



## Town by Town Runs

Here is a link to the [Town by Town](#) Runs and a [budget summary](#) that COST obtained. We will be reviewing in detail and providing more information later tonight.

### Senate to Vote on Bipartisan Budget Tonight

Calling the agreement historic, the Senate is expected to vote on a bipartisan budget later tonight and the House tomorrow. Although we are still awaiting budget documents, it has been reported that:

**The budget does NOT shift any portion of the teachers' pension costs to towns** - COST and our members have been out front opposing this massive cost shift since it was first proposed. Thanks to your efforts, we have won a major victory this year.

**Car Tax** - The budget does NOT eliminate the car tax. Instead, the budget caps the car tax at 39 mills in FY 18 and at 45 mills in FY 19.

**Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Funding** - [CTMirror](#) is reporting that ECS grants will be reduced by \$30 million this fiscal year - a 1.5 % reduction. However, the state's 30 lowest performing districts will be protected from the cuts. For FY 19, an additional \$30 million in ECS funding will be provided and distributed under a revised ECS formula, which provides greater weight to a town's median income, among other changes.

### Mandate Relief!

In a major victory for COST's members, as reported by [CTNewsjunkie](#), the budget includes meaningful relief from unfunded mandates, including:

- Increases the prevailing wage threshold for new construction from \$400,000 to \$1 million;
- Exempts services that are donated to municipalities from the prevailing wage laws;
- Prohibits arbiters from considering a fund balance of 15% or less in determining a town's ability to pay under binding arbitration laws;
- Provides that the arbiter is not limited to choosing either a town or a union's last best offer in binding arbitration cases;
- Requires any new hires or contract changes by a board of education to be submitted to a town's board of finance for review and comment;
- Revises the Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR) to allow towns to reduce their education budgets by the amount that their ECS funding is cut; and

- Does NOT include any expansion of the Family & Medical Leave Act.

### **Other Municipal Aid**

- The budget is expected to maintain level funding for **Town Aid Road (TAR)** and restore funding for the **Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP)** funding, which was not released in March because the state had exceeded the bond authorization for LoCIP;
- **Pequot/Mohegan** - Budget reduces funding by \$426,762 in FY 18 and \$8,133,816 in FY 19
- **Municipal Revenue Sharing Fund** - Funding eliminated (\$185,000,000);
- Maintains the existing reimbursement rate for the **Resident State Trooper** program which is 85% for the first two troopers;
- Includes \$20 million/year **MORE Commission lapse**, which allows OPM to unilaterally reduce municipal aid during the fiscal year; and
- Provides \$110,994 per year for the Department of Housing for crumbling foundations.

### **Energy Funding**

The budget sweeps \$14 million/year from the Green Bank, which funds renewable energy projects, rather than \$27.5 million/year. It also diverts \$63.5 million/year from the Energy Efficiency Fund.

**COST will send out Town by Town Runs and complete budget documents as soon as they are available!**