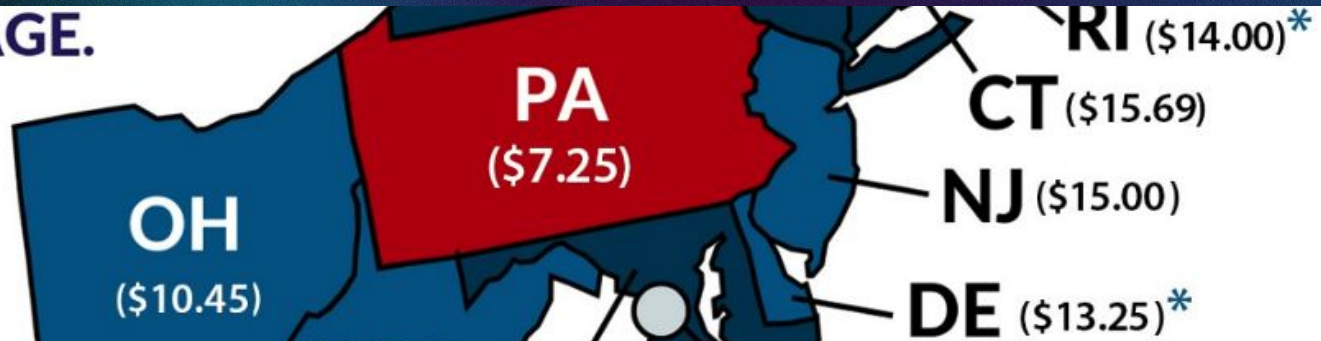


PENNSYLVANIANS  
TOGETHER

CREATING  
PROSPERITY  
TOGETHER

# Minimum Wage: It's Time.

MINIMUM WAGE.



03/26/2026

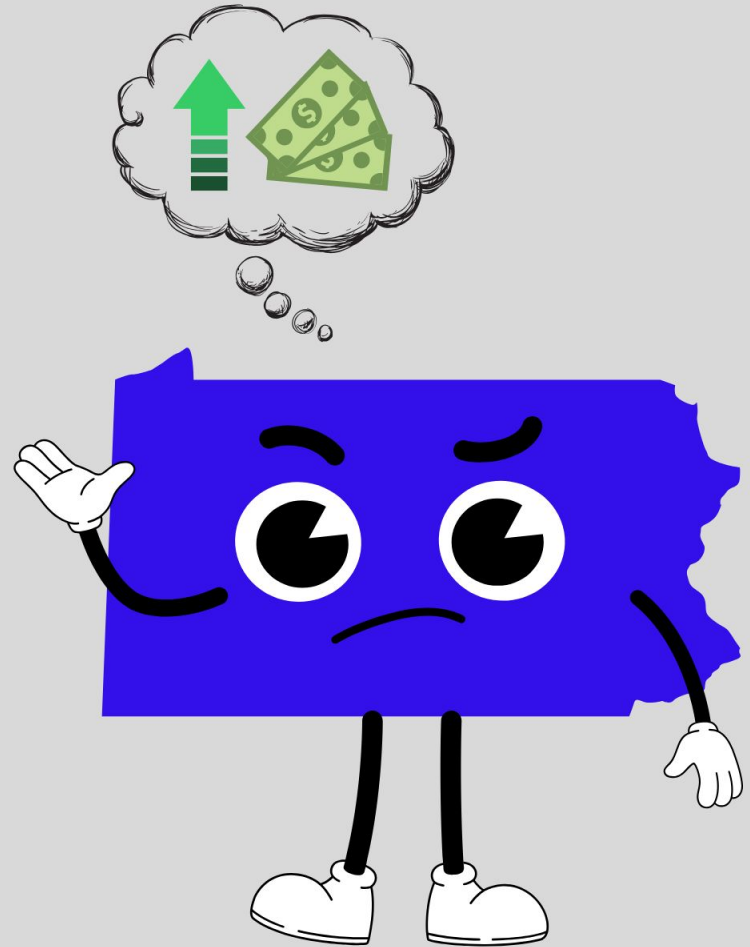
PA Together Federal  
Fightback Summit

PRESENTERS: Gillian Kratzer, Better PA, and Jessica  
Brittain, Action Together NEPA

