

Florida AFL-CIO

“The Voice of Labor in the Sunshine State”



VOTE YES ON AMENDMENT 2 – MINIMUM WAGE

Boost individual salaries, boost local economies, help fund critical state programs

The Problems

- Currently in Florida, almost half of all households (45%) are classified as working poor by the United Way (ALICE Report).
- Between 2000 and 2017, the typical Florida worker gained only \$1.27 in real wages, with black workers only gaining \$.17 during the same time period.
- There has been a five-year decline in how Florida’s median household income compares to the rest of the country and we currently are 39th in nation.
- Florida is the third worst in the nation for income inequality and currently the top 1% of earners make 35 times as much as the rest of population. Miami-Dade alone has the second worst income inequality of any region in the United States at a rate comparable to Colombia.
- While Florida has seen job growth over the past decade, over 60% of all the jobs created pay less than a living wage.
- If the minimum wage in Florida had kept up with worker productivity gains, it would currently be \$18.75. If the wage were tied to income growth for the top 1% of earners it would be \$28.

The Solution

- Amendment 2 would increase wages for 2.5 million Floridians, over 26% of the workforce.
- The proposed amendment would lift approximately 1.3 million people out of poverty, and the wage increase is expected to “ripple” across jobs not affected by the law as well, increasing wages for almost 40% of workers making above minimum wage.
- The wage increase would also help the state budget in Florida since 78% of general revenue is based on the Sales and Use Tax, increasing wages increases the spending power generating tax receipts for critical social programs.
- Employees are more likely to stay in one position, saving companies money in the hiring process and productivity increases in the workforce increase efficiency in Florida businesses.
- Both recent and past research show that by and large, minimum wage increases do not result in significant job losses and businesses are able to absorb the costs. Raising the minimum wage boosts the spending power of those most likely to spend on goods and services thus boosting economic activity.