

# ***We Need a State Budget that Provides Support to Cities, Towns, & Schools***

The State funds much of the cost of the services our members provide through municipal aid, Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT), Education Cost Sharing (ECS), Town Aid Road (TAR) and other state-funded programs.

When our cities, towns, and boards of education don't have enough state dollars, they come to us with calls for concessions, layoffs, higher co-pays on our health insurance -- and urge the state legislature to eliminate binding arbitration. We must have adequate funding for our cities, towns & boards of education not only to protect our livelihood, but so the local property taxes we all pay don't skyrocket.

## ***Connecticut Still Needs a Fair Budget***

- *State public service workers did not agree to \$700 million in concessions only to have the state saddled with budget cuts and unfair taxes now and in the future;*
- *Connecticut still faces a \$10 million budget deficit; and*
- *Proposals by Governor Rell and many legislators will destroy our state's quality of life, damage our economy, and reduce support to local governments & boards of education.*

## ***The Budget Deficit Cannot be Closed by Cuts Alone***

- *State funding cuts to cities and towns will result in fewer municipal and local education services and higher property taxes;*
- *Nobel Prize-winning economists have called for more spending on public assets like infrastructure, education, and technology to get us out of this recession; and*
- *Cuts to vital services won't make our economy stronger and encourage consumer spending, but send us deeper into recession.*

## ***The Wealthy and Corporations Should Pay their Fair Share***

- *Connecticut's wealthiest families pay only 4.5% of their income in state and local taxes – middle income families pay 9.3% and the poorest pay 12.1% of their income;*
- *Corporations have benefited from tax loopholes while continuing to send jobs to other states or overseas – they must be held accountable and contribute to a solution; and*
- *Our leaders can no longer go about business as usual – they must overhaul our tax system so that it is fair to and protects the services we provide.*

