

# Voters in Northwest City Back \$15 Minimum Wage

By KIRK JOHNSON

SEATAC, Wash. — After weeks of ballot counting, elections officials said on Tuesday that voters in this small city south of Seattle had in fact approved by 77 votes the highest municipal minimum wage in the nation, \$15 an hour, more than twice the federal minimum.

But the battle is not over. A group opposing the measure said it would immediately ask for a hand recount, and a lawsuit by business groups is still going forward in state court.

Labor union officials who focused on SeaTac as a template for wage battles yet to come around the country said the results would be a thunderbolt and a call to action. The vote means thousands of airport workers here, the host city to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, could see substantial pay raises starting next year. It also sets the stage, union organizers said, for a battle to advance a \$15 wage in Seattle, where the mayor-elect, Ed Murray, has pledged support for the idea.

Washington already has the highest state minimum in the nation, at \$9.19, but stands to be surpassed by California, which re-



ELLEN M. BANNER/ SEATTLE TIMES, VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

Supporters in SeaTac, Wash., rejoiced on election night when it looked as if the measure would pass, but the count took weeks.

cently approved a \$10 minimum, phased in over two years. The federal minimum is \$7.25.

“Voters said, enough is enough,” said David Rolf, the president of a Seattle chapter of the Service Employees International Union, at a news conference at the airport against a backdrop of clattering baggage carousels and travelers passing by with their wheeled bags. “We have seen a national change in

the conversation about wages,” Mr. Rolf said.

The ballot measure, Proposition 1, exempts airlines and small businesses, including restaurants with fewer than 10 employees, but could raise pay for about 6,500 workers in the city, on and off airport property — and would give paid sick days to many of those workers for the first time.

The spokesman for a business group opposing the measure said

the victory celebration was premature.

“I think it’s still unresolved,” said Bruce Beckett, the director of government affairs for the Washington Restaurant Association, which along with several other businesses, including Alaska Airlines, has challenged the measure in court. The suit questions if the city has legal authority to regulate businesses inside the airport even if they are within city limits, and whether the measure overreached in trying to bundle too many goals together.

A group called Common Sense SeaTac said in a statement it would request a recount of the roughly 6,000 ballots. All voting is done by mail in Washington.

But if the backers prevail, little SeaTac, population 27,000, would be thrust into heady national ranks. San Francisco has the highest municipal minimum wage, at \$10.55, but wage rates over \$11 have recently advanced in Washington, D.C., and in the Massachusetts Senate, according to the National Employment Law Project, which works with low-wage workers. A few places have special district wage rules over \$15, including Los Angeles International Airport, where workers get a minimum of \$15.37.

## National Briefing

### SOUTH

#### Virginia: Recount Sought in Attorney General Race

The Republican candidate, Mark Obenshain, said Tuesday that he would seek a recount in the close race for Virginia attorney general. He said he would make his request formal on Wednesday. A mere 165 votes separate Mr. Obenshain and his Democratic opponent, Mark Herring, who was certified the victor in the race on Monday by the State Board of Elections. A recount would be at taxpayer expense because the margin between the two is less than one-half of 1 percent. (AP)

### MIDWEST

#### Ohio: 3 at School District Put on Leave After Charges

The Steubenville school superintendent and two district employees have been placed on leave after they were charged in an investigation prompted by the rape of a 16-year-old girl by two high school football players, school officials said Tuesday. A grand jury on Monday charged the superintendent, Mike McVey, and three others with lying or failing to report possible child abuse after an investigation prompted by the rape of the West Virginia girl after an alcohol-fueled party in August 2012. The others charged were the football team strength coach, Seth Fluharty; a volunteer football coach, Matthew Belardine; and an elementary school principal, Lynnett Gorman. Mr. Belardine is not a school employee. (AP)

