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## UAW workers will ratify contract with GM. Here's what's next

By Jamie L. LaReau (excerpt)  
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It appears UAW members have ratified a new four-year contract with General Motors, which is expected to bring the six-week nationwide strike to an end.

With more than 38,000 UAW members voting, more than half, or 57%, have ratified the agreement, based on Free Press estimates.

The UAW is expected to make an official declaration of results after the voting ends at 4 p.m. Friday. GM is expected to comment after the results are released.

But UAW Local 2209, which represents one of GM's biggest plants Fort Wayne Assembly in Fort Wayne, Indiana, released its results late Friday and narrowly ratified the deal. It reported 1,867 members voting yes and 1,808 voting no.

UAW Local 292, which represents hourly workers at Kokomo Operations in Kokomo, Indiana, rejected the proposal with 171 voting no to 56 voting yes.

The nearly 46,000 union members will receive \$11,000 ratification bonuses from GM. Temporary workers are to get \$4,500. ...

### Next up!

The UAW will move on to negotiating a new tentative agreement with Ford Motor Co. and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, using the GM contract as the template. On Saturday, the union is expected to announce which company it plans to negotiate with next.

A UAW Local leader at a General Motors plant said the union will face challenges at Ford Motor Co. and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles as they head into negotiations with those companies next. ...

... Indeed, what worked for GM and the UAW in negotiations isn't necessarily a right fit for Ford and FCA, said David Kudla, CEO of Mainstay Capital Management.

"GM was able to concede wage growth and health care costs for the ability to close three factories," said Kudla. "Ford and FCA didn't have three factories that they wanted to close, but will have to work around this new framework for higher wages and unchanged healthcare that the UAW and GM have set."

The union has said it's made significant progress on subcommittee issues with both automakers, but final economic provisions and production promises remain to be worked out. That means those contracts remain uncertain and both companies are still vulnerable to strikes if union negotiators want to play that card. ...

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