



Work & Wages

\$13 MINIMUM WAGE WOULD HELP 1.4 MILLION WORKING OHIOANS

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Thousands of Ohioans of all walks of life work hard but don't take home enough to cover the basics. They need a to be paid fairly for the work they do. Ohio's minimum wage is too low. An Ohioan with a family of three who works full-time and is paid the minimum wage earns \$18,096 a year, which falls \$3,600 short of the poverty level. This January, a coalition of community groups and organized labor called Ohioans to Raise the Wage filed a ballot proposal to raise the Ohio minimum wage to \$13 per hour by 2025.

Key Findings

The minimum wage will benefit Ohioans of all walks of life

- A \$13 minimum wage by 2025 would raise the wages of more than 1.4 million Ohio workers, including 1 million directly impacted workers and over 400,000 indirectly impacted workers.
- A \$13 minimum wage by 2025 (worth \$11.50 in today's dollars) is in line with Ohio's historic minimum wage, valued at \$12 per hour in 1968.
- The 2020 ballot initiative is in line with past Ohio wage initiatives: it would raise the minimum wage 32.2%, compared with the 33.0% increase in 2006. The five-step increase means this policy would give employers more time to adjust to the change.
- Three of the five people who would be helped are women: the minimum wage would narrow the wage gap by raising wages up, not pushing them down.
- The minimum wage would help to reverse the trend of black workers' wages falling over the last four decades. 40.8% of black workers would benefit, along with a quarter of white workers.
- Adults aged 20+ account for 87.7% of all workers who would get a raise, some 1.26 million workers. Working parents outnumber teens two to one.
- Retaining the inflation index would protect low-wage workers from wage devaluation through policy neglect.



A \$13 minimum wage phased in over five steps by 2025 would benefit 1.4 million Ohioans. It would address longstanding racial and gender inequality in Ohio while also driving economic growth by generating around \$1.9 billion in new wages for directly impacted workers.

The proposal would raise wages, narrow the gender pay gap, reverse falling earnings for many black Ohioans, and boost the pay of 360,000 working parents raising 525,000 children. Raising the minimum wage would restore most of the value of the wage lost to inflation before voters passed the 2006 minimum wage at the ballot box. That measure raised the wage 33.0% in a single year; the new proposal would raise it 32.2% and give firms five years to adjust to the change.

Everyone who works for a living deserves to earn enough to cover the basics. Ohio voters should pass the ballot initiative to raise the minimum wage.