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### **AFSCME reaches tentative agreement with state on '07-'09 contract**

After many months of intense negotiations, the state and five units of the Wisconsin State Employees Union, AFSCME Council 24, have reached a tentative agreement on a 2007-2009 contract.

The AFSCME bargaining units covered include nearly 23,000 front-line state employees. Currently, these employees are working under extended terms of contracts that expired on July 1, 2007.

Reaching agreement on a new contract has been challenging as the state grapples with a budget deficit and a downturn in the national economy.

“Given the state’s budget deficit and general economic downturn, this contract does a good job of maintaining the economic dignity of state employees,” said Marty Beil, executive director of AFSCME Council 24.

Jennifer Donnelly, Director of the Office of State Employment Relations, said the agreement reflects the state’s interest in maintaining the highest quality workforce through difficult times.

“Wisconsin’s economic future is closely tied to upholding our commitment to quality public services. This contract meets our essential needs while living within our means,” Donnelly said.

Information about the agreement currently is being shared with WSEU members throughout the state. Details will not be publicly released until union members have had a chance to vote. Ratification ballots will be counted on May 12.

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