

# CONNECTICUT'S BUDGET CRISIS SOLUTION

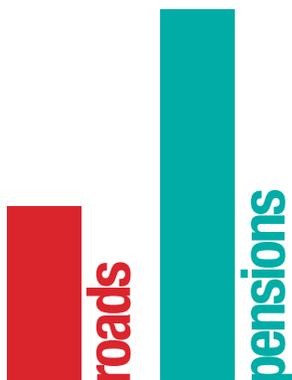
## starts with **pension reform**

"WE'VE DUG OURSELVES INTO A BUDGET HOLE. BUT PENSION REFORM CAN DIG US OUT."



OF STATE BUDGET IS SPENT PAYING EMPLOYEE SALARY & PENSIONS

**2 to 1**  
spending



BUDGET SPENDING ON PENSIONS OVER TRANSPORTATION

## FAST FACTS



Connecticut has more fixed costs than any other state.

Retired state employee health care now costs more than health care for current workers.

Younger state workers are losing their jobs because unions are putting pensions before people.

CONNECTICUT'S TOP STATE PENSION PAYOUT IS

**\$300,000**  
a year

# PENSION REFORM

myths  
vs. facts

## PENSION REFORM IS OUR ONLY WAY OUT.

Here's why.

**MYTH #1** | The state is solely to blame for underfunding the pensions.

**FACT:** Union negotiators signed off on state underfunding on multiple occasions - and received raises or other benefits in return. **Unions need to help fix a problem they helped create.**

**MYTH #2** | Unions already made concessions and don't need to make anymore.

**FACT:** Union leaders have agreed to small changes, but only for a price. Despite changes, **state employees remain well-compensated and enjoy far more benefits than most Connecticut workers receive.**

Pensions aren't really all that high.

**MYTH #3**

**FACT:** Some state employees get very small pensions that skew the average. **The top state pension is more than \$300,000/yr and the top teacher pension is nearly \$200,000/yr. A simple reform would cap the amount of pay that counts toward a state employee's pensions at \$100,000/yr to save the state millions of dollars.**

Secret negotiations are necessary.

**MYTH #4**

**FACT:** Connecticut stands alone in requiring the governor to strike union deals in secret. **Connecticut should have the same union transparency as the rest of the country.**

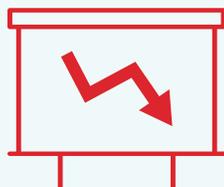
Pension and labor reform are unconstitutional.

**MYTH #5**

**FACT:** Some reforms have been challenged in other states. These measures are clearly within the power of CT lawmakers. **Lawmakers need the flexibility of these reforms to help dig us out of this hole.**

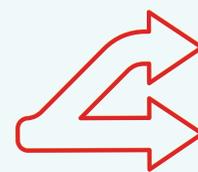
## TWO BILLS TO FIX THE PROBLEM

for a budget  
that works



### REDUCING OUR FIXED COSTS

**SB 537** builds on successful legislation in NY, MA and RI to allow more legislative control of pension costs for state employees.



### INCREASING OUR FLEXIBILITY

**SB 268** provides transparency by requiring legislative approval before union contracts can be enacted.