



# NEWS RELEASE

Attorney General Mike Hilgers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Attorney General Hilgers Sues City of Lincoln Over Its Unconstitutional Minimum Wage Ordinance

Today, Attorney General Mike Hilgers sued the City of Lincoln over its unconstitutional minimum wage ordinance. The lawsuit asks the courts to stop the City's power grab and enjoin enforcement of a municipal ordinance in direct conflict with State law.

In 2026, the Nebraska Legislature amended the State's Wage and Hour Act to set the growth rate for the minimum wage and to allow employers to pay youth employees a distinct minimum wage. The Lincoln City Council apparently disagreed with the balance the Legislature struck and, just last month, enacted a municipal ordinance directly at odds with State law.

The Legislature said the minimum-wage growth rate "shall" be 1.75%; the City's ordinance would modify that statute to say "shall not" and sets the growth rate at a different level. Similarly, the Legislature said that employers "may" pay youth employees a minimum wage of \$13.50 per hour; the City's ordinance effectively rewrites that law to say "may not" and instead requires employers to pay youth employees \$15 per hour.

"The question is whether the City of Lincoln can operate as a super-legislature and modify the laws that the Legislature passes on statewide issues," said Attorney General Mike Hilgers. "They can't, but are trying anyway, so we are forced to sue to uphold the Constitution and state law."

The City's unconstitutional ordinance will inevitably cause the cost of goods and services made with Lincoln labor to increase across the State. Moreover, businesses across the State may have to adjust their own costs to keep up with the City's inflated wages. This would undermine the statewide uniformity and predictability that the Nebraska Legislature intended.

The lawsuit seeks to enjoin the ordinance from taking effect as violative of the Nebraska Constitution.

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Photos and video available after the press conference [here](#).

Suzanne Gage  
Director of Communications  
Nebraska Attorney General's Office  
Office: 402-471-2656  
Mobile: 402-560-3518  
[Suzanne.gage@nebraska.gov](mailto:Suzanne.gage@nebraska.gov)