

Voters to Stop Paycuts

Information on the Veto Referendum to raise wages for ALL workers.

History:

- In 2018, **hundreds of thousands of Michigan voters** signed petitions and voted to institute a full, fair minimum wage for ALL Michigan workers with tips on top (where applicable). However, Michigan politicians decided to “adopt and amend” the bill to change it after it had already been voted on.
- So, there was a lawsuit and the Michigan Supreme Court ruled that it was **unconstitutional** for politicians to undermine the will of the people by changing the bill after-the-fact.
 - <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/07/31/business/economy/michigan-supreme-court-minimum-wage.html>.
- Yet instead of adopting the bill, Michigan politicians passed SB 8 (now known as **Public Act 1**) that replaced the original bill and left out millions of subminimum wage workers from the wage increase they were promised.

What now?:

- Veto Referendum definition:
 - “A veto referendum is a citizen-initiated ballot measure that asks voters whether to uphold or repeal an enacted law.” https://ballotpedia.org/Veto_referendum
- This **Referendum** gives *voters*, not politicians, the final say. It will:
 - Freeze **Public Act 1 (SB 8)** immediately once enough signatures are collected
 - Reinstate the wage increases for all workers that were **already won** through the Supreme Court Decision
 - Then put this issue on the **November 2026 ballot** so voters can permanently protect Michigan’s living wage for all workers

Opposition:

- The **National Restaurant Association** (AKA the “other NRA”)
 - The National Restaurant Association and its state affiliate, the **Michigan Restaurant & Lodging Association**, have spent millions over the last 11 years to undermine all workers’ wages, and now they have bribed Michigan legislators to cut tipped workers’ wages by 50% - a total of **\$4 million loss in wages** for Michigan restaurant workers.
 - These are outsider, corporate-funded lobbyists who fight minimum wage increases, oppose worker safety laws, support child labor rollbacks, and spread misinformation. They are working to lower standards not just for restaurant workers—but for ALL workers.