union Hall in Hartford
907 Wethersfield Ave
Zoom ID: 7421833716
Passcode: 6KUURC
Colleen Richard
(860) 202-4128

Chapter 421 - Daytona, FL
Wednesday, October 22nd
Louie's Pizza House
1347 Beville Road
Daytona Beach, FL 32119
Socializing 11:30 am
Lunch at 12 noon
\$10.95 (bev not included)
plus tax plus tip per person
All you can eat Pizza Buffet! Including Greek salad & Garlic Knots
Please RSVP by October 15 to: Ruth Finizio, President of CSEA Chapter 421
(860) 680-1860
ruthfinizio@gmail.com

Happy 90th Birthday, *By: Michael O'Brien, Council 400 President*

Happy Birthday

Not mine although that is coming up. Not yours either unless it happens to be around mid-September when this month's CSEA News is circulated. If that is the case, coincidental happy birthday wishes to you. No, I am talking about Social Security!

Council 400 celebrated Social Security's 90th birthday in grand fashion at our Annual Summer picnic in mid-August at the Farmington Polo Club. It was the kick-off event for Council 400's developing Retirement Security program that I talked about in last month's column. Our main focus where we can have the most direct impact is the Pension and Healthcare negotiations slated to officially start in 2026 with a new agreement to be in place for July 1, 2027. Early, informal discussions

around that foundational agreement are actually happening now.

A person's financial security in retirement can be described as a three-legged stool. A very stable piece of furniture to sit on. The three financial legs are a pension, Social Security and personal savings. If one or more of those legs is missing, it becomes a very unstable situation. I have a state pension that shows up like clockwork in my bank account on the last business day of the month. I'm collecting Social Security which also shows up like clockwork on the second Wednesday of every month. And because I was able to contribute to the deferred compensation program offered by the State when I was working, I was able to accumulate some savings. I'm fortunate, I realize that.

But look what it is like for working people now, though. Defined benefit pensions are on the Endangered Species list. If you are lucky, your employer has a 401K type defined contribution plan where the employer contributes to it. If you fund one of those properly and long enough, it could substitute for the pension leg of the stool.

But not everybody has that kind of job. That means they are down to a two-legged stool to start with. Many people are working from paycheck to paycheck or if they have to work multiple jobs to make ends meet, from two paychecks to two paychecks. If they are lucky, they are able to put a little money away in savings at the end of the month to build a nest egg. However, as often happens, the roof then starts to leak, the refrigerator craps out or

their car breaks down and there goes the savings nest egg and another leg of that retirement security stool.

That is why the fight for Social Security is so important. It is the only real source of income for many people in retirement and what they rely on to provide some semblance of dignity in their "Golden Years." Securing the future of Social Security will not be Council 400's main focus, but we will be involved in the fight along with our international union SEIU and our coalition partners. In all my years of involvement with our union, the things that have impressed me most are 1) How hard we work to improve and protect the lives and benefits of our members and 2) How we are not hesitant

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Important numbers to have on hand:

Caremark: 1-800-318-2572

Cigna: 1-800-244-6224

Retirement Division Payroll: 860-702-3528

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

HEP Care Management Solutions: 1-877-687-1448 or visit them at their portal:

Retirement Division Life Insurance: 860-702-3537

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

https://www.connect2yourhealth.com/ParticipantPortal/Default.aspx

Retirement Division Health Insurance: 860-702-3533

UnitedHealthcare: 1-888-803-9217

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Dividend Rates - Second 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.

