

## MICHAEL R. WILLIAMS

I seek your vote as negotiator for the Southcentral Region. I have worked for the State for 25 years, currently managing a group of auditors in the Department of Revenue. My experience as both an auditor and an audit manager have taught me how to deal with difficult situations and work to find solutions to tough problems.

We face tough problems ahead: a contract that is currently upside down compared with other classified service bargaining units and an administration that has little regard for the well being and fair compensation for the hard work we do to keep the State functioning during a fiscal crisis and staffing shortages. This upcoming round of negotiations is critical for seeking redress of these grievances. My priorities for this next contract are:

- Compensation parity. Our hourly wage rates have fallen behind other classified service salary schedules. Sure, we may earn more by virtue of working more hours, but that is not a solution, especially for a group who is expected to lead the way for the challenge ahead. I will work to correct both hourly rates and the number of hours in a work week to restore balance.
- Improve health care benefits at an affordable price. The administration's stated objective is to charge employees 20% of the monthly premium cost of health care. This is not an acceptable path, as wages have not kept up with inflation, yet deductibles and maximum co-pay limits continue to increase. We do not have to accept that path. There is a better way. I have nearly 20 years' experience working with healthcare administration, both as a trustee to a self-funded health plan, and as a member of the Supervisory Unit's representation to the AlaskaCare Plan's health benefits evaluation committee.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and vote. I look forward to representing you as a Supervisory Unit negotiator.