

# Raising the Minimum Wage

<b>How would raising the minimum wage to \$12 by 2020 affect Ohio?</b>
<b>1.5 million Ohio workers would get a raise</b>
<b>633,000 Ohio children would have a parent benefit</b>
<b>1 in 3 Ohio women and 1 in 5 Ohio men would gain</b>
<b>White and black workers would both be helped</b>
<b>Ohio's economy would get a boost</b>

For more than 30 years in Ohio, there has been a growing disconnect between worker productivity and pay. While the state economy grew by more than two-thirds between 1979 and 2013, the typical Ohioan's wages actually dropped slightly when adjusted for inflation. Raising the federal minimum wage to \$12 by July 2020 would help restore the balance, benefit 1.5 million Ohio workers, and help our economy.

POLLING

Voters overwhelmingly support raising the minimum wage, with 60 percent of Ohio voters in favor of an increase. Support is the strongest among Democrats, young voters, union households, the unemployed and young, unmarried women.

## How to Talk About the Minimum Wage

### ***Lead with Values***

Minimum wage workers aren't looking for a handout. If you work full-time, even for the minimum wage, you should earn enough to meet basic needs. We need to raise the minimum wage so that working families can feed their kids, keep the lights on, and stay off the streets. When you decide to work for a living, you should be able to make a living.

### ***Emphasize the Ends***

More than a million Ohioans – including 316,000 parents and more than 700,000 women – would benefit if we raised the minimum wage.

### ***Focus on Lived Experience***

It's not just teenagers flipping burgers who earn minimum wage. Many of these people make barely \$16,500 a year – as much money as most CEOs make in a day – even if they work full time. That's less than \$320 per week.

### ***Name the Causes***

Ohio's minimum wage falls so far short of the cost of living, especially for families, that many full-time working families struggle to make ends meet and put food on the table.

### ***Link the Problem to the Solution***

We need to rebalance our economy so that big corporations don't make record profits while wages remain stagnant. Raising the minimum wage helps set the standard for fair wages for all. It's the right thing to do for Ohio and especially for families who work hard and play by the rules.

Kathleen Foster, 57, of Cleveland, says minimum wage isn't enough to make ends meet. She used to make \$11 an hour as a nursing assistant, but she can't find any job now that pays above minimum wage, which is \$8.10 in Ohio.

"I'd still be broke. I can't pay my bills. I want to work. I'd love to go back to school and get a trade. Something that would bring in enough so that I can live."

