

# ASEA In Action



## AFSCME Alaska Members Slam New Governor's "Disaster" of a Budget

Members of the Alaska State Employees Association (ASEA)/AFSCME Local 52 are fighting a budget proposal by the newly elected governor that would eliminate and privatize state programs on an unprecedented scale.

Much of ASEA's Political Education Leadership (PEL) Conference in February was overshadowed by the budget proposal. ASEA members were briefed on how the proposed budget would make massive cuts to core services.

More than 40 ASEA members from across the state gathered in Juneau for the PEL conference and walked the halls of the state Capitol to speak with lawmakers about the future of state services.



Gov. Mike Dunleavy's [budget proposal](#) has most Alaskans reeling as it unfairly targets programs serving vulnerable citizens – the sick, the elderly, residents of rural and coastal communities and all of Alaska's children.

It would slash funding by hundreds of millions of dollars for K-12 and higher education, increase costs up to [140 percent for senior citizens living in the Alaska Pioneer Homes](#) (24-hour care facilities for the elderly), and [sell a state museum](#) along with its collection of historical and cultural artifacts. It is also expected to lead to at least [7,000 job losses](#).

The state ferry system, an essential form of transportation for many coastal residents and a transportation backbone in Interior Alaska, [would cease operation after September under the plan to cut funding by 75 percent](#). In other words, the governor's budget would leave Alaskans stranded – literally.

AFSCME members learned from legislators that the loss of essential services, state jobs and beloved Alaska institutions is neither inevitable nor necessary. The decision between state services and a balanced budget is a false choice that distracts from the Dunleavy administration's effort to outsource, cost-shift and sell off state assets and responsibilities.

After presentations and discussions at the PEL Conference, AFSCME members resolved to support an anticipated alternate budget drawn up by the Alaska State Legislature to meet the true needs of the state.

Alaska enjoys a fiscal situation that is the envy of other states. Dunleavy has introduced a disaster budget and manufactured a fiscal crisis to justify it. It threatens Alaska just as the state emerges from a five-year recession.

AFSCME members held a rally on Feb. 27 on the Capitol steps. They held signs and a banner reading "Save our State."

"Governor Dunleavy's budget is anti-worker and anti-Alaskan," said Mike Laiti, an ASEA member working in the Department of Health and Social Services. "From education to health care to transportation, this budget is a disaster for Alaska." (Reprint From AFSCME Now)

## Run-Off Election - Class 1 Employees

Class 1 members watch your mail for a Runoff Ballot for the Class 1 Representative on the State Executive Board. Ballots will be mailed on March 26th. Ballots must be received by and will be counted on April 25.

## Think Spring



## API Privatizing Rallies



**ASEA TEXT ALERTS**  
**STAY INFORMED ON**  
**ISSUES THAT AFFECT YOU!**  
**TEXT ASEAL52 TO 237263**

## President's Message

Fellow ASEA Sisters and Brothers,

First and foremost, I want to say thank you for your support and faith in me by re-electing me to be your State Executive Board President for the 2019-2022 term, which is truly an honor. I want to congratulate and welcome the following new State Executive Board members: Brothers Carl Jacobs-Professional Representative and Kenneth Winger-Municipal Representative. Congratulations to Brother Michael French-Administrative Support Representative and Sister Beth Siegel-Northern Representative for being re-elected to the Board. Thank you to the Board members who have diligently served our Board for many years, Brothers Richard Sewell and Michael Bredlie.

March was a busy month for ASEA. There were events and meetings about the Governor's Budget and how it will affect all of us, not just State employees, but all Alaskan communities. I encourage each of you to fully read the Governor's Budget (<https://gov.alaska.gov/an-honest-budget-2020/>) and if you have questions/concerns contact your legislative representatives. There will be more events/hearings to get engaged and voice your concerns.

I also encourage all ASEA/AFSCME Local 52 chapters to organize a rally at events your legislative representative will appear at. Get engaged and ask questions. Reflect on what the youth of the world just did when they organized a, "RALLY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE." The legislative session and funding for our contract will be decided by legislators, so it is important that you encourage your representatives to vote to support our contract and the contracts of our other union Brothers and Sisters.

Spring Steward Training will be held for new and current Stewards. Stewards will engage in discussions and scenarios that will help them continue to help members deal with workplace concerns. Stewards are there to make sure your rights as a Union member are protected. If you have workplace concerns, contact your Steward by accessing the ASEA website for a Steward near you. Also, keep in mind our Business Agents are ready and willing to assist you as well.

Brothers and Sisters, during the next few months as our legislative body focuses on the budget, we will need to collectively engage in the legislative process. Together we can make things happen. I challenge you to Inspire one another and together we can make a difference in our Union. Be well and as always, serving you with Style and Grace. Thank you for all you do for our State as I am humbled to continue to be your President.

*In Friendship and Solidarity,*  
*Dawn Bundick, ASEA/AFSCME Local 52 President*