



August 20, 2023

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

I am writing on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Boulder County (LWVBC). We urge the City of Boulder to join in Boulder County's commitment to raise the minimum wage to \$15.70/hour on January 1, 2024.

Five current City Council members agreed to raise the minimum wage to at least \$15/hour at LWVBC's 2021 Boulder City Council candidate forums: Matt Benjamin, Lauren Folkerts, Nicole Speer, Mark Wallach, Tara Winer. We all know that inflation has only made living in Boulder County even more expensive during the last 2 years.

LWVBC supports efforts to advance a self-sufficiency wage, based on our organizational positions, and advocacy in the recent past. We believe that alleviating poverty is the shared responsibility of government, employers, individuals, and non-profit assistance organizations.

Consideration about wage levels should include a focus on people struggling to afford to live here—notably low-income single heads of household, service workers, and people of color who may disproportionately be earning insufficient wages. Any regional minimum wage agreement should take place at a pace that acknowledges the deep needs in our community.

It is time to take the first step in a series of incremental increases to close the gap between the current minimum wage of \$13.65 and the current self-sustainable wage in Boulder County, which is over \$20/hour. An immediate increase to \$15.70 is a start.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Holly Monkman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Holly Monkman
Director, Action & Advocacy
League of Women Voters of Boulder County