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Minimum Wage Policy of the Republican Party

By Steve Hoenisch

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1 Conservative-Moderate Fracture

In 1968, the official platform of the Republican Party said it planned to take a "flexible approach to minimum wage laws." That statement has characterized much of the party's position since Congress passed the Fair Labor Standards Act in 1938, establishing a minimum wage. Since then, Congress has significantly revised and broadened its terms.

But even though minimum wage proposals have often drawn bipartisan support, members of the Republican Party have at times found themselves at odds on the issue. The most common fracture has been along conservative-moderate lines. Many conservatives favor a policy of letting the free market establish wages, and some maintain there should be no minimum wage at all. Senator Orrin Hatch, a conservative Republican from Utah and the senior Republican on the Committee on Labor and Human Resources, and Representative Steve Bartlett, a Texas Republican on the House Committee on Education and Labor, have fought against recent attempts to raise the minimum wage, arguing that a higher wage will increase unemployment and inflate prices, actually hurting the people that proponents say would be helped.

House Majority Leader

Richard Arney, Republican of Texas, vowed to fight Democratic President Bill Clinton's proposed increase in the minimum wage with "every fiber" of his body. Moderate Republicans, on the other hand, have not been so adamant. Although some of them reject an increase in the minimum wage as unnecessary, others have tended to argue that workers in entry-level positions deserve pay adequate enough to live on and that raising the minimum wage does not necessarily increase unemployment or inflation. Additional debate among party members has focused not on so much on whether there should be a minimum wage, but what it should be.

Throughout his eight years in the White House, Conservative Republican President Ronald Reagan was content to keep the minimum wage the same, but that did not stop Republican George Bush, Reagan's vice president, from pledging to raise the wage during his 1988 campaign for president. The most controversial part of Bush's plan turned out to be the so-called training wage, a condition of his campaign pledge. The proposal drew opposition from Democrats.

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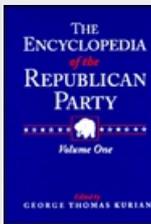
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2 Alternative Methods of Helping



Other Republicans have sought to address the minimum issue by proposing alternative methods of helping the working poor. For example, Representative Thomas Petri, a Republican from Wisconsin, has introduced legislation to expand the earned-income tax credit, the subsidy paid to low-income working parents. However, Petri's proposal, which pegs the tax credit to the number of children in a family, also drove a wedge into party unity. Ultra-conservative Republicans condemn it as social engineering.

Before becoming Bush's Republican vice president, Dan Quayle of Indiana, at the time senior Republican on the Senate's subcommittee on labor, supported an increase in the earned-income tax credit along with a gradual increase in the minimum wage.

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3 Bibliography

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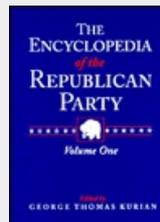
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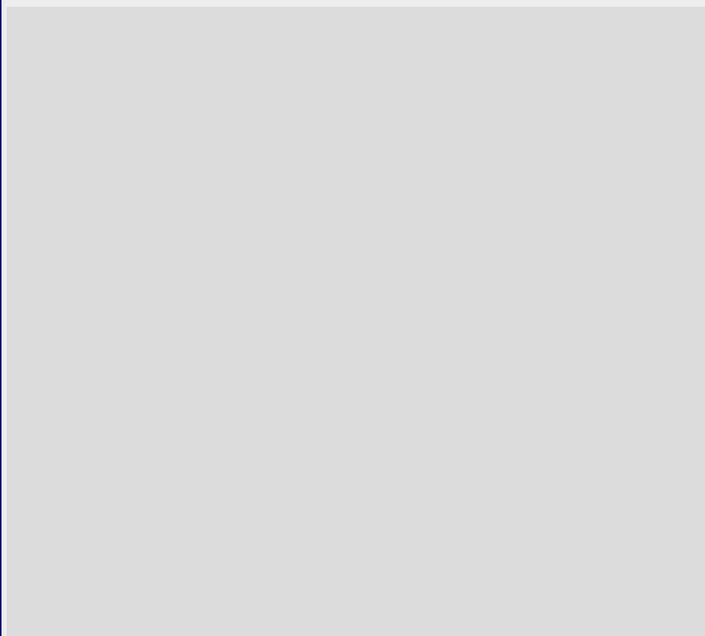


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5 Bestselling Books on Republican Party





[Running On Empty : How The Democratic and Republican Parties Are Bankrupting Our Future and What Americans Can Do About It](#)
 Farrar, Straus and Giroux
 New \$16.80



[Banana Republicans: How the Right Wing Is Turning America into a One-Party State](#)
 Jeremy P. Tarcher
 New \$9.56



[Stand Up Fight Back : Republican Toughs, Democratic Wimps, and the Politics of Revenge](#)
 Simon & Schuster
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[Grand Old Party : A History of the Republicans](#)
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[Abraham Lincoln: Speeches and Writings 1859-1865 \(LIBRARY OF AMERICA\)](#)
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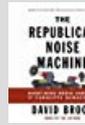
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Republicans tend to oppose increases to the minimum wage, citing the need for business to keep costs low so they can prosper and all Americans can have access to products and services. The Democrats favor increasing the minimum wage so that Americans have more money with which to purchase goods. They also favor trade restrictions to protect American jobs while Republicans favor free trade in order to keep costs low for consumers and make businesses more profitable so they can grow.

4. Supporting a policy such as this that dramatically reduces poverty is something the Speaker of the House and the Republican Party would greatly benefit from, from a political standpoint. First of all, raising the minimum wage is wildly popular among Americans. A recent poll by the New Yorker found that an overwhelming 73 percent of Americans are in favor of raising the wage. As a politician, siding with the majority of constituents on an important issue such as this, greatly affects the popularity of the candidate. However, by opposing a proposed increase to the minimum wage, the Republican Pa... The Democratic Party traces its origins to the inspiration of Democratic-Republican Party, founded by Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and other influential opponents of the Federalists in 1792. That party also inspired the Whigs and modern Republicans. The economic policy adopted by the modern Democratic Party, including the former Clinton administration, has been referred to as the "Third Way".[18] The party believes that government should play a role in alleviating poverty and social injustice and use a system of progressive taxation. The Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 was an early component of the Democrats' agenda during the 110th Congress. In 2006, the Democrats supported six state ballot initiatives to increase the minimum wage; all six initiatives passed.

Complete list of political parties political stances on minimum wage. Political parties' Republican's answer: No, most minimum wage jobs are meant to develop experience, not support a family But top Republicans are already coming out against it. During interviews last night and today, House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) both made clear that they oppose raising the minimum wage, citing its supposed effect on job creation. Source. The minimum wage is an obligation of the employer and cannot be waived by any agreement, including collective bargaining agreements. Any remedial legislation written for the protection of employees may not be violated by agreement between the employer and employee. Civil Code Sections 1668 and 3513. Either party may appeal the ODA to a civil court of competent jurisdiction. The court will set the matter for trial, with each party having the opportunity to present evidence and witnesses. The evidence and testimony presented at the Labor Commissioner's hearing will not be the basis for the court's decision. See the Policies and Procedures of Wage Claim Processing pamphlet for more detail on the wage claim procedure. 8. The platform of the Republican Party of the United States is generally based on conservatism, in contrast to the modern liberalism of the Democrats. A major conflict within the party is between moderates, sometimes described as establishment Republicans, and members of the Tea Party or Freedom Caucus, who have been described as populist, right-wing, and far-right. The Republican Party's conservatism involves support for free market capitalism, free enterprise, business, a strong national defense