



**CITY OF BOULDER  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM**

**MEETING DATE: February 19, 2019**

**AGENDA TITLE:** Consideration of a motion to adopt Resolution 1254 urging the Colorado State Legislature to pass a local wage option.

**PRESENTER**

Council Member Mary Young  
Policy Advisor Carl Castillo

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On February 11, 2019, Council's Agenda Committee (CAC) directed staff to prepare a resolution calling on the Colorado State Legislature to pass a local wage option to empower local governments to adjust their minimum wage to more effectively address the cost of living for workers in their communities. CAC asked that the proposed resolution, which is included here as **Attachment A**, be brought forward for council consideration at the February 19, 2019, meeting.

**Suggested Motion Language:**

Staff requests council consideration of this matter and action in the form of the following motion:

**Motion to adopt Resolution 1254 urging the Colorado State Legislature to pass the local wage option.**

**ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Proposed City Council Resolution 1254

## **RESOLUTION 1254**

### **A RESOLUTION URGING THE COLORADO LEGISLATURE TO PASS THE LOCAL WAGE OPTION**

#### **THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BOULDER, COLORADO FINDS AND RECITES:**

- A. Communities across our state are struggling to keep up with the rapidly rising costs of living, but state law prohibits local governments from raising their minimum wage higher than the state level of \$12 an hour.
- B. The cost of living varies substantially across Colorado, and there are cities in the state where workers need more than \$12 to survive.
- C. Colorado's minimum wage workers are struggling to afford housing, health care, child care, and other basic necessities.
- D. Average rents in Colorado increased six times faster than people's earnings between 2012 and 2016, and hardworking Coloradans should not be forced out of their communities because wages are not keeping up with rents and other living costs.
- E. Research and economic data show that poverty is concentrated among people of color, children, people with lower educational attainment, and female-headed households; higher wages for these families would mean they would have more money to spend in the local economy and more time to spend with their children.
- F. A single adult with one child living anywhere in Colorado has to work more than one minimum wage job to make ends meet and is often forced to choose between rent and other necessities for their children.
- G. Numerous studies document a strong relationship between income and health, with income consistently shown to be one of the strongest predictors of health status.
- H. Poverty and low income have been linked with premature mortality and low life expectancy, and a rise in household income through an increased minimum wage would result in significant public health benefits for workers in Boulder.
- I. Increasing the minimum wage boosts job retention, raises earnings and consumer spending across Colorado, and leads to Coloradans spending more money in the local economy.

- J. There is no evidence that raising the minimum wage leads to notable price increases and little to no job loss; in fact, rural Colorado added 6,000 jobs following the 33 percent increase in the minimum wage in 2006.
- K. Small businesses have grown faster in states with a higher minimum wage and owners support raising it.
- L. The public welfare, health, and prosperity of the City of Boulder requires wages sufficient to ensure a decent and healthy life for all workers in Boulder and their families.
- M. Cities are closely connected to the needs of their local communities and are uniquely positioned to pass laws and policies that reflect the views, values, and needs of the people they represent.
- N. The Boulder City Council is committed to protecting the power of local governments to act on the values and needs of their residents and promote a fair and accessible economy.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BOULDER:**

Section 1. That the Local Wage Option should be passed into law by the Colorado State Legislature to allow local jurisdictions to adopt a minimum wage higher than the state minimum wage rate, in order to more effectively address the unique and varying cost of living for workers in their communities.

Section 2. That passage of the Local Wage Option would support working Coloradans, their families, local businesses, and the state economy, while spurring consumer spending and a healthier economy.

Section 3. That passage of the Local Wage Option would allow the City of Boulder to act on its unique needs, values, and cost of living.

Section 4. That the tradition of local control in Colorado should be protected, as it provides each municipality the ability to preserve and enhance the myriad of characteristics that make each one unique and allows each municipality to maintain the quality of life of its residents.

ADOPTED this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February 2019.

CITY OF BOULDER, COLORADO

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk