

January 31, 2014

Anzalone Liszt Grove Research

National Polling Summary

Friends,

Below you will find the Anzalone Liszt Grove Research National Polling Summary, which provides a pollster's take on data and trends that affect political campaigns.

This week we focus on the movement to increase the minimum wage, and to enact laws that would allow workers to earn paid sick time.

Following our analysis are additional news items and data we thought you'd enjoy.

In his State of the Union address Tuesday, President Obama, who has long supported the Harkin-Miller bill to raise the federal minimum wage, announced that he will be issuing an executive order to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 for all federal contractors. While it remains to be seen whether Congress will pass a law to extend this to all workers, many states are considering raising their own minimum wage to levels higher than the federal minimum, as well. This greater emphasis on workers' rights – 50 years after President Johnson declared a “war on poverty” – has wide support among the American people. Voters strongly favor both raising the national minimum wage and requiring employers to provide paid sick leave to workers who have earned it.

National Opinion on the Minimum Wage

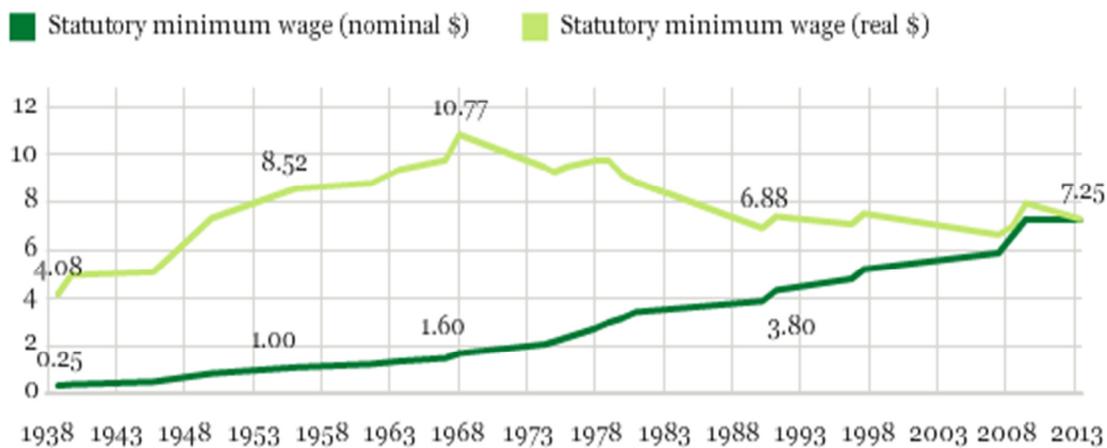
The national minimum wage has remained stagnant at \$7.25 since 2009. Now, after five years, public support to raise it is mounting. A [Quinnipiac](#) poll released on January 8 found that a whopping 71% of voters support increasing the national minimum wage to a rate above its current level.

According to a [Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll](#) released in December, 63% of Americans support raising the minimum wage to \$10.10, and even 43% support raising the minimum wage to \$12.50 an hour. A [Washington Post/ABC News poll](#) also published in December similarly states that 66% of Americans support increasing the minimum wage.

Support for increasing the minimum wage has increased over the past few years. According to a [Gallup](#) survey published on November 11, 76% of Americans would vote for a law that would increase the minimum wage to \$9 per hour, a 5-point increase since the previous March.

The Gallup poll also found that two-thirds (69%) would support a law that tied minimum wage to inflation, something that is not currently done. The real monetary value of the minimum wage has decreased substantially over the years. As shown by Gallup's graph, below, when inflation is taken into account the value of the minimum wage hit a maximum in 1968 and has decreased consistently since then. The 1968 minimum wage (\$1.60), adjusted for inflation equals \$10.77 per hour, more than three dollars higher than the current minimum wage.

Minimum Wage -- Real and Nominal Value, 1938-2013



Source: Congressional Research Service, U.S. Department of Labor

GALLUP®

How much do voters want to raise the minimum wage?

Although polling shows that voters overwhelmingly support raising the national minimum wage, responses to the question “how much” vary from poll to poll. The Quinnipiac poll finds that voters favor a substantial increase, with 18% supporting a raise above \$10.10, 33% of voters favoring a raise to \$10.10, and another 18% supporting a raise, but to a level lower than \$10.10.

The Washington Post/ABC News poll looks at it a little differently, with 18% supporting raising the minimum wage to more than \$10, 25% supporting a raise to between \$9.01 and \$10, and 34% supporting a raise up to \$9 per hour.

This movement has gained momentum from the ground up

When the city of SeaTac in Washington State [raised its minimum wage](#) to \$15 an hour (more than twice that of the national minimum wage of \$7.25) earlier this month, it became notable for having the highest minimum wage in the country. Although the SeaTac minimum wage hike will only affect about 6000 workers, it shows us that small municipalities can be at the forefront of these workplace issues.

Just weeks after SeaTac enacted its record shattering minimum wage, hundreds of people [rallied](#) outside of City Hall in neighboring Seattle asking for their minimum wage to be raised to \$15 as well. And this is not just happening in Washington State. The D.C. council [endorsed](#) an \$11.50 minimum wage for the capital city back in December, and last year [San Francisco](#) raised its minimum wage to \$10.55 (at the time, the highest minimum wage in the country)

There are currently 21 states with minimum wages that are higher than the national level of \$7.25 per hour. The highest statewide minimum wage is in Washington (\$9.32). Minimum wage increases took effect on New Years Day in Washington, Oregon, Montana, Arizona, Colorado, Missouri, Ohio, Florida, New York, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New Jersey. California will raise its minimum wage in July.

