

KEY POINTS :

- **\$15,080/year** - Full-time minimum wage income
 - Low wage workers are being left behind
- 1 in 7 (13%) Idahoans lives in poverty
 - High levels of poverty despite record low unemployment
- Higher wages fuel economic growth
 - Increasing the minimum wage will boost Idaho’s economy because low-income people spend their money
- Higher wages reduce need for public aid
 - Low-wage workers rely on government subsidies but still run out of money before the end of the month
- Let Idahoans determine Idaho’s wage
 - Right now, Idaho lets the federal government decide our minimum wage

Opponents say	Reality is...
Forces job losses	WA and OR have increased their min wage \$1/yr since 2016. Unemployment, bankruptcy and poverty levels have gone down during that time. (see https://www.fairwageid.org/why-raise-idaho-minimum-wage/)
Forces small business to close – they can’t afford the higher wages	The current “employees job market” due to worker shortages are already driving up wages, and businesses are staying open. Let’s make sure the wage increase stays. Business will save money with less employee turnover – no constant retraining of employees!
Raising wages hurts the economy	People at the bottom of the pay scale spend all their income. Businesses see an increase in demand as people have more disposable income to spend. Stimulus payments during the pandemic reduced poverty and the economy is doing really well.
Businesses will automate jobs or move them off-shore	The minimum wage has NOT been raised since 2009. Jobs have been moving / getting replaced by automation for much longer than this.
Inflation/Price of goods will go up	Studies show the increases are small. Chipotle, for example, said that higher wages for employees increase costs by “dimes”. Local restaurants say prices would be increased by 25 cents to a dollar per entrée to cover higher wages.
People are already getting paid \$13 to work at McDonalds. We don’t need to raise wages.	We are in an “employee’s market” now with a competition for workers. This won’t always be the case. We need to implement a gradual increase in the minimum wage to lock in these wage gains.
\$13 isn’t enough	Idahoans were polled in July 2021. \$13 had the most support in rural as well as urban areas. The initiative allows cities and counties to set a higher minimum wage— prohibited by statute now.

FAQs: How does the SB 1110 lawsuit affect this? We need to gather signatures from 6% of the voters that were registered at the time of the Nov 2020 election, or 65,000 signatures, regardless of the outcome of the lawsuit. If the lawsuit prevails, the court could return to the earlier standard of requiring 6 % in 18 districts, or they could remove ALL geographic requirements. We will, however, get representation across the state.