

ASK THE CANDIDATES 2022: MINIMUM WAGE



North Carolina needs to create jobs that pay workers enough to afford the basics for themselves and their families. Raising the minimum wage would provide a critical antidote to the ongoing boom in low-wage work.

- How will you address raising the minimum wage so North Carolina families can afford the basics?
- On average in North Carolina, a household of two adults and two children needs to earn a \$33.25 hourly wage to afford the basics—more than four times the current minimum wage. Will you support raising the state's minimum wage to at least \$15 an hour?
- If not, what do you think the minimum wage should be, and what should North Carolina families do in order to make up the difference between what work pays and what it costs to live?

FACTS YOU CAN USE:

North Carolina's minimum wage is the same as the nation's—\$7.25 an hour. Thirty other states have raised their wage above the national floor, including Florida, Nebraska, Arkansas, South Dakota, and Missouri.

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Did you get real, meaningful answers to your questions?

If not, here are some follow-up questions that might help you get a more specific answer:

- Many states have raised their minimum wage through incremental annual increases. How many years do you think it should take to get to a \$15/hr minimum wage?
- The tipped wage in North Carolina is \$2.13/hr. Do you support eliminating the tipped wage?
- Some North Carolinians, including some people with disabilities and incarcerated people, are legally allowed to be paid a subminimum wage. Do you support eliminating subminimum wages for all working people in North Carolina?
- Would you support a policy that includes regular increases to the state minimum wage based on cost of living data?

Visit www.ncjustice.org/election2022 to share the answers you received.



FACTS YOU CAN USE:

According to the 2021 Living Income Standard—a market-based assessment of what it takes to make ends meet—an average family with two adults and two children needs to earn at least \$69,270 per year (\$16.75/hr/working parent) to afford the basics.

A full-time minimum-wage worker earns approximately \$15,080 per year at the current state minimum wage. This is approximately \$1,000 less than the federal poverty level for a family of one adult and one child, and more than \$35,000 less than what it took to make ends meet in 2021.

An estimated 1,869,127 working North Carolinians would benefit from raising the minimum wage to \$15/hr, including more than a million working women.

In North Carolina, more than half of working Black and Latino people would benefit from raising the wage to \$15.

More than 1,668,000 minimum wage earners in North Carolina are over the age of 18.

More than 1,224,000 North Carolinians who would benefit from raising the wage to \$15 are parents.

Raising the minimum wage helps the economy save jobs by boosting consumer spending, reducing employee turnover, and increasing business sales.



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