

THREE REASONS TO RAISE MINIMUM WAGE



1. Boost our local economies

Raising the minimum wage would provide nearly \$2.5 billion more in earnings annually for over 730,000 low wage workers across the state.¹ Since those with low incomes are likely to spend their additional resources on necessities like food and clothing, communities and businesses throughout Washington state would benefit.

Better-paid workers are also happier, more productive, and less likely to leave their jobs, saving businesses money through greater efficiency and less turnover.²



**PUT MONEY BACK INTO
WASHINGTON STATE**

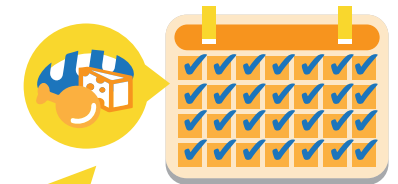
2. Helps us build an economy that works for everyone

Raising the minimum wage is one strategy to reduce income inequality and allow more hard working Washingtonians to make ends meet. For a person working full-time earning \$10/hour, an increase to \$13.50 would mean an extra \$607 per month to spend on rent, food, utilities, or save for the future. That's a much needed boost for the over one in five parents trying to raise kids on less than \$13.50/hour, or the single young adult trying to save for a car or school.

Women and people of color are disproportionately represented among those not being paid enough to make ends meet. In fact, nearly 30% of women workers and over 40% of Black and Latino workers in Washington currently make less than \$13.50 per hour. They would especially benefit.

**AN INCREASE FROM \$10/HOUR
TO \$13.50/HOUR WOULD PROVIDE**

**\$607 PER MONTH
FOR BASIC
NEEDS**

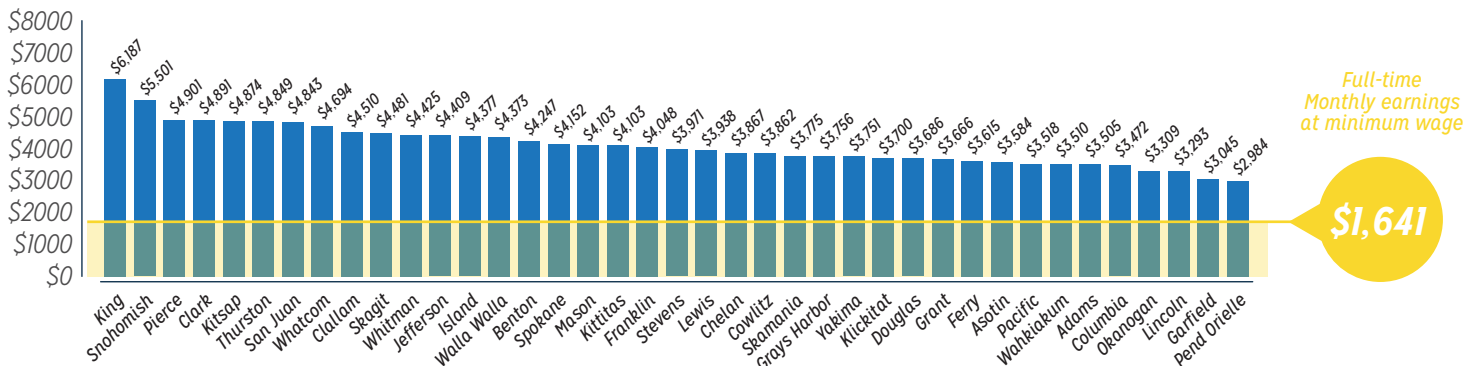


*feeding a family of 4
for a month*

3. Values workers and their contributions to the economy

Like all Americans, Washingtonians value work. We expect people to work hard, but they also should be paid enough to support their families. No matter where a family lives in Washington state, a parent working full-time at minimum wage and raising two children would not be able to meet their family's basic needs without assistance or forgoing necessities like having enough food or paying rent or utilities (see chart).⁴

MONTHLY COST OF MEETING BASIC NEEDS FOR A FAMILY OF THREE
One Adult + One Preschooler + One School-Age Child, Counties, Washington State 2014



SOURCES: 1. BPC analysis of data provided by Economic Policy Institute and Bureau of Labor Statistics; Increase in aggregate earnings calculated by: (a) calculating share of workers earning less than \$10, \$10.50, \$11, \$11.50, \$12, \$12.50, \$13 and \$13.50 that are working part-time (<20 hours/week), mid-time (20-34 hours/week), and full-time (35 or more hours/week); (b) assuming a \$3.50 raise for workers earning \$10; a \$3.25 raise for workers earning between \$10 and \$10.50; a \$2.75 raise for workers earning between \$10.50 and \$11, a \$2.25 raise for workers earning between \$11 and \$11.50, a \$1.75 raise for workers earning between \$11.50 and \$12, a \$1.25 raise for workers earning between \$12 and \$12.50, a \$0.75 raise for workers earning between \$12.50 and \$13, and a \$0.25 raise for workers earning between \$13 and \$13.50; and (c) calculating additional earnings = (# of hours per month worked) X (raise differential) X (# of workers). For full methodology contact Lori Pfingst @ 206.262.0973. 2. Schmitt, John (2013) Why Does the Minimum Wage Have No Discernible Impact on Employment? CEPR: Washington, DC (<http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/min-wage-2013-02.pdf>). 3. Economic Policy Institute (2014) The Increasingly Unequal States of America (<http://www.epi.org/publication/unequal-states/>) and BPC analysis of 2013 American communities Survey data. 4. Workforce Development Council - Seattle/King County (2014) The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Washington State (<http://www.selfsufficiencystandard.org/docs/Washington2014.pdf>)