



**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 NM
- Community Action NM
- Empowering Our Communities in New Mexico
- Enlace Comunitario
- Green Party of NM
- Grey Panthers
- Health Action NM
- 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
- NM AFL-CIO

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### State Minimum Wage Initiatives Bode Well for NM Workers

ALBUQUERQUE—Voters in all six of the states that had ballot initiatives to raise the federal minimum wage, gave the measures a thumbs up in yesterday’s midterm elections. Such support, especially in the neighboring states of Colorado and Arizona, could make passage of similar legislation in New Mexico easier when the state Legislature convenes early next year.

“We hope these big wins, particularly in traditionally Republican states, will help us gain more bipartisan support for this issue in New Mexico,” said Bill Jordan, Deputy Director for Policy at New Mexico Voices for Children, a New Mexicans for a Fair Wage coalition member. “Obviously the voters have a better idea of what it’s like to try and survive on the federal minimum wage than Congress does – or they would have acted on this issue long ago.”

New Mexicans for a Fair Wage saw victory this past summer when the Albuquerque City Council raised the minimum wage for those working within the city limits. The Bernalillo County Commission is considering a similar measure, as are the communities of Gallup, Hobbs, Las Vegas, Silver City and Taos. But in last year’s legislative session, time ran out before the Senate could vote on a minimum wage bill. During that session no Republicans voted in favor of the coalition’s preferred bill.

“It’s clear that this is not only a popular issue, but also one that has broad support among voters,” said Mike Taylor, a member of New Mexico ACORN and a low-wage earner. “Americans believe that this is a country of opportunity and that opportunity begins with earning a living wage. This victory adds to the momentum the issue had already built up.”

The other four states to pass minimum wage increases by ballot initiative yesterday were Missouri, Montana, Nevada and Ohio. All six state initiatives include indexing, so the minimum wage will rise automatically with inflation. The current federal minimum wage is \$5.15 an hour. The Fair Wage coalition would like to see New Mexico raise that to \$7.50 an hour. The coalition also supports indexing.

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Coalition Members

- NM Alliance for Retired Americans
- NM Catholic Conference
- NM Building Construction and Trades Council
- NM Center on Law and Poverty
- NM Conference of Churches
- NM Council on Crime and Delinquency
- NM Federation of Labor Retiree Council
- NM Human Needs Coordinating Council
- NM Voices for Children
- NM Pediatric Society
- NM 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