



NEWS RELEASE

from
State Senator
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2nd Senate District

MINIMUM WAGE FACTS

- The Pennsylvania General Assembly last adopted legislation to raise the minimum wage on June 30, 2006. The legislation raised PA's minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.15/hour. ([SB 1090 of 2006](#))
- The last minimum wage increase of any kind in Pennsylvania occurred on July 24, 2009 when the federal rate increased to \$7.25/hour, a raise of 10 cents for PA. ([U.S. Dept. of Labor](#))
- Raising the minimum wage to \$15 would boost the wages of approximately 2 million Pennsylvania workers or 33.7% of the state's resident workforce. In Philadelphia, it would boost the wages of 232,000 workers or 35.2% of the city's resident workforce. ([Keystone Research Center, April 2019](#))
- Who would benefit directly from a \$15 minimum wage in Pennsylvania? ([Keystone Research Center, April 2019](#))
 - 89% are adults
 - 37% are age 40 and older
 - 55% are full-time workers
 - 61% are women
 - 27% are people of color
 - 24% are parents
 - 41% have at least some college education
 - On average, the affected workers earn 49% of their family's income
 - On average, the teenagers affected earn 21% of their family's income

- 1 in 8 Pennsylvanians are living in poverty ([U.S. Census Bureau, July 2019](#)). Almost 1 in 4 Philadelphians are living in poverty ([Philadelphia Inquirer, October 2020](#)).
- 29 states and the District of Columbia, including all 6 of Pennsylvania's immediate neighbors (New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Ohio) have raised their minimum wages above the federal rate. Pennsylvania has not. ([Economic Policy Institute, January 2021](#))
- 45 localities in the U.S. have adopted minimum wages above their state minimum wage. ([Economic Policy Institute, January 2021](#))
- 20 states have raised their minimum wages in 2021 and 3 more will raise it later this year. ([Forbes, January 2021](#))
- 9 states and the District of Columbia have adopted a \$15 minimum wage. 3 of those states border Pennsylvania. (California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Virginia). ([Forbes, November 2020](#))
- Last November, 61% of Florida voters approved a ballot referendum to raise the state's minimum wage to \$15 by 2026. ([Ballotpedia, retrieved January 2021](#))
- In May 2019, 82% of Philadelphia voters supported a ballot referendum calling on the PA General Assembly to adopt a \$15 minimum wage. ([Ballotpedia, retrieved January 2021](#))
- 69% of Pennsylvania voters favor raising the state's minimum wage to \$12, including 47% who "strongly favor" it. ([Franklin & Marshall, March 2019](#)). 56% support a \$15 minimum wage ([Keystone Research Center, April 2019](#))
- Among the nation's 31 largest cities, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh are among those tied for having the lowest minimum wage (\$7.25/hour). Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Milwaukee are the only non-Southern or non-Midwestern cities at the federal minimum. ([Pew, May 2020](#))
- In real purchasing power, the value of the federal minimum wage peaked in 1968 when it was \$1.60/hour. Accounting for inflation, that's \$11.98 in 2021 dollars. ([CPI inflation calculator](#))

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