

## UAW strike day 39: Majority of locals approving new GM contract

By Kalea Hall and Breana Noble  
(excerpt)

With a 60% majority of United Auto Workers so far voting yes on a new contract with General Motors Co., experts say it's difficult to see how members would reject the proposed new contract with General Motors Co.

As of Thursday morning, 55% of the workers still to vote would need to cast ballots against the deal for ratification to fail. But some of the automaker's largest plants — producing GM's most profitable vehicles — have yet to vote. Overwhelming no votes cast by large locals in Arlington, Texas, Wentzville, Missouri, and Fort Wayne, Indiana, together accounting for roughly 28 percent of UAW-GM's 48,000 members, could sway the vote into negative territory. ...

... The new four-year deal with GM promises permanent jobs for temporary employees and eliminates the \$12,000 cap on hourly profit-sharing payouts. It also promises an \$11,000 bonus if members ratify the contract, which would more than offset the financial losses members took in the strike. Temporary workers would receive a bonus of \$4,500 upon ratification.

The proposed contract would give 3% base-wage increases in the second and fourth years of the contract and would pay 4% lump-sum bonuses in the first and third years. It also allows GM to close four facilities: Lordstown, a parts distribution center in Fontana, California; Baltimore Operations in Maryland, and Warren Transmission in southeast Michigan.

While waiting on results of the UAW-GM ratification vote, the UAW on Thursday reached a tentative agreement with Mack Trucks Inc., ending a nearly two-week strike by about 3,600 UAW members employed at the manufacturer of heavy-duty Class 8 trucks. Employees were fighting for wage increases, job security, wage progression and health and safety issues. Details of the tentative agreement will be withheld until UAW members can be briefed prior to ratification.

The UAW wants all ballots turned in by 4 p.m. Friday. UAW leaders voted to keep its roughly 48,000 members out on strike while they vote on the contract. The contract is ratified if the combined majority of both skilled trades and production members approve it, but the UAW will renegotiate skilled trades issues if those members specifically vote it down.

If approved and the strike ends, GM is expected to startup production as early as Friday night at its major plants, like Flint Assembly where the automaker's profit-rich trucks are built. ...

... GM releases its third-quarter earnings on Tuesday. On Thursday, David Kudla of Mainstay Capital Management LLC predicted in a note that the "brunt of the strike will be felt in the fourth quarter" since GM will have to catch up on its inventory levels and shortage of top-selling vehicles.