#### Michigan: Creditors Want Role in Art Assessment

Some of Detroit’s largest creditors are asking a judge to let them have a role in assessing the city’s art collection. In a court filing on Tuesday, the creditors in Detroit’s bankruptcy say they are in the dark when it comes to art at the Detroit Institute of Arts. The art has been undergoing an appraisal by the Christie’s auction house. The report is expected in December. Judge Steven Rhodes is being asked to appoint a 10-member committee to work with Detroit on a strategy to possibly make money from the art to pay creditors if the bankruptcy case proceeds. Creditors say they are concerned that the emergency manager, Kevyn D. Orr, might not maximize the art’s potential. The Michigan attorney general’s office says the art cannot be sold. (AP)

#### Wisconsin: Appeal Made to Vatican on Trust Fund

Clergy sexual abuse victims and priests said Tuesday that they have asked Roman Catholic officials at the Vatican to make more than \$50 million from a cemetery trust fund available to settle bankruptcy claims against the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. The letter to the Congregation for the Clergy, which oversees abuse cases, essentially asks it to undo an order that authorized Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York to create the trust fund in 2007, when he was archbishop in Milwaukee. The fund had been seen as one of the archdiocese’s few significant assets when it filed for bankruptcy in 2011, but a federal judge declared it off-limits, saying the trust was protected by the First Amendment’s freedom of religion. That decision has raised questions about how much money is available to pay the hundreds of sexual abuse victims who have filed claims in bankruptcy court. The letter has no bearing on United States court proceedings but is an appeal to the church to do justice according to its own teachings and legal code, said the Rev. James Connell, a former vice chancellor of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and co-founder of the Survivors and Clergy Leadership Alliance. (AP)

#### Illinois: Settlement Reached in Clergy Abuse Case

Lawyers on Tuesday announced a \$2.3 million settlement with the Archdiocese of Chicago in a lawsuit involving a man claiming he was sexually abused by a former priest. The suit does not identify the victim, but says he is now in his early 20s and was abused by the Rev. Daniel McCormack as a teenager. Mr. McCormack pleaded guilty in 2007 to abusing five children and served 2½ years of a five-year term. (AP)

# Governor Calls for Congressman to Quit After Arrest

By ASHLEY PARKER

WASHINGTON — Gov. Rick Scott of Florida added his voice Tuesday to calls for Representative Trey Radel to resign from Congress after pleading guilty to cocaine-related charges here last week.

“We have to hold all of our elected officials to the highest standards,” Mr. Scott told reporters in Florida, adding, “My prayers and my wife’s prayers are with his family.”

On Monday night, Lenny Curry, the chairman of the Republican Party of Florida, called on Mr. Radel, 37, to step down. And state party strategists consider the Radel scandal an opportunity for other politicians who are looking to move to Congress, and they see no downside in holding a special election if Mr. Radel resigns.

Mr. Radel, a former television

anchorman and conservative talk show host in southwest Florida, won the seat in the 19th Congressional District — which includes the cities of Naples and Fort Myers — in 2012, with 62 percent of the vote.

He pleaded guilty a week ago to a misdemeanor charge of buying 3.5 grams of cocaine in Washington last month and was sentenced to a year of probation.

During a late-night news conference last week, Mr. Radel said he would take a leave of absence from Congress, enter “intensive inpatient treatment” and work to regain the trust of his family and constituents.

He blamed his “extremely irresponsible choice” on his “struggle with the disease of alcoholism,” and checked into a rehabilitation facility in Naples. He said he would donate his salary to charity until he was able to return to Congress.

A growing number of Republicans in Florida say that is not enough.

## Pressure grows on Trey Radel after a cocaine conviction.

“The people of Florida’s 19th Congressional District need a congressman who is 100 percent focused on the needs of southwest Florida,” Mr. Curry said in a statement. “Therefore, Congressman Radel should step down and focus his attention on rehabilitation and his family.”

A spokesman for the Florida Republican Party, in a follow-up email, said that Mr. Curry was reflecting the views of Mr. Radel’s constituents, including Republican leaders in Collier and Lee Counties, who in a joint statement urged Mr. Radel to resign immediately.

