



REPRESENTATIVE ALYSE GALVIN

Serving Alaska House District 14 | Anchorage: Roger's Park, Midtown, Tudor, and Spenard

March 28, 2025

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
US Senator
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski,

I am providing the fourth update on the impact of recent layoffs and buyouts on federal employees in Alaska. To better understand these effects, our office has distributed a survey to gather data and testimonies. I recognize that this is a challenging time for many across our state and appreciate your ongoing attention to this matter.

Along with sharing this report with you, we are continually sharing information with the Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Cathy Muñoz, whose department is helping connect Alaskans separated from their jobs to possible resources and careers. I hope these efforts will keep these excellent employees in the State of Alaska.

Although the recent federal rulings may have altered the status of some federal employees, I remain committed to keeping your offices informed by sharing new data and testimonies as they become available until there is more certainty.

The survey has been updated to accommodate two questions specifically requested by Senators Murkowski and Sullivan. The questions are the following:

- 1. Given the recent court rulings requiring the immediate rehiring of terminated federal employees, have you personally received notification of reinstatement? If you received notification of reinstatement or if you had received notification, would you take up your old job again? (As requested by Senator Murkowski)**
- 2. How did your position and organization mission align with the objectives of Executive Order 14153 - "Unleashing Alaska's Resource Potential"? (As requested by Senator Dan Sullivan)**

Alaska's logistics, tourism, and natural resource development sectors have raised concerns about the loss of information and services that bring success to their work. Your leadership and support are crucial in helping those across the state who are facing imminent economic instability. I appreciate your office's commitment to gathering more information, and I hope these updates will be valuable as you seek ways to advocate for and support affected Alaskans and our Alaska economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alyse Galvin".

Representative Alyse Galvin

Federal Employee Survey Response Results (March 28, 2025)

As of today (survey released on February 23, 2025), we have received 85 survey responses, with 58 of them from current, recently terminated, and retired federal employees (comprising 68.2% of total responses). Among federal employee responses, responses from Juneau, Fairbanks, and Anchorage account for 65.5% of the total, while the remainder of responses came from 10 communities across the state, from Aleknagik to Wrangell. This past week saw the addition of several employee testimonies from McCarthy, within Wrangell St. Elias National Park. Below is a graph illustrating the geographic distribution of federal employee survey respondents.

