

SINCE 1990 STATE EMPLOYEES HAVE HAD LOWER RAISES AND LOWER SALARIES THAN PRIVATE SECTOR WORKERS

Fact:

Since 1990 state employee raises have been 18 percent lower than private sector employees.

Fact:

State employee salaries for similar occupations are lower than private sector: for example private sector engineers in New York make an average salary of \$85,654; 26 percent more than the average state employee engineer's \$67,917 salary.

Fact:

In constant dollars the state spends almost \$300 million less for employee wages and salaries than it did in 1990.

Fact:

The total cost of state employee compensation makes up 15 percent less of the total state budget than it did in SFY 2000-01; decreasing from 16 percent of the total state budget to 13.6 percent.

Fact:

The costs for state employee benefits have increased because the state contributed nothing to the pension fund from 1991 to 1995 and had a 4 percent or lower contribution rate from 1989 to 2003. Further pressure was triggered by the recent financial collapse caused by private sector greed and Wall Street illegalities. If the state made pension contributions during this time period at the 8 percent rate the Wall Street backed Citizens Budget Commission now recommends, the state's cost for state employee benefits would not be escalating.

Fact: Since 1990 the state work force has been reduced by over 30,000 positions. Since 2008, 4,500 state employee positions have been eliminated. The number of state workers per capita in NY is 32 percent lower than the national average.

Fact: Over the last decade state agency budgets have grown at a lower rate than any other part of the budget and their growth rate is lower than the growth in personal income in the state over the same 10 year time period.

Fact: Since 2008, state agency budgets have been cut by \$2.5 billion, including \$1.2 billion in proposed cuts in SFY 2010-11.

Fact: Since 2008 there has been zero growth in the state operations budgets of executive agencies. The proposed SFY 2010-11 state operations budget for all executive agencies, which excludes the judiciary and the legislature, is \$17.3 billion the same as it was in SFY 2008-09.

Fact: The governor has not proposed to renegotiate any other state contracts in this fiscal crisis except state employee contracts.

Fact: In SFY 2008-09 the state spent \$2.9 billion on consultants and paid those providing professional services an average annual salary of \$160,719. Even including benefits this is 62 percent more than what it would cost for state employees to do the same work. The state should reduce the use of high priced consultants before any state employee loses their job or pay. Replacing half the consultants with state employees will save the state over \$656 million over the next three years.



NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES FEDERATION, AFL-CIO

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