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Lisi Misa
being first duly sworn on oath deposes and says that she is a representative of the Anchorage Daily News, a daily newspaper. That said newspaper has been approved by the Third Judicial Court, Anchorage, Alaska, and it now and has been published in the English language continually as a daily newspaper in Anchorage, Alaska, and it is now and during all said time was printed in an office maintained at the aforesaid place of publication of said newspaper. That the annexed is a copy of an advertisement as it was published in regular issues (and not in supplemental form) of said newspaper on

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and that such newspaper was regularly distributed to its subscribers during all of said period. That the full amount of the fee charged for the foregoing publication is not in excess of the rate charged private individuals.

Signed Lisi Misa

Subscribed and sworn to before

me this 8th day of April, 2025.

Kristina R. Wladkowski

Notary Public in and for
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KRISTINA R. WLADKOWSKI
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MY COMMISSION EXPIRES JAN. 23, 2029

ALASKA NEWS

Dunleavy administration again delays release of salary study

Iris Samuels
Anchorage Daily News

Alaska Department of Administration Commissioner Paula Vrana told state lawmakers in January that a long-delayed salary study examining the competitiveness of state employee compensation would be released at the end of March.

March came and went, and the salary study — originally due by the end of June — still hasn't been released.

The administration of Gov. Mike Dunleavy "intends to release the report as soon as it is finalized. The Department expects the final report will be released in the near future," Department of Administration spokesperson Forrest Wolfe said earlier this week, without giving any specifics on the expected timeline or the reason for the new delay.

The salary study — which is expected to cost the state roughly $1 million — is now at the center of a lawsuit filed by the Alaska State Employees Association, a union representing roughly 8,400 of the state's 14,500 employees. The union is asking the state to release not only the final report from Segal, the contractor hired to conduct the study, but also earlier drafts of the report that the union alleges may be illegally suppressed by the administration.

The union requested that Anchorage Superior Court Judge Ian Wheeles grant expedited consideration of a motion for preliminary injunction. The union is currently negotiating a three-year contract with the state and says that without information included in the salary study, its members' compensation cannot be determined accurately.

Wheeles granted the motion for expedited consideration in February and held a hearing on March 5, but he has yet to rule on the union's motion for preliminary injunction.

"It's unusual that a judge would grant expedited consideration of a case and wait to issue a decision for a month. So we expected a decision much sooner than this," said Heidi Drygas, executive director of the union.

Unless lawmakers or the governor call a special session, the Legislature will conclude its work for the year in mid-May. The union must submit its contract terms to the Legislature before the legislative session ends for salary changes to be incorporated in the state budget and go into effect in the new fiscal year, which begins in July.

"The purpose of the salary study was to inform the state, the Legislature, employees about whether their salaries are competitive in this market," said Drygas. "The impact is obvious: We are still at the bargaining table and more information is always better."

If the findings of the salary study are not incorporated into ASEA's contract negotiations for its three-year contract, "it would almost be a waste of resources," said Drygas. "By the time you negotiate the next contract, the information (in the study) is stale."

ASEA's contract negotiations also come as the Legislature contends with a strained budget plan and a massive projected deficit. Adjusting Alaska state salaries to keep up with inflation and compete with other employers' compensation could come with a price tag in the tens of millions.

A resolution introduced earlier this week by the House State Affairs Committee seeks to urge the Dunleavy administration to release the study.

The resolution, which has yet to be scheduled for a hearing, points to the state's "recruitment and crisis for public employees, including firefighters, public safety officers, teachers, road maintenance operators, benefits processors, and other public sector employees."

State data indicated that the state had persistently high vacancy rates last year.

Photos by LOREN HOLMES / ADN

West High English teacher Brian Lyke rallies the crowd before the start of a legislative town hall on Saturday at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Lyke, who was recently given notice that his position had been eliminated, was the director of a well-received West High production of "Hadestown."

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

At Anchorage town hall, a rallying cry emerges: More taxes, please

Iris Samuels
Anchorage Daily News

Twenty state legislators convened in Anchorage on Saturday for an annual town hall that brings together the delegation representing the state's biggest city.

