



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Unite All Workers for Democracy (UAWD) issues the following statement regarding the UAW direct elections referendum vote count, which begins on Monday, November 29.

“One Member, One Vote” Takes Big Early Lead

Hamden, Connecticut- In the closely watched United Auto Workers referendum, the early count shows a big lead for supporters of “One Member, One Vote.” After a major corruption scandal, “One Member, One Vote”, which is called the “Direct Voting System” on the ballot, would allow all union members to vote for top leadership.

The reform movement, Unite All Members for Democracy (UAWD), is observing the count in Hamden, Connecticut and is posting live updates at: <https://uawd.org/referendum-results>.

Notably, reformers won at Local 600, which represents workers at the Ford River Rouge complex, and is a stronghold of the governing Administration Caucus. Local 600 went 69% in favor of One Member, One Vote. This pattern continued at other large Big Three locals. At Local 862, which includes the Ford Kentucky Truck plant, reformers received 3,045 votes, or 81%. At the General Motors transmission complex in Kokomo, Indiana, workers voted 80% for the Direct Voting System.

In recent years, the UAW has organized thousands of academic workers, expanding beyond traditional jobs in manufacturing. At the largest UAW higher education local, Local 2865 at the University of California, the vote was a decisive 1,610 to 308 in favor of One Member, One Vote. At the end of the first day reformers were leading 17,552 (70%) to 7,656 (30%), with about 18% of the count completed.

UAWD Steering Committee Chairperson Scott Houldieson said that “this result shows that UAW members are ready to end our union’s one-party rule. We are charting a new course where we actually take on management, instead of giving them concession after concession.”

The governing Administration Caucus, which includes all members of the International Executive Board, opposed the Direct Voting System and appears likely to suffer a major defeat.

About Unite All Workers for Democracy (UAWD) --UAWD is a member-led political caucus in the UAW calling for structural changes in the union, including the election of International officers by direct vote of the union membership. For more information, please contact Nathan Pensler at 301-651-3577 or nathanpensler@gmail.com.