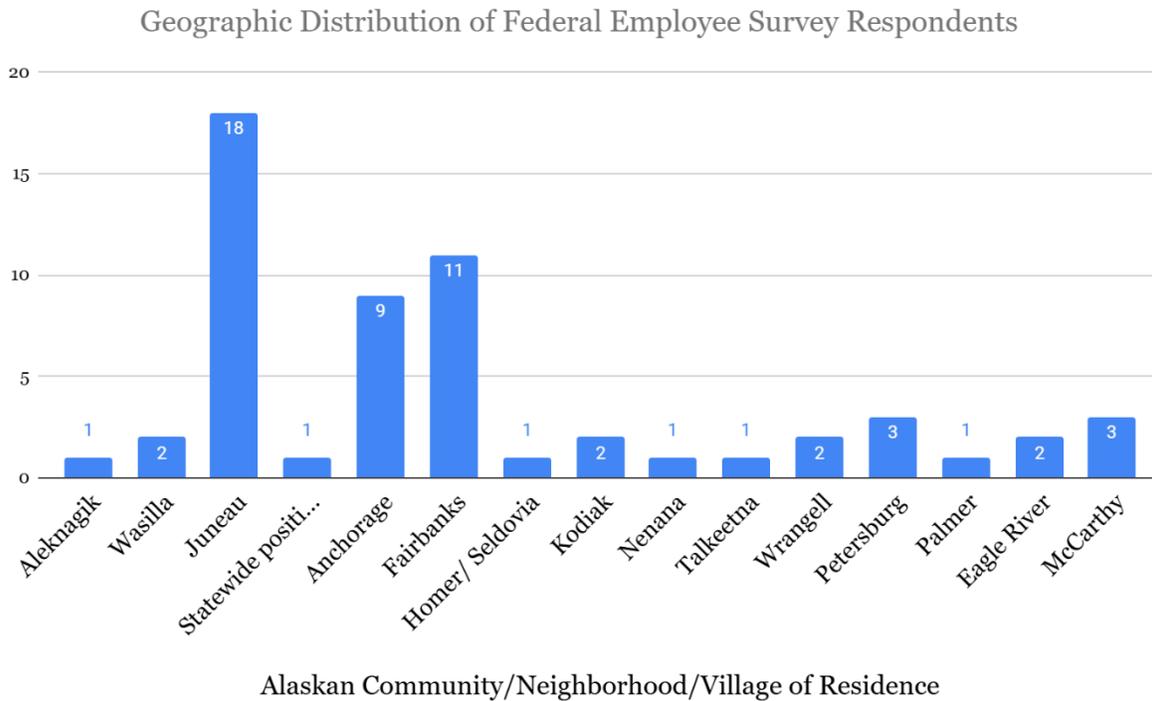


Figure 1: Geographic Distribution of Alaskan Federal Employee Survey Respondents (n=58)

Of the 58 federal employees in this survey, 33 have reported being terminated from their positions. The federal agencies most affected by these recent actions include the U.S. Forest Service, NOAA, the Federal Highway Administration, and the National Park Service. This week saw the addition of one response from the General Services Administration (GSA). As we continue to receive additional data in the coming weeks, we anticipate that this graph will become more representative of the overall impact.

Terminated Federal Employee Survey Respondents by Agency

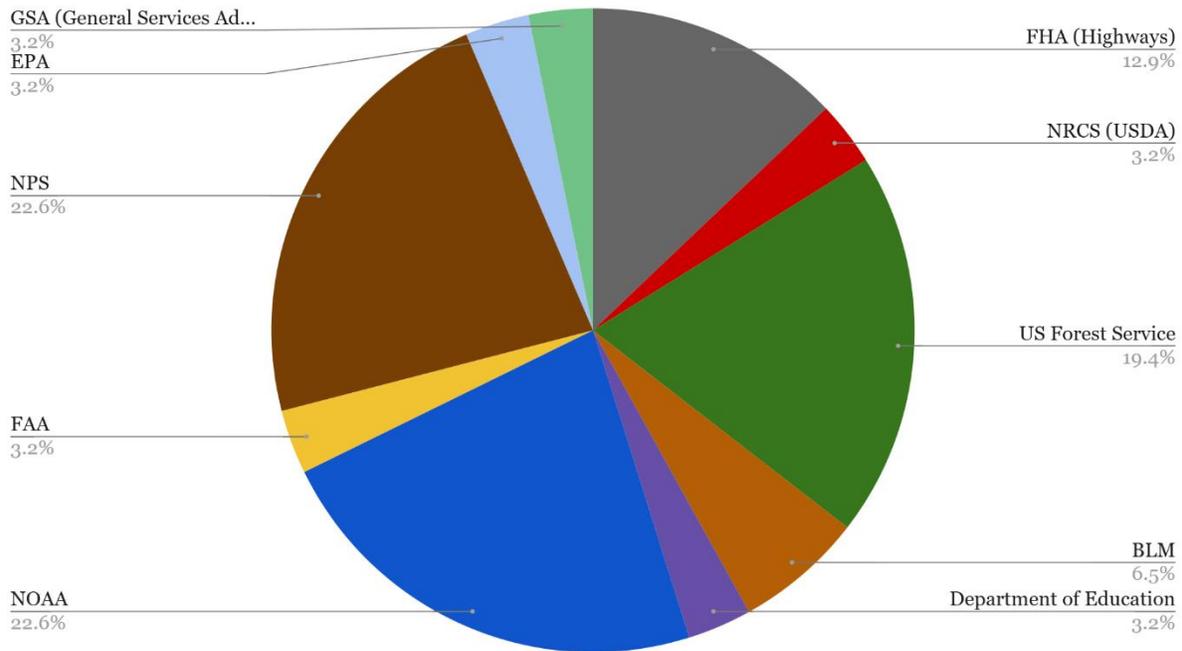


Figure 2: Terminated Federal Employee Survey Respondents by Federal Agency (n=58)

Among the 58 federal employees surveyed (both current, retired and recently terminated), 31 employees (53.4%) have received notification of job termination, while 21 employees (36.2%) have been notified of a buyout from the current administration.