Republican leaders in Congress, despite expressing frustration that Mr. Radel did not tell

them of his arrest until just before it was reported in the news media, have largely steered clear of weighing in on what he should do next.

But in Florida, where Mr. Radel’s district is solidly Republican and unlikely to fall into Democratic control, Republican officials have been less forgiving.

Former Representative Connie Mack IV, who gave up the 19th District seat in 2012 for an unsuccessful Senate run, has been quietly trying to consolidate support for a potential bid to return to the House. Other possible candidates include Lizbeth Benacquisto, the majority leader of the Florida State Senate, and Chauncey Goss, who finished second to Mr. Radel in the Republican primary last year.

In an email, a spokesman for Mr. Radel, Dave Natonski, dismissed calls for his resignation: “Congressman Radel’s top priority right now is to complete his rehabilitation and then return to work as soon as possible.”

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## ALVARO NOBOA ECUADORIAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE FILES A COMPLAINT BEFORE THE INTER AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS



Juan Vizueta, lawyer (left), Álvaro Noboa (center) and Pedro Granja, lawyer (right)

Due to the relentless political persecution of the Ecuadorian Tax Administration (SRI) against me and for the absolute absence of minimal guarantees for a fair judicial process in Ecuador, I have decided to appear before the Inter American System of Human Rights to present a formal complaint against the Republic of Ecuador based on the second paragraph of the Article 31 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter American Court of Human Rights, in which it clearly states that there is no

requirement to exhaust of domestic remedies, when the legislation of the state concerned cannot afford the process for the protection of the right or rights that have allegedly been violated or the party alleging violation for his or her access to domestic solutions, or has been prevented from exhausting them. It is obvious that I am in both circumstances.

I have requested the Commissioners of the Inter American Commission on Human Rights to remember the judicial precedent dictated by the Inter American Court of Human Rights regarding the case Baruv Ivcher vs Peru, which ended with the judgment against the State of Peru for violating Art.8 (Judicial Guarantees); 21,2 (Private Property) and 25,1 (Judicial Tutoring) of the American Human Rights Convention.

Surely, the Director of the Ecuadorian Tax Administration (S.R.I), ignores the fact that in the aforementioned case, the arbitrary measures taken of dispossession of the Television station, legitimately owned by Mr. Ivcher and its subsequent sale to individuals vitiated by nullity. Surely, it was never analyzed by Judges serving the former President Fujimori, but these events were condemned by the Inter American Court of Human Rights.

It is evident that I am an object of discrimination in an effort to persecute EXPORTADORA BANANERA NOBOA, my former employer, with a total tax assessment of U.S.: \$ 93,000,000.00 which is a hundred times more than what was declared by other Ecuadorian banana exporters with similar export volumes like EXPORTADORA BANANERA NOBOA. (See the attached chart)

COMPANY NAME	TAXES FOR YEAR 2005
EXPORTADORA BANANERA NOBOA S.A.	\$93´000.000,00 <small>TAXES ACCORDING TO ECUADORIAN TAX ADMINISTRATION</small>
DOLE	\$700.136,37 <small>TAX DECLARED</small>
CHIQUITA	\$39.500,02 <small>TAX DECLARED</small>
DEL MONTE	\$11.748,13 <small>TAX DECLARED</small>

Everyone knows in Ecuador the persecution carried out against any Judge that legally ruled in favor of EXPORTADORA BANANERA NOBOA, which were immediately disqualified, persecuted and incarcerated to subsequently change the original decision issued in favor of EXPORTADORA BANANERA NOBOA and to issue a new one in favor of the Ecuadorian Tax Administration (SRI).

I am the largest employer of Ecuador, and in three occasions I have run for President of Ecuador against Economist Rafael Correa, current head of the State of Ecuador.

Has it been the intention of the current head of the State of Ecuador to persecute, intimidate, causing me economic damage and hurting my image for being his main political opponent after I defeated him in the first round of the elections in 2006?

Álvaro Noboa

Juan Vizueta Ronquillo  
Attorney At Law  
juanvizueta@hotmail.com

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