

Readers' letters

End disparity, vote for minimum wage

4/25/12

I recently graduated from college and I am currently seeking a job to pay off my loans, so I read the Bay Area wage disparity article with great interest.

As a student, I had a minimum-wage job, which didn't even cover my tuition. I can only imagine how difficult it would be to make ends meet if you made minimum wage and had children. To make matters worse, the income of low-wage workers has decreased by 3.6 percent. Incredibly, workers making \$40,000 or less were the only group to have their incomes decrease, while the highest incomes had the greatest income gains.

Let's correct this wage disparity in San Jose. Vote yes on the November proposition to increase the minimum wage to \$10.

Tahsina Haq
San Jose

S.S. Mercury News Increase in minimum wage would be timely

7/11/12

In the article "Widening the Wage Gap, Wage disparity: Bay Area's lower-paid workers fail to keep up with inflation, while top earners see bigger checks" (Page 1A, July 8), George Avalos highlights that over the last decade, top wage earners in the Bay Area celebrated a 26 percent increase in their incomes as inflation had also increased by 24 percent. However, low-wage earners who make less than \$40,000 annually instead suffered a 3.6 percent decrease in income, further widening the gap of economic disparity. That is why an increase in San Jose's minimum wage is timely, as the projected annual household income for two low-wage workers would bring in \$36,000, far below the amount sufficient to keep up with Silicon Valley's rising inflation.

Joshua Barousse
Chairman, City of San Jose's
Human Rights Commission

Minimum wage hike good for economy

7/14
2012

In response to the article (Page 1A, July 8) on wage disparity, I feel that a way to help the people in the lowest bracket (those making under \$40,000 per year) catch up is to increase the minimum wage. According to the article, families making under \$40,000 per year are having their income go down by 3.6 percent.

If these low-wage workers receive an increase in wages, that money will immediately go toward alleviating the financial strains they are going through.

The money that they earn will go directly back into their

local economy as they spend that money to buy groceries and other necessities. Since they make up the second largest percentage of the Bay Area workforce, this will significantly help the Bay Area's economy.

Thanh Nhien Nguyen
San Jose

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