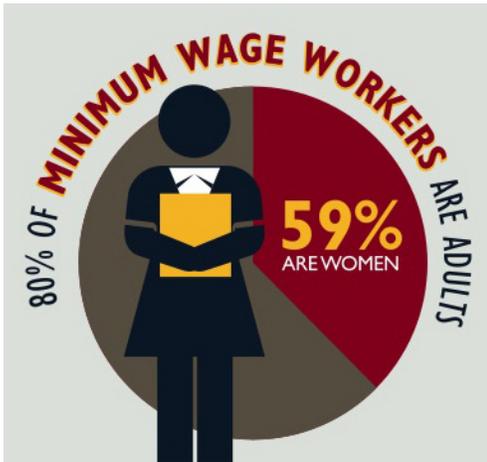


Momentum Builds for a Higher Wage



What's a fair wage? That's the question policymakers and voters are asking this election season, as minimum wage proposals are on ballots in states across the country.

Since 2007, the federal minimum wage has stagnated at \$7.25 while the costs of food, rent, and transportation have risen steadily. Raising the wage floor is especially important to women; two-thirds of minimum wage workers are women, most are adults, and a

woman working full time at \$7.25 an hour earns only \$15,000 a year—not enough to provide for herself, let alone a family.

Thirteen states and several cities have already raised their wages this year. Five additional states (Alaska, Arkansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Illinois) will have minimum wage ballot initiatives in November, and Congress is debating an increase of the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour.

As part of the Raise Illinois coalition, **Women Employed is leading the fight in Illinois.** We've rallied in Chicago, organized advocates to write their legislators, and helped draft a bill that would raise the state's minimum wage to \$10.65 over three years. We've also advised Mayor Emanuel and his Minimum Wage Working Group on increasing Chicago's wage.

Momentum is building and lawmakers are listening. A November 4th ballot initiative will ask Illinois voters whether they support raising the state's minimum wage to \$10 an hour, and the mayor has backed a proposal to raise Chicago's wage to \$13.

All of these proposals need strong public backing to move forward. If you live in Illinois or another state with a ballot initiative, **show your support on November 4th by getting out to vote.** And write your congressperson, state legislators, and aldermen and tell them why you support a higher wage.

For more information on what's happening in Illinois, visit raiseillinois.com.

Help Secure Fair Schedules for Women Like Cassandra



A look of worry crosses Cassandra's face as she thinks about her expenses for the month. "Because I don't have stable hours, my paycheck always varies. I would just like to know what I'm getting paid more than a week in advance so I can budget for school and for books."

Cassandra works at a coffee shop, but her shifting schedules and unpredictable hours make it all but impossible to count on a steady paycheck, balance her life, and meet her responsibilities for the college classes she's enrolled in this fall.

Hear more of Cassandra's story and how you can have an impact on scheduling practices. Visit womenemployed.org/cassandra.

What's Your Candidate's Stance on Working Women?

Download our interactive chart, learn the candidates' positions, then get out and vote on November 4th!
womenemployed.org/election



Does s/he support paid sick days?

— yes

— no





Women Employed

65 East Wacker Place, Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60601-7253

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CHICAGO, IL
PERMIT NO. 540



Want to get news in your
inbox each month? Sign up at
womenemployed.org/we-zine

OPENING DOORS, BREAKING BARRIERS, AND CREATING FAIRER WORKPLACES FOR WOMEN SINCE 1973

From the Frontlines: It's Back to School for Women Employed, Too!

This guest column is written by Starr de los Santos, Women Employed's Student Advocacy Coordinator.



It's the start of the school year, which means college students are returning to campus, and things are getting busy for me. As WE's Student Advocacy Coordinator, I reach out to community college students across Illinois and teach them how to be activists for financial aid. It's part of WE's Student Advocates for Success (SAS) program.

I tabled at four colleges last week, and I plan to visit at least twenty before the end of the semester. I've met lots of students who need financial aid to stay in school. Getting them excited about advocacy is what I love about my job. These students are amazing; each one is overcoming a struggle to achieve their dreams. They energize me, and I love teaching them to be advocates, and giving them information they can use right now—like how to fill out the FAFSA, or who to talk to for scholarship information.

Last week I met Daisy at the Humboldt Park Vocational Education Center. She's a full-time construction worker who supports her disabled mom and 12-year-old sister. She's got a lot on her plate! Her boss told her she's smart enough for management, but she needs more education. So she's in school to make that happen, but she's struggling with tuition. I told Daisy how to apply for MAP, Illinois' need-based grant. I was glad I could give her knowledge to help her stay in school. And I can't wait for her to tell her story in Springfield. Students like her can convince lawmakers to make MAP funding a priority.

I'll work with students like Daisy throughout the year on advocacy workshops, letter-writing campaigns, and trips to Springfield. We're building a student movement, and I'm honored to be part of it!



To learn more about why advocating for financial aid is so important, watch student stories at womenemployed.org/keep-us-map