Among all 85 respondents (federal and non-federal employee respondents), over half (44 employees) personally knew federal employees who have been notified of termination, and over 40% (35 individuals) knew federal employees who have been offered a buyout. Please note that this question does not distinguish whether the federal employee has been terminated or not (or has accepted a buyout or not); it only reflects the number of respondents aware of such notifications. The percentages in the accompanying graph indicate the proportion of each response type over the total number of respondents (n=85).

Have you or someone you know received: A) notification of job termination from the federal government B) a buyout from the current administration? *(if applicable, please mark multiple)

81 responses

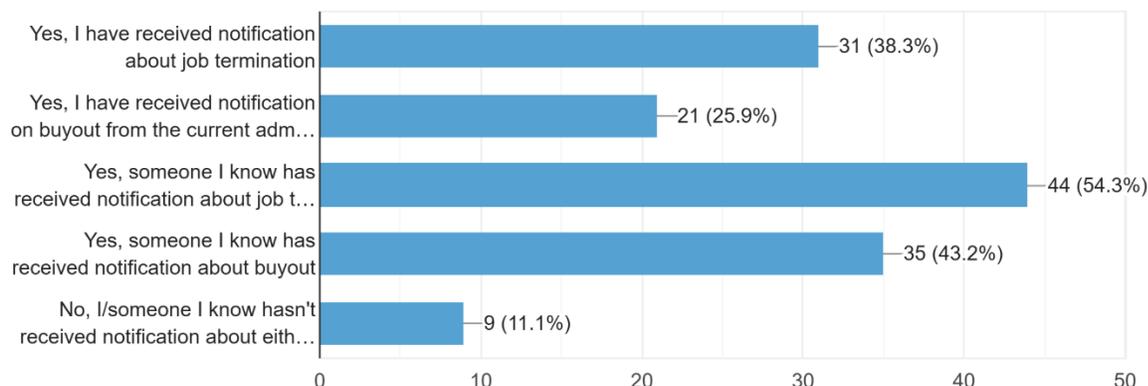


Figure 3: Respondents who have received notification on job termination/buyout (n=81)

New Data (as of March 28, 2025)

1. Federal Employees who have received notification of reinstatement & plans to return to their former places of employment

Considering recent federal court decisions that ordered the immediate reinstatement of terminated federal employees, our office issued a follow-up survey to all terminated federal employees who have responded up until last week (March 21).

Results

- 14 of these former employees and 7 new respondents have answered this new question, for a total of 21 respondents.
- Most recipients (13 out of 21) have received notification of reinstatement, while 8 recipients have not.
- 13 respondents of 21 mentioned they would return to their former places of employment.
- The number of employees who expressed hesitancy at returning to their old jobs is higher than those employees who outright said that they would not return to their old positions (5 respondents vs. 3 respondents respectively).

Question: Given the recent court rulings requiring the immediate rehiring of terminated federal employees, have you personally received notification of reinstatement?

