

# Council 4 Legislative Alert: Gov. Targets Municipal Workers

On Jan. 31, Governor Malloy called for legislation that would be detrimental to the pay, pension and health care – and bargaining rights – of municipal employees.

Malloy said that he is asking the state legislature to approve:

- Allowing towns to seek a higher contribution from municipal employees for their MERS contribution rate (Municipal Employees Retirement System).
- Change arbitration laws to use a neutral arbitrator in lieu of tri-partite panel that now consists of labor, management and a neutral.
- Bar 2017 state aid increases from being included in the consideration of a municipality's ability to pay.

The governor additionally proposed changes in prevailing wage standards that harm our brothers and sisters in the building trades unions.

Ironically, on the same day the governor called for taking money out of the pockets of municipal workers, he panned the idea of closing a tax loophole that keeps hundreds of millions of dollars flowing into the pockets of Connecticut hedge fund managers.

The General Assembly has raised hundreds of bills attacking wages and benefits of working people but practically nothing to fix our over-reliance on property taxes or to reduce income inequality. The governor's proposals will make things worse.

We will learn more about these proposals when the governor delivers his budget address on Feb. 8. In the meantime:

- (1) Call the Governor's office at (860) 566-4840. Tell him to tax hedge fund managers, not working class people. We need revenue, not austerity.
- (2) Sign up for Council 4's email blasts and text alerts on our home page at [www.council4.org](http://www.council4.org) if you haven't already.

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