



CITY OF JERSEY CITY

STEVEN M. FULOP, MAYOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sept. 6, 2013

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Mayor Fulop Announces Support of Referendum to Raise the Minimum Wage; Calls Measure Necessary for Working Families

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Steven M. Fulop** today announced his support for a statewide referendum that would **raise New Jersey’s minimum wage** from \$7.25 to \$8.25 per hour, and would also include an annual cost of living adjustment.

“This is a critical step toward enhancing the lives of our working families,” said **Mayor Fulop**, who yesterday announced the state’s first municipal paid sick leave legislation. “We know that our working families support our local economy and these hard-working men and women deserve pay equal to their work. This increase will help them support their families, and will also increase consumer spending – a benefit for our local economy.”

The ballot initiative – which Mayor Fulop strongly supports – will be decided by voters on **Tuesday, November 5, 2013**.

According to a study by New Jersey Policy Perspective, a minimum wage increase would result in an overall Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increase of \$174.8 million in 2014 as a result of higher consumer spending. A 2011 study by the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank found that for every dollar increase for a minimum wage worker, \$2,800 in new consumer spending is injected into the economy over the following year.

Of those workers who would benefit from a minimum wage increase, 82 percent are over 20 years old. Furthermore, a minimum wage increase not only benefits the lowest paid workers, but would also help increase wage scales across many different employment sectors.

“Despite New Jersey having one of the highest costs of living in the nation, our minimum wage is among the lowest,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “Not only do our workers deserve a raise, but they also deserve a permanent solution for determining future increases that reflects the reality of economy and not politics. I am proud to stand with Working Families United for New Jersey, Inc. and support this important ballot initiative.”

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary for the City of Jersey City, at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.////

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