# It's time for PA to get a raise.

## Agenda

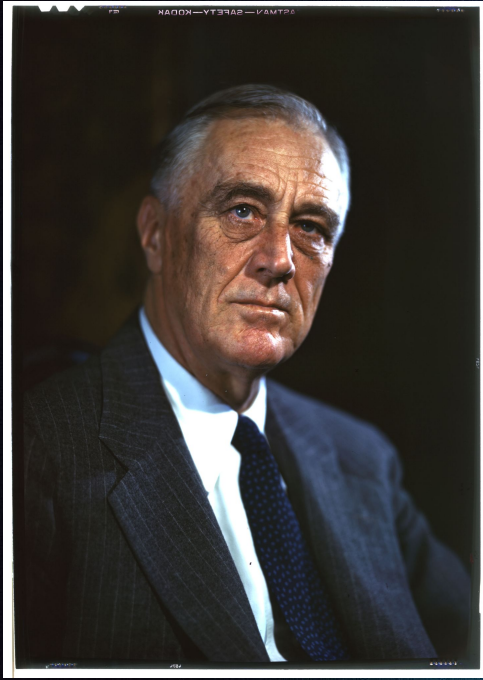
- The History of the Minimum Wage
- A Livable Wage Is Good for Businesses
- The National Landscape of the Minimum Wage
- Why Are We STILL Fighting for \$15
- What is Local Wage Control?
- The Roadmap to Raising the Wage and What You Can Do



# The History of the Minimum Wage

**MINIMUM WAGE.**





“It seems to me to be equally plain that no business which depends for existence on paying less than living wages to its workers has any right to continue in this country. By "business" I mean the whole of commerce as well as the whole of industry; by workers I mean all workers, the white collar class as well as the men in overalls; and by living wages I mean more than a bare subsistence level-I mean the wages of decent living.”

It was ALWAYS supposed to be a  
LIVING wage.

# Minimum Wage through the Years



## Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938

Frances Perkins, the first woman to hold a cabinet position played a critical role in passing this landmark legislation that set a minimum wage for the first time in US History.



## 1966 FLSA Amendments

Created a \$1 wage floor for sectors not previously included in the FLSA, many of which were jobs filled primarily by Black Americans. However, it allowed tips to be credited toward the minimum wage.



## 1991 and the Tipped Minimum Wage

In 1991 the tipped minimum wage was decoupled from general minimum wage increases and it has since been frozen at \$2.13/hr.

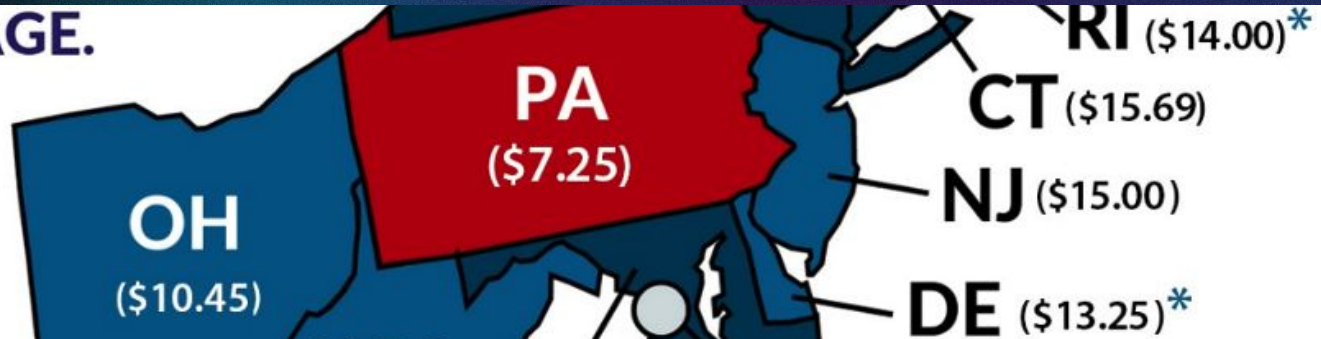


## 2009 – The Last Increase

The federal government last increased the minimum wage in 2009 to \$7.25/hr.