Albert, Jacqueline,Administrative Clerical

Barry, Philip, Uconn

Benoit, Donald, Correctional Officers

Brosofske, Raymond, Maintenance

Carbutti, Carol, Education

Carlson, Patricia, Healthcare

Carpino, Richard, Engineer, Scien, Tech

Coffey, Louis,Vocation Teacher

Conboy, Robert, Engineer, Scien, Tech

Crawford, Dorothy, Elected Or Appointed

Crowther, Joyce, Judicial Branch

Csehak, Stephen, Maintenance

Dipace, Irene, Managerial

Dougan, Charles, Managerial

Elliott, Gwendolyn, Social Services

Esliger, Dennis, Education

Evans, Joyce,Admin And Residual

Garr, Zachary, Maintenance

Gavaghan,Thomas,Admin And Residual

Gerner, Patricia, Managerial

Glover, Erica, Elected Or Appointed

Griffin, Garrett, Protective Services

Jacobik, Robert, Maintenance

Kelly, David,Vocation Teacher

Kershaw, Daisy, Healthcare

Krider, Hallie, Uconn

Krzykowski, Diane, Judicial Branch

Lafferty, Raymond, Maintenance

Mcmillan, Santana,Admin And Residual

Modine, Suzanne, Healthcare

Peirollo, Norman, Maintenance

Pelletier, Ludger, Judicial Branch

Perodeau, Joseph, Correctional Officers

Randel, Carol, Comm College Faculty

Riley, John, Judicial Branch

Rodrequez, Eugene, Judicial Branch

Romanowski,Walter, State Police

Senkow,Walter, Engineer, Scien, Tech

Siva, Subramaniam, Healthcare

Stuyniski, James, State Police

Thomas, Philip, Maintenance

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 WoodwardPresident

Diane MurphySecretary/Treasurer

David GliddenExecutive Director

Drew E. StonerCommunication Director

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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.

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Para News: Back to School

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difficult situation even worse. Our state has the resources to ensure every child has the support they need in school, but the system is rigged to say “no” even when the money is right there. The solution isn’t

complicated. Connecticut needs to reform its revenue system so the ultra-wealthy and big corporations pay their fair share. Progressive taxation is the only sustainable way to give districts the resources they need to properly staff classrooms, pay

paras and other staff fairly, and invest in the future of our children. Massachusetts just did it last year and raked in \$2.2B while increasing the number of millionaires moving to the state. As Connecticut goes back-to-school, CSEA paras are

fighting to make sure every child in Connecticut has the opportunities they deserve.



In the August CSEA News, we ran an article updating members about fights in two of our Para Chapters, however that story included a few pieces of inaccurate information. We are therefore reprinting the corrected piece.

In July, over 20 paraeducators from New Fairfield stood outside their district’s Central Office, united in a call for dignity, equity, and a livable wage. Their message was clear: despite years of service to students and the community, they are being left behind by a school district that refuses to offer a fair contract.

Paraeducators across Connecticut are the backbone of public education — providing academic support, one-on-one care for students with disabilities, classroom stability, and safety for students with behavioral and emotional needs. But in New Fairfield, like in most districts, these essential professionals are being paid wages so low that they fall below the poverty line — even for full-time work.

Many of our paras are full-time employees, local residents, and committed professionals who remain in their roles out of dedication

to the students and community, often at personal financial hardship. The consequences of this neglect are felt every day: staffing shortages, overworked educators, burnout, and disruptions to student learning. Many paras take on second or third jobs just to get by. Others leave the profession altogether — not because they want to, but because they can’t afford to stay.

New Fairfield paras have made repeated good-faith efforts to reach an agreement with the Board of Education. But even after two consecutive years of increased education spending, the district continues to offer sub-standard wages and limited benefits. The result? High turnover, staffing shortages, and a system that shortchanges students as much as staff.

The demonstration in New Fairfield followed positive news coming out of nearby Danbury, where, after months of organizing, CSEA paras made major progress on starting wages, moving from \$16/hour to \$20/hour. As with all of our work, this victory represents a step towards a better future for the students we serve and our families we provide for. This

was a great win while the Danbury Negotiation Team continues to negotiate a new contract with the Board of Education. And it once again proves that when paraprofessionals are united, organized, and backed by a strong union, they can achieve real, transformative change.

Since this reporting, we are also proud to announce that the New Fairfield Para Council has reached a new tentative agreement with the Board of Education.

The CSEA Para Council includes chapters from districts across Connecticut, from Fairfield County to the Quiet Corner. Across these communities, a pattern is emerging: districts that respect their paraprofessionals see greater staff retention, improved student support, and stronger school communities. Those that ignore their paras face constant turnover, understaffing, and growing tensions between workers and administrators.