Like last year, the town hall was used by education advocates to call for what they say is a desperately needed increase in the state's education budget, which has not kept up with inflation for years. But speakers at the two-hour meeting had a new addition to their plea: To make education funding possible, impose more taxes.

A third of the Alaska Legislature — including Democrats, Republicans and independents representing every neighborhood of Anchorage — listened to request after request for an increase to the Base Student Allocation, along with laments from students who fear the elimination of beloved theater and sports programs.

Lawmakers on both sides of the political aisle, along with Alaska Gov. Mike Dunleavy, a Republican, have said some amount of education funding increase would be needed this year. But they have also pointed to the state's dwindling revenue — which comes primarily from oil taxes and Permanent Fund earnings — to reason that an increase that meets the demands of school districts may not be viable this year.

Several Anchorage residents who attended the town hall on Saturday had a ready reply: "Tax me."

Alaska had a state income tax until 1980, when booming revenue from the oil industry compelled the state's political leaders to eliminate it. Oil revenue is no longer booming, but political appetite to reinstate a personal income tax — or any new taxes, for that matter — has been slim.

Sen. Bill Wielechowski takes a selfie with Sen. Löki Tobin, Sen. Kelly Merrick, and Sen. Cathy Giessel before the start of a legislative town hall on Saturday at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Lawmakers in the Senate this year have floated several ideas that would increase taxes on Alaska's oil industry and other corporations, but have stopped short of introducing any personal taxes. Republicans in the House last month largely rejected ideas for new taxes on the resource industry. Dunleavy has shown no interest in introducing or signing off on new taxes, ever since he promised in 2023 to introduce a statewide sales tax — and then never did.

"I hear some of you are not wanting to tax the people and industries that can afford to contribute — no statewide income tax, no S-corp tax, corporate oil breaks still in place," Rozlyn Grady-Wyche, an education graduate student, told lawmakers during the town hall. "You have options, you have power. What's missing is the will."

"We need a revenue plan — a fair, equitable one that asks for more from those with more," Grady-Wyche added.

The question of whether — and how — to establish new revenue has long been treated with hesitancy by state lawmakers, amid fears of backlash from voters. But speakers during the packed-to-the-gills town hall meeting often elicited loud cheers and applause from the crowd when they spoke about the prospect of new taxes as a tool to afford new education spending.

"There's an old adage in business — I don't know if anybody knows it — revenue fixes everything," said Ben Kellie, an entrepreneur and former SpaceX engineer who lives in West Anchorage.

"Amen!" someone shouted from the crowd, as others and clapped.

"It's not enough to throw your hands up and say you can't do it. Figure it out. Do your jobs," Kellie said.

Nick Moe, representing thread, a child care nonprofit, told lawmakers that critical child care funding is "at risk if we do not find new revenue and a solution to this budget crisis."

"The thread board has taken the unprecedented step of supporting new and diverse revenue as a way to fund essential searches, so that's my message: Please pass new revenue. Pass it now," said Moe.

Moe said he's "heard eight good revenue ideas" in the Capitol in Juneau.

"I think you should pass them all," he said.

Pat Higgins, a member of the Anchorage School Board, excoriated lawmakers for refusing to levy taxes that would allow the state to more easily send the district the funding it says it needs.

"You make up the decisions on where the funds are going to come from. You decide the oil taxes. You decide corporate taxes. I'm willing to pay an income tax. I'm willing to pay a sales tax," said Higgins.

"I demand to be taxed. Tax me now," said Erin Dougherty Lynch, an attorney who lives in South Anchorage. "It is patriotic to pay taxes."

