

For Immediate Release July 8, 2024

## OCSEA President Chris Mabe Comments on 12.5% Pay Raise in New Contract

(Westerville)- Today, OCSEA President Chris Mabe released the following statement after ratification of a new three-year contract for state employees represented by the Ohio Civil Service Employees Association:

"I am pleased the Fact Finder agreed with us that the State of Ohio had the financial resources to pay higher wages. Our state employees deserve to be compensated fairly, not only for the work they do every day, but also for the sacrifices they made during the pandemic and for the pay raises they lost during the Great Recession. Thanks to the outstanding work of our bargaining team we earned a 12.5% wage increase over the next three years, which is the largest pay raise negotiated by OCSEA in nearly 40 years. And for the first time ever, there's language in the contract spelling out certain employee rights for telework and hybrid schedules. This contract shows that when members raise their voices, people listen. We will continue being the voice of reason and for what's right in the workplace."

The Fact Finder recommended annual pay raises of 5%, 4.5% and 3% starting July 1, 2024 (for a total of 12.5%). According to Ohio's collective bargaining law, contract negotiations go to a Fact Finder when the two sides are unable to reach an agreement on a contract. This year, 15 issues involving six articles of the state contract went to the fact-finding process including wages, work assignments and telework.

OCSEA represents 27,000 public employees in state and local government across Ohio. Members of OCSEA work for the State of Ohio in various departments and agencies including the Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, ODOT, Natural Resources and Job and Family Services.

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