Public opinion on paid sick leave

The Department of Labor reveals that only [61%](#) of American private industry workers receive paid sick leave, and recent polling tells us that voters want that to change. A July HuffPost/YouGov poll found that nearly [three-quarters](#) of Americans (74%) think employers should be required to provide paid sick leave to their employees.

The fight for paid sick leave is taking shape at the local level. When the New York City Council [approved a law](#) last June requiring employers to provide their employees with paid sick leave, it joined the ranks with Jersey City, NJ, Washington, D.C., Seattle, San Francisco, Portland, Oregon, and the state of Connecticut. New York City mayor Bill de Blasio and City Council Speaker Melissa Mark Viverito recently [proposed](#) to expand the law to require businesses with more than five employees to provide paid sick leave (the current law, which does not fully go into effect until 2015 would at best require companies with 15 or more employees to provide sick leave).

Connecticut is currently the only state where employers are required to provide paid sick leave. Still, there is support for it on the state level elsewhere. A poll released by the Center for Women and Work at Rutgers, found that [83%](#) of New Jersey residents are in favor of requiring paid sick leave.

Workers' rights are NOT just a progressive issue.

As the movement to raise the minimum wage has gained traction, it has become clear that it has strong bipartisan support from voters. According to the Quinnipiac poll, a majority (52%) of Republicans support raising the minimum wage. The PPP poll finds that 33% of Republicans support raising the minimum wage as high as \$10 per hour.

There is a disconnect between the views of Republican voters and those of Republican lawmakers. Last year, Senator [Marco Rubio](#) noted that he does not support minimum wage laws. In 2012, Republican members of Congress [unanimously voted against](#) legislation that would have raised the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour.

When Bruce Rauner, a GOP gubernatorial candidate in Illinois (where the minimum wage is \$8.25), [recently expressed interest](#) in lowering the Illinois state minimum wage down to the national level, he was met with outrage. After a [Capital Fax/We Ask America poll](#) found that 79% would be less likely to vote for a candidate who supported lowering the minimum wage to \$7.25, he changed his stance.

Bipartisan support for paid sick leave legislation is even greater than for increasing the minimum wage. A majority of Democrats(84%), Republicans (69%), and Independents (68%) support it in the HuffPost/YouGov poll. Still, it has had a difficult time passing through state legislatures.

OTHER NEWS FROM THE POLLING AND POLITICAL WORLD

The Bridge Project just released this [report](#) on the minimum wage

According to the [Washington Post](#) Republicans are seen as more extreme than their Democratic counterparts

According to an Economist/YouGov [poll](#), a majority of Americans have not seen any of the movies nominated for Best Picture in the Oscars

Monmouth University showed [Gov. Christie's](#) favorability has taken a bigger hit than his job rating

Gallup finds that Congress starts the New Year with a [14%](#) approval rating

New York Times [reports](#) that for the first time the majority of congress members are millionaires

Huffpollster [reports](#) that Utahns are split on gay marriage

ALGR client Mark Schauer's campaign just released its first [ad](#)

Public Polling

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S JOB RATING

Polling Firm	Date	Sample	Approve	Disapprove
RCP Average	1/15 - 1/29	--	43.1	51.6
Gallup	1/27 - 1/29	1500 A	42	49
The Economist/YouGov	1/25 - 1/27	714 RV	45	52
NBC News/Wall St. Jrnl	1/22-1/25	800A	43	51
ABC News/Wash Post	1/20-1/23	RV	45	52
FOX News	1/19-1/21	1010 RV	42	53
Reuters/Ipsos	1/18 - 1/22	1499 A	37	55
CBS News	1/17-1/21	1018 A	46	47
Associated Press/GfK	1/17-1/21	1060 A	45	53
Quinnipiac	1/15-1/19	1933 RV	40	54
USA Today/Pew Research	1/15-1/19	1504 A	43	49

GENERIC CONGRESSIONAL VOTE

Polling Firm	Date	Sample	Democrats	Republicans
RCP Average	1/12 - 1/26	--	41.0	41.5
PPP (D)	1/23-1/26	845 RV	40	42
ABC News/Wash Post	1/20 - 1/23	RV	45	46
FOX News	1/19 - 1/21	1010 RV	41	43
Quinnipiac	1/15-1/19	1933 RV	37	38
GWU/Battleground	1/12-1/16	1000LV	41	43

PARTY SELF ID

Polling Firm	Date	Dem	Rep	Ind/Other
Pollster.com Trend	Jan. 30	32.1%	23.7%	35.5%

Anzalone Liszt Grove clients for the 2014 cycle include:

U.S. Senate:

U.S. Senator Kay Hagan (NC)

Gubernatorial:

Charlie Crist for Governor (FL)
Mike Ross for Governor (AR)
Mark Schauer for Governor (MI)
Jason Carter for Governor (GA)
Rob McCord for Governor (PA)
Ed FitzGerald for Governor (OH)

Congressional:

Democratic Incumbent Swing Districts

Congressman Ami Bera (CA-07)
Congressman Scott Peters (CA-52)
Congressman Nick Rahall (WV-03)
Congresswoman Kyrsten Sinema (AZ-09)

Democratic Challenger Swing Districts

Gwen Graham for Congress (FL-02)
Pete Aguilar for Congress (CA-31)
Amanda Renteria for Congress (CA-21)

Open Seat Democratic Districts

Monica Vernon for Congress (IA-01)
Charniele Herring for Congress (VA-08)
Malcolm Graham for Congress (NC-12)

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