

New Yorkers Against Budget Cuts: Students-Labor-Communities United



Taking Action to Defend Our Rights:

The time has come to fight back!

Several thousand union members, students and community activists rallied outside City Hall and marched through the financial district. Their message: stop threatened budget cuts that would cause schools to close, tuition to rise, severely cut social services and force thousands more layoffs of municipal workers.

Oliver Gray, associate director of **District Council 37**, said public sector workers will not allow Gov. Cuomo to blame them for the so-called deficit. "How are we to blame," he asked, "when the Governor wants to cut the taxes of
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March from City Hall to Wall Street: March 24, 2011

the richest people in New York and gives back to Wall St. investors \$15 billion a year in stock transfer taxes?"

Council Member Charles Barron contradicted Governor Cuomo and Mayor Bloomberg's claims that cuts are necessary because the state and city are broke. If they're so broke, he questioned, why are taxes being cut for the richest 1 percent of the population that share more than 35 percent of the state's income and 44 percent of the city's? "You want to cut something?" Barron challenged Cuomo and Bloomberg. **"Cut tax breaks to the rich!"**

Larry Hales of the **CUNY Mobilization Network** said "All the budget cuts could be avoided simply by making the banks and investors pay their fair share of taxes. They have looted the public treasury, giving nothing back. We must reclaim public funds for workers, communities and students."



When we won open admissions in 1976, the response was to end free tuition. We say NO! Demand Free Tuition and Open Admissions: Education is a Right!

Occupying the Capitol in Albany on March 30 to stop the vicious vote on Cuomo's hatchet budget, students, workers and poor people from across New York state made their voices heard.

The action was an opening shot in a non-stop campaign against Cuomo and the politicians slashing education and public services while letting the rich off the hook.

Next stops: City Hall and Washington, DC!

We will not allow the politicians or bankers to solve their crisis at our expense. They caused the crisis, they can pay — tax the rich!

Coalition Members (partial list):

CUNY Mobilization Network, AFSCME DC37 and DC1707, United Auto Workers Region 9A (East Coast and Puerto Rico), Transport Workers Union Local 100 Women's Committee, Coalition for Public Education, Freedom Party, South Bronx Community Congress, Bail Out the People Movement, International Socialist Organization, Organization for a Free Society.

Demands:

Jobs, Not Layoffs! Affordable Housing Now! No Cuts to Social Services! No Union-Busting or Privatization! Extend the Millionaire's Tax! Close Corporate Tax Loopholes! Bring Back the Stock Transfer Tax! Stop the School Closings! No to Mayoral Control, Yes to Popular Control!

Join this growing movement — Together We Can Win!



Photo: Mike Groll/AP

New Yorkers Against the Budget Cuts • Students • Labor • Community United
Website: nocutsny.wordpress.com • Email: nocutsny@gmail.com

New Yorkers Against Budget Cuts: Students • Labor • Communities United

New Yorkers Against Budget Cuts: Students • Labor • Communities United — a coalition of unions, student groups, community organizations and activists — is dedicated to fighting cuts and layoffs in social services and education. City, state and federal politicians talk about deficits, while taxes for banks, corporations and the rich are actually *reduced!* It should be the opposite: Wall Street investors and banks are making record profits — after enormous bailouts by taxpayers. And the war budget is higher than ever.

We say: **tax the rich and cut the war budget!**

The deficit talk is a big lie: rightwingers claim the deficit is caused by the cost of social services, health care, education, Medicare and Social Security.

Before they cut taxes for the rich, there was a surplus! These tax cuts and the Pentagon budget are the cause of both the deficit and the rising public debt.

What the deficit hawks really want is to deny our rights to education, housing, health care and decent wages — to take back everything we won in the 20th century!

We must stop these attacks with a massive movement of protests and direct action, including strikes!

Here's a short list of what's happening:

- **17 hospitals closed** in New York City since 2000.
- **55 public schools targeted for closing**, mostly in Black and Latino neighborhoods.
- **Massive job losses:** thousands of state and city workers and teachers.
- Governor Cuomo 2011-12 budget cuts \$2.85 billion from education and Medicaid, \$7 billion in other areas.
- Unemployment is at its highest in decades: 75% of Black men aged 16 to 24 are unemployed while the real unemployment rate for New York as a whole is 18%. We need to be creating jobs, not laying off workers.

Tax the Rich!

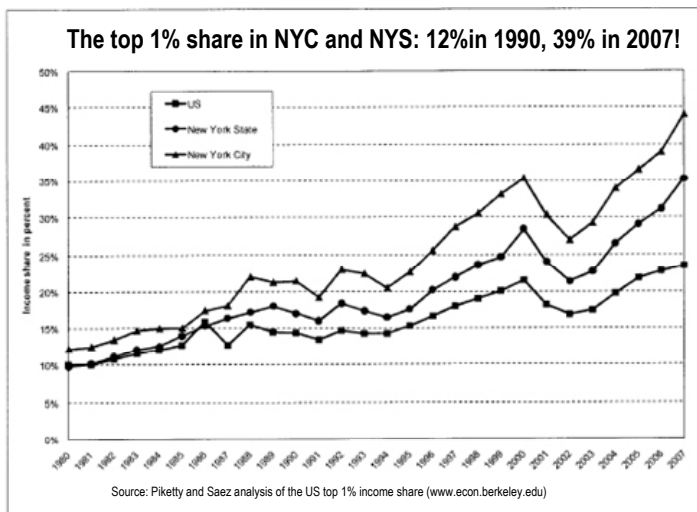
“Shared sacrifice”? Wall Street bonuses are at record highs. **The richest 1% pay less in state and local taxes than anyone else.** They now pay 8.4% of their income in NYS Taxes while middle-income workers pay 11.6%! Cuomo wants to cut taxes for the top 1% by a *third* while slashing public services and closing schools. He says public sector workers are to blame!

