

Biographies for Participants in Forum on Minimum Wage Initiative (Ballot Proposition #3)

Advocating for a “Yes” Vote

Ed Flanagan

Ed served as Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development under Governor Tony Knowles from 1999-2002, and was the administration lead on legislation enacting the last substantive increase in the minimum wage in 2002. A retired Laborer and union business agent, Ed was the Alaska Director for Helmets to Hardhats, a special military and veteran outreach program of national building trades unions and contractor associations, from 2003-2011. In March of 2013, he and former labor commissioners Tom Cashen and Jim Sampson formed Alaskans for a Fair Minimum Wage for the purpose of placing a ballot measure before the voters to increase the state minimum wage and index it to inflation.

Advocating for a “No” Vote

Kyle Hampton

Dr. Hampton is Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Alaska Anchorage and is director of the UAA Center for Economic Education. His areas of academic focus include experimental economics, innovation policy, and industrial organization. He was recently recognized in 2013 as the College of Business and Public Policy's Teacher of the Year and was recognized that year as one of Alaska Journal's Top Forty Under Forty.

Moderator

Taylor Brelsford, a long-time Alaska Common Ground member, will moderate the panel. He has extensive experience in alternative dispute resolution methods and citizen dialogue projects. Recent projects co-sponsored by Alaska Common Ground include Alaskans Listening to Alaskans about Subsistence and Understanding Neighbors. Mr. Brelsford works as an applied anthropologist and currently leads the technical team preparing the Environmental Impact Statement reviewing the proposed Donlin Gold project, near Crooked Creek, Alaska.