

Silicon Valley \$15 by 2019 regional minimum wage is in the cards following endorsement from 13 cities - Silicon Valley Business Journal



Representatives from 13 of Santa Clara County's 15 cities endorsed a regional \$15 by 2019 minimum wage at Thursday's meeting of the Cities Association of Santa Clara County.

The proposal endorsed by the Cities Association would raise the wage to \$12 on Jan. 1, 2017, \$13.50 in 2018 and \$15 in 2019. After that, the wage would match increases in the Bay Area Consumer Price Index, a measure of inflation. Each city is represented on the association's board by their mayor or a councilmember.



A map of the 15 municipalities that make up the Cities Association of Santa Clara County.

Cities Association of Santa Clara County

To be clear, the vote is non-binding, and it will be up to each city council to modify their wage ordinances to their own likings.

But the vote shows that the vast majority of the county's city councils are willing to act together to accelerate the statewide timetable put in place by California's recent wage increase, which would reach \$15 by 2022.

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The regional proposal is opposed by [13 chambers of commerce that belong to the Silicon Valley Chamber](#)

[Coalition](#), according to an email statement from San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber President & CEO [Matt Mahood](#).

"Moving at a rate faster than the state will negatively impact the positive business growth that has been occurring in Silicon Valley since the Great Recession ... Business owners and operators need increased flexibility to increase and lower wage rates based on economic cycles, not government mandates," the statement reads.

The vote was welcomed, on the other hand, by Silicon Valley Rising, a joint campaign of the South Bay Labor Council and Working Partnerships USA.

Silicon Valley Rising spokesperson [Elly Matsumura](#) called the Thursday vote "catalytic," hoping other regions will follow suit with their own minimum wage policies.

"I checked with other ... organizations around the country, and nobody's seen this happen on a regional level (before)," she said.

Ten cities in the county currently use the state's \$10 minimum wage. The wage in Mountain View, Palo Alto and Santa Clara is \$11, and in San Jose and Sunnyvale it's \$10.30 (though Sunnyvale will increase to \$11 as of July 1). Furthermore, Mountain View and Sunnyvale wages will rise to \$15 by 2018.

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