



# ALASKA STATE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

## American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees Local 52

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Press Release  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
5/2/2025

### **Tentative Agreement Reached After Months of Contract Negotiations**

*Monetary terms, including wages and employer contributions to health care, must now be funded by the Legislature*

Juneau - The State's largest bargaining unit reached a tentative agreement with the Department of Administration on Thursday, May 1 for a 2025-2028 collective bargaining agreement (CBA). The agreement now requires confirmation of funding from the Legislature.

"This was not an easy agreement to reach. This deal is the result of nearly a year of hard work from our members and ASEA Staff. It includes concessions from both the state and ASEA but we believe it is a solid agreement and arguably one of the best contracts GGU has seen," said Heidi Drygas, Executive Director of ASEA/AFSCME Local 52.

It includes wage increases totaling 11% over the next three years plus two lump sum payments as follows:

- Year 1: 3% increase plus a \$2500 lump sum payment on July 1, 2025;
- Year 2: 3% increase plus a \$2000 lump sum payment on July 1, 2026; and
- Year 3: 5% increase on July 1, 2027.

Equally important, GGU employees will receive significant increases in health care contributions to the ASEA Health Benefits Trust over the three-year contract. The state agreed to increase its current health care contribution by \$300 in year 1, an additional \$152 in year 2, and an additional \$162 in year 3. For perspective, increases to health care contributions were a mere \$12.50 in each year of the previous contract.

"Alaska has the highest health care costs in the nation and those costs only continue to rise. This increase is long overdue and the first significant one since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act," said Drygas. "Our members deserve meaningful wage increases that are long overdue but it is also imperative for the negotiating team to ensure members continue having access to the best, most affordable health care in the state."

Funding state employee contracts is a routine function of the legislative branch. The GGU agreement and its monetary terms affect more than 8,000 state employees who deliver the critical services Alaskans rely on every day.

"This contract covers fisheries biologists, probation officers, pioneer home nurses, wildland firefighters, and thousands of other frontline employees," said Drygas. "We know the Legislature understands the importance of funding our contract. We urge them to fund it, not just for our members but for the benefit of the state of Alaska as a whole."

Once funded by the Legislature and ratified by ASEA membership, it will go into effect on July 1, 2025.

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