



THIS WEEK'S POLL: What actions are you willing to perform to help protect CSU from devastating budget cuts in the coming year?

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State Workers Helped Save \$1 Billion And Counting

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By CARMEN BOUDIER and VIJAY NAIR, 11/14/10

Even before all the votes in the governor's race were counted, some opinion leaders asked what state public service workers would do to help close next year's anticipated deficit. This assumes that public workers and their families haven't already contributed a significant share to closing the gap, an assumption that is flat wrong.

In May 2009, our coalition of state employee unions produced nearly \$1 billion in savings in the current and previous biennial budgets by agreeing to deferred pension contributions, a one-year wage freeze, seven furlough days and changes in health benefits for new employees, and by accepting 4,000 retirements. This agreement with the Rell administration will continue to reduce costs by hundreds of millions annually, helping the new administration better deal with the continuing fallout from the economic crisis.

State employees will help reduce expected budget deficits by paying more for our health care coverage and prescription drugs. By giving up our negotiated contractual pay increases for a year, we will receive lower wages than expected in coming years, which will mean annual savings to the state payroll and pension fund.

Even so, less than a year after the agreement's ratification, our coalition presented the Rell administration with a series of ideas that would do more than simply help reduce deficits. Our recommendations would bring policy-makers and state

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workers together to help jump-start Connecticut's economy, put people back to work, recreate livable communities and build a sustainable future.

The real crisis we face is not a short-term drop in state revenues, but a long-term decline in the standard of living of nearly all Connecticut's families.

[Read full article.](#)

State Employees at the Center of Discussions

By CARTER KNEELAND

Connecticut's election is finally over and the state has a new Governor-Elect in Dan Malloy. How the new administration will tackle the challenges ahead and how the legislature will react to their proposals to solve the state's fiscal crisis is yet to be seen. What is certain is that public services will be at the center of the debate. SEBAC members will continue to be a part of that discussion.

To keep you informed about the public discourse on Connecticut's ongoing budget crisis, we've included some recent articles, editorials and commentaries that mention the state employee role in particular. As always, please consider writing a letter to the editor or posting your comments online to demonstrate the importance of vital public services and the need for job creation in these difficult economic times.

New Haven Register - [A blue state in a GOP era means changes coming](#) – Nov. 14, 2010

Hartford Courant Commentary – [Balancing Acts: What Can Be Cut From State Spending?](#) – State Senator John McKinney – Nov. 14, 2010

Hartford Courant – letter to the Editor – [It's Wrong To Cut Services When People Need Them Most](#) – by Patrice Peterson – Nov. 11, 2010

Dan Malloy on Fox 61's [The Real Story](#) discussing the state budget, transitioning to his new administration and working with the legislature – Nov. 14, 2010

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New Haven Register – [Rell transition budget suggests sharp cuts to close \\$3.4 billion shortfall](#) - Nov. 16, 2010

CTNewsjunkie – [Rell Hands Off Fiscal Football](#) - Nov. 15, 2010

CT Mirror – [Rell's last budget points Malloy down the road not taken](#) - Nov. 15, 2010

Hartford Courant Editorial - [To Gov.-Elect Dan Malloy: Stiffen Your Spine](#) – Nov. 7, 2010

Hartford Courant Commentary – [Governor's Winning Formula: Take On Unions](#) – Nov. 3, 2010

New Haven Register Editorial – [EDITORIAL: Malloy wins, barely; how will he govern?](#) - Nov. 7, 2010

Norwich Bulletin Editorial - [Our view: New governor has full plate](#) – Nov. 6, 2010

New London Day Editorial – [Toughest challenges ahead for Gov.- elect Malloy](#) - Nov. 11, 2010

New York Times – [New Connecticut Governor Faces Fiscal Woes](#) - Nov. 9, 2010

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