



Ballot Question #4:

An Act to Raise the Minimum Wage

“Do you want to raise the minimum hourly wage of \$7.50 to \$9 in 2017, with annual \$1 increases up to \$12 in 2020, and annual cost-of-living increases thereafter; and do you want to raise the direct wage for service workers who receive tips from half the minimum wage to \$5 in 2017, with annual \$1 increases until it reaches the adjusted minimum wage?”

The ballot question before Maine voters (on November 8th, 2016) will:

- Increase the minimum wage to \$9 an hour in 2017 and then by a dollar a year until it reaches \$12 in 2020;
- Increase the minimum wage at the same rate as the cost of living after the year 2020; and
- Gradually increase the subminimum wage for tipped workers (currently \$3.75 an hour), to \$5 an hour in 2017 and then by a dollar a year until it matches the minimum wage for all other workers (after 2024)

Why raise the minimum wage?

Nobody who works full-time should be living in poverty.

The annual take-home pay (after taxes) for a minimum wage worker averages under \$300 a week. Nobody can live on that little money, much less support a family. Low wages mean working parents in Maine can't support children and seniors can't afford to retire.

It's about moms, kids and families.

Increasing the minimum wage to \$12 an hour would help one in four working moms in Maine; 52,000 Maine kids live in a household with a parent who would get a raise that would help them meet their family's needs. Single and working moms who work full time should be able to pay for their children's food, clothes, housing, heat, and healthcare.

Mainers work hard for our communities and they deserve wages that give them a fair shot.

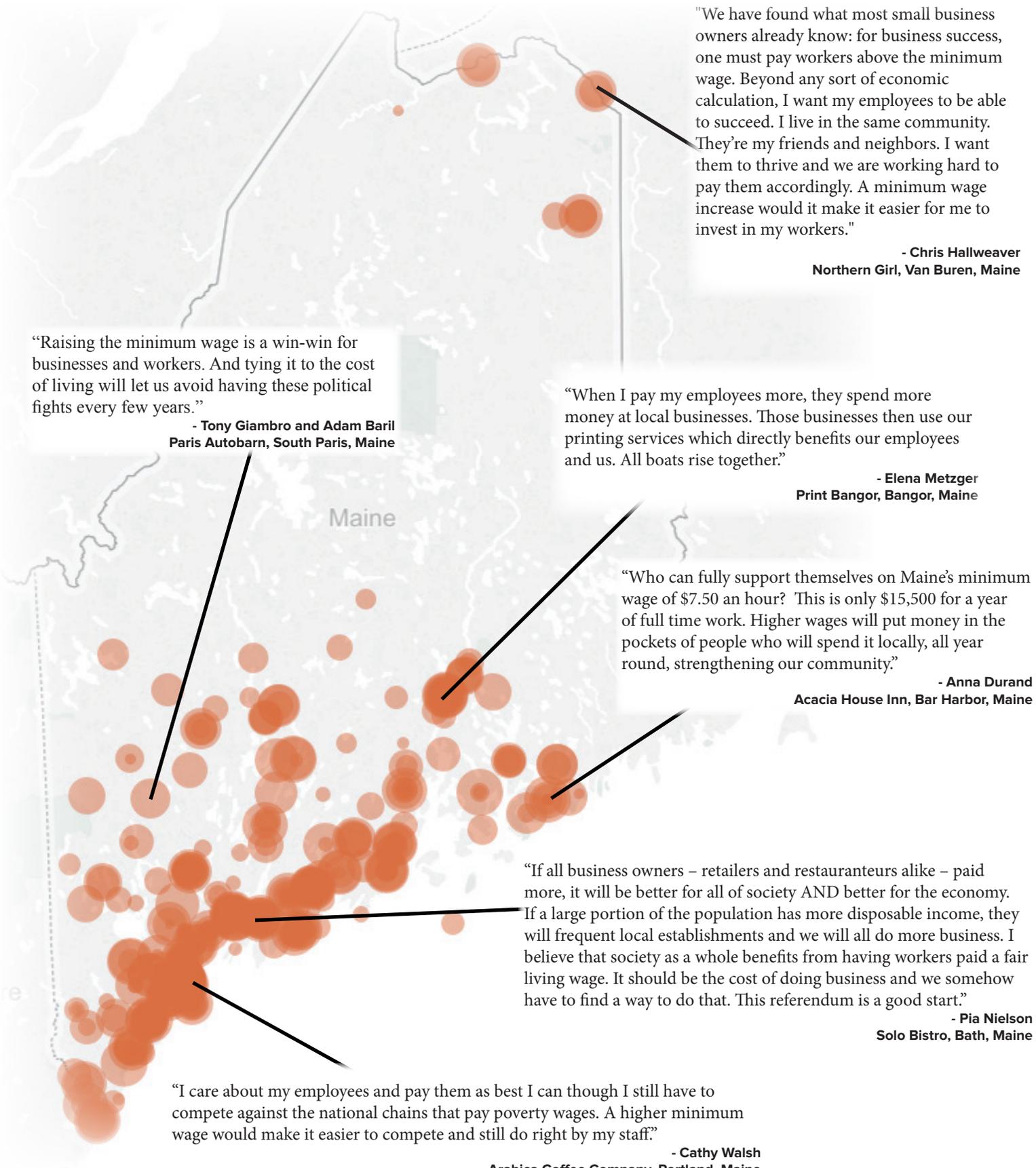
In Maine, tens of thousands of Maine's highly skilled EMTs, firefighters, preschool teachers, and elderly and disabled care providers get paid less than \$12 an hour. These jobs are crucial to our communities' well-being, and should be compensated with a decent paycheck that can support a family.

