

**189—12.6 (533) Vote on merger.**

**12.6(1) *Vote by board of directors.*** A state credit union that seeks to merge with another credit union shall proceed pursuant to a plan agreed upon by a favorable vote of a majority of directors.

**12.6(2) *Subsequent vote of the membership.*** Following a vote by the board of directors to merge with another credit union, the board shall submit the merger to a vote of the membership of the merging credit union unless the superintendent finds that an emergency exists justifying the waiver of the membership vote.

*a.* The board of the continuing credit union shall, within three days of voting to merge, notify the superintendent of the merger vote.

*b.* After the superintendent has given preliminary approval to the merger, the board of the merging credit union shall submit the issue within 30 days to all eligible voters of record as of the date of the vote by the board of directors. The board of directors shall, by majority vote, select the method of voting for the membership vote, in accordance with Iowa Code section 533.203. Each credit union member shall have a meaningful opportunity to vote in a membership vote. The board of directors shall vote to conduct the vote in whole by electronic voting only if all members have access to an electronic voting device. If the number of members who have opted to receive notices electronically is less than all members, the board may provide access to an electronic device in each credit union office for the members to vote electronically in order to satisfy the access requirement. Otherwise, the board shall also conduct the vote in part by mail-in ballot or in person at a meeting held for the purpose of voting, pursuant to the requirements of this rule.

*c.* The approval of the merger is not final until approved by the superintendent after the membership vote of the merging credit union.

**12.6(3) *Election committee.*** The board shall appoint an election committee of not fewer than five members, no more than two of whom may be from the board of directors.

*a.* It is the duty of the election committee to oversee balloting, to tabulate votes, and to ensure that each member shall only be allowed to vote once and that multiple ballots submitted by the same member are disqualified.

*b.* The election committee shall elect a chairperson from among the committee members. If the balloting includes a vote taken at a meeting of members, the chairperson of the election committee shall announce the results of the vote at the meeting; otherwise, the chairperson shall certify the vote to the board within five days of the close of balloting.

*c.* No member or agent of the election committee shall reveal the manner in which any member voted.

*d.* If the board of directors, by majority vote, has elected to utilize electronic voting, the election committee shall test the integrity of the electronic voting system at regular intervals during the election period. In the event of a malfunction of the electronic voting system, the board may in its discretion order the election to be held in another form, consistent with Iowa Code section 533.203.

*e.* For electronic ballots, it is the duty of the election committee to verify, or cause to be verified, the name and credit union account number of the voter as registered in the electronic voting system.

*f.* For mail-in ballots, including absentee ballots, it is the duty of the election committee to verify, or cause to be verified, the name and credit union account number of the voter as they appear on the identification form, to place the verified identification form and the sealed ballot envelope in a place of safekeeping pending the count of the vote, and, in the case of a questionable or challenged identification form, to retain the identification form and sealed ballot envelope together until the verification or challenge has been resolved.

**12.6(4) *Notice of balloting.*** The secretary shall set forth the proposed merger in a notice to all members eligible to vote at least 20 days but not more than 30 days prior to the closing date of balloting.

*a.* The notice shall set forth the rules and procedures for voting, the date of the close of balloting for ballots submitted other than in person during voting at a meeting held for the purpose of voting, that balloting is subject to an affirmative vote of a majority of all members eligible to vote, and that no other vote on the subject shall be taken after the closing date of balloting except for votes cast in person during

voting at a meeting held for the purpose of voting. The notice shall also contain a summary of the board's reasons for voting to merge.

(1) The close of balloting for ballots submitted other than in person during voting at a meeting held for the purpose of voting shall be at least five days prior to any meeting where voting will occur.

(2) Electronic ballots shall be submitted no later than midnight on the date balloting closes for ballots submitted other than in person during voting at a meeting held for the purpose of voting in order to be considered valid.

(3) Ballots mailed to the credit union shall be postmarked no later than the closing date of balloting for ballots submitted other than in person during voting at a meeting held for the purpose of voting and received within five business days after the closing date of balloting in order to be considered valid.

(4) Ballots hand-delivered to the credit union shall be received prior to the close of normal credit union business hours on the closing date of balloting for ballots submitted other than in person during voting at a meeting held for the purpose of voting in order to be considered valid.

(5) If more than one method of voting will be used, the notice shall also communicate that members have the right to vote on the proposed merger through any of the methods of voting designated by the board, but that members will only be allowed to vote once.

*b.* The notice may be included in statements or newsletters, on the credit union Web site, or on signs posted in the credit union.

*c.* The notice may be sent electronically to those members who have opted to receive notices electronically.

**12.6(5) Mailed ballots.** If the board voted by majority vote to conduct the vote in whole or in part by mailed ballot:

*a.* The secretary shall include the following balloting materials with the notice of balloting:

(1) One ballot, clearly identified as the ballot.