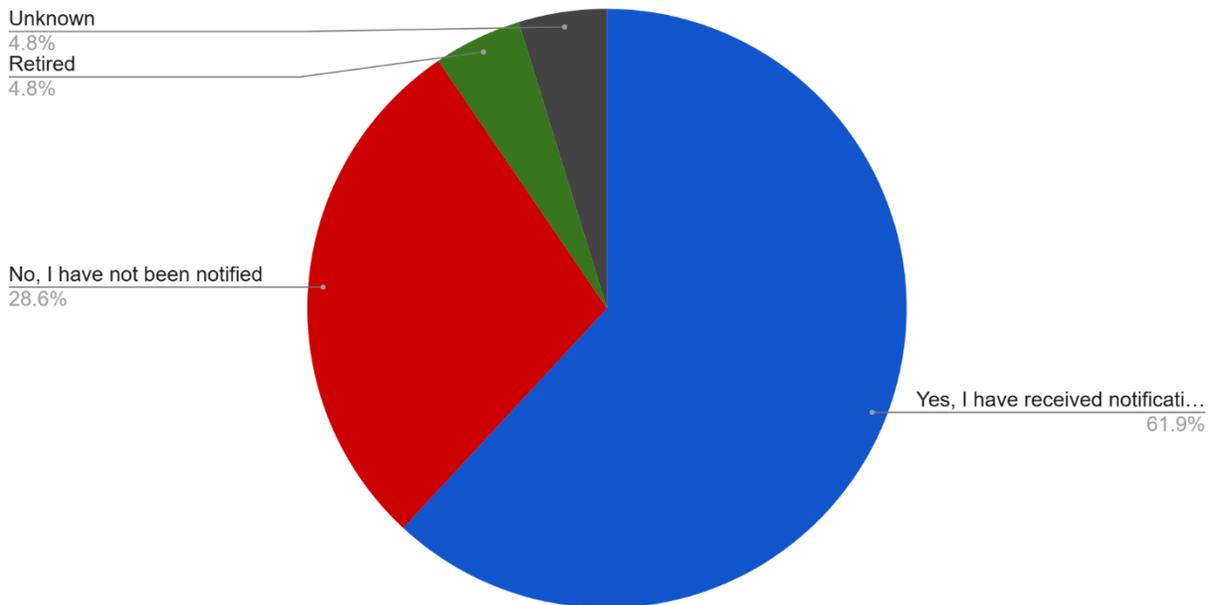


Figure 4: Terminated Federal Employees on whether they received reinstatement notification. (n=21)

Question: If you received notification of reinstatement or if you had received notification, given all that has happened, would you take up your old job again?

