

Third—In the event that this measure and another measure or measures relating to state or local requirements for the imposition, adoption, creation, or establishment of taxes, charges, and other revenue measures shall appear on the same statewide election ballot, the other measure or measures shall be deemed to be in conflict with this measure. In the event that this measure receives a greater number of affirmative votes, the provisions of this measure shall prevail in their entirety, and the provisions of the other measure or measures shall be null and void.

PROPOSITION 6

This amendment proposed by Assembly Constitutional Amendment 8 of the 2023–2024 Regular Session (Resolution Chapter 133, Statutes of 2024) expressly amends the California Constitution by amending a section thereof; therefore, existing provisions proposed to be deleted are printed in ~~strikeout type~~ and new provisions proposed to be added are printed in *italic type* to indicate that they are new.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE I

That Section 6 of Article I thereof is amended to read:

SEC. 6. *(a) Slavery is prohibited. Involuntary servitude is prohibited except to punish crime: and involuntary servitude are prohibited.*

(b) The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation shall not discipline any incarcerated person for refusing a work assignment.

(c) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation from awarding credits to an incarcerated person who voluntarily accepts a work assignment.

(d) Amendments made to this section by the measure adding this subdivision shall become operative on January 1, 2025.

PROPOSITION 32

This initiative measure is submitted to the people in accordance with the provisions of Section 8 of Article II of the California Constitution.

This initiative measure amends a section of the Labor Code; therefore, existing provisions proposed to be deleted are printed in ~~strikeout type~~ and new provisions proposed to be added are printed in *italic type* to indicate that they are new.

PROPOSED LAW

THE LIVING WAGE ACT OF 2022

SECTION 1. Name.

This act shall be known as the Living Wage Act of 2022.

SEC. 2. Findings and Purpose.

The people of California find and declare that:

(a) The purpose of the Living Wage Act of 2022 (“the act”) is to ensure that workers receive wages that will financially support them and their families.

(b) To achieve this purpose, the Living Wage Act of 2022 will increase the California minimum wage to \$18 per hour by 2025 and in each year thereafter the minimum wage will be adjusted to keep pace with the cost of living in California.

(c) For more than 12 years, the federal minimum wage has been stuck at \$7.25. If it had increased at the rate of productivity growth since 1960, it would be \$24 right now.

(d) Many working Californians, including essential workers, parents and seniors, have full-time jobs yet struggle to make ends meet. The minimum wage has not kept pace with the cost of living and is worth less today than it was 50 years ago.

(e) California currently has the eighth highest income inequality among all 50 U.S. states and Washington, D.C., which is forcing many working households into poverty.

(f) The most recent available data, which does not include the effects of COVID-19, shows that more than 6.3 million Californians lack enough resources to meet their basic needs. More than a third of Californians are living in or near poverty. The large majority of California’s low-wage workers are adults, not teens. The average age for low-wage workers is 36, compared to 40 for all workers. Forty-six percent of low-wage workers have children, and 40 percent are married. Californians cannot support a family on the current minimum wage of \$15 per hour, or \$31,200 per year, for people working full time.

(g) Despite being employed full time, Californians who are paid the current minimum wage often must rely on the state’s social safety net to meet their basic needs. Californians’ wages are not keeping up with inflation or our state’s rising cost of living. Research finds that a single parent living in California with two children would need to make \$50 per hour to get by, but our state’s minimum wage is only \$15 per hour.

(h) The purchasing power of the minimum wage will continue to erode if it is not adjusted yearly to reflect increases in the cost of living.

(i) Raising the minimum wage will increase the earnings of many Medi-Cal recipients, making them eligible for federal subsidies on California’s health benefit exchange, saving the state millions of dollars a year in Medi-Cal costs.

(j) Californians working in a wide variety of jobs and industries are paid the minimum wage, and it is the goal of this act to protect all such workers, regardless of whether they are employed by single, multiple, or joint employers.

(k) Income inequality, a growing population of working poor, and wage stagnation in California create strong justification for boosting income support for working households struggling to meet basic needs.

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