

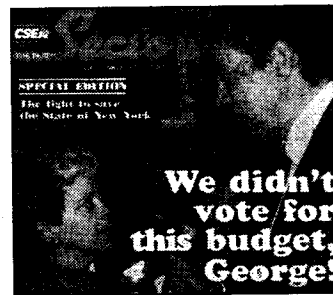


## 13 years ago ...

In early 1995, almost immediately after taking office, Gov. George Pataki proposed a state budget that contained layoffs and deep spending cuts in state services and aid to school districts and municipalities. Many programs and services that CSEA members provide, including care for those with developmental disabilities and mental illnesses, highway maintenance and education support, were in jeopardy of elimination. With thousands of members and their families at risk under the new governor's budget, CSEA responded by mobilizing members like the union had never done before to fight Pataki's devastating plan.

CSEA fought back using grassroots methods, including calling the governor's and state lawmakers' offices, writing letters to state officials, holding demonstrations outside state lawmakers' offices and even following Pataki's every move across the state, including when then U.S. Sen. Bob Dole visited Albany to accept Pataki's endorsement for Dole's 1996 presidential campaign. CSEA also launched a statewide print and broadcast advertising campaign to educate the public about the services union members provide that were in jeopardy of cuts. Throughout the campaign, CSEA's tagline was "we didn't vote for this budget!"

CSEA's mobilization efforts against Pataki's budget paid off when state legislators, led by Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno, eliminated many of Pataki's cuts and eventually reached a budget that proved to be less harmful to working families.



**Above, the cover of the April 1995, edition of *The Public Sector*, which depicts CSEA activist Sally Smith confronting Gov. George Pataki about his budget proposal during a union demonstration while Pataki was visiting Western New York.**

## Also in 1995 ...

- \* Bosnia, Serbia, and Croatia sign the Dayton Peace Accord to end the war in Bosnia.
- \* In Oklahoma City, 168 people are killed after a terrorist's car bomb explodes outside the city's block-long federal building.
- \* With more than 150 million people watching, O.J. Simpson is acquitted of murder charges after a months-long trial that generated a national media circus.
- \* Hundreds of thousands of African-American men participate in the Million Man March in Washington, D.C.
- \* Grateful Dead frontman Jerry Garcia dies.
- \* Actor Tom Hanks wins an Oscar for Best Actor for the second consecutive year for his role in "Forrest Gump," which won six Oscars including one for Best Picture.