

# Report of the Legislative Action Committee

## **William Buhler**

P-3B Council

Co-Chair, Legislative Action Committee, CSEA SEIU Local 2001

## **Michael O'Brien**

Council 400

Co-Chair, Legislative Action Committee, CSEA SEIU Local 2001

There have been a number of important victories, both, legislative and electoral since our last Biennial Convention. From the success of the candidates we endorsed for federal and state office in 2008 or municipal office in 2009 to passing “mini-pooling” to allow municipalities and school districts to realize needed savings on the cost of prescription medications, the members of CSEA SEIU Local 2001 have continued to advance an agenda which protects public services and empowers public employees.

As we all know, public employees and the services we provide and retirees and the benefits we have earned are under attack like never before. The General Election on November 2<sup>nd</sup> provides CSEA members and Connecticut voters the opportunity to elect the first pro-worker governor in a generation.

The Legislative Action Committee (LAC) has recommended a number of candidates for statewide and federal office for endorsements that have been approved by the Executive Council:

### **Governor/Lieutenant Governor**

Dan Malloy/Nancy Wyman

### **Secretary of the State**

Denise Merrill

### **State Comptroller**

Kevin Lembo

### **United States Senate**

Richard Blumenthal

### **State Treasurer**

Denise Nappier

### **Representative in Congress**

1<sup>st</sup> District – John Larson

2<sup>nd</sup> District – Joe Courtney

3<sup>rd</sup> District – Rosa DeLauro

4<sup>th</sup> District – Jim Himes

5<sup>th</sup> District – Chris Murphy

### **Attorney General**

George Jepsen

We are working in coordination with the SEIU Connecticut State Council to conduct interviews and solicit responses to questionnaires from candidates for both houses of the General Assembly who are seeking the endorsement of CSEA and the other affiliated unions.

The LAC, along with every member of CSEA, will be working tirelessly to elect Dan Malloy and all of our other endorsed candidates. With true partners in office, we can move forward on our legislative goals. Like expanding Family and Medical Leave Act rights for our paraprofessional members and passing a paid sick days bill which would benefit our Union's members who work as bus drivers, monitors, and food service workers, enacting a true health care "pooling" bill to open the state health care plan to municipalities thereby dramatically reducing costs for local governments and the state, and fully funding the State Contracting Standards Board to bring transparency, accountability, and fiscal responsibility to a corrupt and costly system of outsourcing public projects.

SEIU's leaders in Washington, D.C., rank-and-file members throughout the country, and CSEA members in Connecticut, worked with Congress to pass legislation to provide billions of dollars to protect public service jobs. As a result of this recent legislation, Connecticut has already received over \$300 million.

This year's election for governor is one of SEIU's top priorities. The International has made Connecticut a target state for its 2010 electoral efforts and is supplying CSEA with the resources needed to run an aggressive and successful campaign.

Dan Malloy and all of our endorsed candidates recognize that public employees and retirees did not cause the global financial crisis. The candidates endorsed by CSEA support and appreciate our work, our retirement security, and the value we provide to Connecticut and all of its residents.