

Income Inequality Advisory Committee

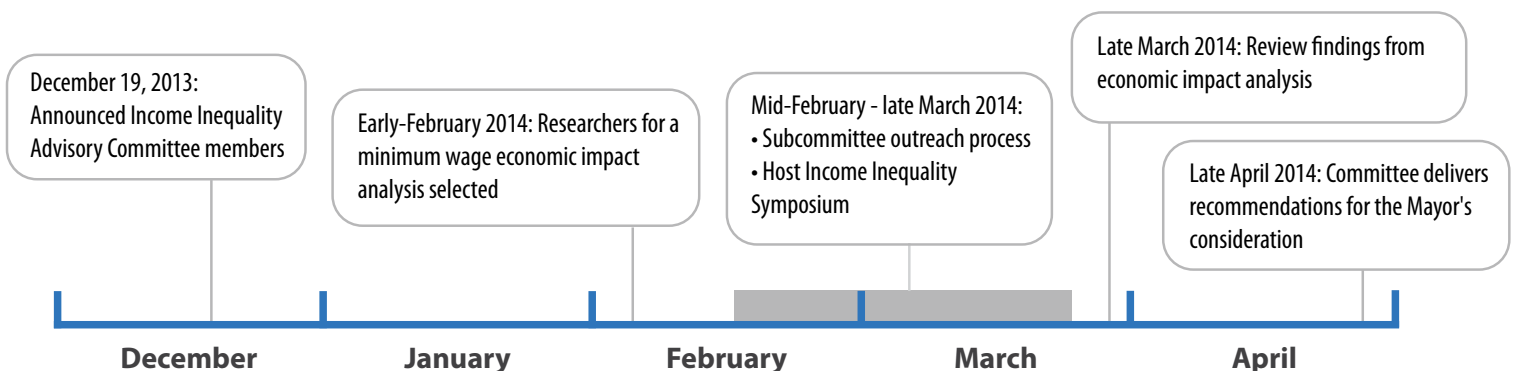
In recent years, a growing number of cities—including Seattle—are examining the costs and benefits of implementing citywide minimum wage laws. Citywide minimum wage laws offer local governments a powerful tool for helping low-income workers and families in their communities. Such measures also have significant impact on businesses and how they operate.

The Mayor has formed an “Income Inequality Advisory Committee” co-chaired by David Rolf, President of SEIU 775MW, and Howard Wright, Founder and CEO of the Seattle Hospitality Group, to address a cornerstone priority of an opportunity agenda: a meaningful increase in the compensation for Seattle workers.



“We can boost the earnings of low-wage workers in a meaningful way and increase the economic activity of the region that comes with greater spending power – and we can do it without harming our employers or losing jobs.”
- Mayor Ed Murray

Timeline Milestones



Mayor Murray's strategies

Mayor Murray believes that in order for people to thrive in a more equitable economy and affordable city, we must move forward on a broad opportunity agenda. His administration is committed to pursuing, supporting, and implementing a number of important strategies to address opportunity gaps that prevent income and social mobility for all Seattle residents.

These strategies include:

- Increasing minimum compensation levels for low-income Seattle workers;
- Ensuring universal health insurance regardless of employment;
- Making affordable housing more available, and closer to where people work;
- Preserving and strengthening our public transit systems to connect people to jobs;
- Creating a fertile environment for the creation and growth of new jobs and industries; and,
- Offering education and training options structured to help working adults succeed and linked to better paying jobs in demand by industry.

Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee is charged with delivering an actionable set of recommendations for increasing the minimum wage within the city of Seattle. The Advisory Committee - which represents broad and diverse perspectives - will collect and research pertinent data to advise the Mayor and Seattle City Council on how best to increase minimum compensation levels for low-wage workers in Seattle.

The Advisory Committee is directed to develop these recommendations while taking into account the complexity of existing conditions facing employers and workers: such as timing of an increase in compensation and ensuring that Seattle businesses continue to thrive.

The Advisory Committee will submit their recommendations by the beginning of May 2014 to the Executive for consideration, who will then transmit a formal proposal for City Council review and action.

Committee Roster:

David Rolf (co-chair), SEIU 775NW
Howard Wright (co-chair), Seattle Hospitality Group
Seattle City Councilmember Nick Licata
Seattle City Councilmember Bruce Harrell
Seattle City Councilmember Kshama Sawant
Janet Ali, Nucor Steel
Sarah Cherin, UFCW 21
Maud Daudon, Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
Craig Dawson, Retail Lockbox
Bob Donegan, Ivar's Restaurant
David Freiboth, Dr. Martin Luther King County Labor Council
Joe Fugere, Tutta Bella
Audrey Haberman, Philanthropy Northwest
Nick Hanauer, Second Avenue Partners
Pramila Jayapal, Center for Community Change
Eric Liu, Citizen University
Gordon McHenry, Solid Ground
Dave Meinart, Onto Entertainment
Craig Schafer, Hotel Andra
Diane Sosne, SEIU Healthcare 1199NW
Nicole Vallesterio Keenan, Puget Sound Sage
David Watkins, Seattle Hotel Association
Michael Wells, Capitol Hill Chamber of Commerce
Ronald Wilkowski, Financial Services

Contact Us / Participate

If you'd like to learn more about the committee or how you can participate, or if you have questions, comments or concerns, please visit our website.

www.seattle.gov/incomeinequality

