



COALITION OF STATE EMPLOYEE UNIONS

Fighting Against May Revise

At the beginning of his 2025 May Revise address, Governor Newsom proudly announced that California went from the fifth to the fourth largest economy in the world with an annual output of \$4.1 trillion. He also claimed 6 percent economic growth in 2024. However, he failed to recognize that that growth, in no small part, is due to the heroic work of California's civil service workforce. And yet again, we are summoned for even more sacrifice, even while others are already at the table, fighting for fair contracts as those agreements approach expiration.

When corporations lay-off thousands of workers, when pandemics and wildfires kill and displace hundreds or even thousands, when the federal government pulls back programs that are meant to protect Californians and communities, it's California civil service workers that restore those communities.

The Governor's 2025 May Revise budget does not support the mission critical work of our civil service. In fact, the proposal to take away salary increases **already ratified by union members across seven bargaining units and budgeted for by the legislature** and impose salary cuts across every bargaining unit. Unilateral take-aways of contract rights are an insult to all California workers.

Even the Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) has recommended that the California legislature reject the Administration's attempt to undo MOU's agreements that were duly negotiated at the bargaining table. The Administration's attempt to retroactively bypass legislative appropriations and claw back salary increases using Budget Control sections 3.90 and 3.91 set a dangerous precedent that could have long lasting, negative impacts for all state civil service workers in the state.

Beyond the legal questions lies an even more critical one: is any of this fair? The heart of collective bargaining is not just labor peace; it's the social contract – the agreement that demands governments provide for the common good, not to exercise autocratic rule and subsidize corporate cronies or private profits. The public trust which exchanges labor peace and common good is jeopardized when the Governor makes cuts to state employee contracts as the first budget solution.

There are over 2.5 million union members in California today, roughly equal to the fourth largest county in the state. We are the people who work for the people in communities all across California.

We don't demand respect. We command it.

Don't budget balance the budget on our backs. Together, we stand united. We call on the legislature to reject these unjust proposals and uphold the agreements that honor the work of California's State workers.

