

The Gazette my favorite teacher Nominate your favorite teacher now for a chance to **win an iPad** [CLICK HERE](#)

Weather | Traffic | Contact Us
Delivery/Newstand FAQs

GazetteNet
Maryland Community News Online

Best of The Gazette Vote for your favorite businesses in Montgomery and/or Prince George's County now through September 15 for a chance to **WIN \$500**



[Montgomery](#) | [Prince George's](#) | [Sports](#) | [Business](#) | [Politics](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Opinions](#) | [JOBS](#) | [CARS](#) | [HOMES](#) | [e-Edition](#)

[Classifieds](#) [Obituaries](#) [Special Publications](#) [Calendars](#) [Contests](#) [Best Of](#)



SEARCH GO [ADVANCED SEARCH](#)

Wednesday, September 11, 2013

[f](#) [t](#) [Share](#) [E-mail](#) [Comment](#) [Print](#)

Elrich committed to propose Montgomery wage bill, even if he is alone

Measure would raise county minimum to \$12 an hour

By **Kate S. Alexander** Staff Writer

With or without co-sponsors, one Montgomery County councilman says he will introduce a bill to nearly double the county's minimum wage.

Seeking to close the gap between the county's high cost of living and actual wages, Councilman Marc B. Elrich is drafting legislation that increases the county minimum wage from the federally mandated \$7.25 per hour to \$12 per hour.

"Everybody knows you can't live on minimum wage," he said. "But everybody knows that \$12 an hour isn't really a living wage either. So I'm trying to narrow the gap."

Elrich (D-At large) of Takoma Park said he plans to introduce the bill Sept. 24.

Elrich announced his bill two weeks ago and had planned to introduce it this week. His goal was to let the council tweak the legislation as it moved through the process, he said.

But in his discussions with the business community and colleagues, he decided he could address their concerns before he introduced the bill.

He included a provision to phase in the increase over several years and language that keeps the bill in line with existing exclusions to the federal minimum wage.

"I'm hoping that some of the changes will get me some co-sponsors," he said.

As of Monday, a day before Elrich was going to introduce his bill, he had no co-sponsors.

More News

Germantown woman pleads guilty to 2012 voter fraud

Five injured in school bus collision in Aspen Hill

Overnight roadwork on Rockville Pike to last through October

Montgomery County corrections buildings described as 'deteriorating'

Senator calls for federal investigation of firearms application processing

With or without co-sponsors, however, he said he will bring his bill before the council to start discussion on raising wages.

Across the state and nation, lawmakers are pushing to raise minimum wages. A bill by former Sen. Robert Garagiola (D-Dist. 15) of Germantown to raise Maryland's minimum wage to \$10 an hour died in committee in the 2013 state legislative session.

But the effort is likely to continue in 2014.

Raise Maryland, a single-issue campaign focused on increasing Maryland's minimum wage, plans to push for a bill next session that raises the wage to \$10.10 per hour.

Matt Hanson, campaign coordinator, said the bill is essentially the same as the \$10 wage introduced last

ADVERTISEMENT

Need a car?

Find lots of local cars for sale. [Click here.](#)



ADVERTISEMENT

THINGS TO DO

Find fairs, festivals and fun Montgomery County events here!?

[Click here.](#)



ADVERTISEMENT

Let us help you find your new home

Click here to search real estate and homes for sale in your neighborhood



RECENTLY POSTED JOBS

[See all>](#)

PT BILLING

KIM, BRIAN DR. - Germantown

Telemarketing/Clerical

Beltone Hearing Aid Center - Gaithersburg

Construction Well Driller Helper

Company Confidential - Waldorf



2013 Dodge Avenger SXT

\$24,185

Darcars

New Carrollton, MD | (866) 879-1458 | www.darcarsjdofnewcarrollton.com/
[See all internet specials](#)

FEATURED JOBS

[See all>](#)

Advertising Sales Reps!

The Gazette - Gaithersburg

ADVERTISING SALES

THE ENTERPRISE - Waldorf

LIAISON

ADVERTISEMENT

session, adjusted for inflation.

Increasing Maryland's minimum wage has drawn support from politicians including Rep. John Delaney (D-Dist. 6) of

Potomac and Attorney General Douglas F. Gansler, who is pursuing the Democratic nomination for governor.

But \$10 an hour does not go as far in Montgomery County as it does in some of the state's rural regions, Elrich said.

According to the 2012 Maryland Self Sufficiency Standard by the Maryland Community Action Partnership, a single adult with no children needs to earn \$17.07 per hour to meet basic needs in Montgomery County, such as food, rent and clothing.

In a two-adult home with children, each adult must earn \$19.62 per hour and single parents need to earn even more, as much as \$36.90 per hour, to meet basic needs.

Montgomery spends a significant chunk of its money on health and human services to subsidize basic needs for its lower-income residents. For the current fiscal year, which started July 1, the county looks to spend more than \$253 million on health and human services.

"Everything we spend is basically a wage subsidy," Elrich said.

Between subsidies for housing, child care, food and health care, the county is paying with taxes what should be paid with wages, he said.

"You think you're overtaxed. The easiest way to reduce services is to start increasing the amount of pay people working local jobs make," he said. "I don't want a welfare state, but the cause is not people not working, the cause is the wages being paid."

On Monday, Council President Nancy Navarro's chief of staff, Adam Fogel, said Navarro (D-Dist. 4) of Silver Spring had not received a copy of Elrich's bill for introduction on Sept. 24. Typically, the council president meets with staff to set the agenda a week in advance.

kalexander@gazette.net

CHARLES COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION & CHARLES COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES - Vienna

Loading...

MOST READ

1. Battle underway over future of Clarksburg
2. Man dies after car crashes into tree in Damascus
3. Wegmans nearing its opening day in Germantown
4. Transferring is growing in popularity
5. Montgomery County trash collectors might end picket, go back to work
6. Westphalia Town Center developer continues push for FBI headquarters
7. White Plains man pleads guilty to two Montgomery County carjackings
8. Bowie forfeits its football game this week
9. No injuries after heavy fire in Rockville home
10. Tanger Outlets begins National Harbor hirings with job fair

More stories from **Gazette.Net**



Old Maryland law undercuts Montgomery barbers 5h

Montgomery County corrections buildings described as 'deteriorating' 5h

Recommended articles on **top** social reader

Lightning delays flights, but storms lack wallop 7h

The Washington Post on Social Reader

O'Malley appoints Brian Feldman to vacant Montgomery County Senate seat 16h

The Washington Post on Social Reader

[What's This?](#)



Find what you are looking for...shop GBS...New items listed daily



GazetteBuyandSell.com