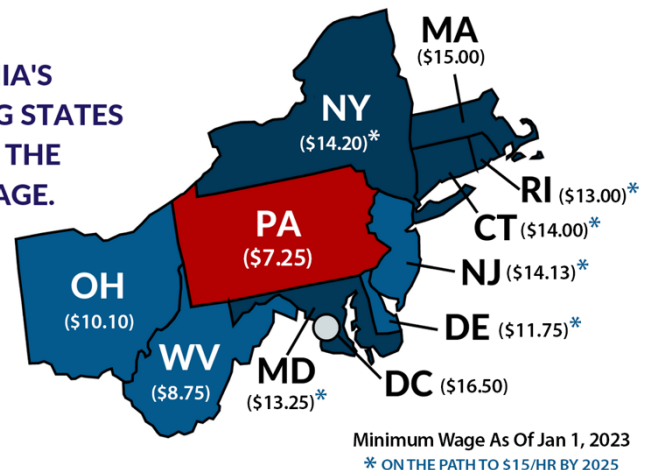


# WHY IT'S TIME TO RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE IN PENNSYLVANIA

## ***Why raising the minimum wage is necessary***

- The Pennsylvania General Assembly hasn't raised the minimum wage in more than 13 years. Pennsylvania workers and communities are falling behind. The minimum wage is worth 27% less than it was in 2009, the last time it was raised. Adjusting for inflation, the minimum wage is now worth less than at any point since the mid 1950s.
- In 1968 (a year of very low unemployment) a full-time full-year minimum wage worker in Pennsylvania earned 51% of the median wage for all full-time, full-year workers. That has fallen to about 33% of the median wage today.
- If the minimum wage had gone up with productivity increases from 1968 to now, it would be over \$22 per hour today.
- 30 states and D.C. have increased their minimum wage since 2014, including every state that borders Pennsylvania.

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



## ***Who is helped by a minimum wage increase?***

- It is a myth that minimum wage only benefits part-time teenage workers. Our analyses of prior \$15/hr minimum wage proposals show that over 80% of the workers who would see a pay raise are not teens. These workers are disproportionately women and people of color, many working in occupations we called "essential" during the height of the pandemic.

## ***Why is raising the minimum wage good for the economy?***

- More money for low-wage workers means that they and their families will be spending more money in their communities, boosting the local economy and Pennsylvania businesses. That is why [dozens of Pennsylvania economists](#) have endorsed a minimum wage increase.

### ***Will the minimum wage cost jobs?***

- Recent research consistent with data analysis going back to 1979 shows that a minimum wage increase boosts income for working class families but has little or no effect on employment.

### ***Will raising the minimum wage increase prices?***

Some prices may go up, but wages will increase faster than prices for a number of reasons.

- For most businesses, wages are only part of the cost of doing business. So, prices will increase more slowly than increase in wages.
- Higher wages improve worker morale which leads to higher productivity and reduced worker reducing training costs for workers. This holds price increases down.

### ***Will raising the minimum wage hurt small businesses?***

- Most low-wage workers work for big businesses, who are making record profits.
- Putting more money in the pockets of workers to spend in our communities boosts small businesses. Higher wages increase productivity and reduce turnover, benefiting employers.
- Legislators opposed to raising the minimum wage often claim pizza shop owners will have to raise their prices so high that they have to close. But the minimum wage is higher in every state around Pennsylvania and there are no pizza shortages. Even with a minimum wage of \$15.00 you can still buy a slice of pizza for \$1 in New York City.

### ***Do Pennsylvanians support a higher minimum wage?***

- A May 2022 poll commissioned by the State Innovation Exchange found that 73% of Pennsylvanians support putting the state on a path to a \$15 an hour minimum wage. Pennsylvanians in every state House and Senate district agree.

### ***Why should we end state preemption so that local communities can boost the wage higher than the state minimum?***

- The state minimum wage should be a minimum for everyone. Cities and other municipalities should have the option to raise their wage to a higher level to account for variations in the local cost of living and other community needs.

### ***Why we need "one fair wage," an end to the tipped minimum wage.***

- In Pennsylvania, employers of workers that customarily receive tips are only required to pay their tipped workers a base wage of \$2.83 per hour.
- Forcing workers to rely on tips also encourage sexual harassment in the workplace. We need to create one fair wage to protect all workers, and especially women, from being abused by customers and employers.

### ***For more information contact:***

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