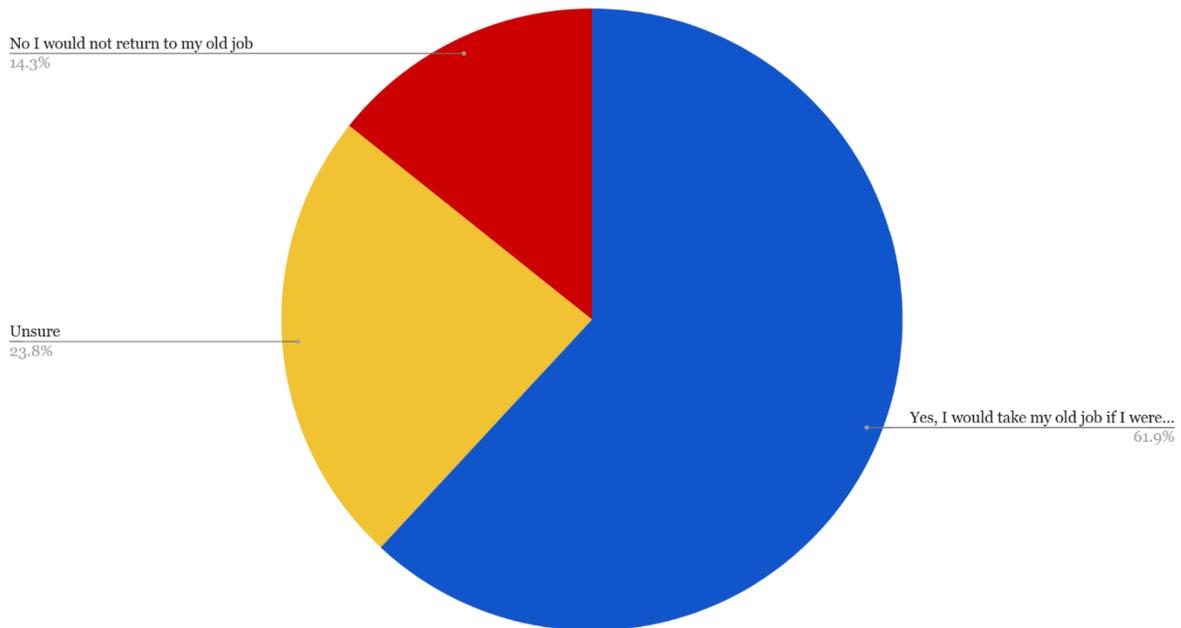


Figure 5: Terminated Federal Employees on whether they would return to federal service. (n=21)

2. Alignment of Terminated Federal Jobs to Executive Order 14153

Upon the request of Senator Dan Sullivan, we have added an additional question that asked all respondents how their jobs aligned to the priorities of Executive Order 14153 (“Unleashing Alaska’s Extraordinary Resource Potential”) issued by the Trump administration on January 20, 2025. Our office has identified nine priorities in the Executive Order, which are the following.

- Unlocked Alaska’s natural resources (e.g. energy, mineral, timber, seafood)
- Created or contributed to high-quality jobs for Americans
- Ensuring consistent hunting & fishing opportunities on federal and state lands
- Achieve the development and export resources from Alaska
- Augment the nation’s exercise of global energy dominance
- Guard against foreign powers weaponizing energy supplies
- Expedited the permitting and leasing of energy and natural resource projects in Alaska
- Prioritize development of Alaska liquified natural gas potential
- Facilitate the expedited development of a road corridor between King Cove and all-weather airport in Cold Bay

How did your position and organization mission align with the goals of Executive Order 14153 (question requested by Senator Dan Sullivan). Check as many as would apply:

15 responses

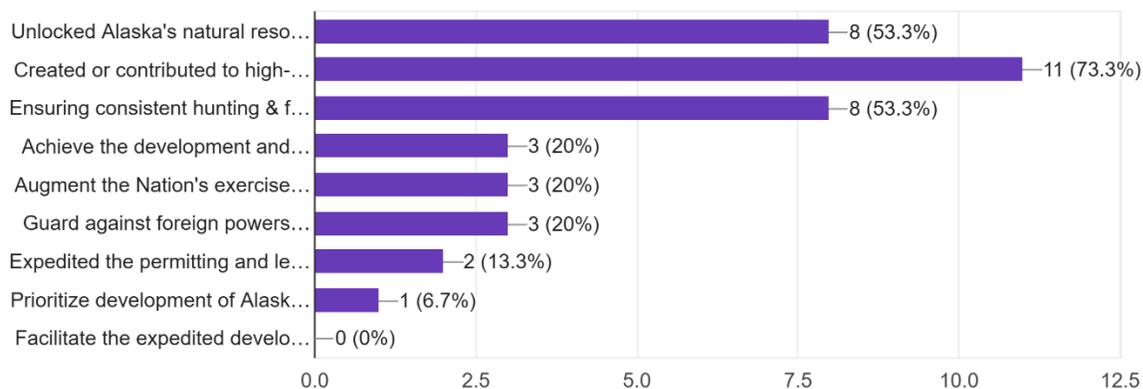


Figure 6: How did your job or organization mission align with the goals of Executive Order 14153? (n=15)

Results

- As of March 28, 15 respondents have responded to this follow-up survey
- The majority of respondent’s positions “created or contributed to high-quality jobs for Americans” (11 out of 15).
- Just over half of all respondents marked their jobs as being aligned with the priorities of “unlocking Alaska’s natural resources” and “ensuring consistent hunting & fishing laws on federal and state lands” (8 out of 15).
- 3 of 15 respondents indicated their job had direct alignment with the Executive Order’s energy goals, including one respondent who indicated their job’s involvement with “prioritizing development of Alaska’s natural gas potential”

