

# Most Kentuckians favor raising minimum wage to \$10.10

The current minimum wage in Kentucky for most workers is \$7.25. This is about \$15,000 per year for a full-time employee. A July 2015 executive order by Governor Steve Beshear raised the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour for state employees. However, this increase was repealed by an executive order from newly elected Governor Matt Bevin in December 2015. Both Lexington and Louisville have recently passed minimum wage increases for public and most private workers.<sup>1</sup> Currently, 29 states and Washington, D.C., have minimum wages above the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour.<sup>2</sup>

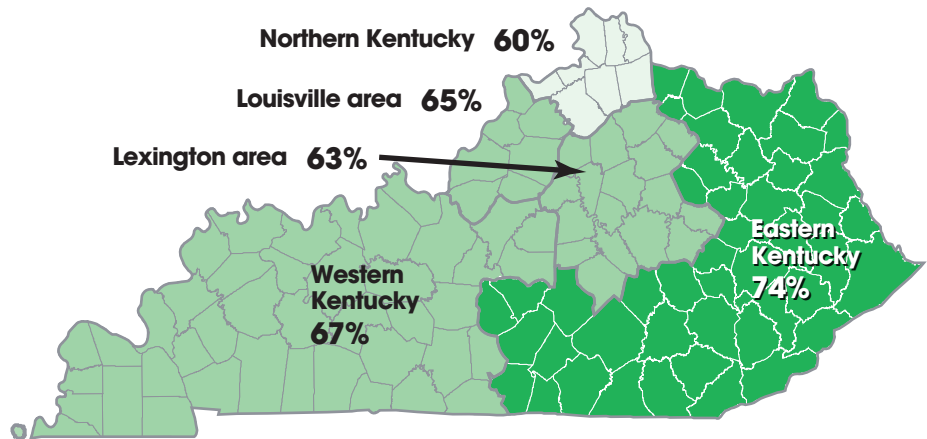
The 2015 **Kentucky Health Issues Poll (KHIP)** asked “Do you favor or oppose the Commonwealth of Kentucky increasing the minimum wage for all workers to \$10.10 per hour?” Nearly 7 in 10 adults (68%) in Kentucky favored such an increase.

<sup>1</sup>Reuters: *Lexington becomes second Kentucky city to approve minimum wage hike.* Nov. 19, 2015. <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-wage-lexington-idUSKCN0T909W20151120>

<sup>2</sup> National Conference of State Legislatures, *State Minimum Wages: 2016 Minimum Wage by State.* Retrieved from: <http://www.ncsl.org/research/labor-and-employment/state-minimum-wage-chart.aspx>

These findings unless otherwise noted are from the Kentucky Health Issues Poll, funded by the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky and Interact for Health. The Kentucky Health Issues Poll was conducted Sept. 17-Oct. 7, 2015, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 1,608 adults from throughout Kentucky was interviewed by telephone. This included 986 landline interviews and 622 cell phone interviews with cell phone users. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to ±2.4%. There are other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as non-response, question wording, or context effects that can introduce error or bias. For more information about the Kentucky Health Issues Poll, please visit [www.healthy-ky.org](http://www.healthy-ky.org) or [www.interactforhealth.org/kentucky-health-issues-poll](http://www.interactforhealth.org/kentucky-health-issues-poll).

Percentage of adults who favor an increase of the minimum wage for all workers in Kentucky to \$10.10 per hour



Kentucky adults 68%

By political party identification



## Majority support in all regions, political parties

Support for a minimum wage increase was seen across the state. At least 6 in 10 adults favored the change in each region. Support was highest in Eastern Kentucky, where more than 7 in 10 adults (74%) favored an increase.

About 5 in 10 Republicans (51%)

favored increasing the minimum wage to \$10.10. Support was much higher among Democrats (84%) and Independents (77%).

## Older or less-educated adults and women more likely to favor increase

While a majority of all groups favored an increase, support was

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higher among certain groups. Older adults were more likely to favor raising the minimum wage. About 5 in 10 adults ages 18 to 29 favored an increase (52%). This compares with nearly 8 in 10 adults ages 65 and older (79%).

Likewise, adults with less education were more likely to support a minimum wage hike. More than 8 in 10 adults who did not graduate from high school (82%) supported a minimum wage of \$10.10. Seven in 10 high school graduates (70%) supported a higher minimum wage. About 6 in 10 adults with some college (63%) or a college degree (59%) supported an increase.

Women were more likely than men to support a wage increase. About 7 in 10 women (72%) supported a higher minimum wage, compared with more than 6 in 10 men (64%).

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