

RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE ON KING COUNTY'S EASTSIDE

Whereas many local workers earn low wages, including those working in restaurants, hotels/motels, landscaping, retail, nursing homes, janitorial, food delivery, and other work; and

Whereas housing in King County's Eastside cities and unincorporated area is extremely expensive, and we desire living in the area we work for climate and other reasons; and

Whereas wages fluctuate with changes in the labor market, public policies including interest rates, and other factors, so that current wages that are higher than the minimum cannot be guaranteed in the future; and

Whereas Seattle's 2023 minimum wage of \$18.69 is significantly higher than Washington State's 2023 minimum of \$15.74, and it is Washington State's that is the current minimum on the Eastside; and

Whereas increasing the money earned by the lowest-paid workers returns to the local economy and acts as a multiplier effect on any increase in their wages; and

Whereas Seattle has suffered no ill effects from raising its minimum wage (despite the predictions of its hospitality and retail business associations) and businesses continue to thrive as residents and employees have more income to spend; and

Whereas Sea-Tac and Tukwila have similar minimum wage ordinances as Seattle's, and efforts are currently underway to raise the minimum wage in Burien and Renton; and

Whereas King County Council is also beginning consideration of legislation to bring the minimum wage in unincorporated King County (where it has jurisdiction) to Seattle's level; and

Whereas Democrats have long sought to improve the compensation and standard of living of all working people.

Therefore, Be It Resolved That we urge our King County Council Members and the Mayors and City Council Members of the cities within our legislative district to pass minimum wage ordinances similar to Seattle's, including a small business phase-in; and

Therefore, Be It Further Resolved That we shall promptly communicate this Resolution to these elected officials, with a request that they promptly reply to us with their intentions, and inform us when they will take action to pass such ordinances; and

Therefore, Be It Finally Resolved That we shall urge our members and other Democrats to send similar communications to these elected officials, and shall share this Resolution with adjacent Democratic District organizations with a suggestion that they take similar action.

Adopted by the 45th District Democrats on _____.

Signed by Chair _____

(Proposed by Kraig Peck for September 6, 2023 meeting of the 45th District Democrats)