Below are selected new testimonies illustrating the profound impact these layoffs and terminations have had on Alaskans across the state. These federal workforce reductions extend beyond individual employees, affecting Alaska's broader economy, families, and communities. An updated full packet of responses is attached to this correspondence:

"I had worked for months to secure this job and was readying to visit Utqiagvik to host our first of three regional hub meetings for the year where small communities get to help inform us of emerging challenges, opportunities, and risks they face in regards to the Marine jurisdictions that belong to NOAA. This of course includes subsistence, fisheries, law enforcement, the co-development of scientific studies, educational opportunities, and the general commercial health of our fisheries management. These are hugely vital arteries to helping Alaska sustainably manage our natural resources and honoring our government-government relationships with the Tribes. This endangers so many folks who live in Arctic communities, participate in subsistence or commercial fisheries, conduct scientific surveys, or are reeling from climate impacts that are harshly and disproportionately affecting this region of our state. I have been out of work for two months though I've been ardently trying to replace my income. It has created financial burdens on my family and destabilized our housing. Because I was so new to this job I also could not qualify for UI assistance despite showing other proper documentation. I have personally suffered emotional distress and anxiety. I also have friends and colleagues who were improperly terminated and have similar struggles." – **terminated NOAA employee in Juneau**

"The federal layoffs to (GSA) were not performance related. Our entire region, Alaska, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, was laid off. We had many many active construction projects and contracts among other things. This was a sweeping termination and did not have any thought put to it... I was going to retire from the federal government, I was looking forward to a pension and healthcare. Now I'm back in the private sector with more expensive healthcare policy, worse work/life balance, and no pension." – **terminated GSA employee in Anchorage**

"I did not return to my job as a ranger due to the uncertainty of whether my position would even exist. Since job opportunities in McCarthy are somewhat limited, I started my own e-commerce business this winter, but it takes money to make money so I am currently walking a tightrope and praying that things go well because I am really out on a limb. If I had felt that my now former NPS job was secure I would not be in this scary position of financial instability. As I mentioned before, my social security is my only steady source of income at this point. I am due to have cataracts removed this summer. If I do not have Medicare, that will not happen and I will go blind. I am in need of dental work but it is not within my budget. I was hoping to apply for Medicaid this summer for assistance in getting some of this work done, and/or taking advantage of the sliding scale offered by the Copper River Native Association Clinic. Those options are out the window now and I guess my teeth will just have to rot out of my mouth." – **former park ranger at Wrangell St. Elias National Park, McCarthy**

"Although I am no longer working for the park service, I am concerned for the position I once held, and still deem essential to the visitor experience at Kennecott. I am also concerned about the roadblocks put in the way of rehiring other local hire seasonal positions in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. For instance, the backcountry rangers. Last year there were 3 serious incidents in the park before Memorial Day. 1) a serious injury due to a fall on a hike/climb near Kennecott, 2) an airplane crash on a remote mountain in the park, and 3) a severe illness to a member of a climbing party on one of the 16,000 ft. peaks in the park requiring evacuation during severe weather. All these incidents happened in May, within days or simultaneously with each other, and in all 3 incidents the talents of our experienced backcountry rangers were essential. Lives were saved. There will be no backcountry rangers in May this year. Due to the roadblocks put in place by this administration, they cannot be hired as rehires and have to reapply as if they never held the position, and the park service must go through all the procedures necessary to fly those announcements. These delays mean that the backcountry rangers, lucky to have jobs at all, will most likely not be on the ground until sometime in June. This is not saving money. It is wasting money and endangering lives." - **former park ranger at Wrangell St. Elias National Park, McCarthy**

"Having been terminated and then subsequently reinstated, benefits like health insurance are a mess. Alaska is an expensive place to live in, and it can be difficult for me and many folks starting their career to make ends meet to stay here. Despite being reinstated, there is a looming possibility that this could all happen again." - **reinstated U.S. Forest Service Park Ranger, Juneau**