

Calif. minimum wage deal avoids ballot box battle

By John Myers and Liam Dillon, Los Angeles Times

Lawmakers and labor unions have struck a tentative deal to raise the statewide minimum wage to \$10.50 an hour next year and then gradually to \$15, averting a costly political campaign this fall and possibly putting California at the forefront of a national movement.

The deal was confirmed Saturday afternoon by sources close to the negotiations who would speak only on condition of anonymity until Gov. Jerry Brown makes a formal announcement as early as Monday.

The minimum wage compromise ends a long debate between the Democratic governor and some of the state's most powerful labor unions. For Brown, it's political pragmatism; numerous statewide polls have suggested voters would approve a minimum wage proposal – perhaps even a more sweeping version – if given the chance.

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