



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **RI Council 94, AFSCME Announces New Contract Approval & Ratification**

North Providence -Today, Rhode Island Council 94, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees announced that the Master Agreement was approved by Council 94's state employee membership. The final vote was 1963 accept to 97 reject.

Lynn Loveday, State Vice-President, stated, "Council 94's state employee members voted overwhelmingly to approve a new contract. Council 94's and the State's negotiating committees engaged in several months of discussions and hard work which resulted in a contract that is fair and equitable for all parties. Council 94 especially appreciates that Governor Daniel McKee and Department of Administration Director Jim Thorsen recognized the hard work and sacrifices that state employees made during the pandemic to ensure that critical state services were continuously delivered during the pandemic."

Alexis Santoro, Executive Director, added, "Some of our members who work in direct care settings, such as the Rhode Island Veterans Home, Eleanor Slater Hospital, and RICLAS group homes, and other state agencies contracted and recovered from COVID multiple times. The new contract provides modest raises and incentive payments to help retain state employees. State government has faced challenges in recruiting and retaining employees during these challenging times. Our members are taxpayers too and facing the impact of increased inflation that is challenging all Rhode Islanders."

J., Michael Downey, President, concluded, "Through the years, state employees have undergone multiple rounds of pension reductions, increases in health care costs, and the elimination of longevity. I am grateful for the dialogue that brought this ratification vote to a successful conclusion today."

Council 94, Rhode Island's largest state employee union, represents over 3,800 state employees.

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