

What is your stance on the proposed NYS minimum wage increase from \$7.25 to \$8.75?

The results:

26% of the respondents were in favor of an increase. The reasons given for supporting an increase were equally split between keeping pace with the cost of living and “it is the right thing to do”. A typical response was, “There has been no increase in many years and with the sky rocketing cost of gasoline, I am now working for less.”

There were several comments supporting an increase ranged from, “It will be good for the community”, to “Maybe people will get off welfare if the minimum wage were higher.”

71% of the respondents opposed an increase. The most common reason given was the immediate negative impact it would have on their business. An example, “Raising the minimum wage will have a reverse impact. I can’t afford a 17% increase all at once and will be forced to lay off staff.”

In second place and closely related, referred to the inflationary impact “I am struggling now to keep my people. It will raise the price of my products.”

The third most common reason for opposing an increase was the philosophical opposition to government intervention. “It is none of the government’s business what I pay my employees; the free market should dictate wages.”

The balance of the reasons given referred to the impact on the business. An example, “What do I do with my workers who are now working for \$8.50/\$9.00 an hour—are they going to expect a 17% increase.”

Interestingly, there were a number of comments from respondents that did not necessarily oppose an increase but a jump to \$8.75 in one step would be detrimental to their business.

3% gave no opinion.