

12/8/2016

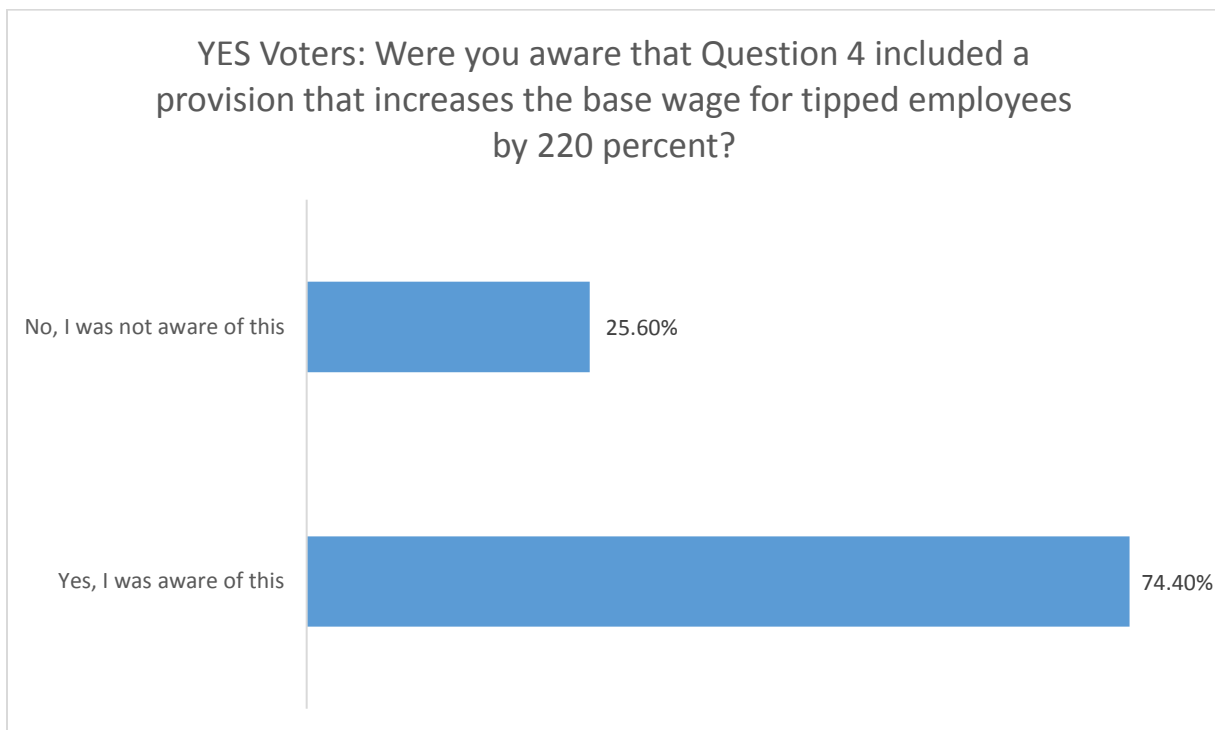
To: Interested Parties

From: Michael Saltsman, Employment Policies Institute

RE: Maine Voters' Understanding of Question 4

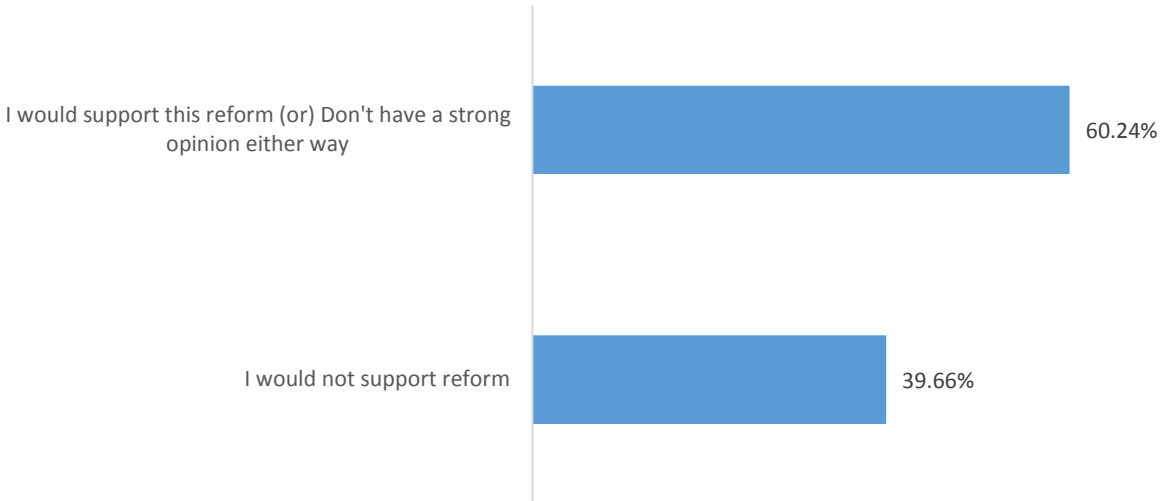
Between November 14th and 18th, we used Google's Consumer Survey tool to contact 500 Maine residents who voted on Question 4 in the November 8th Election. Question 4 raises the state's minimum wage to \$12 an hour by 2020, and also increases the minimum wage for tipped employees by 220 percent. The survey margin of error was +/- 4 percent.

Takeaway #1: One-quarter of "YES" voters—or approximately 104,000 people—were unaware that Question 4 raised the base wage for tipped employees and eliminated the tip credit.



Takeaway #2: 60 percent of voters either support, or wouldn't care, if the Maine legislature fixed the tip credit portion of the law while preserving the \$12 minimum wage.

Legislators have discussed a reform that would maintain a \$12 minimum wage in Maine, but omit the 220 percent increase in the tipped wage. How would you react to this reform?



Takeaway #3: Over one-third of all voters were unaware that tipped employees are required by law to earn the same minimum wage as all other employees.

Are you aware that tipped employees in Maine are currently required by law to earn at least the full state minimum wage, just like any other employee?