So the fight to confront the longstanding injustice of underpaid, undervalued care paraeducator work continues. Because we know - when we fight, we win.

19 Regional Town Halls Build Momentum for Progressive Revenue Reform



CSEA Childcare Members joined labor and community leaders from across the State to demand legislators pass progressive revenue policies in the next session.

Throughout the month of August, CSEA members joined with fellow union and community members at 19 regional town halls across Connecticut. The focus was clear: lawmakers must come back into special session this fall to pass progressive revenue reform and protect our state from devastating federal cuts.

At each town hall, participants spoke directly with their state legislators about the urgent need to fix Connecticut’s broken revenue system. With billions of dollars in federal cuts looming, families across the state face the threat of reduced access to health care, higher property taxes, and fewer public services.

Members called for bold, fair solutions that ask the wealthiest individuals and corporations to pay their share so that Connecticut can protect public services, invest in our communities, and build long-term stability.

These conversations were not ab-

stract policy debates—they were rooted in real stories of hardship and resilience. Childcare workers spoke about the crisis parents and providers are facing, paraeducators spoke about classrooms being stretched too thin, retirees raised concerns about protecting Social Security and Medicare, and state employees described the need for fair contracts that properly address the State’s pronounced recruitment/retention problem.

Legislators left these conversations with a clear understanding that their constituents are demanding action. The momentum built in August now sets the stage for a crucial fall—one where we must keep the pressure on to ensure lawmakers deliver real, lasting progressive revenue reform. And with a hard deadline of November 1st to allocate \$600 million before it’s automatically siphoned into pension debt, the urgency could not be greater.

Council 400 Retiree Picnic Draws Record Crowd, Celebrates Social Security and Medicare Milestones

On a beautiful summer day at the Farmington Club, more than 350 retirees, family members, and friends came together for one of our largest Annual Council 400 Retiree Picnics yet. This year's picnic carried special meaning as we marked the 90th Anniversary of Social Security and the birthday of Medicare.

A celebratory cake was shared in their honor, cut by Council 400 retirees over the age of 90 — each recognized with a corsage as we celebrated their lives, their service, and their lasting contributions to our union and communities.

The event drew an impressive group of elected officials, underscoring the vital role retirees play in shaping policy and protecting retirement security. Guests included Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz, Congressman John Larson, State Senator Rick Lopes, State Senator Jillian Gilchrest, State Representative Josh Elliott, State

Representative Mike Demicco, State Representative Laurie Sweet, State Representative Ken Gucker, and State Representative Rebecca Martinez. Each expressed gratitude for the decades of public service represented in the room and reaffirmed their commitment to protecting Social Security, Medicare, and pensions.

Council 400 retirees also took action at the picnic. Members in Connecticut wrote letters to fellow retirees now living in Florida, enclosing notes of solidarity and

pre-stamped envelopes addressed to their congressional representatives and senators. While Connecticut's federal delegation remains strongly supportive of Social Security, Florida's elected officials have signed onto legislation threatening the program. By empowering our members in Florida to push back, retirees are extending their voices beyond state lines to protect the benefits they earned.

Special thanks go to the Council 400 Picnic Team, led by Tina

Franco, whose efforts made the day possible. From the meticulous planning to the warm hospitality, their hard work ensured that this year's gathering was both meaningful and memorable.

This year's record-setting turnout shows the strength of our retiree community and the value of staying connected. We look forward to carrying this energy forward and to gathering again next year for another day of solidarity, celebration, and union pride.



CSEA Leaders Join Congressman Larson to Defend Social Security in Middletown

CSEA President Travis Woodward and CT ARA President and Council 400 retiree Bette Marafino joined Congressman John B. Larson outside the Middletown Social Security field office to send a clear message: Social Security must be protected, strengthened, and expanded—not cut.

