



## ***Ballot Question #4: RAISE MINIMUM WAGE — TALKING POINTS***

*Increases minimum wage to \$12 per hour by 2020*

### **Unitarian Universalist Principles:**

- *First Principle: The inherent worth and dignity of every person*
  - *Second Principle: Justice, equity and compassion in human relations*
  - *Seventh Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part*
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### **Maine people work full time at minimum wage jobs and yet are not able to support a family.**

“The annual take-home pay (after taxes) for a minimum wage worker averages under \$300 a week. Nobody can live on that little money, much less support a family. Low wages mean working parents in Maine can’t support children and seniors can’t afford to retire.” — Maine Peoples Alliance (MPA), <https://www.mainepeoplesalliance.org/fairwagemaine>

### **The initiative supports parents, children, and families.**

According to Maine Peoples Alliance, one in four working mothers in Maine work at minimum wage jobs. As many as 52,000 Maine children live in a household in which a parent would earn more for her or his family with an increased minimum wage.

*Both points above: UU Principles of inherent worth and dignity of every person, and justice, equity and compassion in human relations support this initiative.*

### **Many of our hardest working public service employees earn less than \$12 an hour.**

“In Maine, tens of thousands of Maine’s highly skilled EMTs, firefighters, preschool teachers, and elderly and disabled care providers get paid less than \$12 an hour. These jobs are crucial to our communities’ well-being, and should be compensated with a decent paycheck that can support a family.” — MPA

### **All of us in Maine gain when folks earn more in minimum wage jobs.**

The initiative will support local economies as families who earn more will spend more in their communities and thus support small and local businesses. In turn, more jobs will be created. When families earn more, they spend it in their communities at local businesses. According to the Maine Peoples Alliance, many of the small businesses in Maine support this initiative. You may find a list of supporters at this link: <http://www.mainesmallbusiness.org/fairwagemap>.

*Both points above: The UU principle of respect for the interdependent web of all existence supports the initiative.*