



IBEW LOCAL 1547 2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers represents over 4,000 workers across various classifications including electrical, communications, local government employees, health care workers, technicians, librarians, clerical and many more non-construction occupations.

2026 Legislative Priorities

IBEW Local 1547 supports the economy by increasing energy reliability, ensuring workforce readiness and addressing workers mental health by supporting high-quality union jobs and resilient communities across Alaska. Priorities include:

Energy Infrastructure & Grid Reliability. We ask the legislature to continue to invest in generation, transmission and grid resilience by supporting the following:

- Natural gas pipeline development
- Transmission line / electrical grid modernization
- Rural and regional hydroelectric, renewables and intertie projects
- Provide annual match for Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) Program

Broadband, Data Centers & Emerging Technology. Digital infrastructure supports healthcare, education, economic opportunity and long-term competitiveness. We ask legislators to:

- Consider data center development leveraging Alaska's climate and energy potential
- Continue statewide broadband build-out for affordable, high-speed internet
- Establish clear, modern standards for battery storage and solar deployment

Predictable Capital Budget with Consistent Funding. We urge lawmakers to:

- Craft a fiscal plan that provides predictable, long-term capital investment
- Support GO bonds that include transmission, generation, and grid resilience
- Fully meet state match requirements for federal transportation and energy funding

Education, Career & Technical Training. High-quality public schools act as a primary anchor for families; investing in K-12 excellence reduces the "out-migration" of households. Education and training investments reduce labor shortages and keep Alaskans working in Alaska. We ask legislators to:

- Fully fund and inflation proof K-12 education including Career & Technical Education (CTE)
- Support pre-apprenticeship and certification pathways
- Increase STEP grant funding for electrical and telecommunications apprenticeship training by passing HB 193: Unemployment Benefits; Paid Parental Leave.

Workforce Access & Employment Barriers. Some workforce shortages may be addressed with administrative solutions including:

- Deploying mobile DMV services for driver's licenses and REAL IDs in rural Alaska
- Expanding CDL training capacity, including more instructors and access statewide

Mental Health & Suicide Prevention. IBEW asks state leaders to help address the mental health crisis in the trades by holding a legislative hearing in the House or Senate Health & Social Services Committees and engage employers, unions and workers to examine high suicide rates and identify solutions.