



No one who works full time should live in poverty.

New Mexicans For A Fair Wage

Coalition Members

- ACORN
- Albuquerque Musicians' Association
- American Federation of Teachers New Mexico
- AFSCME
- ARC of N.M.
- Community Action N.M.
- Empowering Our Communities in New Mexico
- Enlace Comunitario
- Green Party N.M.
- Gray Panthers
- Health Action N.M.
- Hispano Roundtable of New Mexico
- Hogares, Inc.
- Homeless Advocacy Coalition
- Lutheran Office of Governmental Ministry
- MANA
- Mountain West Regional Council of Carpenters
- National Education Association
- N.M. AFL-CIO
- Democracy for New Mexico

Expand Economic Opportunity to All New Mexicans Raise New Mexico's Minimum Wage to \$7.50

75% of Registered Voters in New Mexico Support Raising the State's Minimum Wage

A Minimum Wage of \$7.50 Is Good For New Mexico's Economy: Job Growth in Santa Fe

- Since raising its minimum wage to \$8.50, job growth has held steady in Santa Fe. The fact is, job growth in the hospitality and leisure industry (e.g., hotels and restaurants) – where most of the people impacted by the increase work - is even greater than in Santa Fe's economy as a whole. Santa Fe's minimum wage of \$8.50 has proven to be good for the city's economy.
- Job growth has also held steady in almost every other of the 17 states that have raised their minimum wage.

Price Increases Negligible After Minimum Wage Increase

The **highest** average price increase in response to minimum wage increases across the country is .03% - an additional 1.5 cents on a \$5.00 Happy Meal. This is a small price to pay to expand economic opportunity to over 100,000 New Mexicans.

\$7.50: A Reasonable Next Step To Expand Opportunity to All New Mexicans

- All New Mexicans deserve a fair wage for hard work. No New Mexican should work full time and live in poverty. New Mexico has the largest portion of working people paid the federal minimum wage than any other state – more than twice the national average.
- The vast majority – 80% -of New Mexicans who will benefit from an increase to \$7.50 are adults who work full time.
- Increasing New Mexico's minimum wage to \$7.50 is a modest next step to expand opportunity to all New Mexicans. An hourly wage of \$7.50 does not even lift most working family's income above the federal poverty level. But, it would be a meaningful step in the right direction.

Coalition Members

- N.M. Alliance for Retired Americans
- N.M. Catholic Conference
- N.M. Building Construction and Trades Council
- N.M. Center on Law and Poverty
- N.M. Conference of Churches
- N.M. Council on Crime and Delinquency
- N.M. Federation of Labor Retiree Council
- N.M. Human Needs Coordinating Council
- N.M. Voices for Children
- N.M. Pediatric Society
- N.M. Public Health Association
- Parents Reaching Out
- Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office
- Santa Fe Living Wage Network
- Somos Un Pueblo Unido
- Southwest Organizing Project
- UNM Law and Society
- Democratic Party of Dona Ana County
- Democratic Party of Bernalillo County

Increasing the Minimum Wage A Bipartisan Issue - 17 Other States, and the District of Columbia, Have Increased State Minimum Wage – Including Those With Republican Leadership

- Oregon, Florida, California, New York, Nevada and other states with Republican leadership have increased their state's minimum wage. California's Republican Governor has proposed an increase in that state's minimum wage to \$7.75.

A Minimum Wage of \$7.50 is Good For New Mexico's Families and Children

- In 2005, 123,000 New Mexicans work at an hourly wage between \$5.15. (the federal minimum wage) and \$7.50 (according to the Economic Policy Institute). These are the working people who would be positively impacted by an increase in New Mexico's minimum wage to \$7.50.

An increase to \$7.50 enables working families to work towards economic stability without losing eligibility for public assistance such as Medicaid, Food Stamps or child care subsidies.¹

- An increase to \$7.50 for those currently working at \$5.15 per hour will put an additional \$100 per week (\$5,000 per year) into the pockets of 123,000 working New Mexicans currently earning the federal minimum wage. \$100 each week pays for two tanks of gas to get to work and a bag of groceries.

The Minimum Wage Must Increase With the Cost of Living – Just as Social Security Does - or Its Value is Lost

- Without indexing to inflation, 80% of the value of the last increase in the federal minimum wage has already been lost – an annual loss of \$1,913 for a person working full-time at the minimum wage.
- The minimum wage should be indexed to inflation just as Social Security benefits are.

Locally-Set Standards Should Be Honored

- Home rule must be respected. The current right of citizens to increase the minimum wage above the state minimum at the city and county levels should be preserved.
- Local ordinances at the city or county level should not be preempted by state law.

¹ The exception would be two adults working full time at \$7.50; they would no longer be eligible for assistance for their children.