

Strategy • Precision • Impact

To:	Interested Parties
From:	Celinda Lake, David Mermin, and Emily Garner
Re:	Recent Research on Restaurant Workers in Delaware, Maine, and New Hampshire <sup>i</sup>
Date:	April 12, 2021

A new survey by Lake Research Partners of restaurant workers in Delaware, Maine, and New Hampshire shows very strong support among these workers in all three states for increasing the federal minimum wage for tipped workers to \$15 with tips on top. Four in five restaurant workers support the proposal<sup>\*</sup> (80%) with high intensity – half (50%) are strongly in favor. Levels of support are very strong and show only slight variation across states.





<sup>\*</sup> Q12. As you may know, there is currently a federal proposal to increase the minimum wage over several years for tipped workers to \$15 an hour with tips on top. Most restaurant workers currently are paid lower than the full minimum wage, with the difference made up by tips or by their employer. This proposal would raise the minimum wage for tipped workers to the full minimum wage while they retain tips on top. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?

Support is strong among every demographic group and is among the highest we have ever seen compared to previous polls in other states. We find awareness and enthusiasm for this issue has grown substantially in recent years.

The data show that this is a voting issue for restaurant workers. Over two-thirds of workers in each state said they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supported raising the minimum wage for tipped workers to the full minimum wage with tips on top<sup>+</sup> (70% across all three states), and roughly one-third said that they would be *much* more likely to vote for such a candidate (32% across all three states).



## Likelihood to Vote for Candidate who Supported Full Tipped Minimum Wage – All States Combined





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>+</sup> Q15. If a candidate for office was proposing to raise the minimum wage for tipped workers to the full minimum wage with tips on top, would that make you more or less likely to vote for that candidate, or does it make no difference to you?

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Do not hesitate to contact Celinda Lake (<u>clake@lakeresearch.com</u>) or David Mermin (<u>dmermin@lakeresearch.com</u>) at 202-776-9066 with any questions about this memo.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>i</sup> **Survey:** Lake Research Partners designed and administered this survey which was conducted online from March 31-April 12, 2021. The survey reached 446 restaurant workers in Delaware, Maine, and New Hampshire (178 in Delaware, 153 in Maine, 114 in New Hampshire). The sample was stratified by gender, race, and education level to reflect the demographic composition of restaurant workers in these states. Where there were slight differences between our survey sample and the expected restaurant worker population, data were weighted accordingly. The margin of error is +/- 4.6% for the full combined sample and larger for individual states and other subgroups.