

## **Minimum/Living Wages**

*Adopted 2014*

The LWVBC believes that just as Colorado can set a minimum wage above the federal minimum wage, so local jurisdictions should be able to exceed the state minimums. We oppose legislation that prohibits such local action.

We believe that alleviating poverty is the shared responsibility of government, employers, individuals, and non-profit assistance organizations. All sectors should be involved in setting an adequate minimum wage or living wage.

The living wage is the minimum required to avoid poverty without government assistance and subsidies. The living wage (gross income) should cover the costs of food, clothing, housing, energy, transportation, health care, K–12 education, child care, taxes (income, Social Security), and supplemental expenses for work and school.

In determining a living wage, a jurisdiction should consider the local cost of living, the national Consumer Price Index, and other reliable and measurable data.

When a jurisdiction makes changes to wage laws, it should ensure that data regarding the effects of those changes are collected and distributed.