

County: Clermont

Number: 02001

### INITIATIVE PETITION

**To the Attorney General of Ohio:** Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code § 3519.01(A), the undersigned electors of the State of Ohio, numbering in excess of one thousand, hereby submit to you the full text of a proposed Amendment to the Ohio Constitution and a summary of the same.

**RECEIVED**

#### TITLE

Raise the Wage Ohio

JAN 17 2020

Ohio Attorney General  
Constitutional Offices Section

#### SUMMARY

The Amendment would amend Article II, Section 34a of the Ohio Constitution to increase the state minimum wage rate. Specifically, the Amendment would:

- Increase the state minimum wage rate to \$9.60 per hour on January 1, 2021.
- After January 1, 2021, increase the state minimum wage rate in equal increments annually for four years to reach \$13 per hour on January 1, 2025.
- After January 1, 2025, annually adjust the state minimum wage rate for inflation, consistent with the existing language.
- Provide that the state minimum wage will increase to match the federal minimum wage if the federal minimum wage is higher at any time, and that the state minimum wage shall be subject to the subsequent rate of inflation increases set forth in the Section and, if less than thirteen dollars per hour, shall be increased in equal increments annually until it is \$13 per hour on January 1, 2025.

The Amendment does not change any exemptions to the state minimum wage currently in the Section.

#### COMMITTEE TO REPRESENT THE PETITIONERS

The following persons are designated as a committee to represent the petitioners in all matters relating to the petition or its circulation:

Anthony A. Caldwell	5112 Maple Valley Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43228
James E. Hayes	1495 Bycroft Road, Columbus, Ohio 43206
David G. Latanick	374 Wilber Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Pierrette M. Talley	935 Parkside Boulevard, Toledo, Ohio 43607

## FULL TEXT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Be it Resolved by the People of the State of Ohio that Article II is hereby amended to add the following language to Section 34a shown underlined and in all capital letters below, and repeals the existing language shown by strikethrough. Current language that is not changed appears without underline or strikethrough:

### Article II, Section 34a

Except as provided in this section, every employer shall pay their employees a wage rate of not less than ~~six dollars and eighty-five cents~~ NINE DOLLARS AND SIXTY CENTS per hour beginning January 1, ~~2007~~2021. THEREAFTER, THIS STATE MINIMUM WAGE RATE SHALL BE INCREASED IN EQUAL INCREMENTS ANNUALLY FOR FOUR YEARS TO REACH THIRTEEN DOLLARS PER HOUR ON JANUARY 1, 2025. On the thirtieth day of each September, beginning in ~~2007~~2025, this state minimum wage rate shall be increased effective the first day of the following January by the rate of inflation for the twelve month period prior to that September according to the consumer price index or its successor index for all urban wage earners and clerical workers for all items as calculated by the federal government rounded to the nearest five cents. IF AT ANY TIME THE FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE RATE IS HIGHER THAN THE STATE MINIMUM WAGE RATE, THE STATE RATE SHALL BE INCREASED TO THE AMOUNT OF THE FEDERAL RATE AND SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE SUBSEQUENT RATE OF INFLATION INCREASES SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION AND, IF LESS THAN THIRTEEN DOLLARS PER HOUR, SHALL BE INCREASED IN EQUAL INCREMENTS ANNUALLY UNTIL IT IS THIRTEEN DOLLARS PER HOUR ON JANUARY 1, 2025.

Employees under the age of sixteen and employees of businesses with annual gross receipts of two hundred fifty thousand dollars or less for the preceding calendar year shall be paid a wage rate of not less than that established under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act or its successor law. This gross revenue figure shall be increased each year beginning January 1, 2008 by the change in the consumer price index or its successor index in the same manner as the required annual adjustment in the minimum wage rate set forth above rounded to the nearest one thousand dollars. An employer may pay an employee less than, but not less than half, the minimum wage rate required by this section if the employer is able to demonstrate that the employee receives tips that combined with the wages paid by the employer are equal to or greater than the minimum wage rate for all hours worked. The provisions of this section shall not apply to employees of a solely family owned and operated business who are family members of an owner. The state may issue licenses to employers authorizing payment of a wage rate below that required by this section to individuals with mental or physical disabilities that may otherwise adversely affect their opportunity for employment.

As used in this section: "employer," "employee," "employ," "person" and "independent contractor" have the same meanings as under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act or its successor law, except that "employer" shall also include the state and every political subdivision and "employee" shall not include an individual employed in or about the property of the employer or individual's residence on a casual basis. Only the exemptions set forth in this section shall apply to this section.

An employer shall at the time of hire provide an employee the employer's name, address, telephone number, and other contact information and update such information when it changes. An employer shall maintain a record of the name, address, occupation, pay rate, hours worked for each day worked and each amount paid an employee for a period of not less than three years

following the last date the employee was employed. Such information shall be provided without charge to an employee or person acting on behalf of an employee upon request. An employee, person acting on behalf of one or more employees and/or any other interested party may file a complaint with the state for a violation of any provision of this section or any law or regulation implementing its provisions. Such complaint shall be promptly investigated and resolved by the state. The employee's name shall be kept confidential unless disclosure is necessary to resolution of a complaint and the employee consents to disclosure. The state may on its own initiative investigate an employer's compliance with this section and any law or regulation implementing its provisions. The employer shall make available to the state any records related to such investigation and other information required for enforcement of this section or any law or regulation implementing its provisions. No employer shall discharge or in any other manner discriminate or retaliate against an employee for exercising any right under this section or any law or regulation implementing its provisions or against any person for providing assistance to an employee or information regarding the same.

An action for equitable and monetary relief may be brought against an employer by the attorney general and/or an employee or person acting on behalf of an employee or all similarly situated employees in any court of competent jurisdiction, including the common pleas court of an employee's county of residence, for any violation of this section or any law or regulation implementing its provisions within three years of the violation or of when the violation ceased if it was of a continuing nature, or within one year after notification to the employee of final disposition by the state of a complaint for the same violation, whichever is later. There shall be no exhaustion requirement, no procedural, pleading or burden of proof requirements beyond those that apply generally to civil suits in order to maintain such action and no liability for costs or attorney's fees on an employee except upon a finding that such action was frivolous in accordance with the same standards that apply generally in civil suits. Where an employer is found by the state or a court to have violated any provision of this section, the employer shall within thirty days of the finding pay the employee back wages, damages, and the employee's costs and reasonable attorney's fees. Damages shall be calculated as an additional two times the amount of the back wages and in the case of a violation of an anti-retaliation provision an amount set by the state or court sufficient to compensate the employee and deter future violations, but not less than one hundred fifty dollars for each day that the violation continued. Payment under this paragraph shall not be stayed pending any appeal.

This section shall be liberally construed in favor of its purposes. Laws may be passed to implement its provisions and create additional remedies, increase the minimum wage rate and extend the coverage of the section, but in no manner restricting any provision of the section or the power of municipalities under Article XVIII of this constitution with respect to the same.

If any part of this section is held invalid, the remainder of the section shall not be affected by such holding and shall continue in full force and effect.