



CAN'T SURVIVE ON \$7.25: UPDATE

Since 2009, Wisconsin's minimum wage has been stuck at \$7.25 per hour – the federal minimum wage. Inflation has whittled away its value every year, leaving it at its lowest level in 77 years. A Wisconsin minimum wage worker working full-time would earn under \$15,000 each year – living in poverty, struggling with soaring housing and fuel prices.

In neighboring states, wage floors are substantially higher: the minimum in Minnesota is \$11.41 per hour; \$13.73 in Michigan; \$15 in Illinois. Raising Wisconsin's wage floor, as 30 states have already done, would increase wages for hundreds of thousands of Wisconsin workers. We draw on analysis from the Economic Policy Institute to describe the impact of raising the state minimum wage to \$20 by 2030.

Workers Win with a Higher Wage Floor



Wisconsin Wins with a Higher Wage Floor

- A higher wage floor reduces economic inequality and increases workers' earnings. Those workers spur economic activity and strengthen the economy.
- Higher minimum wages have little to no impact on unemployment and job growth according to a 2024 [review](#) of minimum wage studies.
- A higher minimum wage helps workers stay in their jobs. Employers can also end up ahead, with lower turnover and training costs offsetting the wage increase.
- [Research](#) shows that states that eliminated tipped minimum wages had faster growth in their leisure and hospitality industries.
- For a more detailed review of minimum wage research, see [this](#) overview on the impact of raising wage floors from the Economic Policy Institute.

Higher Wages are Popular

- Raising the minimum wage is popular with voters across the nation and across the political spectrum.
- In 2024, voters in Alaska and Missouri passed \$15 per hour minimum wage increases. In the 2000s, 23 of 25 ballot initiatives on minimum wages have passed. Details [here](#).