

Proposal to add a Minimum Wage Study to the LWVWI Program for 2017–2019

The Dane County League has looked carefully at the state and national positions and we do not see language that would allow us to advocate for a state minimum wage increase or indexing for inflation. Most reputable economists indicate that along with the earned income tax credit, a higher minimum wage would be the most effective way to reduce poverty.

The League does have positions that allow us to advocate for increases in the earned income tax credit. We also have adequate positions on affordable housing, health care, child care, and public transit that allow advocacy in those areas.

It seems possible that by 2019 the political atmosphere at the State Capitol might have changed enough to spur interest in addressing poverty in WI. We would like to position the League to be able to address any proposal to increase the minimum wage to a level where a full-time minimum wage worker could support a dependent without being under the poverty level, and/or to index the minimum wage to inflation.

Resources that could be used for a study include:

1. UW–Madison Center on Wisconsin Strategy
2. UW–Madison Institute for Research on Poverty
3. U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey
4. Wis. Department of Workforce Development, (employment and wage data)
5. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
6. Congressional Research Service (studies of minimum wage impacts)
7. Other academic sources of studies on minimum wage, including Harvard, MIT, Stanford, etc.
8. Other political sources of studies on minimum wage, including American Enterprise Institute, Center for American Progress, etc.

Our study would examine the impacts of any potential minimum wage increase on small businesses in non-urban areas.

Ingrid Rothe, who ended her career in state service as a Researcher at the UW–Madison Institute for Research on Poverty, would be willing to chair the study on minimum wage.

Please support the Dane County League's motion to include a study on the minimum wage in the League program.