



2018 - 2019

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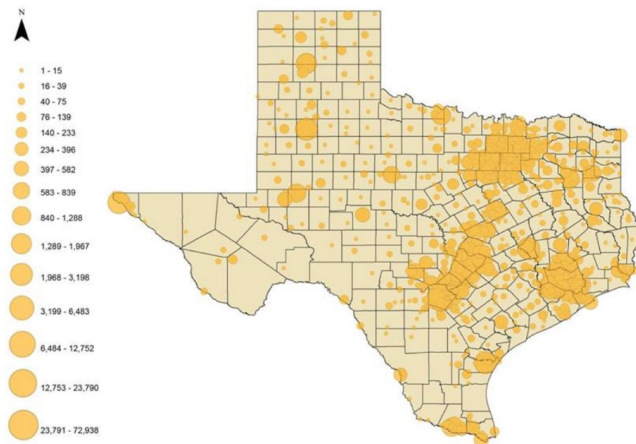
The mission of the League of Women Voters is to encourage informed and active participation in government and to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

President's Message



As the year comes to a close, people begin to reflect on the year, full of gains and losses. 2018 was a busy one for the League. We saw an increase in voter registration drives, invitations to candidates to participate in forums, and organizations reaching out to us to come to speak about voter participation. With so much divisive information being thrown at voters, more people than ever, both locally and all over the state, sought information through Vote411 for our fair and balanced approach to helping people become informed voters.

Texas VOTE411.org Users During the 2018 November Election



The work ahead of us is clear, and we have a responsibility to our community to continue this good work. You should have received a letter asking you to remember our local League in your end-of-year giving. Take time to really evaluate the benefits that LWVTC provides to our community and give so that we may go into 2019 stronger than ever.

I hope that you are having a wonderful time with friends and family during this season.

In non-partisan fashion: Merry Everything and Happy Always,

Want to help register voters before the next elections?

Volunteer Deputy Registrar Training

January 5, 2019, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Southwest Regional Library, Meeting Room,

4001 Library Lane, Fort Worth 76109.

All current volunteer deputy registrar badges expire December 31st , 2018, and must be renewed. A representative from the Tarrant County Elections Administration will be onsite to train any Tarrant County resident who meets the [qualifications](#) to become a certified Volunteer Deputy Registrar.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

Step 1: Go to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe_hafy9SxUBLo7dYfsJx7yRIRm_D9KKLmjiTjkX1LsuW80rw/viewform and tell us you are coming to this training.

Step 2: Go to : <https://goo.gl/EqmD22>, print off the form, fill it out and mail to the Tarrant County Elections Administration, 2700 Premier Street, Fort Worth, TX 76111. You may also complete and email the form to Nickie Weaver in the Elections Office, nlweaver@tarrantcounty.com.

Step 3. Click [here](#) to learn about the responsibilities of a Volunteer Deputy Registrar.

Deadline to submit your form by mail is no later than December 31, 2018., and online no later than January 3, 2019. Your Volunteer Deputy Registrar materials will need to be prepared in advance of the training., and you certification as a VDR will be good until December 31, 2020.

We're 99 and still going strong.

Come celebrate with us this February 15th at our

99th Anniversary Luncheon

Joe T. Garcia's Mexican Restaurant

Please join us for a celebration of the women who have made our first century successful. Whether you have been a League member for 50 years or have just joined in the last year, the League is stronger because of you.

Watch for details in the January 2019 Voter.

Immigration: The Enigma of 2019
Materials to read prior to Unit Meeting

Julie Andrews sang Rogers and Hammerstein’s famous line in the *Sound of Music*, “Let’s start at the very beginning, a very good place to start.” For our study of immigration in the United States, a very good place to start is with some definitions and basic facts.