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PRESIDENT, CEO & PUBLISHER
Ryan Binkley . . . . . ryan@adn.com
EDITOR
Vicky Ho . . . . . vho@adn.com
INTERIM OPINION EDITOR (RETIRED EDITOR)
David Hulen 907-257-4596
. . . . . dhulen@adn.com
VICE PRESIDENT, REVENUE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Kea Cuaresma. . . . 907-257-4458
. . . . . kcuaresma@adn.com

VICE PRESIDENT, SALES & EVENTS
Brandi Nelson . . . 907-257-4221
. . . . . bnelson@adn.com
DIRECTOR, CIRCULATION & PRODUCTION
Mark Wasser. 907-257-4387
. . . . . mwasser@adn.com
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
Joshua Petersen . . . CFO@adn.com
CUSTOMER SERVICE
Circulation. 907-257-4400
Paid obituaries . . . 907-257-4231
. . . . . obituary@adn.com
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Letters to Editor . . lettersi@adn.com
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CORRECTIONS

Anchorage Daily News promptly acknowledges and corrects factual errors. If you see one, please call our editors at 257-4301.

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High Standards LLC is applying under 3 AAC 306.300 for a new Retail Marijuana Store license, license #40585, doing business as High Standards, located at 8860 Arlon Street, Anchorage, AK, 99507, UNITED STATES.

Interested persons may object to the application by submitting a written statement of reasons for the objection to their local government, the applicant, and the Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) not later than 30 days after the director has determined the application to be complete and has given written notice to the local government. Once an application is determined to be complete, the objection deadline and application information will be posted on AMCO's website at https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco. Objections should be sent to AMCO at marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov or to 550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1600, Anchorage, AK 99501.

King Street Management Inc, doing business as King Street Cannabis Co, located at 8430 Laviento Dr. Suite A, Anchorage, AK 99515 is applying under 3 AAC 306.045 for transfer of a Retail Marijuana Store (3 AAC 306.300), license #20580 to Thrive Kings Corp, doing business as King St. Cannabis. Under the terms of 3 AAC 306.049, 3 AAC 306.051, and 3 AAC 306.080(d)(2)(B), the transferor/ lessor retains a security interest in the marijuana license that is the subject of this conveyance, and may, as a result, be able to obtain a retransfer the license without satisfaction of other creditors.
Interested persons may object to the application by submitting a written statement of reasons for the objection to their local government, the applicant, and the Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) not later than 30 days after the director has determined the application to be complete and has given written notice to the local government. Once an application is determined to be complete, the objection deadline and a copy of the application will be posted on AMCO's website at https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco. Objections should be sent to AMCO at marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov or to 550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1600, Anchorage, AK 99501.

Jack Ventures, LLC, doing business as Quintessence Farms, located at 8430 Laviento Dr. Suite B, Anchorage, AK 99515 is applying under 3 AAC 306.045 for transfer of a Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility (3 AAC 306.400), license # 20984 to AK Sustainable Farms LLC., doing business as King St. Cult. Under the terms of 3 AAC 306.049, 3 AAC 306.051, and 3 AAC 306.080(d)(2)(B), the transferor/lessor retains a security interest in the marijuana license that is the subject of this conveyance, and may, as a result, be able to obtain a retransfer the license without satisfaction of other creditors.
Interested persons may object to the application by submitting a written statement of reasons for the objection to their local government, the applicant, and the Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) not later than 30 days after the director has determined the application to be complete and has given written notice to the local government. Once an application is determined to be complete, the objection deadline and a copy of the application will be posted on AMCO's website at https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco. Objections should be sent to AMCO at marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov or to 550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1600, Anchorage, AK 99501.

Pho Lotus LLC is making application for a new restaurant or eating place as 04.09.210 liquor license doing business as Pho Lotus located at 3826 spenard rd, Anchorage, Alaska 99517.

Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing boby, the applicant, and to the Alocholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Ave Suite 1600, Anchorage, Alaska 99501 or Alcohol.Licensing@alaska.gov

Anchorage-Lakefront Limited Partnership dba The Lakefront Anchorage – A Millennium Hotel located at 4800 Spenard Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99517 is applying for transfer of a Beverage Dispensary Tourism AS 04.09.350 liquor license. The change in ownership involves the ownership interest transfer from Cincinnati SI Company Limited, 99% and Regal Hotel Management Inc., 1% to Regal Hotel Management Inc. 98% and AIRCOA Equity Interests, Inc. 1%. Interested persons should submit written comment to their local governing body, the applicant, to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at 550 West 7th Ave. Suite 1600 Anchorage AK 99501 or alcohol.licensing@alaska.gov.