

# California's Minimum Wage Is Spiking Again (by 25 Percent!) – This Is Not An April Fool's Joke!

**California Employment Law Update** on **February 20, 2024**

California's minimum wage is already one of the highest in the nation at \$16 per hour (although Sacramento's efforts pale in comparison to those of [cities and towns](#) across the Golden State, which have created a patchwork quilt of over 40 different minimum wage obligations up and down the state). Now, as we have previously reported [here](#), the rate is set to increase by another 25 percent to a whopping \$20 per hour for fast food employees on April 1, 2024—April Fools! ... except not. (For those watching at home, you may recall that rate increased to \$16 per hour just a month ago on January 1<sup>st</sup>.)

This will result in the California fast food sector having the highest minimum wage in California if not the nation, narrowly beating out reigning champion [West Hollywood](#). (The \$20 minimum wage will only apply to fast food chains with more than 60 locations nationwide.)

And the thrills don't stop there. At a recent televised debate between candidates for California's open Senate seat, Congressional Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA) reiterated her proposal for an eye-popping \$50 minimum wage statewide (equivalent to about \$104,000/year when working fulltime). California employers had better buckle up—2024, [like every year](#), is gearing up to be a wild ride. In other news, according to the California Policy Center's "Book of Exodus," [more than 240 companies](#) have fled California to more tax- and business-friendly states in the past three years alone.

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