$15 by 2028:
Raising the Wage in Pennsylvania

It is long past time to raise the minimum wage to lift family incomes, help working people afford necessities, restore local economies to health, and save tax dollars.

Who are the workers in **Chester County** who would benefit from a $15 minimum wage?

20%
of the workforce

49,000 workers

27%
are over age 40

only **18%** are 19 or younger

40%
are people of color

55%
are women

47%
work full time

40%
have at least some college education

26%
are parents

Reasons to Pass Legislation to Raise the Minimum Wage

It's good for workers, businesses, and the economy—especially now.

- The minimum wage was created in 1938 in the wake of the Great Depression to lift up working people and jump-start the economy. We need that same boost now!
- Pennsylvania is behind. Workers in the same job earn less in PA than someone in Ohio, Maryland, Washington DC, West Virginia, New Jersey, New York, and 24 other states.

It rewards hard work and saves tax dollars.

- No one who works full time should live in poverty.
- When the minimum wage reaches $15 an hour, more than 24% of Pennsylvania workers—1.45 million people—will see their income grow.
- After 2028, the minimum wage will continue to rise with inflation, protecting working people over the long term.
- A minimum wage of $15 will generate over $290 million for the state budget in new tax revenues and reduce safety net expenditures.

It lets workers keep their tips and get a fair paycheck.

- Creating one fair wage eliminates the lower minimum wage of $2.83 for tipped workers—two-thirds of whom are women.
- Eliminating the tipped minimum wage would reduce the gender pay gap and sexual harassment of tipped workers.
- The 7 states with one fair wage have less sexual harassment, and their restaurant industries are flourishing.

It allows local communities and the state to protect workers.

- Counties and municipalities would be allowed to raise the minimum wage even higher to match local conditions.
- State and local communities would be empowered to stop wage theft.

Source: Keystone Research Center analysis based on American Community Survey and Current Population Survey data and estimates from the Economic Policy Institute.