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COLORADO UNION DUES SNAPSHOT

What Colorado lawmarkers should know about how public-sector union dues are spent.

Americans for Fair Treatment analyzed publicly available financial filings from Colorado's largest teachers union. The Colorado Education Association spent $17.0 million in fiscal year 2025. Our research examines how dues are spent — and how much goes to union staff, political activity, and other priorities.

HOW MUCH OF EVERY DUES DOLLAR GOES TO CEA'S OWN STAFF?

UNION		CENTS OF EVERY DOLLAR
COLORADO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION		61.4¢

*Staff costs include salaries, officer compensation, benefits, pensions, and payroll taxes.

THE BOTTOM LINE

CEA spent 61.4% of its FY 2025 budget on its own staff. A one-time asset sale masked another annual shortfall, and accounts payable and accrued expenses nearly doubled in one year. State political committees linked to CEA reported that 99% of party-coded dollars went to Democrat-aligned recipients.

Transparency is the first step toward accountability.

KEY FINDINGS

1 STAFF COSTS DOMINATE THE BUDGET.

- **$10,459,492** went to salaries, officer compensation, benefits, pensions, and payroll taxes.
- **61.4%** of total spending went to CEA's own staff.
- For every $1 granted out, CEA spent **$5.88** on itself.

2 AN ASSET SALE MASKED ANOTHER SHORTFALL.

- CEA reported a **$2.6M** surplus in FY 2025.
- That included a one-time **$3.1M** gain on the sale of assets.
- Excluding the sale, FY 2025 ended with a **$535,034** shortfall — a fourth straight annual shortfall on that basis.

3 POLITICAL SPENDING FAVORS ONE PARTY.

- Two CEA-linked state committees reported **$3.2M** in monetary disbursements from 2015 through Aug. 2026.
- **99.0%** of party-coded dollars went to Democrat-aligned recipients.
- **1.0%** went to Republican-aligned recipients.

4 LIABILITIES ROSE SHARPLY IN ONE YEAR.

- Accounts payable and accrued expenses rose from **$4.4M** to **$8.8M** in one year.
- One-year increase in accrued liabilities: **+$4.37M**.
- Total liabilities are up **137.6%** since FY 2016.

5 TOP PAY AND OTHER SPENDING RAISE QUESTIONS.

- **11** officers and employees were paid more than **$160,000**.
- Top compensation: Kris Gomez — **$250,935** total.
- **$1.6M** went across four spending lines that named no vendor or recipient.

Sources: Colorado Education Association FY 2025 IRS Form 990; historical Form 990 filings; Colorado Secretary of State TRACER records; analysis by Americans for Fair Treatment.

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