



STATE OF NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

What They're Saying:

A "Balanced" And "Reasonable Compromise"

Governor Christie's Minimum Wage Proposal Shows "A Willingness To Meet Democrats Halfway" By Providing A Reasonable Wage Increase For Working Families

Asbury Park Press: "We're with Christie on this one. Democrats would be foolish and irresponsible not to accept half a loaf on this, assuring a reasonable increase over three years." (Editorial, Minimum Wage: Take Half A Loaf," [Asbury Park Press](#), 1/30/13)

- "It is the governor ... who is trying to strike a better balance between labor needs and management needs that can — if done right — benefit everyone. The Democrats should listen, negotiate and take the best deal. And that doesn't mean tossing it all off on the voters to decide."
- "It's easy to climb up on a soapbox and declare that minimum wages must go up every year on behalf of the little guy. That ignores the reality that such a policy may ultimately hurt the little guy."
- "What seems apparent here is that Democrats are putting their quest to score some political points against the governor ahead of responsible leadership."
- "[C]hristie is right to keep the ripple effects in mind."

The Record: "Democrats should withhold the fighting rhetoric and read the governor's veto message carefully. Christie did not summarily dismiss the need to raise wages for the state's lowest-paid workers. Rather, he suggested what he called a more-balanced approach." (Editorial, "Wage Compromise," [The Record](#), 1/30/13)

- "The governor is showing a willingness to meet Democrats halfway in regard to raising their pay. Democrats should respond by supporting the restoration of the Earned Income Tax Credit and by negotiating a final minimum-wage agreement with the governor's office. That's the best way to help the state's lowest-paid workers."
- "While we support increasing the minimum wage, we don't see this as an issue that should be enshrined in the constitution."

Courier-Post: "Democrats in Trenton ought to approve the governor's \$1-per-hour increase in the minimum wage." (Editorial, "Where We Stand: Minimum Wage Ball Back In Dems' Court," [Courier-Post](#), 1/29/13)

New Jersey Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Thomas Bracken: "We are supportive of the governor's conditional-veto decision. It's a reasonable compromise in light of the state's difficult economy." ("Statement on Gov. Christie's Proposal to Phase in a Minimum Wage Increase," Press Release, 1/28/13)

- "We believe the governor's phase-in proposal will allow our members to plan their budgets with

more certainty."

- "We urge the full Legislature to approve the conditional veto and not pursue a constitutional amendment which would set a bad precedent for matters of public policy."

New Jersey Business & Industry Association Assistant Vice President Stefanie Rieh: "The Governor has found a reasonable compromise to a difficult and contentious issue..." ("Christie Finds Reasonable Compromise on Minimum Wage," Press Release, 1/28/13)

- "The conditional veto recognizes that many small businesses are struggling in this economy and facing the daunting task of rebuilding after Sandy and are not in a position to absorb a 17 percent wage increase all at once."
- "By phasing the increase in over three years and eliminating the automatic cost-of-living increases in the future, the Governor's conditional veto would provide businesses with the time and predictability they need to prepare for this increase."

President of the Retail Merchants Association John Holub "...called the governor's approach a reasonable compromise. The governor clearly understands a 17 percent wage hike, with ongoing annual adjustments, would have had a serious negative effect on New Jersey employers..." (Angela Delli Santi, "NJ Gov. Christie Rejects \$1.25 Per Hour Minimum Wage Hike, Suggests \$1, Phased-In Raise," [The Associated Press](#), 1/29/13)

- "We appreciate the governor listening to our concerns and trying to strike a balance between both sides."

Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey President John Galandak: "[W]e believe the approach [Governor Christie] has outlined provides a reasonable alternative to the legislative leaders' plans for a constitutional amendment on minimum wage." ("CIANJ supports Governor's wage decision," Press Release, 1/28/13)

- "By phasing-in an increase over three years, and starting with a 25-cent hike in March, the governor recognizes the hardships facing many employers, especially those along the Jersey Shore, who are trying to rebuild in time for the summer tourism season. The phase-in offers business time to plan for the increased labor costs."

Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey President & CEO Debra P. DiLorenzo: "The changes the Governor made are proof that he listened to the concerns of the business community, while balancing the needs of lower income workers. A phased-in increase in the minimum wage will allow businesses to better plan and budget for salaries, benefits and other wage-related costs." ("CCSNJ Statement on Governor Christie's Conditional Veto of the Minimum Wage Increase," Press Release, 1/28/13)

- "We applaud the Governor for taking a balanced approach to this very complex and far-reaching issue, and urge the Legislature to adopt his changes."