This came just a few days after the Congressman addressed Council 400 retirees at our annual picnic where we marked the 90th anniversary of Social Security, a program that more than 65 million Americans rely on today. Larson, a long-time champion of Social Security in Congress, highlighted his plan to enhance benefits so no senior is

forced into poverty after a lifetime of work. His legislation also seeks to keep field offices open, safeguard beneficiaries' personal information, and ensure that future generations can count on the program. "Social Security is not a privilege—it's a promise earned through years of work and dedication," Woodward said. "Cutting funding, closing offices, or interfering with Americans' benefits weakens that promise and threatens the financial security of millions. We will continue to fight—retirees, active employees, and allies together—to protect and strengthen Social Security for today and for generations to come."

Woodward drew attention to

the real-world impacts of recent federal cuts. Since President Trump took office, staffing at the Social Security Administration has dropped by 20 percent. That, Woodward said, isn't an abstract statistic—it means seniors left waiting hours on hold, disabled Americans struggling to access benefits, and growing uncertainty for younger workers wondering if the system will be there for them when they retire.

The message from

Middletown was clear: Social Security is a lifeline for millions, and it will take collective action—workers, retirees, advocates, and elected officials—to ensure its future.



Congressman Larson and one of his supporters (left) listen to Travis Woodward (middle right) and Bette Marafino (right) talk about the impact of Social Security on CSEA members.

Council 400 President's Corner: Mike O'Brien

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to join a fight for a righteous cause that will help improve the lives of all working men and women.

Getting back to the title of this column and Social Security hitting that milestone birthday of 90. Remember when we were young and wanted to be older? If someone asked your age, you didn't tell them nine, no you were nine and a half going on ten. After that, I'm not sure anyone wants to admit to getting to the next decade milestone. Twenty wasn't so bad but I don't know anyone who looked forward to being 30! Be honest now, how many of you imitated Jack Benny and stayed at 39 for a while before finally admitting you had hit the big 4-0? After that, the milestone decade years have seemed to arrive faster and faster. I have an elderly friend from church who told me he is through with birth-

days. Elderly in my vocabulary is anyone who is older than me. He just turned 89. Maybe he is reluctant to hit another milestone decade.

No such reluctance with regard to Social Security. I would be happy if it makes it for another 90 years. I won't see that but I would like to be around to celebrate its' 100th and have it be in a fully solvent financial condition. Somewhere around year 97 or 98 is when Social Security will have to start reducing benefit payouts if nothing is done to secure its' future. Congressman Larson's Social Security 2100 proposed legislation can do just that. It is a non-partisan issue and should be a no brainer.

Many thanks and kudos to Tina Franco and her Picnic Committee team for a well organized and very well attended Council 400 picnic. We were also graced with the presence of several high-ranking elected officials who recognize the importance of Social Security and are leading the

fight for its' reform. If you weren't there, you missed a good party. If you were at the picnic, you may have noticed some of the attendees wearing a floral corsage. That was to recognize and celebrate the fact that they are older than Social Security. Nice touch, Tina. Our parents always taught us to respect our elders.

So lets show Social Security some respect for its' age and work with our coalition partners to pass legislation like Social Security 2100 and send it on its next 90 years in a sound fiscal condition!



How Does the Federal Budget Bill Impact Connecticut?

Life is About to Get A Lot More Unaffordable

The so-called “Big Beautiful Bill” is being sold as a win for Connecticut, but in reality, it’s a handout to the ultra-wealthy and big corporations that leaves working families footing the bill. This legislation locks in giveaways to those who need them least while making daily life more expensive and unaffordable for the rest of us.

