

# Alaska Department of Public Safety 2026 Key Objectives

## Recruitment, Retention, & Wellness

Fill all open positions, both commissioned and civilian, with qualified employees. Ensure that we are retaining staff through modern wellness initiatives, excellent working conditions, recurring training, and exceptional compensation and benefits.

## Rural Alaska Law Enforcement & Safety

Prioritize resources, personnel, and support to provide quality, full-service law enforcement to rural Alaska. Increase proactive village patrols and the number of Troopers and Village Public Safety Officers (VPSOs) deployed to rural Alaska. Use data to ensure the best deployment of officers statewide. Prioritize fire safety inspections and education in rural Alaska to prevent fire-related deaths.

## Refresh Body-Worn and In-Car Cameras

Refresh the hundreds of body-worn and in-car cameras that are used by Troopers, VPSOs, Court Services Officers, and other staff during law enforcement operations. Ensure that digital discovery is made available to state and federal prosecutors in a timely manner.

## Continue Progress on Capital Projects

Continue to drive meaningful progress on major capital projects including the new large class patrol vessel for Southeast Alaska, criminal justice information modernization, and the remodel of the Fairbanks Alaska State Trooper and Wildlife Trooper office space and evidence facility.

## Illicit Drug & Child Abuse Investigations

Ensure that narcotics, child sexual abuse, and major crimes are thoroughly investigated throughout Alaska. Work with local, state, and federal partners to dismantle drug trafficking and bootlegging organizations that cause death and destruction across Alaska.

## Fisheries and Wildlife Resource Protection

Protect Alaska's multi-billion dollar fish and wildlife resources from illegal harvest through enforcement across urban and rural Alaska, and between commercial, subsistence, personal use, and sport user groups.

*Loyalty. Compassion. Integrity.*

*Leadership. Courage. Accountability.*



**Alaska Department of Public Safety**

*Commissioner James Cockrell*

# Alaska Department of Public Safety

# 2019-25 Accomplishments

## Reduced Crime Statewide

The crime rate for Alaska has fallen 41.8% since 2018, including a 25% decrease in sexual assaults known to law enforcement. The violent crime rate has dropped 19% since 2018.

## Improved Major Crime & Drug Investigations

The Alaska State Troopers have solved an average of 95% of homicides they are assigned since 2018, with 100% being solved in 2025. Drug seizures made by the Alaska State Trooper led regional narcotics task forces are up over 800% since 2018, including tens of millions of potentially fatal doses of fentanyl.

## Refocused Trooper Recruitment & Retention

DPS has refocused our efforts on State Trooper recruitment by establishing a new recruitment manager position, hiring new Troopers faster than ever before, and pairing recruits up with mentors that guide them through the application, academy, and field training processes. DPS improved retention of Troopers by establishing the top law enforcement wellness program in the state and working to keep State Trooper positions adequately compensated compared to other Alaska law enforcement officers.

## Improved Safety in Rural Alaska

Since 2019 we established a major crimes investigative unit in Western Alaska, a Child Abuse Investigative Unit in the Yukon - Kuskokwim Region, and now have four dedicated Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Investigators. We have doubled the number of VPSOs and increased the number of villages with a VPSO by 50%. DPS hired two Tribal Liaisons to ensure that Alaska Native communities have a dedicated resource to ensure their voices are heard by the department.

## Coordinated Direct Victim Services

DPS has restructured our direct victim services to ensure that every contact with a victim of a crime is coordinated and deliberate. DPS hired Victim and Witness Navigators throughout Alaska to assist violent crime victims during State Trooper investigations. DPS increased staffing in the Violent Crimes Compensation Board (VCCB) to ensure that claims for VCCB funding were processed in a timely manner.

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