# A Livable Wage Is Good for Business

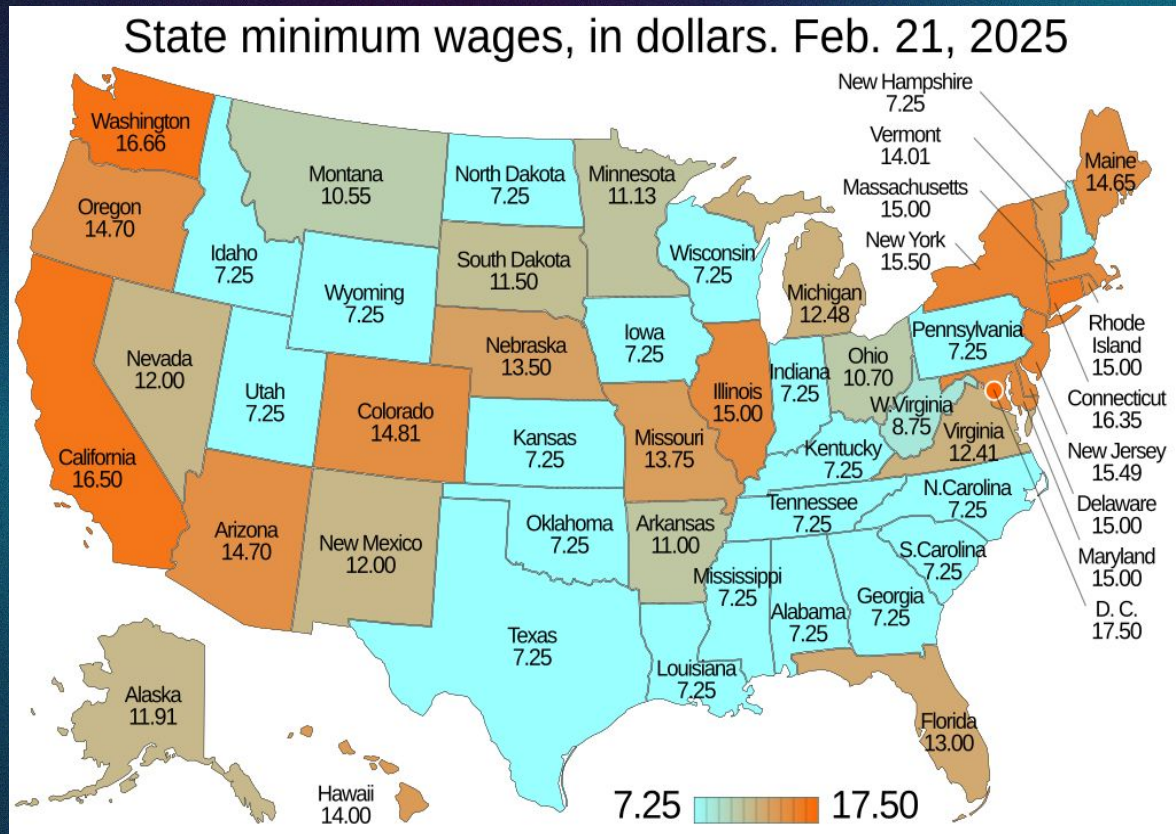
MINIMUM WAGE.



