



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS [®]
OF SONOMA COUNTY

November 12, 2014

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
575 Administration Drive
Room 100 A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Dear Members of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors:

Subject: Living Wage Ordinance

The members of the League of Women Voters of Sonoma County urge you to support a Living Wage Ordinance.

The Sonoma County League of Women Voters strongly affirm the League of Women Voters of the United States Social Policy position that supports programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and promote self-sufficiency. To this end, we support the concept of a Living Wage Ordinance that is designed to help as many covered employees as possible earn wages at or above the poverty level of Sonoma County.

- Working people have the right to an income sufficient to meet basic needs of food, shelter and access to health care.
- The current minimum wage is inadequate to support an individual or family in Sonoma County.
- The cost of living in Sonoma County is higher than the Federal or California averages.
- The social advantages of self-sufficiency include, but are not limited to, a reduction in public assistance and crime, an increase in employee productivity and retention, an increase in local spending, and higher quality of life and human dignity in the workforce.

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We believe that it is highly desirable for a Living Wage Ordinance to cover the following employees of the County:

- Full and part-time employees.
- Employees of businesses contracting with the County.
- Employees of business and agencies receiving grants, subsidies, loans and incentives from the County.

Those exempted from the ordinance may include seasonal employees under the age of 18.

The League believes that now is the time to take this important issue under consideration and create a Living Wage Ordinance.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Lynda Hungerford
Co-President



Juanita Roland
Co-President

cc. Supervisors: Susan Gorin, David Rabbitt, Shirlee Zane, Mike McGuire, Efren Carrillo