



Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice

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‘Michigan Needs a Raise’ Ballot Proposal Frequently Asked Questions

- **What will this proposal do?** If it is approved by the voters, it will raise the minimum wage in Michigan from \$5.15 per hour to \$6.85 per hour on January 1, 2007 and increase the minimum wage every year as the cost of living goes up.
- **What is the reason for choosing \$6.85?** Increasing the minimum wage to \$6.85 will keep Michigan in line with other Midwestern states, including Ohio.
- **Does the proposal do anything else?** It also has fines for employers who violate the minimum wage and protects employees who claim they haven't been paid the minimum wage.
- **Is anyone paid less than the minimum wage under the proposal?** Unlike current law which has many loopholes, the proposal excludes only prisoners and teenagers under 18 who do things like babysit and cut lawns. It allows employees who receive tips to receive a slightly lower minimum wage. Everyone else is covered.
- **Why does the proposal amend the Michigan Constitution?** The proposal puts the minimum wage in the Michigan Constitution so state and local politicians can't reduce or eliminate it.
- **Will raising the minimum wage cut jobs?** No. Study after study shows that jobs are being created faster in states with a higher minimum wage. The last time the minimum wage was raised in Michigan was in 1996, and jobs in Michigan increased.
- **Who is supporting this petition drive?** A statewide coalition of community, senior citizen, religious, small business, union and political groups who believe that Michigan needs a raise. The coalition is called 'Michigan Needs a Raise' and it is a registered Michigan ballot question committee.
- **If I sign the petition, do I have to vote yes?** No, signing the petition only means that you believe the people should have the right to vote on raising the minimum wage.
- **When will this be on the ballot?** At the November 7, 2006 General Election.