

LCDC Resolution

Resolution in Support of Raising the Minimum Wage

Approved by LCDC Executive Committee
February 23, 2006

The Lancaster County Democratic Committee supports
an increase in the Pennsylvania minimum wage.

Whereas, the LCDC Statement of Principals includes the following: *We support the efforts to achieve a living wage for all laborers. We support increases in the minimum wage to a family-sustaining level.*

Whereas, seventeen states and the District of Columbia have past state minimum wages that are higher than the federal minimum wage. By January 2007, the minimum wage in New York and New Jersey will rise to \$7.15 per hour. In Delaware, the minimum wage is already \$6.15 per hour. Our neighbors – who compete with us for jobs and residents – are doing a better job on behalf of their low-income hard-working citizens.

Whereas, the Fiscal Policy Institute looked at states with a higher minimum wage than the federal level and states with the federal minimum wage, like Pennsylvania. They found that the number of small businesses grew nearly twice as quickly in states with a higher minimum wage. Employment growth was nearly 50% higher.

Whereas, the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services 2005 Poverty Guideline for a family of three is \$16,090 and, at the state minimum wage rate of \$5.15 per hour, a single parent would have to work 70 hours per week to earn \$17,000 per year.

Whereas, the state Department of Labor and Industry reports that 528,000 Pennsylvanians would benefit from a \$2-per-hour increase in the state's minimum wage. The department also reports that 75% of Pennsylvania minimum-wage workers are adults age 19 and over.

Whereas, Governor Rendell has advocated that the Pennsylvania legislature raise Pennsylvania's minimum wage to \$7.15 an hour.

Therefore, Be It Resolved:

- The Lancaster County Democratic Committee supports an increase in the Pennsylvania minimum wage.

The LCDC authorizes the Issues Committee to implement methods that will advocate this position throughout Lancaster County.