Citizen's Guide to Amendment 2: Raising Florida’s Minimum Wage

**OVERVIEW**

Amendment 2 seeks to gradually increase the state minimum wage from $8.56 to $15 per hour by 2026 ($11.98 for tipped employees). It would be adjusted annually based on inflation.

The Florida Legislature has never raised the minimum wage — the last wage bump from $5.15 to $6.15 was the result of a similar citizens’ ballot initiative 15 years ago.

Florida’s current system has long-failed to keep up with the state’s rising cost of living, so this boost would bring employees closer to a living wage.

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A recent Florida Policy Institute report found that by 2026, Amendment 2 would:

- **Increase wages for 2.5 million Floridians**

  Amendment 2’s gradual minimum wage boost would benefit more than 1 in 4 workers and help lift 1.3 million Florida households out of poverty.

- **Bring workers of all ages closer to a living wage**

  Two-thirds of working Floridians (1.7 million) who would see a pay boost would be aged 25 and older. The remaining 33% of those who would benefit (820,000) would be under age 25. Employees of all work statuses — part time, mid-time, and full-time — would benefit.

- **Benefit Florida’s service sector workers the most**

  While workers in the service sector are the not the only ones who benefit under Amendment 2, those keeping Florida’s multibillion-dollar tourism industry afloat would be the most likely to receive wage boosts.

- **Reduce pay inequities experienced by women and people of color**

  Women, especially women of color, as well as immigrants, have been historically over-represented in low-wage work, even when education, experience, and occupation are held equal. Amendment 2 would bring Florida a step closer to racial and gender equity.

**ECONOMISTS SUPPORT BOOSTING THE MINIMUM WAGE**

In 2014, over 600 economists, including seven Nobel Prize recipients, voiced their overarching agreement on raising the minimum wage in a signed advocacy letter, demonstrating this policy’s long-standing support.

*Florida Policy Institute* is an independent, nonpartisan, and nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing state policies and budgets that improve the economic mobility and quality of life for all Floridians.

October 2020