

## 400 COPS/Metro Leaders Raise the Stakes on Wages

Updated: Sun, Apr 19 2015, 11:46 PM EDT

By: Ashlei King  
News 4 San Antonio Facebook | Twitter | Email



---

SAN ANTONIO - A local community group held an accountability assembly to allow San Antonio mayoral candidates and city council candidates a chance to speak about raising minimum wage for city employees.

Communities Organized for Public Service and Metro Alliance is made up of churches, schools and unions. C.O.P.S./ Metro Alliance want the city to increase its minimum pay from \$11.40 to \$14.91.

"It's really disgraceful that city workers don't even make a living wage. You can work for the City of San Antonio and still be on welfare, need public assistance to make it," Father Mike DeGerolami said.

"I don't think any employee should be left behind, especially in the City of San Antonio, they shouldn't be left behind," Rev. Brown said.

Candidates Mike Villarreal, Tommy Adkisson, and Leticia Van de Putte all agreed if they are elected they will support an increase in the city's minimum wage and start by raising wages for the lowest paid city workers to \$13 per hour for the next budget year, but Ivy Taylor stunned the audience by saying no.

"I have to be honest, based on the information I have about the budget and where we are as a city and bouncing off of various parties, I could not without looking at the context of everything else, just say yes," Taylor said.

The current mayor believes education and pay go hand-in-hand.

"What I think is more important is for people to gain education and skills to allow them to move on to jobs that pay more," she said.

"We're [San Antonio] growing leaps and bounds. People are moving here from everywhere. This city is growing and it's populating. It's spreading out and for them to pay that for city employees, that's just ludicrous," Rev. Brown said.

The candidates also got to speak about supporting a 2017 bond for housing rehab projects. All agreed they support that.

Taylor disagreed when it came to supporting a \$2 million per year budget for workforce development.