

Idahoans Want Minimum Wage Hiked to \$10 Per Hour

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By far most Idahoans want the state's minimum wage increased from \$7.25 an hour to \$10 an hour, a new Idaho Politics Weekly survey shows.

The new Dan Jones & Associates survey of 601 adults finds that 70 percent of Idahoans believe the minimum wage should go up by 38 percent.

Twenty-nine percent said the wage should not be increased, and 1 percent didn't know.

Jones also finds in a new poll that two-thirds of Gem State residents don't want the Social Security retirement age to go from the current 66 years old to 70 years old.

And Jones finds that 30 percent – by far the largest group – of citizens say education is the most important issue facing Idaho today.

The new survey was taken May 20-28. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.98 percent.

Across the nation, politicians are talking about increasing the minimum wage, with the general argument being that a single person, much less a family, can't live on the minimum wage anymore.

Those who oppose the hike – usually small business owners – say they can't afford such an increase.

And they would have to reduce the working hours of their low-wage earners, or lay people off.

However, Jones finds support for increasing the minimum wage in Idaho across the demographic board, to varying degrees.

For example:

- Among all Idahoans: 70 percent say increase the wage from \$7.25 to \$10 an hour; 29 percent oppose such an increase; 1 percent don't know.
- Among Republicans: 56 percent say increase the minimum wage; 43 percent say don't; and 3 percent don't know.
- Democrats want the wage increased, 90-3 percent, with 1 percent undecided.
- While political independents favor increasing the minimum wage, 74 percent-to-26-percent, with 1 percent don't know.

Only those who described themselves as "very conservative" politically are opposed to increasing the minimum wage.

Jones finds that the "very conservative" oppose the increase, 53-45 percent, with 2 percent undecided.