

ORDINANCE NO. 183612

An ordinance adding Article 7 to Chapter XVIII of the Los Angeles Municipal Code requiring a minimum wage for employees and amending the title of Chapter XVIII of the Los Angeles Municipal Code.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. A new Article 7 is added to Chapter XVIII of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to read as follows:

ARTICLE 7

LOS ANGELES MINIMUM WAGE ORDINANCE

SEC. 187.00. PURPOSE.

According to consultants retained by the City and studies submitted to the City for its consideration, Los Angeles is a low-wage city with a high cost of living. Without action to raise the wage floor, the problems caused by incomes that are inadequate to sustain working families will become more acute. The cost of living is continuing to rise in Los Angeles and labor market projections by the California Employment Development Department show that the number of low-wage jobs will grow faster than the number of mid- and high-wage jobs. Inaction will mean that the share of the labor force that does not receive sustaining pay will grow and the gap between stagnating low wages and the cost of a basic standard of living in Los Angeles will continue to widen.

Contrary to popular perception, the large majority of affected workers are adults, with a median age of 33 (only three percent are teens). The proposed minimum wage increase will greatly benefit workers of color, who represent over 80% of affected workers. Workers of all education levels will benefit from the proposed law, with less educated workers benefitting the most.

Los Angeles also ranks highest in California in child poverty rates. In short, although the City is experiencing strong economic growth which has spurred employment, poverty and inequality remain high and wages continue to stagnate. Affected workers disproportionately live in low-income families; on average, affected workers bring home more than half of their family's income. Affected workers live disproportionately in the lower-income areas of the City. These areas will experience greater earnings gains than the City as a whole due to a higher minimum wage. The research literature suggests that downstream benefits will result from the proposed wage increase, such as improved health outcomes for both workers and their children, and increases in children's academic achievements and cognitive and behavioral outcomes.

Studies show that minimum wage increases reduce worker turnover. Turnover creates financial costs for employers. Reduced worker turnover means that workers will have more tenure with the same employer, which creates incentives for both employers and workers to increase training and worker productivity.

The City has recognized that income inequality is one of the most pressing economic and social issues facing Los Angeles. Workers, who must live paycheck to paycheck, are frequently forced to work two or three jobs to provide food and shelter for their families. These workers often rely on the public sector as a provider of social support services and, therefore, the City has an interest in promoting an employment environment that protects government resources. Therefore, by paying a higher than state-mandated minimum wage, the City seeks to promote the health, safety and welfare of thousands of workers by ensuring they receive a decent wage for the work they perform.

SEC. 187.01. DEFINITIONS.

The following definitions shall apply to this article:

- A. **“City”** means the City of Los Angeles.
- B. **“Designated Administrative Agency (DAA)”** means the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Contract Administration, which shall bear administrative responsibilities under this article.
- C. **“Employee”** means any individual who:
 - 1. In a particular week performs at least two hours of work within the geographic boundaries of the City for an Employer; and
 - 2. Qualifies as an Employee entitled to payment of a minimum wage from any Employer under the California minimum wage law, as provided under Section 1197 of the California Labor Code and wage orders published by the California Industrial Welfare Commission.
- D. **“Employer”** means any person, as defined in Section 18 of the California Labor Code, including a corporate officer or executive, who directly or indirectly or through an agent or any other person, including through the services of a temporary service or staffing agency or similar entity, employs or exercises control over the wages, hours or working conditions of any employee.
- E. **“Non-Profit Corporation”** means a non-profit corporation, duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the jurisdiction of its incorporation and, if a foreign corporation, in good standing under the laws of the State of California, which corporation has established and maintains valid non-profit status under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue

Code of 1986, as amended, and all rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

F. “**Person**” means any person, association, organization, partnership, business trust, limited liability company or corporation.

SEC. 187.02. PAYMENT OF MINIMUM WAGE TO EMPLOYEES.

A. An Employer shall pay an Employee a wage of no less than the hourly rates set under the authority of this article.

B. Employers with 26 or more Employees shall pay a wage of no less than the hourly rates set forth:

1. On July 1, 2016, the hourly wage shall be \$10.50.
2. On July 1, 2017, the hourly wage shall be \$12.00.
3. On July 1, 2018, the hourly wage shall be \$13.25.
4. On July 1, 2019, the hourly wage shall be \$14.25.
5. On July 1, 2020, the hourly wage shall be \$15.00.

C. Employers with 25 or fewer Employees shall pay a wage of no less than the hourly rates set forth:

1. On July 1, 2017, the hourly wage shall be \$10.50.
2. On July 1, 2018, the hourly wage shall be \$12.00.
3. On July 1, 2019, the hourly wage shall be \$13.25.
4. On July 1, 2020, the hourly wage shall be \$14.25.
5. On July 1, 2021, the hourly wage shall be \$15.00.

