

# The Budget Fight - Get Involved

The following is a synopsis of the issues that we face in upcoming budget fights. The Federal, state and city are separate from each other. The next page is the Action Page where you can find out how and to whom you should address the various issues. We want you to participate in helping to save and improve your job. This is one way to help.

The issues are as follows:

**911 Surcharge Use:** The governor is not utilizing the dedicated tax dollars that we pay on our phone and cell bills for the 911 system, as was intended. We want the governor to use the funds for 911 enhancements to hire more personnel, provide childcare and improve working conditions. We also want the city and NYPD to request the money.

**Save Our Public Hospitals:** The governor has proposed new Medicaid spending caps and cuts for hospitals. This will adversely affect patients and employees of the NYC H+H and Metro Plus HMO. We must demand higher rates of reimbursement from the state for Medicaid since the current rates are not enough to meet expenses. We must demand fairness for Safety Net institutions like NYC H+H. Now the private non-profit (that act like for-profit) get some of the money that instead should go to NYC H+H.

**Stop State Cuts in City Funding:** The governor has proposed cuts in state funding for New York City. This will mean reduced services and job freezes in the city, if allowed to pass.

**Childcare Facilitated Enrollment and Tax Credit:** Currently hundreds of Local 1549 members receive Facilitated Enrollment funding necessary for them to get childcare. Not every zip code in the city is eligible. Spending has not increased for this program in years. We want all Zip Codes and more members who are eligible for this program to receive it. Funding must be increased. The same for childcare tax credits.

**NYCHA Funding:** Public Housing needs more federal and state funding. We need the federal government to increase funding and a dedicated state funding stream for NYCHA.

**Rent Regulation Expansion for Renters:** Landlords have stripped protections for tenants at the state level. We want the new State Legislature and governor to increase rent regulation protections for tenants. Follow Tenant and Neighbor's legislative agenda. Go to the Tenants and Neighbors website for this information - <https://tandn.org>.

**Expand SUNY/CUNY Funding and Tuition Free Education:** Increased funding for SUNY/CUNY. Expand the Governor's Free Higher Education program to increase eligibility for more students.

**Hire 400 Eligibility Specialists (ES) for HRA:** 400 ES positions have been lost in HRA the past four years. More are needed in order to improve working conditions and better service those in need.

**Civilianize the NYPD:** There still are 500 higher paid uniformed personnel performing clerical duties of Police Administrative Aides (PAA) in the NYPD. This is a waste of tax dollars. Putting those uniformed officers in the street improves public safety.

**Stop Trump Budget Cuts - Say No to the Wall:** President Trump is demanding more cuts in programs that fund our jobs and services. This is so he can get his \$5 billion to build a useless wall along the U.S. - Mexican border. Immigrants from Central America are refugees and not murderers, rapists and drug dealers. They do not take our jobs. They do contribute to our society and pay taxes. They are not the problem. Trump and his Republican congress representatives are. A Wall does not prevent immigration since most immigrants come to the U.S. by plane and underground tunnels. Cutting tax dollars in services by Trump threatens our jobs. What is needed is fair immigration reform. Immigrants deserve a pathway to citizenship. Refugees fleeing drug wars, gangs and murder in their homelands deserve human rights and asylum.

**Tax the Rich and Corporations instead of Budget Cuts:** Corporations like Amazon paid NO TAXES last year! Did you? Billionaires and millionaires representing 1% of our population got 85% of the tax benefits from Trump tax cuts. In New York State, the rich and powerful are paying much less in taxes than previously. The same is true of the corporate tax rate. The rich do not pay their fair share.

They do not use tax cuts to create good paying jobs. They use it to buy multi-million dollar apartments near Central Park, third and fourth homes and things like helicopter pads in their backyards so they can get to the Hamptons easier than the rest of us. Yet we suffer with poor public transportation and housing. We pay higher rents and fares.

**THAT IS NOT FAIR!**

