

**NOTICE OF REFERENDUM
PORTAGE COUNTY**

November 4, 2014

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at an election to be held in the County of Portage, on Tuesday, November 4, 2014, the following proposed Resolution of the County Board will be submitted to a vote of the people:

RE: SUPPORTING AN ADVISORY REFERENDUM QUESTION TO INCREASE THE STATE MINIMUM WAGE

WHEREAS, it is one of our most cherished values that there is dignity in work, and that everyone in Wisconsin should have the opportunity to work their way into the middle class, not fall out of it; and

WHEREAS, we are not short of work ethic in Wisconsin, we are short of good jobs that enable working families to begin to work their way up; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin workers are working harder and harder for less and less, every year the minimum wage stays the same workers take a pay cut, and wages are now so low that millions of full time workers are below the poverty line and qualify for food stamps; and

WHEREAS, if people don't earn enough money to pay for the basics, like food, rent, and transportation, the economy stalls, weakening our communities and damaging local businesses; and

WHEREAS, nearly 9 in 10 Wisconsin workers who would benefit from a minimum wage increase are 20 years of age or older, nearly two-thirds are women, and 234,000 Wisconsin children would see their families' income increase; and

WHEREAS, our government's role is to maintain a wage and benefit floor to guarantee all work is valued, and that no Wisconsin worker is denied an honest day's pay for an honest day's work; and

WHEREAS, the great American middle class is not something that just happened, we built it brick by brick, and

WHEREAS, a \$10.10 minimum wage would bring our wage floor to roughly the same level as it was in the 1960s, adjusted for inflation; and

WHEREAS, the most important thing we can do to generate shared prosperity and build an economy that works for everyone, not just the powerful, is to create more economy-boosting jobs; and

WHEREAS, a \$10.10 minimum wage would raise wages for 587,000 Wisconsin workers by \$816 million, and generate over \$500 million in additional economic activity in Wisconsin in the next three years, resulting in nearly 4,000 new jobs; and

WHEREAS, it's time Wisconsin worked again for people who work for a living;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that an advisory referendum be placed upon the November 4, 2014 ballot to advise the State of Wisconsin as to the level of support within the Portage County population for an increase in the minimum wage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said advisory referendum read as follows:

Should the State of Wisconsin increase the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour?

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Corporation Counsel's Office shall fulfill its statutory obligations with respect to drafting an explanation of the above referendum question and that the Clerk be directed to place said question and explanation on the November 4, 2014 ballot.

The question will appear on the ballot as follows:

Should the State of Wisconsin increase the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour?

Explanation:

A "YES" vote means that you are in favor of the State of Wisconsin increasing the state minimum wage from the current \$7.25 per hour to \$10.10 per hour.

A "NO" vote means that you are not in favor of the State of Wisconsin increasing the state minimum wage from the current \$7.25 per hour to \$10.10 per hour.

Done in the County of Portage, Wisconsin, this 3rd day of November, 2014.

SHIRLEY M. SIMONIS, Portage County Clerk