

## Questions to Consider Regarding the Economic Impact of a Potential Increase in Tacoma's Minimum Wage

**Scope: Should a higher minimum wage in Tacoma apply to all minimum wage workers?**

- Teenagers? Students? Interns? Apprentices? Those with good benefits?
- All hourly employees, including those who make tips?
- All hourly employees, including those who work for small businesses?
- Those working for businesses with small profits or no profits (non-profits)?

**Effect on Workers: How would a higher minimum affect workers?**

- Would there be more seeking work in Tacoma because:
  - More in Tacoma enter the labor market?
  - Those already working seek more hours?
  - More people from surrounding areas seek work in Tacoma?
- Would workers in Tacoma be likely to respond to minimum wage by working harder or otherwise being more productive?

**Effect on Employers: How would employers respond?**

- What jobs in Tacoma pay minimum wage, and how many are there?
- How would different employers respond to higher minimum wages? Would they:
  - Relocate (or shut down)?
  - Reduce the number of employees hired?
  - Accept lower income for themselves?
  - Raise the price of what they sell?
- Which type of firms in Tacoma would be more likely to respond in which way?

**Overall Impact**

- What effect would raising the minimum wage have on poverty and low-income residents' income? What would be the impact on different subpopulations?
- Where would the money to pay higher minimum wages come from?
- Would surrounding areas be more or less likely to raise their minimum wages in response?
- What impact would a higher minimum wage have on the City of Tacoma's costs?
- Would a higher minimum wage likely increase the wages (and hours) of workers earning above the minimum wage?
- Would a higher minimum wage increase unemployment? What jobs might move elsewhere?
- Would a higher minimum wage encourage more residents to work?
- Would a higher minimum wage be difficult to enforce?