

**ABC NEWS.COM POLL: MINIMUM WAGE – 10/3/99**

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## **Mom, Apple Pie – and a Minimum Wage Increase**

Some issues just never fail: Mom, apple pie – and raising the minimum wage.

A huge majority of Americans – 83 percent in a new ABC News poll – say it's time to boost the \$5.15 minimum, last hiked (from \$4.75) in September 1997. Support for a raise typically is quite high, and tends to inch up as time passes from the last increase.

	Minimum Wage Increase	
	Support	Oppose
10/3/99	83%	15
1/19/98	76	23
1/23/96	83	15
1/24/95	76	22

**BROAD BASE** – Some moderate Republicans in Congress have broached the idea of a modest minimum-wage hike to defuse the issue in the 2000 campaign. It may be a good idea: Support for an increase is broad-based, encompassing at least three-quarters of just about all demographic and political groups.

One exception is Republicans: Sixty-seven percent support the increase, somewhat lower than other groups, but still a substantial majority.

**INCOME** – It's noteworthy that support for the wage increase runs high even among those who don't stand to benefit directly. Eighty-eight percent of lower-income Americans like the idea, but so do 79 percent of those in the higher-income range of \$50,000 and up. It may be altruism based on a recognition that \$5.15 won't go far; or, perhaps, hopes for a ripple-up effect.

**METHODOLOGY** - This ABC News.com survey was conducted by telephone Sept. 29-Oct. 3, 1999, among a random national sample of 1,020 adults. The results have a three-point error margin. Fieldwork by ICR-International Communications Research of Media, Pa.

Analysis by Daniel Merkle.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com on the Internet at:

<http://www.abcnews.com/sections/us/PollVault/PollVault.html>

14. Would you support or oppose raising the minimum wage, which is now five dollars and fifteen cents an hour?

Support      Oppose      No opinion

10/3/99	83	15	2
1/19/98	76	23	2
1/23/96*	83	15	1
1/24/95*	76	22	2

\*\$4.25