

621—6.4(20) Acceptance of proposed agreement. Where the parties have reached a proposed (or “tentative”) collective bargaining agreement, the terms of that agreement shall be made public, and the employee organization shall give reasonable notice of the date, time and place of a ratification election on the tentative agreement to the public employees; provided, however, that such notice shall be at least 24 hours prior to the election and the election shall be within seven days of the date of the tentative agreement. The vote shall be by secret ballot and only members of the employee organization shall be entitled to vote; provided, however, that the employee organization may, pursuant to its internal procedures, extend voting rights to nonmember bargaining unit employees. The employee organization shall within 24 hours notify the public employer whether the proposed agreement has been ratified.

The public employer shall, within ten days of the tentative agreement, likewise meet to accept or reject the agreement, and shall within 24 hours serve notice on the employee organization of its acceptance or rejection of the proposed agreement; provided, however, that the public employer shall not be required to either accept or reject the tentative agreement if it has been rejected by the employee organization.

The above time limits may be modified by a written mutual agreement between the public employer and the employee organization.

The above time limits shall not apply to proposed agreements between the state and any bargaining unit of state employees.