



Michigan National Organization for Women

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THE MICHIGAN NOW SUPPORTS RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE SIGNIFICANTLY

Raising the Minimum Wage Would Help Close the Pay Gap Between Women and Men

Over Six in Ten Minimum Wage Workers are Women in Michigan

The Michigan National Organization for Women supports raising the minimum wage in Michigan. Over six in ten minimum wage workers in Michigan are women¹. Michigan has one of the highest pay gaps between men and women, ranking 43rd² among the 50 states. Raising the minimum wage would help to close the 26 cent pay gap between the median wages of women and men in Michigan.

Whether by legislative enactment or an initiated amendment to the Michigan Minimum Wage Act through referendum, Michigan needs to significantly raise the minimum wage for all workers, including tipped workers, and adopt automatic cost of living increases for which both workers and employers can plan.

Currently the minimum wage in Michigan is \$7.40 an hour (\$15,392 yearly for full-time work) with an exception for tipped workers cash wages which are only \$2.65 per hour (\$5,512 yearly for full-time work). This minimum wage leaves a full-time worker with two children well below the 2014 federal poverty guideline level of \$19,790.

Raising the minimum wage significantly is important to closing the gender pay gap in Michigan.

¹ National Women's Law Center from calculations based on unpublished U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data for all wage and salary workers. Figures are annual averages for 2013.

² *Higher State Minimum Wages Promote Fair Pay for Women*, National Women's Law Center, March 2014.

NOW's purpose is to take action to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all privileges and responsibilities thereof in truly equal partnership with men.