



## State Approves Minimum Wage Increase

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Out of all 50 states, California boasts one of the highest minimum wages at \$8 per hour. However, due to recent legislation, it will soon grow even higher.

Governor Jerry Brown signed AB 10, a bill that will raise California's minimum wage by 25 percent. By 2016, the minimum wage will rise from \$8 per hour to \$10. The raise will be gradual; the first phase increases the current wage to \$9 by July 2014, and the second phase completes the raise.

Brown justified his decision to raise the state's minimum wage, stating that it was his "moral responsibility" to keep Californian families thriving in the face of ever-rising costs of living. The raise will also aid in reducing the gap between the upper class and the working class.

"The minimum wage has not kept pace with rising costs [of living]," Brown said in a statement. "This legislation is overdue and will help families that are struggling in this harsh economy."

According to the LA Times, 29-year-old Oscar Sanchez works at a South Los Angeles car wash, and is one of many

workers who will benefit from the passage of AB 10. Sanchez earns around \$500 a week which goes toward living expenses and other necessities. With impending wage increases, however, he will earn enough to send a portion of

Despite praise for AB 10, others argue that such a proposal will inevitably reduce jobs. Many small business owners oppose the bill, and a coalition of employers, including the California Restaurant Association and the Califor-

nia Chamber of Commerce, say that "the new law could backfire by forcing companies to raise prices, cut worker hours or even lay off some employees," as stated in the LA Times.

which is funded by New York Communities for Change. On Aug. 29, fast-food chain employees spread out within 60 different American cities and protested at over 1,000 fast-food restaurants, calling for a raise in federal mini-

it's not my responsibility to pay for the workers. It's the companies' jobs to see that both their employees and consumers are happy with the situation," junior Sara Hernandez said.

Despite the possibility of having to pay more expensive food, others support raising employees' wages. "[I'm] okay with the rise in cost due to the fact that many people working minimum wage jobs need money, and an extra dollar here and there goes a long way," junior David Hernandez said.

Nonetheless, Obama has proposed to raise the federal minimum wage to at least \$9 per hour. The Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2013, which was introduced in the House of Representatives and the Senate, could potentially raise the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour by 2015 if passed. Like California's wage increase, the act would also raise the federal minimum wage in phases of varying spans of time.

Furthermore, the minimum wage would stay adjusted to the rising cost of living, which is called indexing. Currently, 10 states use indexing to prevent minimum wage workers from losing purchasing power.

MOOR graphic by SIMON ZHAO



his income to his family in Guatemala.

"These people work [very] hard," senior Stephanie Campos said. "Since [their] wages will be increased, [they] will have more money to spend, which leads to the economy being stimulated."

A similar development was the "Fast Food Forward" campaign,

num wage from \$7.25 to \$15 an hour. However, fast food corporations argue that if more money goes toward employees' wages, the prices of fast food will also rise, which is a burden that consumers will have to bear.

"I would feel cheated because

## New Club Promulgates Cultural Awareness

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Students may have heard about the newly founded Latin American Student Organization (LASO) through the mentions in the Student Bulletin. Its primary purpose is to celebrate biculturalism and its impact on individuals.

"We take in kids from any culture, and they research and look into what it means to be bicultural and grow as leaders from what they've learned [...] both at school and in society," LASO Adviser Alejandra Perez said.

Members are encouraged to share experiences and stories from the cultural aspects of their own lives.

"My cultural heritage matters to me a lot because both of my parents were born in Mexico. When I visit Mexico, I'm really fascinated by how different it is. It's interesting to see things from [another culture's] point of view," sophomore Sania Luna said.

What makes LASO different from last year's Alhambra Latino Student Association (ALSA), which is no longer a registered club, is that they plan to hold more services, activities and events.

"I was approached by kids who wanted to do more and be active, so we decided to start LASO as a service club," Perez said.

LASO holds activities to assist both the school and the community. Tutoring in Spanish and other subjects is offered for all students after school on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in Perez's classroom, C-228.

LASO members are required to complete 20 service

hours each semester through services such as helping out at retirement homes.

"Since I'm Latino and I love embracing my culture, I noticed that this was the club that related most to me and my life," senior Derrick Bravo said. "My family is passion-

ate about our Mexican heritage."

Additionally, LASO is currently hosting a Hispanic Heritage Month poetry and art contest, which ends on Oct. 18 and is based on the theme "Celebrating My Biculturalism."

The radio station Latino 96.3 will visit the campus to announce the

winner on Oct. 25, who will be awarded prizes, which will most likely be gift cards from local businesses.

The first, second and third place winners of the poetry portion will also have the chance to perform at the Poetry Slam later this year with the Alhambra Moors Poet's

Society, while the artwork submissions will be showcased at the school library or in display cases around campus.

For the traditional holiday Dia de Los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, LASO plans to attend the Alhambra Latino Association (ALA) Annual Cultural Festival in San Gabriel, where they will be helping out, fundraising and creating an altar to honor those who have passed away. LASO members are helping create decorations for the festival, including colorful paper flowers.

LASO also plans to gather with Mark Keppel and San Gabriel High Schools' Association of Latin American Students (ALAS) clubs at the festival so that the club members can meet each other. Besides those cultural clubs, ALA has invited all AUSD students, clubs and community members to participate in the festival.

LASO members are still planning more events for the rest of the school year, but they know for certain that they plan to host some kind of activity or celebration for Cinco de Mayo, the specifics of which they have not yet decided. However, the event will not take place on the actual day, May 5, since AP testing will create some schedule conflicts. Instead, the event will take place a few weeks beforehand. Since LASO is still a fairly new club, it has one main event established per semester, but in the future may expand its range of activities.

MOOR graphic by SIMON ZHAO