(2) One ballot envelope clearly marked "ballot" with instructions that the completed ballot shall be placed in that envelope and sealed.

(3) One identification form to be completed so as to include the name, address, signature, and credit union account number of the voter.

(4) One mailing envelope in which the voter, following instructions provided, shall insert the sealed "ballot" envelope and the identification form. The mailing envelope shall be preaddressed for return to the election committee.

*b.* If the credit union will also be conducting electronic voting, the mail-in ballot is not required for members who have opted to receive notices or statements electronically, and electronic mail may be used to provide the instructions and notices for the electronic voting procedure.

*c.* Ballots mailed to the election committee or hand-delivered to the credit union shall be received unopened and placed in ballot boxes. The ballot boxes shall be opened by and the vote tallied by the election committee.

*d.* If additional voting will be conducted at a meeting of members, the tallies shall be placed in the ballot boxes, and the ballot boxes shall be resealed to be taken to the meeting. If no other voting is scheduled to occur, the election committee shall tally the total votes and certify the vote count to the board no later than five days after the closing date of balloting for ballots submitted other than in person during voting at a meeting held for the purpose of voting.

**12.6(6) Electronic voting.** If the board voted by majority vote to conduct the vote in whole or in part by electronic voting:

*a.* The secretary shall include with the notice of balloting specific instructions for electronic voting, including how to access and use the electronic voting system, and the period of time in which votes will be taken.

*b.* For those members who have opted to receive notices or statements electronically, the instructions required under this subrule may be communicated electronically.

c. The electronic voting shall be tallied by the election committee prior to any meeting where voting is also scheduled to take place, and the committee shall take the tallies to the meeting. If no meeting is scheduled for voting, the election committee shall tally the votes and certify the vote count to the board no later than five days after the closing date of balloting for ballots submitted other than in person during voting at a meeting held for the purpose of voting.

**12.6(7) *Absentee ballots—subsequent in-person vote at meeting.*** If the board of directors, by majority vote, has elected to conduct the vote only in person at a meeting of members, the board may also, by majority vote, utilize absentee ballots when, in the opinion of the board, it is in the best interest of the credit union and its membership.

a. The secretary shall include with the notice of balloting a statement that members may vote either in person at the meeting of members or by absentee ballot if the member submits a written or electronic request for an absentee ballot and returns the ballot prior to the close of balloting for ballots submitted other than in person during voting at a meeting held for the purpose of voting.

b. The secretary shall mail the balloting materials specified in paragraph 12.6(5) “a” to each member who is eligible to vote and who has submitted a written or electronic request for an absentee ballot.

c. Ballots mailed to the election committee or hand-delivered to the credit union shall be received unopened and deposited in ballot boxes. The ballot boxes shall be opened by and the vote tallied by the election committee, the tallies placed in the ballot boxes, and the ballot boxes resealed to be taken to the meeting.

d. At the meeting of members, printed ballots shall be given to those members who have not voted. The completed ballots shall be deposited in ballot boxes placed in conspicuous locations by the election committee before the meeting. After the members have been given an opportunity to vote, balloting shall be closed, the ballot boxes opened and the vote tallied by the election committee and added to any previous count of absentee ballots. The election committee shall immediately certify the vote count to the board. The chairperson of the election committee shall announce the result of the vote at the meeting.

**12.6(8) *In-person vote at meeting.*** If the board voted by majority vote to conduct the vote in whole or in part at a meeting of members, then printed ballots shall be distributed to those in attendance at the meeting who have not voted by another method, and the ballots shall be deposited in ballot boxes placed in conspicuous locations by the election committee before the meeting. After those members have been given an opportunity to vote at the meeting, balloting shall be closed, the ballot boxes opened and the vote tallied by the election committee and added to any previous count of mailed or electronic ballots. The election committee shall immediately certify the vote count to the board. The chairperson of the election committee shall announce the result of the vote at the meeting.

**12.6(9) *Preservation of ballots.*** Ballots shall be preserved according to the requirements of 189—12.9(533). The 60-day retention period required by subrule 12.9(2) shall run from the date the results are certified to the board by the election committee.

**12.6(10) *Submission to superintendent.*** The board of directors shall submit the merger to the superintendent for approval before the merger becomes effective. The board shall submit the following documentation in support of its request for approval:

a. A certified copy of the board minutes which contain the vote of the board of directors to approve the merger and to submit the merger to a vote of the membership.

b. A certified copy of the notices provided to members.

c. A certified copy of any ballots provided to members.

d. A certified statement, including the vote count, that a majority of the eligible members voted in favor of the proposed merger.

**12.6(11) *Publication of results.*** The board shall inform the membership of the results of the vote according to the provisions of 189—12.10(533). The 60-day posting period required by subrule 12.10(1) shall run from the date the results are certified to the board by the election committee.