

WFVJ and ICWJ Minimum Wage Challenge **Letter to the Editor Talking Points**

Remember to keep letters short (no more than 200 words) and to include your name, address, email, and phone number for the Letters editor in case they want to contact you before publishing your letter.

For Minimum Wage Challenge participants:

- The reason I chose to take the Challenge...
- The Minimum Wage Challenge aims to raise awareness of the struggles low-income Wisconsin families face every day to make ends meet
- By devoting a week to ‘mindful spending’, we engage in the conversation about what it takes not only to meet your basic needs, but to live a life of dignity.
- By contemplating the question ‘how would my week be different if I really had only \$77 for the week?’, we appreciate more what we have, and are inspired to advocate for a living wage for all.
- If minimum wage had kept up with the cost of living, and also took into account worker productivity, many economists believe it should be closer to \$18/hr.
- No one living in this, the richest country in the world, working a full-time job, should have to choose between food and medicine; between rent and the electric bill.

For Minimum Wage Workers:

- Tell your personal story
 - What job or jobs do you hold?
 - How many hours do you work each week?
 - How much do you get paid per week?
 - What does this mean for you in having to make choices about what you can afford?
- “If I made a true living wage, how would my life be different in terms of...”
 - Having more choices without having to worry about being able to feed my family, and keep a roof over our heads
 - Having more opportunities to pursue education or other goals
 - Feeling secure in being able to support myself and my family
 - Feeling valued and respected for my work