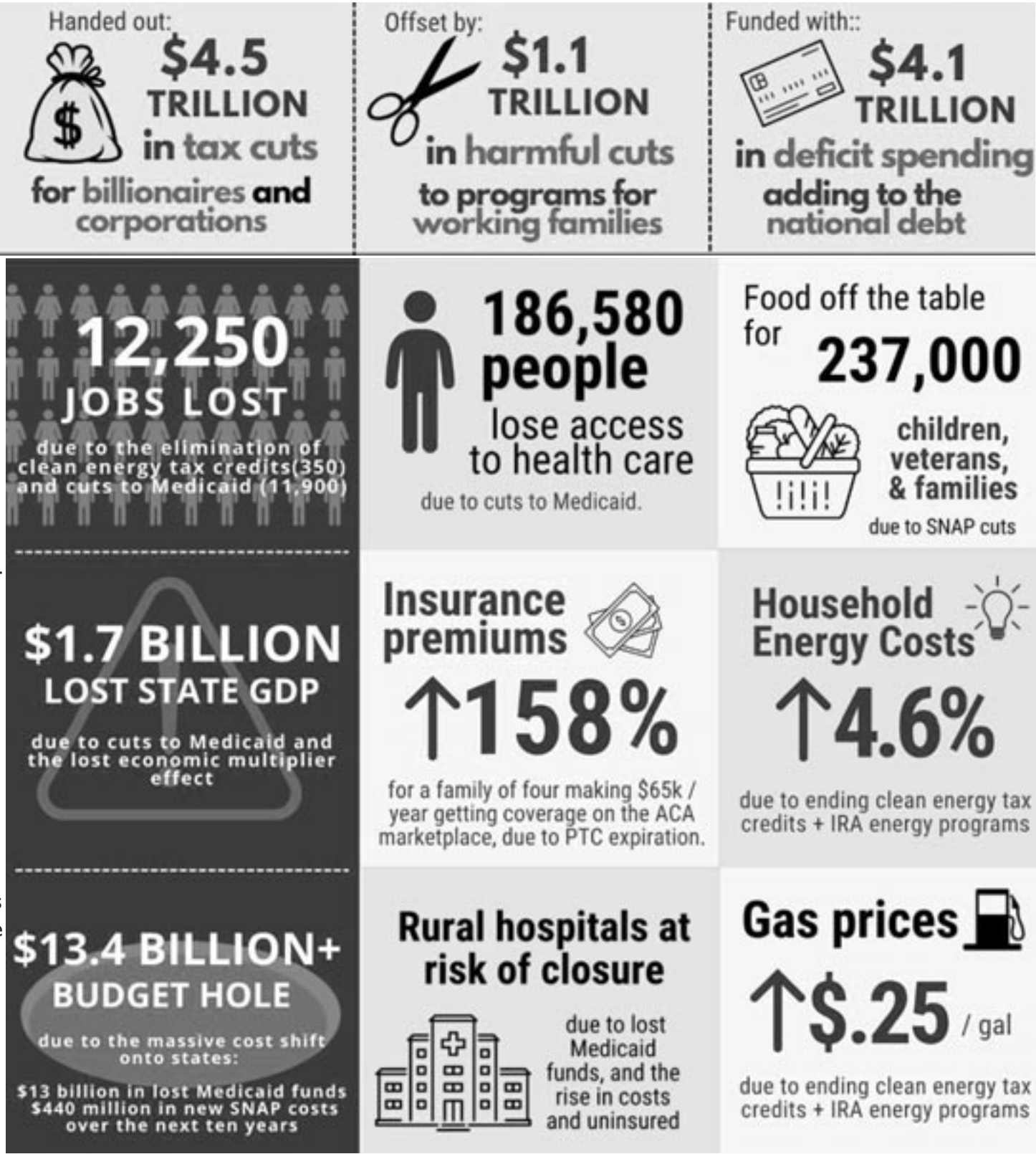
At the heart of the bill are tax breaks and loopholes designed to shield hedge funds, developers, and corporate shareholders. By enshrining policies that protect wealth at the top, the bill drains resources that should be going to schools, healthcare, child care, and other essential public services.

Meanwhile, families already stretched thin are left facing rising costs without relief. For working parents, this means continuing to juggle multiple jobs just to cover rent, groceries, and child care. For seniors, it means harder choices between paying for medications or keeping food on the table.

For public services, it means chronic understaffing and underfunding, even as demand grows. And for communities across Connecticut, it means lost opportunities to invest in the future—because lawmakers’ hands are tied by fiscal roadblocks that favor Wall Street over Main Street.

The richest one percent, whose wealth has ballooned in recent years, will walk away from this bill with even more protections and advantages. Meanwhile, the rest of us will be asked to sacrifice, again. There is nothing “beautiful” about this legislation. It represents a deliberate choice to prioritize billionaires and corporations over the bus drivers, paraeducators, nurses, tradespeople, and every working person who keeps this state moving.

