



Dear Faculty Colleagues,

This message is to inform you that on September 11, the AFA Executive Council voted unanimously to endorse the North Bay Jobs with Justice proposed ordinance to raise the Santa Rosa city-wide minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2020. This ordinance would also require an annual Bay Area Consumer Price Index chain each year thereafter.

The AFA Executive Council chose to endorse this ordinance in solidarity with local labor organizations who are working to achieve a more equitable and just Santa Rosa. Equally important, we chose to endorse this ordinance in support of our students, many of whom are employed in low wage positions. As educators, we are aware that some of the most persistent obstacles to learning are due to inequities in the local economy. Many of our working students and their families are facing increasingly prohibitive costs of living while their wages remain stagnant. Increased wages will support our working students' health and economic position, which in turn will likely improve their chance of succeeding in higher education.

North Bay Jobs with Justice produced a detailed report, [The State of Working Sonoma 2018](#), which highlights many relevant facts.

- Between 2000 and 2016 the median rent in Sonoma County increased by 25 percent, while the median income for those renters increased by only 9 percent.
- Since 2011 rents in Sonoma County have increased faster than those in Marin, San Francisco, Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo, Napa, and Santa Clara Counties.
- Forty percent of Americans cannot afford a \$400 emergency expense, and many residents of our community are one missed paycheck away from homelessness.
- Increasing the minimum wage in Santa Rosa to \$15 an hour by 2020 will put an average of \$2,900 per year in low income residents' pockets. This will help students to better afford the costs associated with their attendance at SRJC.

We encourage any faculty who are interested in supporting this ordinance to attend the meeting of the Santa Rosa City Council and express your support. The meeting will take place Tuesday, **October 1st, at 4:00 pm.** (Public hearing matters usually do not begin before 5 pm.) The location is, **Santa Rosa City Council Chambers, [100 Santa Rosa Ave](#), Santa Rosa.**

All Faculty Association
Santa Rosa Junior College

-- AFA is working for you. The strength of faculty working together.