



WEST VIRGINIA STATEWIDE TELEPHONE SURVEY ON MINIMUM WAGE

February 2021

Background: Working Families Party of West Virginia, One Fair Wage, West Virginia Citizen Action Education Fund and Ultraviolet commissioned GBAO to conduct a statewide telephone survey on attitudes toward raising the federal minimum wage and phasing out the subminimum wage for tipped workers. GBAO conducted the telephone survey with 600 registered voters from February 20 to February 22, 2021.

Key Findings:

- People are paying attention to the minimum wage discussion. 87% of West Virginians have recently heard something about Congress raising the minimum wage.
- After being told the WV minimum wage is \$8.75 an hour, a majority of West Virginians (56%) support raising the minimum wage now. Support was highest among Democrats (78%) but even Independents supported raising the minimum wage now in majority (55%). More than 60% of all women (61%) support raising the minimum wage now.
- Nearly two thirds (63%) of all West Virginians and 73% of women in WV support raising the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2025 when they are told that 43% of West Virginia workers (including paramedics) earn less than \$15 an hour. This support is highest among Democrats (84%), but even 60% of Independents support raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2025 when they are informed about the percentage of West Virginians earning less.
- Two thirds (66%) of all West Virginians and nearly three quarters (73%) of women in WV support One Fair Wage: a full minimum wage for tipped workers with tips on top. This support level grew to nearly three quarters (71%) among all West Virginians, and 79% among women in WV when survey respondents were told restaurant servers are mostly women who use food stamps at nearly three times the rate of other workers. This support was highest among Democrats, but **even 52% of Republicans in West Virginia supported One Fair Wage without any**

explanation, and 60% of Republicans supported One Fair Wage upon hearing who tipped workers are.

- Nearly 60% (59%) of all West Virginians and a slightly higher percentage (60%) of Independents in WV support the \$1.9 trillion COVID stimulus relief bill that currently includes minimum wage. In a follow up question that described the bill as 'emergency legislation to help people hurt by the pandemic and provide vaccines to those who want them,' 84% of all West Virginians and 90% of women in WV expressed support.