

Governor Palin, let's solve the problem together.

Recruiting and retaining high-quality state employees is getting more and more difficult.

Governor Murkowski's Director of Labor Relations, Art Chance said:

"Most state employees are seriously underpaid; I helped make them that way."

"We cannot recruit degreed professionals to Alaska; our wages are laughable to anyone from West or East Coast states, no better than the middle states, and in some instances no better than the South."

"We cannot even bring our own children back home to work here after they go to college. If you pay peanuts, you get monkeys, and apparently even monkeys are not willing to accept the weather and cost of living."

July 8, 2006 Voice of the Times Op-Ed piece.

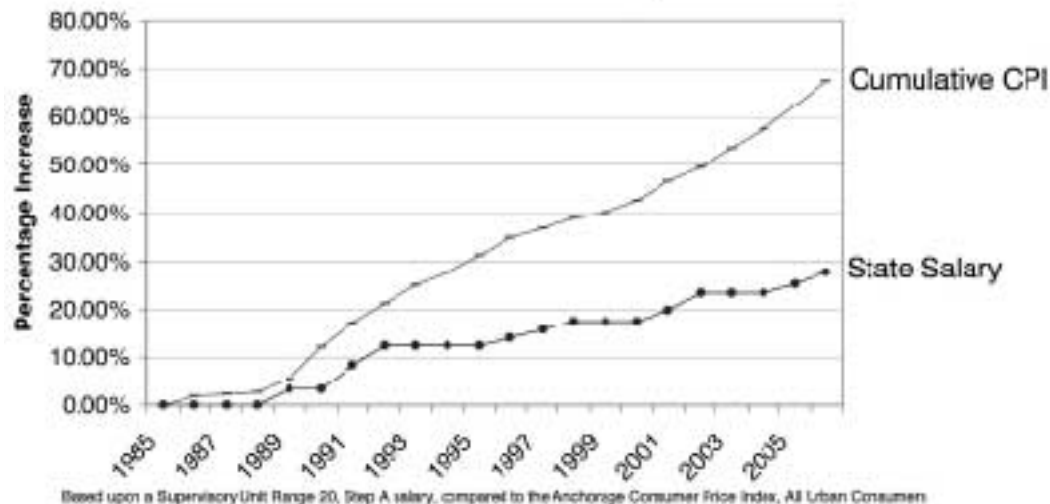
Governor Palin's Director of Labor Relations, Dianne Kiesel said:

"The single most overriding complaint by agency executives, managers and supervisors is the State's inability to compete for professional level positions due to noncompetitive wage packages."

"...documented increases in recruitment and retention difficulties, the state's history of inaction regarding the implementation of two separate salary studies that showed a need for wage increases, and the state's history of negotiating minimal, sub cost-of-living wage increases through collective bargaining."

November 7, 2006 memo to Jim Clark

1985 to Present State Salaries v. Anchorage Consumer Price Index



The solution is simple. To recruit and retain state employees, salaries and benefits must be competitive. Let's work together to make the changes.