

Nassau Retirees Legal Fund Seaford, NY Attn: Scott Cohen Via Email

July 31, 2025

Dear Nassau Retirees Legal Fund Members and Nassau County Retirees:

As a candidate for Nassau County comptroller this November, I will make it a priority to secure the health benefits you and others like you worked for, paid for, and were promised. Nassau County and its Comptroller owe you nothing less.

Over twenty years, I have served on the North Hempstead Town Council, in the County Legislature, and as North Hempstead Town Clerk. I know first-hand that public service workers often choose lower-paying jobs in exchange for the assurance of contractual pension and health benefits in retirement.

Public employers must uphold these commitments, especially when they are embedded in Collective Bargaining Agreements. All public officials on Long Island – especially county comptrollers – should understand these commitments and work to maintain them, ensuring the financial well-being of our retirees remains intact.

Nassau County's government cannot be allowed to break the law and these commitments. The County must keep you on the Empire Plan, as well as enact protections to prevent future changes. As Comptroller, I will do everything I can to ensure these protections are put in place.

I understand and support the following points:

- Upon retirement, retirees are no longer part of any bargaining unit. The law prohibits unions from representing both retirees and active employees simultaneously, so you could not have been part of the 2023 MOU negotiated between the County and the union of active employees.
- The CBA in effect at the time you retire governs your rights in retirement. Your CBA promised you County-paid health insurance that was vested for life with benefits that cannot be reduced, ever.
- The Collective Bargaining Agreement for retirees clearly states that health benefits cannot be diminished. The Federal Government defines the "benefit" as the healthcare items or services covered under a health insurance plan.
- The current negotiations between the CSEA union and the County have no effect on past retirees. Retirees are entitled to fully-paid health insurance for life, with benefits at least as good as the NYSHIP Empire Plan.

As a candidate for Comptroller, I urge the County Executive and the County Legislature to stand with retirees, who are often among the most financially vulnerable individuals in our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. For more information, please visit my website at www.wewantwaynewink.com.

Sincerely,

Wayne H. Wink, Jr.

Candidate for Nassau County Comptroller