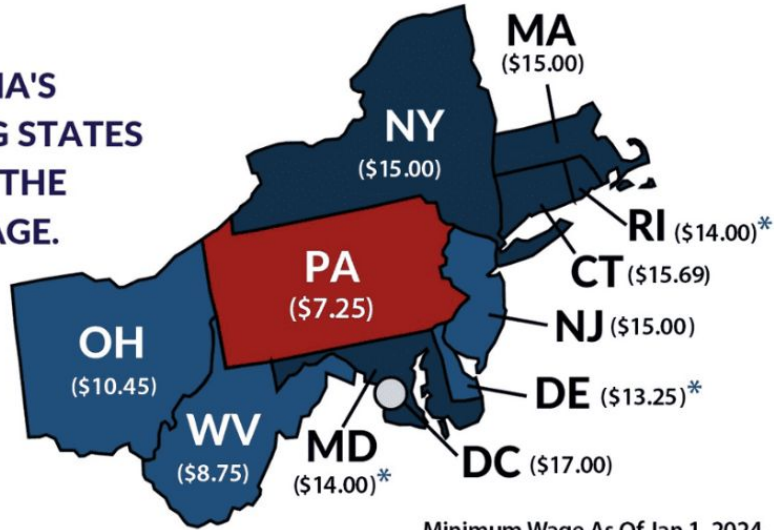
# The National Landscape



*What's  
the  
minimum  
wage  
around  
the  
country?*



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



Minimum Wage As Of Jan 1, 2024

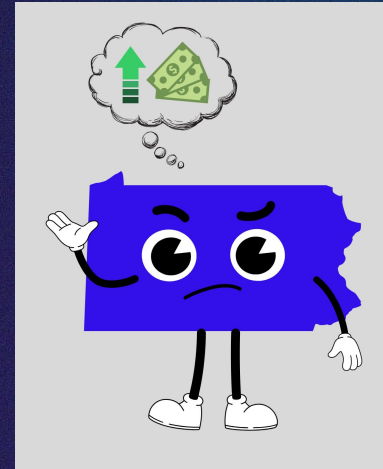
\* ON THE PATH TO \$15/HR BY 2025

*YIMBY ...  
All our  
neighbors  
have  
significantly  
higher  
minimum  
wages.*

**QUESTION:**  
Why are we  
**STILL**

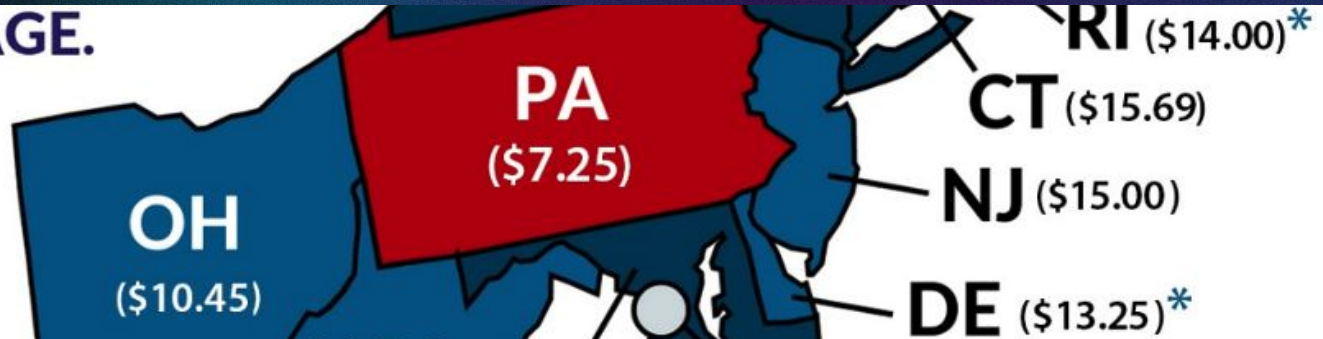
**fighting for \$15?**

ANSWER:  
Because we are  
**STILL**  
**stuck at**  
**\$7.25.**



# What Is Local Wage Control?

**MINIMUM WAGE.**



Local wage control refers to the lifting of the law against minimum wage “preemption.”

Simply put, it would allow municipalities to decide their own minimum wage, which could be higher (but not lower) than the state minimum wage.

What’s the cost of living around PA?



# It's All About Cost of Living

## The Cost of Living in Pennsylvania Largest Cities Compared to the National Average

This is how much pricier or cheaper it is to live in Pennsylvania's 11 largest cities compared to the national average.



# The Roadmap to Victory & What You Can Do



# The Roadmap to Victory

- **The Path**

- Through The PA House
- Through The PA Senate
- The Governor

- **Concrete Actions**

- Talk to your neighbors
- Minimum wage pledge
- Schedule a presentation from Pennsylvanians Together for your local group

# The Path

## Rep. Roni Green

Introduces her minimum wage bill in the PA State House

## PA State House

Lobby State House Reps and run up the score to pass this bill in a bipartisan way.



## PA State Senate

Yeah, we have to talk to the Senate but we can DO THIS.

## The Governor

He signs the bill!!



Ok, but you didn't  
really think it was that  
simple, right?

# What YOU can do...

## Talk to your neighbors

One-on-one conversations are critical to almost every issue these days, especially because people are so hesitant to trust regular media sources.

## Sign the petition

Sign our Raise the Wage petition and help spread the word by sharing it with your friends!



## Schedule a presentation

PA Together will come to you! Reach out to us (contact info to come) and we'll talk to your group about raising the wage.



# Contact us!

## Jessica Brittain

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Action Together NEPA  
[jessica@actiontogethernepa.org](mailto:jessica@actiontogethernepa.org)

## Gillian Kratzer

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TOGETHER**