Connecticut deserves a budget that invests in people—not one that forces working families to pay more while the wealthy hoard more.



⏪ NOMINATIONS MEETING FOR CT AFL-CIO CONVENTION ⏩

Attention: CSEA has set Saturday, September 20th at 9:00 AM at the CSEA Union Hall (760 Capitol Ave. Hartford, CT, 06106) as the time and place to accept nominations for the delegate positions from CSEA to attend the Connecticut AFL-CIO’s 16th Biennial Constitutional Convention. To be nominated, you must be a member in good standing.

Delegates will attend the CT AFL-CIO Convention from Thursday, November 6th to Friday, November 7th, 2025 and are required to attend all sessions of the convention and related meetings.

For additional information, please call CSEA at 860-951-6614.

Family Child Care Provider News

Noticias para Proveedores de Cuidado Infantil

Get Ready – Contract Negotiations Are Coming!

CSEA’s Family Child Care Union is gearing up for our next round of contract negotiations. Every voice matters, and the best way to make sure your needs are at the bargaining table is to get involved now.

Step 1: Fill Out the Bargaining Survey

Tell us what matters most to you and your child care program by completing the bargaining survey:

LINK: seiu2001.cc/contract-survey

The survey takes just a few minutes, but your answers will directly guide what we fight for in negotiations.

Step 2: Join Us at Member Meetings

Members will review survey results together, discuss priorities, and stay updated throughout the negotiations process. Don’t miss your chance to be heard and connected!

NEXT MEETING:

Saturday, September 13th
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM Via Zoom

REGISTER: seiu2001.cc/FCC-meeting

Together, we’ve won historic gains in the past — from rate increases to benefits that support providers and families alike. But we only win when providers stand united and make their priorities clear. Now is the time to get involved. Fill out the survey, mark your calendar for September 13th, and be part of building the strongest possible contract for Family Child Care providers.

¡Prepárate – Se acercan las negociaciones del contrato!

El Sindicato de Cuidadores de CSEA está preparándose para nuestra próxima ronda de negociaciones del contrato. Cada voz cuenta, y la mejor manera de asegurar que tus necesidades estén en la mesa de negociación es participando ahora.

Paso 1: Completa la Encuesta de Negociación

Cuéntanos qué es lo más importante para ti y tu programa de cuidado infantil completando la encuesta:

ENLACE: seiu2001.cc/contract-survey

La encuesta toma solo unos minutos, pero tus respuestas guiarán directamente lo que vamos a luchar en las negociaciones.

Paso 2: Únete a Nuestras Reuniones de Miembros

En estas reuniones revisaremos los resultados de la encuesta, discutiremos prioridades y te mantendremos informado(a) durante todo el proceso de negociación. ¡No pierdas la oportunidad de ser escuchado(a) y mantenerte conectado(a)!

PRÓXIMA REUNIÓN:

Sábado, 13 de septiembre
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM Via Zoom

REGISTRO:: seiu2001.cc/FCC-meeting

Juntos, hemos ganado avances históricos en el pasado — desde aumentos de tarifas hasta beneficios que apoyan tanto a los proveedores como a las familias. Pero solo logramos victorias cuando los proveedores nos mantenemos unidos y claros sobre nuestras prioridades. Ahora es el momento de involucrarte. Completa la encuesta, marca tu calendario para el 13 de septiembre y sé parte de construir el contrato más fuerte posible para los proveedores de cuidado infantil familiar.



WHY SPOUSES OF CT STATE RETIREES SHOULD JOIN CSEA COUNCIL 400

As the spouse of a Connecticut state retiree, you benefit directly from the hard-earned healthcare and pension protections your family relies on. By joining CSEA Council 400 for just \$60 per year, you help strengthen the voice of retirees and their families at the Capitol and in negotiations that affect your healthcare, cost-of-living adjustments, and long-term retirement security.

You don't need to have worked for the state — if you're receiving benefits through your spouse's retirement, you have a stake in protecting them. Your membership supports advocacy, representation, and access to helpful information and resources all year long. It's a small investment that helps protect what you've earned together.

