

**ALASKA
POLICY
FORUM**



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

ALASKA POLICY FORUM LAUNCHES STATE OF ALASKA PAYROLL DATABASE

Anchorage, Alaska – As part of its Government Transparency Initiative, the Alaska Policy Forum has launched a database containing the salary and benefits for all State of Alaska employees. The data covers more than eighteen thousand employees for all departments.

“Government transparency is more important today than it ever was before,” said Jeremy Thompson, Executive Director of the Forum. “Our goal is to create a record that allows citizens to begin to understand what the personnel costs are for state government. It’s a necessary condition for knowing whether we are living within our means.”

While the State of Alaska readily complied with the open records request required to obtain the payroll data information, the Alaska Policy Forum says that some improvements in the way the data is served up are in order.

“The Forum has been working to get the State of Alaska to serve up specific data sets in a structured format. Regulations, public notices, budget data, contracts, spending and payroll data, election and lobby data, should be made available for the public to use. Structured formats will ensure the integrity of the data and make it easier to create platforms around the data feeds. All of these innovations can be done inside existing budgets. The federal government is already doing it,” according to Thompson.

The online State of Alaska Payroll Database is located at <http://publicpayroll.alaskapolicyforum.org>. For more information, call the Alaska Policy Forum at 907.334.5853 or email jthompson@alaskapolicyforum.org.

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