

With a controversial new law set to take effect on Saturday, La Crosse mayor Matt Harter says he'll sign union contract extensions agreed to by the city council unanimously Thursday night. One of the contract extensions is for the city's largest union, SEIU 180. Its 170 members gathered petitions to encourage the mayor to sign the contract agreements as quickly as possible before the law could take effect. Harter says he'll do it to give workers some security.

The 180 contract increases health and pension contributions by employees and gives workers just one percent annual raises. The contract is good through the end of 2013.