



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Marcelia Nicholson, 5th District

For Immediate Release
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Supervisor Marcelia Nicholson Proposes \$15 Living Wage

Wages for county employees and contractors would jump to \$12.25 by January 1, 2017

MILWAUKEE –Milwaukee County Supervisor Marcelia Nicholson announced a proposal to raise the County’s living wage to \$15 an hour by 2022, and tie future annual increases to the rate of inflation.

“Raising the living wage to \$15 is the right thing to do for workers who provide County services: from the private security guards who work at the Marcia Coggs center, to the concessions cashiers at our airport, to the janitors who empty my wastebasket every night at the Courthouse.

“It’s wonderful to see the County Executive supporting this initiative, and I look forward to working with him to raise Milwaukee County’s living wage to \$15 as quickly as possible,” concluded Supervisor Nicholson.

Supervisor Nicholson’s proposed change to Chapter 111 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances would raise the living wage to \$12.25 on January 1, 2017, then to \$13 on January 1, 2018, and increase it by \$.50 every year until it reaches \$15 on January 1, 2022.

“We talk about America as the land of opportunity and upward mobility, but people shouldn’t have to fight for a fair wage,” said Supervisor Sequanna Taylor.

“Many of the workers who will benefit from higher wages have children in our public schools. When we help these parents rise out of poverty, we will see a similar rise in success rates of MPS students,” said Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic.

The proposal also requires increases tied to the rate of inflation every year starting on January 1, 2023, but maintains certain exemptions as defined in the existing living wage law, which was passed over County Executive Chris Abele’s veto in 2014.

The current living wage ordinance sets the county’s living wage at 100% of the federal poverty line for a family of four, or \$11.68 in 2016. If Supervisor Nicholson’s proposal is not adopted, the county’s living wage would only increase as the federal poverty level increases.

County Executive Chris Abele vetoed a living wage proposal in 2014, saying that it was “unsustainable” and cause “catastrophic” consequences. That veto was overridden.

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