D. On July 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, the minimum wage will increase based on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for the Los Angeles metropolitan area (Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA), which is published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The DAA shall announce the adjusted rates on January 1st and publish a bulletin announcing the adjusted rates, which shall take effect on July 1 of each year.

E. Employees, who are “Learners” as defined in Labor Code Section 1192 and consistent with wage orders published by the California Industrial Welfare

Commission and are 14-17 years of age, shall be paid not less than 85% of the minimum wage rounded to the nearest nickel during their first 160 hours of employment. After more than 160 hours of employment, Learners shall be paid the applicable minimum wage pursuant to this section.

F. For purposes of this article, the size of an Employer's business or Non-Profit Corporation shall be determined by the average number of Employees employed during the previous calendar year.

SEC. 187.03. DEFERRAL APPLICATION FOR CERTAIN NON-PROFIT EMPLOYERS.

The DAA shall establish a procedure to allow an Employer that is a Non-Profit Corporation with 26 or more Employees to qualify for the deferral rate schedule specified in Section 187.02.C. A Non-Profit Employer seeking the deferral must establish by compelling evidence that:

A. The chief executive officer earns a salary which, when calculated on an hourly basis, is less than five times the lowest wage paid by the corporation; or

B. It is a Transitional Employer as defined in Section 10.31.1(h) of the Los Angeles Administrative Code; or

C. It serves as a child care provider; or

D. It is funded primarily by City, County, State or Federal grants or reimbursements.

SEC. 187.04. NOTIFYING EMPLOYEES OF THEIR POTENTIAL RIGHT TO THE FEDERAL EARNED INCOME CREDIT.

Employers shall inform Employees of their possible right to the federal Earned Income Credit (EIC) under Section 32 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, 26 U.S.C. Section 32.

SEC. 187.05. RETALIATORY ACTION PROHIBITED.

No Employer shall discharge, reduce in compensation or otherwise discriminate against any Employee for opposing any practice proscribed by this article, for participating in proceedings related to this article, for seeking to enforce his or her rights under this article by any lawful means, or for otherwise asserting rights under this article.

SEC. 187.06. IMPLEMENTATION.

The DAA may promulgate guidelines and rules consistent with this article for the implementation of the provisions of this article. Any guidelines or rules shall have the force and effect of law, and may be relied upon by Employers, Employees and other parties to determine their rights and responsibilities under this article.

SEC. 187.07. NO WAIVER OF RIGHTS.

Any waiver by an Employee of any or all of the provisions of this article shall be deemed contrary to public policy and shall be void and unenforceable.

SEC. 187.08. COEXISTENCE WITH OTHER AVAILABLE RELIEF FOR SPECIFIC DEPRIVATIONS OF PROTECTED RIGHTS.

The provisions of this article shall not be construed as limiting any Employee's right to obtain relief to which he or she may be entitled at law or in equity.

SEC. 187.09. CONFLICTS.

Nothing in this article shall be interpreted or applied so as to create any power or duty in conflict with any federal or State law.

SEC. 187.10. REPORTS.

Every three years after July 1, 2016, the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer (CAO) shall commission a study to review the state of the City's economy; minimum wage impacts; textile and apparel manufacturing impacts; temporary workers, guards and janitors impacts; home health care services impacts; residential care and nursing facilities impacts; child day care services impacts; restaurants and bars impacts; personal and repair services impacts; transitional jobs programs impacts; service charges, commissions and guaranteed gratuities impacts; and wage theft enforcement. On an annual basis, the CLA and CAO shall collect economic data, including jobs, earnings and sales tax.

SEC. 187.11. SEVERABILITY.

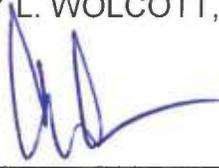
If any subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this article is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted this section, and each and every subsection, sentence, clause and phrase thereof not declared invalid or unconstitutional, without regard to whether any portion of the ordinance would be subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional.

Sec. 2. CHAPTER XVIII of the Municipal Code is retitled EMPLOYEE WAGES AND PROTECTIONS.

Sec. 3. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance and have it published in accordance with Council policy, either in a daily newspaper circulated in the City of Los Angeles or by posting for ten days in three public places in the City of Los Angeles: one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall; one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall East; and one copy on the bulletin board located at the Temple Street entrance to the Los Angeles County Hall of Records.

I hereby certify that this ordinance was passed by the Council of the City of Los Angeles, at its meeting of JUN 10 2015.

HOLLY L. WOLCOTT, City Clerk

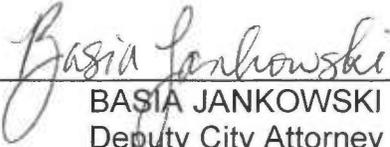
By  Deputy

Approved 6/13/15

 Mayor

Approved as to Form and Legality

MICHAEL N. FEUER, City Attorney

By  BASIA JANKOWSKI
Deputy City Attorney

Date 5-22-15

File No. 14-1371