

Why Increase the Minimum Wage in Maine?

Low pay is not OK

Maine families work hard and should be able to earn a fair wage.

\$12,300 *annual take-home pay after taxes for a full-time minimum wage worker in Maine.*

It's not right that a single mother of two can work full time and still not make ends meet for her family.

\$15.85 an hour¹

A living wage

Budgets for:

Food for your family	Medicine
Electricity and Heating	Rent
	Gas to get to work

VS

\$7.50 an hour

A poverty wage

Choose one thing:

Food for your family	Medicine
Electricity and Heating	Rent
	Gas to get to work

We can't wait

There's momentum to raise the wage now

States and cities across the country are already raising the minimum wage and seeing the benefits.

In states that have raised the minimum wage employers added more jobs than those states that kept a lower wage.²

2014 Average Job Growth

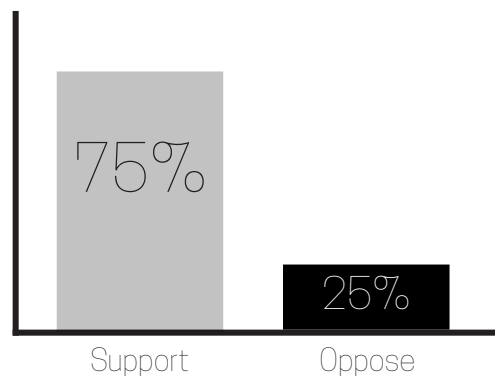
0.99 %

states that boosted their minimum wages

0.68 %

all other states

The majority of Mainers support increasing the minimum wage, and at a time when so many people across the state are struggling to make ends meet, we can't afford to wait.



Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram Poll - September 2014

Good for our communities, good for small businesses

Raising the minimum wage helps our local economies

Many small businesses already pay their employees more than the minimum wage. Raising the minimum wage will make it easier for local businesses to compete with big box stores who pay low wages.³



Sierra Dietz,
Grasshopper Shop,
Rockland

"I care about my employees and wish I could pay them more but I have to compete with big box stores that pay poverty wages. A minimum wage increase would make a level playing field for small business owners like me."



The Mainers who would benefit the most from raising the minimum wage are also the people who are more likely to spend that extra money in their communities, improving our local economies.⁴

All Maine workers deserve to be paid an equal wage

It's time to raise the tipped wage

Tipped wage workers are paid a different wage than most workers in Maine

\$3.75 an hour The tipped minimum wage in Maine.

Tipped wage workers are among the lowest paid workers in the country, even when accounting for tips.

- Most tipped wage workers are women, many are mothers trying to support families.

66% of all tipped wage workers are women.⁵

- Tipped wage workers are more likely to experience sexual harassment on the job because they are dependent on their customers to make ends meet.

37% of all sexual harassment claims to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission come from the restaurant industry.⁶



Whether a tipped wage worker makes enough to support her family shouldn't be left to the whim of her customers.

¹Equity in the Balance. The Alliance for a Just Society 2014 <http://www.thejobgap.org>

Sources

²Wolcott, Ben. "2014 Job Creation Faster in States that Raised the Minimum Wage." Center for Economic and Policy Research, July 19, 2014. <http://www.cepr.net/index.php/blogs/cepr-blog/2014-job-creation-in-states-that-raised-the-minimum-wage>.

³Helmrich, Brittney. "Most Small Business Owners Already Pay Above Minimum Wage." Business News Daily, October 14, 2014. <http://www.businessnewsdaily.com/7284-small-business-minimum-wage.html>.

⁴Mahapatra, Lisa. "Consumer Spending: How Much Of Their Income Do Poor And Rich American Families Spend On Housing, Education, Healthcare, Food And Transportation?" International Business Times, June 1, 2013. <http://www.ibtimes.com/consumer-spending-how-much-their-income-do-poor-rich-american-families-spend-housing-education-0>.

⁵⁶The Glass Floor: Sexual Harassment in the Restaurant Industry." The Restaurant Opportunities Center, October 7, 2014.