

# Why We Should Raise the Minimum Wage in Pennsylvania to \$15 Per Hour

**A high minimum wage ensures we have an economy that works for all of us. It protects workers and provides the opportunity to live a dignified life.**

- The minimum wage is a critical protection for workers—like the right to form unions. It ensures that our economy works for all, not just the owners of huge corporations.
- We show respect for the dignity of work by ensuring all full-time workers are paid a decent wage that allows them to support themselves and their families.
- Since 1947, workers' share of the benefits of the United States economy has shrunk drastically while our economy is more productive than ever. If the minimum wage had gone up with productivity increases since 1968 it would be over \$23 per hour today.
- Our tax dollars subsidize wealthy corporations that fail to pay their workers a living wage by forcing workers to supplement their low wages with social safety net programs.
- Pennsylvania workers have fallen behind because the state hasn't raised the minimum wage in more than 13 years. The minimum wage is now worth less than at any time since the mid-1950s.

**Raising the minimum wage dignifies the work of adults who head families.**

- Raising the minimum wage benefits low-income workers who now make below the proposed minimum wage and those who make just above it because businesses raise the wages of workers making above the new minimum so as not to lose them to competitors.
- Keystone Research Center's (KRC) analysis of \$15-per-hour minimum wage proposals shows that more than 80% of the workers who would see a pay raise are over age 18 and are disproportionately women and people of color.

**A higher minimum wage would create new jobs.**

- Recent research by the [NY Federal Reserve](#), the [Keystone Research Center](#), and [UC Berkeley economists](#) shows that raising the minimum wage doesn't reduce jobs—in fact, it often creates new ones by increasing consumption.

**Pennsylvanians support a higher minimum wage.**

- A [May 2022 poll](#) found that 73% of Pennsylvanians support putting the state on a path to a \$15-per-hour minimum wage. A majority of Pennsylvanians in [every state House and Senate district](#), including the most Republican districts, agree.



## Every state around Pennsylvania has raised its minimum wage!

- Since 2014, 30 states and Washington, DC, have increased their minimum wage, including every state that borders Pennsylvania.

## Raising the minimum wage is good for local businesses and the economy—and this is the best possible time to do it.

- Higher wages for workers means that they and their families would spend more in their communities, boosting the local economy and helping Pennsylvania businesses.
- Many small businesses can't hire enough workers right now. They want to pay their employees more but worry about being at a competitive disadvantage to businesses that pay less. Creating a higher minimum wage floor would enable them to find the workers they need.
- For these reasons, dozens of economists have endorsed a minimum wage increase.

ALL OF PENNSYLVANIA'S NEIGHBORING STATES HAVE RAISED THE MINIMUM WAGE.

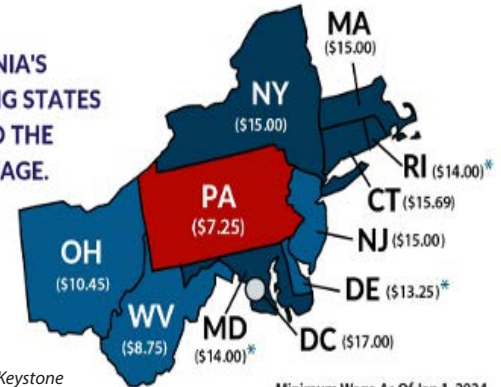


image source: Keystone Research Center

## Would raising the minimum wage increase prices?

Some prices may go up, but wages would increase faster than prices for a few reasons:

- Wages are only part of the cost of doing business.
- A higher minimum wage increases productivity and reduces turnover and training costs.
- The cost of a 12-inch, hand-tossed Domino's pizza averages only 8% more in the states around PA, even though the minimum wage averages 84% more.

## Raising the minimum wage would not create a benefit cliff for low-income workers.

- Changes to eligibility requirements for SNAP and Child Care Works have eliminated the benefit cliff problem.

The Impact of the Minimum Wage on the Price of Domino's Pizza				
	Price of 12-inch hand-tossed Domino's Pizza	Price relative to Harrisburg	State minimum wage as of January 1, 2024	Minimum wage relative to Pennsylvania
Harrisburg, PA	10.99		7.25	
Annapolis, MD	12.99	18%	14.00	93%
Albany, NY	12.99	18%	15.00	107%
Trenton, NJ	10.99	0%	15.00	107%
Wilmington, DE	10.99	0%	13.25	83%
Charleston, WV	10.99	0%	8.75	21%
Columbus, Ohio	11.99	9%	10.45	44%
Washington, DC	11.99	9%	17.00	134%
Average difference between PA and surrounding states		8%		84%

## Ending state preemption, which prohibits local communities from raising their minimum wage above the state's level, is needed to protect workers.

- The cost of living varies from one Pennsylvania county to another.
- Counties should have the option to adjust their minimum wage for these variations.

## We also need "one fair wage," an end to the tipped minimum wage.

- Employers of workers who receive tips are only required to pay them \$2.83 per hour.
- One fair wage would protect all workers, especially women, from harassment.