



## 2006 STATE LEGISLATIVE ACTION SUMMARY

The approval of state employee contracts, the restoration of workers' rights in Waterbury, the protection of municipal retirees' health benefits and the defeat of efforts to weaken binding arbitration were among the highlights of the 2006 General Assembly.

Bolstered by the energy of Council 4 union members – who testified at hearings, contacted their legislators and showed up in force at our April 19 Lobby Day – we made our legislative voice heard in effective fashion.

Among our accomplishments:

- ✓ **State Employee Collective Bargaining Agreements:** The General Assembly approved several collective bargaining agreements covering nearly 15,000 Council members in the NP-3 (Administrative-Clerical), P-2 (Human and Social Services), Judicial (Local 749) and Higher Education (Locals 1214, 1588, 2480). All of the agreements included a solid pattern of general wage increases and other enhancements. Go to [www.council4.org](http://www.council4.org) for details.
- ✓ **SB 20: An Act Concerning Certain Provisions of Special Act 01-1.** Several years of hard work paid off with the passage of SB 20, which restores neutral binding arbitration to the municipal employees in Waterbury and repudiates the need for pejorative labor language in future similar situations.
- ✓ **SB 16: An Act Protecting Municipal Retiree Health Insurance Benefits.** This bill is a companion piece to SB 20. This bill will prevent municipalities from reducing, diminishing retiree health care benefits, as the Waterbury oversight board was able to do. SB 16 requires that the contract under which retirees obtained their health care benefit be honored. If retiree health care tied to active member health care, then if changes made for active members such change will be allowed to be made to retiree benefit.
- ✓ **Binding Arbitration Victory:** Council 4 members made their voice heard on this key issue, as the Program Review and Investigations Committee (PRI) defeated legislation that recommended changes to binding arbitration for municipal and school employees (as well as to teacher binding arbitration). The studies that were conducted by PRI last year found no negative impact, direct or indirect, on municipalities and boards of education, thus negating any reason for proposed legislative changes that would have hurt our members.
- ✓ **SB 25: An Act Concerning Social Security Offsets Under The Workers Compensation Act.** This bill eliminates the provision of the 1993 workers' compensation "deform" that allowed insurance carriers to deduct Social Security retiree benefits from any worker compensation benefits owed to an elderly worker who was injured on their job.
- ✓ **Municipal Aid:** Council 4 staff and members urged legislators not to allow the governor to shortchange aid to cities and towns. Those efforts paid off with the passage of a compromise budget that provides municipalities with \$70 million in additional funding over Rell's proposed budget. The additional monies will help preserve public services and jobs in our cities.



**PUT THE "YOU" IN UNION!  
Become a Council 4 "E-Activist"**

**JOIN THE COUNCIL 4 ACTION CENTER:** Stay current with the issues affecting you. To receive regular updates of Council 4 Events, Labor/Political News, Scholarships and other information, please sign up for the Council 4 Action Center by providing the information listed below. We will then enter you into the Council 4 Action Center.

Primary Email: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address Line 2: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Remember: Information is Power!  
Get Active, Stay Informed!**