

Proposed bills in the Indiana General Assembly could raise Indiana's minimum wage from **\$7.25** (below) to **\$10.00** (right) per hour.



Wage change

2 Indiana Senate bills aim to raise minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$10

By Daniel Metz
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Can you support yourself with a minimum-wage job?

At Nick's English Hut on Kirkwood Avenue, employee Hayden Frasier sat eating a sandwich and some fries.

Frasier, 25, is a lifelong resident of Bloomington — where his parents still live — but now he's renting a house in Ellettsville. He owns and pays for his car, which he uses to commute to and from work.

He started at Nick's working for \$7.50 an hour, but his wage has been increased to \$8.50 an hour. He still needs some help from his parents in order to get by.

New proposed legislation, Senate Bills 41 and 160, has been introduced in the Indiana General Assembly this year that addresses the state's current minimum wage laws. SB 41, which was authored by Sen. Karen Tallian, D-Portage,

Fair wages for locals, page 4

Local businesses have created a coalition to ensure fair wages for their workers.

would increase the state minimum wage to \$10.10, effective July 1. SB 160, which was authored by Sen. Frank Mrvan, D-Hammond, would use a longer timeline. Effective June 30, SB 160 would increase the minimum wage to \$8.50 an hour and would increase it to \$10.00 per hour effective June 30, 2016.

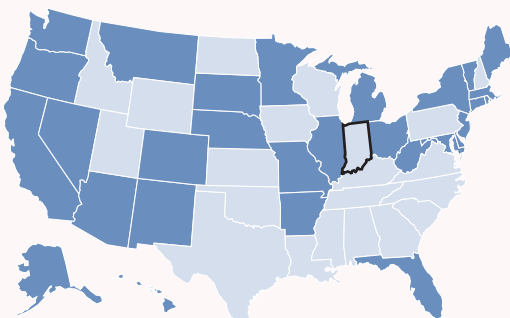
"I hate to say that Indiana is not in the forefront of helping our workers," Mrvan said. "I think it's our duty to keep up with the rest of the country. I think it's good for the economy, and I think it's good for the people."

Indiana's minimum wage has been set at \$7.25 since it was raised in July 2009. The federal minimum wage is also \$7.25 per hour.

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY IKE HAJINAZARIAN | IDS

Minimum wage in America



Indiana is one of 21 states with a minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour, the wage set by the federal government.

The remaining 29 states and Washington, D.C. have set state law raising the minimum wage higher than \$7.25.

Washington, D.C. has the highest minimum wage in the United States at \$9.50 per hour. Georgia and Wyoming both have minimum wages of \$5.15, but the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 supersedes the lower state minimum wages.

SOURCE DOL.GOV

ANNA BOONE | IDS

FOOTBALL

Hoosiers sign 22 commits in 2015

By Sam Beishuizen
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When IU Coach Kevin Wilson first took the head coaching job in Bloomington, he wasn't just recruiting players to Bloomington. He was begging them to come.

IU wasn't a destination location for recruits before the 2011 season, as shown by recruiting rankings where IU was a regular in the cellar. Wilson admits that in the beginning, he mostly took what he could and hoped players like Cody Latimer and Shane Wynn would agree to join.

Things have changed since then for Wilson, and he's brought numbers to prove it.

Three years ago, IU was regularly finishing around 13th in the Big Ten conference recruiting rankings by *rivals.com*. The Hoosiers' average was 13.36 out of 14 Big Ten teams.

In the last three years, IU has finished between fifth and eighth in the conference. That's no guarantee the players will be better, but it's a stronger streamline of talent Wilson said he needs to compete.

This year, IU will once again finish in the middle of the conference pack on the recruiting trail, which to Wilson is a good sign. He announced Wednesday that 22 high school players graduating this spring have signed national letters of intent and will join IU in June.

"We've had three years of recruiting some better talent," Wilson said. "It's longer bodies. It's bigger bodies. It's guys that were wanted by other schools."

Those aren't always the types of players IU was getting in the past. Wilson's staff has picked up the competitive recruiting, beating other teams on the recruiting trail and bolstering its depth chart.

All 22 verbal commitments signed Wednesday morning, along with UAB transfers Jordan Howard and Marqui Hawkins, who Wilson pointed out won't count in any recruiting rankings.

Wilson still has one scholarship remaining but said he's looking for the right player to fill the final spot.

IU signed 10 offensive players, seven defensive players and five athletes still looking to fill positions.

Wilson appeared to focus on the trenches, adding four offensive and three defensive linemen.

The Hoosiers also added three wide receivers, one running back, one tight end and one quarterback on offense to go with two defensive backs and two linebackers on defense.

The class is represented by players from 10 different states, including five from Florida, four from Indiana and three from Ohio.

"It's, on paper, a good class," Wilson said. "Now that paper needs to transition into some Ws. We look

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First Republican in 8 years files for mayor

By Neal Earley
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For the first time in eight years, the City of Bloomington has a Republican candidate for mayor. John Turnbull officially filed his candidacy for mayor on Wednesday. He is the fourth candidate to do so.

Turnbull currently serves as the Division Director of Sports for the Bloomington City Department of Parks and Recreation.

Originally from Michigan, Turnbull has worked for the City of Bloomington for the past 26 years.

"I have just been drawn to the interests of the city at large and have just found myself more and more motivated and interested in those issues," Turnbull said. "But it's not been my role or not been my place to be involved up until this point."

In addition to Turnbull, three Democrats have thrown their hat into the ring for mayor: John Hamilton, Darryl Neher and John

Linemeier.

Turnbull said it will be a challenge to run as a Republican candidate in Bloomington.

"I recognize it's an uphill battle," Turnbull said. "I'm being very realistic, but I think it is possible."

David Sabbagh, the last Republican to run for mayor of Bloomington, received 38.5 percent of the vote in his 2007 campaign against current Bloomington Mayor Mark Kruzan.

Turnbull said he plans to focus his platform on making the city government more efficient and said he relies on his experience in government to do so.

"Government involvement can be used when it's needed or when the economy is struggling or when certain areas or people are struggling," Turnbull said. "But it can really back off when it's not necessary and let the free market take its course."

The deadline for candidates to file is Friday at noon.

Atwood gives student-only lecture



COURTESY PHOTO
Margaret Atwood gives a student-only lecture Wednesday morning at the Whittenberger Auditorium. Atwood came to Bloomington to give a series of lectures.

By Sarah Panfil
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A few minutes before 10 a.m. Wednesday in Whittenberger Auditorium, Margaret Atwood walked down the aisle, took off her puffy purple coat and sat down in the front row.

Sipping on coffee and checking her watch, the author looked through papers marked with highlighter tucked in a red folder.

Then, Hannah Murray and Olivia DeClark, two IU juniors from the English department, stepped up to the podium to introduce Atwood.

Murray and DeClark were part of a reading group that has met monthly since September to explore Atwood's poetry, novels and other writing.

Both students wrote and presented research papers on Atwood at the recent College Arts & Humanities Institute's symposium discussing Atwood's work.

They were then selected to introduce Atwood at

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