The top 1% are richer than ever — their share of New York State income is 35%+. They can afford to pay more. On top of this, New York State GIVES BACK \$15 billion in Stock Transfer Taxes to Wall Street each year. And Cuomo wants to end the Millionaires' Tax that brings in \$1.5 billion per year!

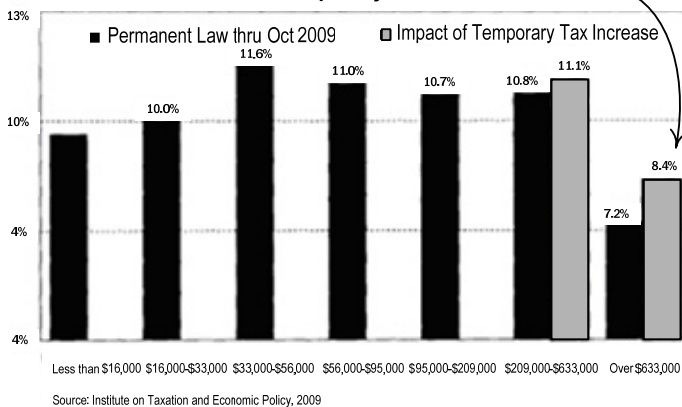
There's another \$60 billion that New Yorkers pay for the Pentagon and its wars. These wars are wrong, a waste, and must be ended! **Money for Jobs and Education – Not for Wars and Occupation!**

There's Plenty of money to:

**Save our Schools • Save our Services • Save our Jobs!
Tax the Rich! Don't let banks loot the public treasury!**



The wealthiest 1% of households pay a much smaller share of their income in state and city income taxes than all other New Yorkers, even with the temporary income tax increase.



“Fair Share” Myths and Facts

What They Want Us to Believe	What We Know is True:
The big budget deficits and public debt are caused by “entitlements” like Social Security, Medicare, public education, welfare, and so on...	<p>The deficits are caused by war, big capital projects and a “free tax pass” to corporations and the rich – the friends of the law makers.</p> <p>The big debt is for decades of war. The banks made the loans, and collect more in interest than the original \$multi-trillion cost of the wars. The banks are looting the Treasury – with government consent.</p> <p>Just as the banks and the IMF use debt to dictate misery in poor countries, they’re doing the same here. And they took our tax dollars to invest in sweatshops abroad while attacking unions and the poor here!</p>
“Investors” can create more jobs if they don’t pay taxes.	<p>The banks and other Wall Streeters have not invested even their bailout money in jobs at home. Instead they pour it into rock-bottom super-exploitative industries in other countries, or simply in gambling.</p> <p>Real job-creating investment needs public funding — like an infrastructure bank. The government should only grant tax breaks to companies when they actually make job-creating investments.</p>
Medicare costs are threatening the overall economy.	<p>Wrong. Medical costs and private insurance are ruining the economy. We would trade medical benefits for a Single Payer plan.</p> <p>As for Medicare, we pay for it weekly. The money is ours. Hands off!</p>
Social Security is in crisis, and must be privatized.	<p>Wow. They want the cash cow. The Social Security system is not in danger – except from deficit hawks with big hatchets. What the big biz servants want is to hand over Social Security to insurance companies, who want to milk it the way they milk private health care.</p> <p><i>We who pay weekly for Medicare and Social Security are the owners of these systems. We will not give them up!</i></p>
The country cannot afford to support education for our youth , either in public schools, community colleges or universities.	<p>We can’t afford <i>not</i> to provide educational opportunities for youth! Failure to foster education for youth is a disaster — and a crime — that has already led to more youth of color in prison than in college.</p> <p>Imprisoning people costs about \$40,000 <i>per inmate</i> per year. The USA has more prisoners per capita than any other country in the world. It would be possible to provide free higher education plus a stipend to all youth in this country. Just free anyone in prison who was not convicted of a violent offense.</p>
There just isn’t any money...	<p>In New York State, taxing the rich would net \$25 billion+</p> <p><i>Closing tax loopholes for the rich</i> would net more billions. Taxing the rich at a minimally fair rate (35%) would wipe out the deficit by itself.</p> <p>Trimming the Pentagon just back to 2002 level would net trillions more.</p>
We Can’t Win.	<p>Yes we can! United we can stop these attacks and cutbacks. We can save our jobs and our dignity... and the gains of the last century.</p> <p>We can march and rally. Slow Down. Sick Out. Sit Down. Stick Around.</p> <p><i>First Steps: Unite. Make Plans. Take Action.</i></p>

This movement won’t stop until we stop the attacks and win our rights!
Together we can win!