

SAN JOSE INITIATIVE

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## Minimum-wage hike measure heads to ballot

By Tracy Seipel

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The Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters on Tuesday confirmed that an initiative to raise the minimum wage in San Jose has officially qualified for the Nov. 6 ballot.

The proposed San Jose measure would raise the hourly minimum wage in the city from the current \$8 state requirement to \$10 with

yearly inflation adjustments. It is modeled on San Francisco's 2008 minimum wage law, which includes annual inflation adjustments that raised the floor this year on that city's pay rate 32 cents to \$10.24 an hour.

The idea behind the San Jose ballot measure originated among students in a San Jose State sociology class taught by professor Scott Myers-Lipton.

In late March, the students, together with labor leaders and community organizers, submitted 36,225 signatures to the registrar's office. Proponents needed at least 19,161 valid signatures of registered city voters to qualify for the November ballot, and at least 19,518 were found to be sufficient.

"The students and I are thrilled that it qualified and that we received the support

of the community at large, from labor, faith and community based organizations in this effort," Myers-Lipton said Tuesday.

The San Jose City Clerk and City Attorney's office will ask the City Council's Rules and Open Government Committee at its Wednesday meeting to add the registrar's Certificate of Sufficiency to the council's May 1 agenda.

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