



Negotiations Update UFCW Local 5 Northern California

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Northern California Grocery Negotiations to Continue January 23

On Monday January 23 Northern California grocery negotiations will reconvene with meetings set between UFCW Locals 5, 8 and 648 and Safeway, Save Mart and Raleys.

The week of January 9 the parties met and some of the employers indicated that they are contemplating backing away from their demand to completely eliminate retiree medical benefits. While this could be viewed as progress, the companies and unions remain far apart on all substantive issues, including retiree medical and no proposals has been agreed to so far.

Raleys Agrees to Contract Extension Through February 29

Raleys has formally agreed to a contract extension through February 29. This is a positive development in that it brings Raleys into line with Safeway and Save Mart in terms of their contract extension which runs through February 25.

Renewed Effort to Address Tough Issues on the 23rd

The companies agree on thing: they're coming after the wages and benefits of members on the job and the medical benefits of retired members. Their justification is non-union competition. Non-union competition is real and Local 5 has done more than any organization to insure supercenters and other non-union competition is restrained. When you compare Northern California to the rest of the country you can see our success on this front. The companies have thus far refused to show any financial data to justify any modification in current wages or benefits. If and when the data is made available the unions will analyze it. Until then our position of saying no to wage and benefit modifications remains firmly in place.

Dedicated Negotiations Email Address for Proposals

Have an idea for inclusion in the next grocery agreement? The union has set up a dedicated email address for members to submit proposals to the union negotiating committee. You can submit your idea by emailing it to negotiations@ufcw5.org. Submissions should be concise and make a clear reference to the part of the contract you're interested in like wages or benefits etc. Make sure to include contact information in case the committee needs to follow up with you.