It's good for small businesses and the Maine economy.

When families earn more, they spend it in their communities at local businesses. This proposal would generate millions in new consumer spending, creating jobs and an economy that works for all of us, not just the wealthy few. Hundreds of Maine small businesses support this initiative; a list of supportive small business owners across Maine can be found here:

<http://www.mainesmallbusiness.org/fairwagemap>.

OVER 500 SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS ACROSS MAINE SUPPORT RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE TO \$12 AN HOUR



"We have found what most small business owners already know: for business success, one must pay workers above the minimum wage. Beyond any sort of economic calculation, I want my employees to be able to succeed. I live in the same community. They're my friends and neighbors. I want them to thrive and we are working hard to pay them accordingly. A minimum wage increase would it make it easier for me to invest in my workers."

- Chris Hallweaver
Northern Girl, Van Buren, Maine

"Raising the minimum wage is a win-win for businesses and workers. And tying it to the cost of living will let us avoid having these political fights every few years."

- Tony Giambro and Adam Baril
Paris Autobarn, South Paris, Maine

"When I pay my employees more, they spend more money at local businesses. Those businesses then use our printing services which directly benefits our employees and us. All boats rise together."

- Elena Metzger
Print Bangor, Bangor, Maine

"Who can fully support themselves on Maine's minimum wage of \$7.50 an hour? This is only \$15,500 for a year of full time work. Higher wages will put money in the pockets of people who will spend it locally, all year round, strengthening our community."

- Anna Durand
Acacia House Inn, Bar Harbor, Maine

"If all business owners – retailers and restauranteurs alike – paid more, it will be better for all of society AND better for the economy. If a large portion of the population has more disposable income, they will frequent local establishments and we will all do more business. I believe that society as a whole benefits from having workers paid a fair living wage. It should be the cost of doing business and we somehow have to find a way to do that. This referendum is a good start."

- Pia Nielson
Solo Bistro, Bath, Maine

"I care about my employees and pay them as best I can though I still have to compete against the national chains that pay poverty wages. A higher minimum wage would make it easier to compete and still do right by my staff."

- Cathy Walsh
Arabica Coffee Company, Portland, Maine

Visit www.mainesmallbusiness.org to see the full map of supportive business owners