



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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For immediate release

Minimum Wage Advisory Committee presents report findings

Johnson County, Iowa — The Minimum Wage Advisory Committee presented the findings of the report, “Jobs and wages in Johnson County before and after the minimum wage increase,” on Thursday, Dec. 21, 2017 at the Johnson County Board of Supervisors’ Informal Meeting.

Committee members Peter Fisher, an economist with the Iowa Policy Project, and John Solow a University of Iowa economics professor, presented the report. The Committee found that the minimum wage increase did not appear to hurt businesses, which was a suggested possible negative consequence. Additionally, the wage increase benefited low-wage workers, who saw a larger increase in their average weekly earnings.

“Increasing the minimum wage to \$10.10 had a positive impact on more than 10,000 workers without negatively affecting businesses,” Rod Sullivan, Supervisor and liaison to the committee, said. “We hope the Iowa Legislature will see these results and act to give Iowans a long overdue raise.”

The State of Iowa’s minimum wage was increased to \$7.25 per hour in 2008, ahead of the Federal increase to \$7.25 in 2009, but has remained at \$7.25 and is not indexed for inflation. On Sept. 10, 2015, the Johnson County Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance establishing a Johnson County minimum wage. According to that ordinance, the minimum wage in Johnson County was raised in three steps – to \$8.20 per hour on Nov. 1, 2015, to \$9.15 per hour on May 1, 2016, and to \$10.10 per hour on Jan. 1, 2017.

After June 30, 2018, the Johnson County minimum wage was to be indexed for inflation based on changes in the Consumer Price Index. On March 30, 2017, Governor Terry Branstad signed legislation eliminating the ability of jurisdictions within the State of Iowa to set a minimum wage above the State minimum wage. Johnson County had a higher minimum wage than the State for 17 months, including three months when it was \$10.10 per hour.

The Board of Supervisors will consult the Consumer Price Index and make a recommendation, based on inflation, on a raise to the \$10.10 minimum wage in February or March.

The Committee was composed of members of the public and residents of Johnson County, including representatives from the Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce and Iowa City Area Development Group, local non-profits, small business owners, low-wage workers and union workers. Current members of the committee are Jesse Case (chair), Dromi Etsey, Fisher, Ryan Semts, Solow (vice-chair), Rod Sullivan (ex officio) and DaLayne Williamson. Former members of the commission are David Dickey, Rebecca Neades, Carlos Walker and Katie Wilson.

The full report and more information about the minimum wage in Johnson County are available at http://www.johnson-county.com/dept_supervisors.aspx?id=18549.

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