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Union Member’s Under Attack: The Yankee Institute’s Mouthpiece of Hypocrisy

Connecticut’s working families are once again in the crosshairs of the Yankee Institute — a corporate-funded, anti-worker outfit whose sole mission is to weaken unions, cut public services, and hand more power to billionaires. Their latest hit piece, written by their new “senior fellow” Frank Ricci, claims that union raises are either “incompetence or worse.” Let’s be clear: this isn’t just wrong, it’s an attack designed to pit workers against each other while protecting the wealthy elite.

Ricci and his Yankee Institute friends want the public to believe that modest raises for state employees — raises that help us keep up with inflation, pay our bills, and support our families — are somehow scandalous. Meanwhile, they say nothing about the billions in tax breaks showered on the rich and corporations. That’s the game: demonize frontline workers while ignoring the real giveaways at the top.

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But let’s talk about Ricci himself. The man lecturing us about “fairness” and “accountability” has his own long record of hypocrisy. Many people may not know Ricci’s history. He was a firefighter in New Haven who became famous for suing the city after he didn’t get promoted. He claimed the city’s promotion test was unfair, and his case went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. That case made him a darling of the right-wing media, who painted him as a victim of “political correctness.” But what’s often left out is that Ricci leveraged that fame into a career built on grievance and self-promotion.

More recently, Ricci was back in the news when New Haven’s elected alders accused him of personally benefiting from a lawsuit settlement tied to the fire department — walking away with money while undermining public accountability. In other words, while he rails against state workers for supposedly getting “too much,” he’s

been more than happy to cash checks himself when it suits him.

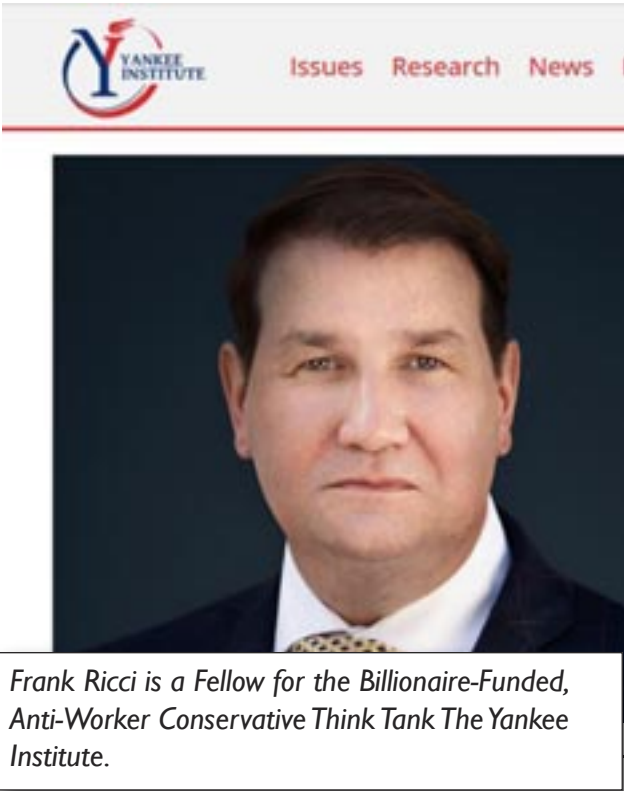
This is who we’re supposed to take lessons from on ethics? A guy who sued for his own advancement, pocketed lawsuit money, and then turned around to attack the very workers who make our state run every day? Give us a break.

Our opponents are terrified because when unions are strong, workers win. They know that our raises mean more stability, safer staffing levels, and stronger communities. They know that when public sector jobs are good jobs, it raises standards across the entire economy. And they know that if workers stay united, their anti-union agenda fails.

So let’s call Ricci and the Yankee Institute what they really

are: hypocrites doing the dirty work of the wealthy. They’re desperate to turn working people against each other because they know they can’t win if we stand together.

We’ve got a choice. We can let paid hacks and corporate think tanks tell us we don’t deserve fair raises, or we can fight back — for our contracts, for our families, and for the future of Connecticut.



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