

1 REFERENDUM ON INCREASEING THE MINIMUM WAGE IN WISCONSIN

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3 The current minimum wage in Wisconsin is \$7.25/ hour. With that wage, a full-time
4 worker with a 40-hour a week job earns \$15,080 a year.

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6 On that salary, a resident of Dane County cannot afford the basic fundamental needs of
7 housing and food. According to a 2014 report by the National Low Income Housing
8 Coalition, a 1-bedroom apartment in Dane County, one must earn \$14.27/hour, double
9 the state’s hourly minimum wage amount.

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11 Dane County has serious racial disparity issues. Individuals working minimum wages
12 jobs in Dane County are disproportionately minority. According to the Race to Equity –
13 Racial Disparities in Dane County Report, released in October of 2013 by the Wisconsin
14 Council on Children and Families, 54% of African American Dane County residents earn
15 poverty wages or less, compared to 8.7% of white. African American children in Dane
16 County are 13 times more likely to be growing up in a family in poverty than white
17 children.

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19 The United States is experiencing an unprecedented rise in income inequality between its
20 highest paid and minimum wage workers. According to the Pew Research Center,
21 America’s current income inequality is the highest it has been since the 1920s, just before
22 and during the great depression. The top 10% of Americans earn 80% of the national
23 wealth. The top 1% earns 24% of the wealth. The average CEO in America earns 380
24 times more than the average worker, let alone a minimum wage worker.

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26 Dane County, Wisconsin, and the United States will not recover from the current
27 economic downturn if full time workers do not earn enough money to survive—to feed
28 and house themselves, their children and their families.

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30 The Center for Economic and Policy Research has found that an increase in the minimum
31 wage does not decrease the number of available jobs or negatively impact on the
32 economy and the number of jobs available. Instead, it increases job productivity and
33 decreases work turnover.

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35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following referendum question be
36 placed on the November 2014 ballot:

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38 “Should the State of Wisconsin increase the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour?”

39 YES NO

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41 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Dane County Clerk shall take all necessary steps
42 to implement this resolution.

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