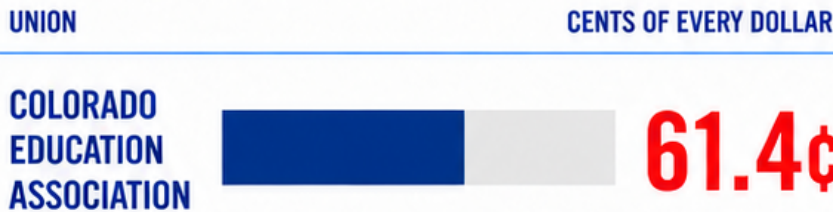


COLORADO UNION DUES SNAPSHOT

What Colorado lawmakers 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?



*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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