



GELSON'S AND
UFCW Locals 135, 324, 770, 1167, 1428 and 1442
RATIFICATION HANDOUT

BARGAINING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL

Wage Increases:

- **Food Clerk, GM/Meat Clerk and Meat Cutter Top Rate (or above):**
 - **Total Increase over term of agreement – \$3.70**
 - \$1.00 Retroactive to March 3, 2025
 - \$0.70 Effective November 3, 2025
 - \$0.50 Effective March 2, 2026
 - \$0.50 Effective September 1, 2026
 - \$0.50 Effective March 1, 2027
 - \$0.50 Effective September 1, 2027
 - **Top Food Clerk Hourly Rate increases from \$26.85 to \$30.55 by 2027**
 - **Top GM/Meat Clerk Hourly Rate with less than 8 years increases from \$21.50 to \$25.20 by 2027**
 - **Top Meat Cutter Hourly Rate Increases from \$28.13 to \$31.83 by 2027**
- **GM/Meat Clerk at Top Rate (or above) with 8 years or more:**
 - **Total Increase over term of agreement – \$4.95**
 - \$1.00 Retroactive to March 3, 2025
 - \$1.20 Effective November 3, 2025 (includes longevity increase of \$0.50)
 - \$0.50 Effective March 2, 2026
 - \$0.50 Effective September 1, 2026
 - \$0.50 Effective November 2, 2026 (longevity increase)
 - \$0.50 Effective March 1, 2027
 - \$0.50 Effective September 1, 2027
 - \$0.25 Effective November 1, 2027 (longevity increase)
 - **Top GM/Meat Clerk with 8 years or more Hourly Rate increases from \$22.50 to \$27.45 by 2027**
- **Department Heads**
 - **Increase Food Clerk Department Head and Meat Manager Premiums from \$1.00 to \$1.50**
 - \$0.25 Effective December 1, 2025
 - \$0.25 Effective November 2, 2026
 - **Total Increase for Food Department Heads and Meat Managers – \$4.20**
 - **Food Department Head Rate increases from \$27.85 to \$32.05 by 2027**
 - **Meat Manager Hourly Rate increases from \$29.13 to \$33.33 by 2027**
 - **Increase GMC/Service Seafood Department Head Premium from \$1.10 to \$1.60 (except for GM Department Heads who are already earning more than \$1.50 over the GMC experienced rate)**
 - \$0.25 Effective December 1, 2025
 - \$0.25 Effective November 2, 2026
 - **Total Increase for GMC/Service Seafood Department Heads with 8 years or more – \$5.45 over the life of the agreement**
 - **GMC/Service Seafood Department Head with more than 8 years Hourly Rate increases from \$23.60 to \$29.05 by 2027**
 - **Total Increase for GMC/Seafood Department Head with less than 8 years – \$4.20 over life of the agreement**
 - **GMC/Service Seafood Department Head with less than 8 years Hourly Rate increases from \$22.60 to \$26.80 by 2027**

- **Key Carriers That Open or Close the Store**
 - Increase the Person-in-charge Premium in Article 6, Section 3 from \$1 per day to \$0.50 per hour effective November 3, 2025 for all hours worked on any date when open or close the store.
- **Courtesy Clerks**
 - **Courtesy Clerks with 9 months or more who are currently earning \$17.08/hour, will receive an extra \$0.10 per hour until the CA minimum wage goes up on January 1, 2026**
- **Progression Step Improvements**
 - **Food/GM/Meat Clerks**
 - Everyone currently in progressions will move into new improved wage progression brackets carrying all their hours with them.
 - **Meat Cutters** – significant increases to progression steps (See wage chart for details).
- **Retirement Benefits**
 - **Create a supplemental pension plan to provide employees with an additional amount upon retirement. The Employer will contribute \$0.25/hour for all hours worked beginning March 2026.**
 - **No cuts to benefits in the existing pension plan. Employers will continue to contribute \$2.85/hour on all hours worked to maintain the benefits in the existing plan.**
 - Modify the hours a retiree can work in the industry without a suspension of benefits to 80 hours in a 4 week month, 100 hours in a 5 week month.
- **Health Care Benefits**
 - Eligibility for new hires (except Clerks Helpers) after 3 months
 - Eliminate Silver Plan. Everyone starts in Gold Plan with the option to add a spouse after 24 months, better prescription copays and adult orthodontia.
 - Allow change in dental plans for any reason outside of open enrollment once in five years
 - Foster children requirements simplified
 - Move self-injectables to pharmacy benefit (currently only available through major medical)
 - Conduct a dependent audit to ensure all covered dependents are eligible for benefits
 - **Employers will contribute a sufficient amount (no less than \$0.20/hour up to an additional \$0.30/hour) to fund medical benefits. Total employer contribution for health benefits will reach at least \$4.98 by the end of this agreement.**

Other Improvements:

- **New Staffing Language**
 - The Company agrees to maintain reasonable staffing levels that ensure efficient operation of the store, the health and safety of employees, and the quality of customer service.
 - When scheduled employees call out, management will make reasonable efforts to call in qualified employees in that classification to fill those shifts.
 - The Company will create a shift filling system for employees to sign up for open shifts at their store or within their jurisdiction.
 - The Union and the Company will meet to discuss the effectiveness of the shift filling system and staffing levels that account for unexpected customer traffic and absences. The parties will work together in good faith to identify and correct issues that lead to absenteeism, long check-out lines, insufficient staff to stock shelves and department hours.
- **New Self-Check Out Restrictions**
 - From 8am to 7pm, at least one full service check out lane will be open and available for use by customers. During all other hours, a full service lane will be open upon the request of a customer.
 - A dedicated employee must be assigned to monitor a self check out bank when it is open for use by customers. This employee may be assigned to perform incidental work in the general vicinity of that self check out bank or operate a full service check stand at the request of a customer if there are no more than 1 customer at the self check stands. If multiple self check out banks are operating in different areas of the store, there will be at least one employee assigned to each bank.
 - Traditional self checks will have signage limiting orders to about 15 items.

- **Additional Protections around Combo program**
 - All time worked in a higher classification must be recorded either on the regular clock system or on forms available within each department. Prior to being assigned to work in a higher classification, employees will be trained about the rules for recording their time.
 - Checker activity reports will be made available to assist in the enforcement of Article 6(J) regulating the combo program.
- **Bargaining Unit** – New language to protect against subcontracting of union work.
- **New Personal Holiday for Employees hired after March 2004**
 - Effective January 1, 2027, employees hired after March 2004, who have been with the company for more than 5 years will be entitled to one (1) personal holiday per year.
- **Additional Leave of Absence Protections** – Employees returning from a leave of absence and not placed on the schedule the week following the release will be credited with sufficient hours for that week to maintain healthcare benefits.
- **Operational Changes** – New language added for Employer support of Unions obtaining state funding grants to train employees for future jobs in bakery, service deli, and meat departments. This is in anticipation of AI replacing other jobs in the stores in the future.
- **Immigration Protection**
 - Employers will not allow DHS or ICE agents to access non-work areas of stores without a warrant.
 - Employers will not waive 3-day notice requirement for I-9 audits
 - Employees will be allowed to make a lawful change to their name or social security number and the Employer will make a leave of absence available to deal with immigration related issues.
- **Term of Agreement: 3 Years: March 3, 2025 - March 5, 2028**
- **NO TAKE-AWAYS – The bargaining committee refused to agree to any take-away proposals!**