The Internal Revenue Service web site defines “immigrant” as “an alien who has been granted the right by the USCIS (United States Citizen and Immigration Service) to reside permanently in the United States and to work without restrictions in the United States. Such an individual is also known as a Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR).” An “alien” is defined in the same source as “an individual who is not a U.S. citizen or U.S. national.” (<https://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers/immigration-terms-and-definitions-involving-alien>)

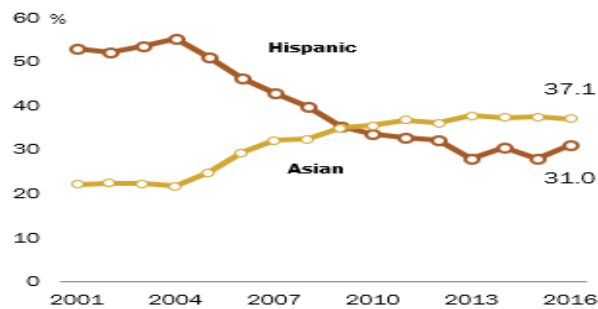
Now that we have some definitions, let’s add some facts. According to the Pew Research Center, the United States has more immigrants than any other nation in the world. In 2016, 43.7 million immigrants, or one in every seven people living in the U.S., was born in another country and was not a U.S. citizen at birth. These immigrants include both residents with legal status and those in the country illegally. Where they come from has changed in recent years:

- Mexicans had been the largest group among new arrivals to the U.S. over the past decades, but in recent years immigration from Mexico has slowed.
- Today, China and India send more immigrants to the U.S. per year than Mexico does, reflecting a broader shift away from Latin America and toward Asia among new immigrant arrivals.
- Asians are projected to become the largest immigrant group in the U.S. by 2055, surpassing Hispanics.
- In 2065, Pew Research Center estimates, Asians will make up some 38% of all immigrants, Hispanics, 31%; whites, 20% and blacks, 9%.

The number of new immigrant arrivals has fallen, mainly due to a decrease in the number of unauthorized immigrants coming to the U.S. The decline in growth of the unauthorized immigrant population can partly be attributed to more Mexican immigrants leaving the U.S. than coming in.

Among new immigrant arrivals, Asians outnumber Hispanics

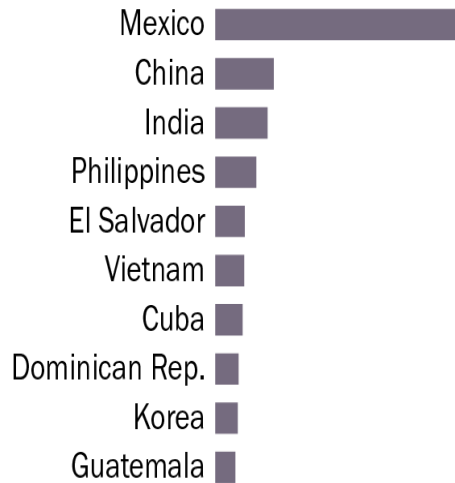
% of immigrants arriving in the U.S. in each year who are ...



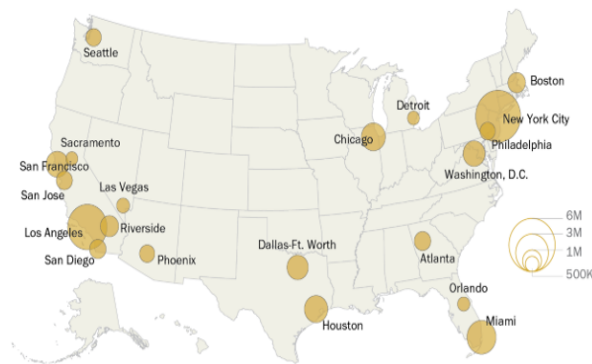
Note: Figures for 2001 to 2005 are based on the household population and do not include arrivals residing in group quarters. 2016 figure represents only arrivals between Jan. 1 and April 1, 2016. Figures reflect only immigrants who are residing in the U.S. as of April 1, 2016. Race and ethnicity based on self-reports. Asians include only single-race non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race. Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of 2001-2016 American Community Surveys (IPUMS).

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11.6 million U.S.
immigrants were born in
Mexico, as of 2016.



20 metropolitan areas with the largest number of immigrants in 2016



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2016 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS).
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Pew Center research includes other important facts about immigrants. A growing majority have lived in the U.S. at least 15 years. About half of immigrants aged 5 and older are proficient English speakers. Immigrants make up 17% of U.S. workers but just 13.5% of the total population. Immigrants are concentrated in specific job categories—for example, agriculture, construction and science—but are not a majority in any industry. Roughly half (46%) of the nation’s 43.7 million immigrants live in just three states: California (24%), Texas (11%) and New York (10%).

(minicourses@pewresearch.org Who are today’s U.S. immigrants?)

As for the immigration process itself, the American Immigration Council describes the US system in one word, “COMPLEX!” (<https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org>) The U.S. law that governs current immigration policy, the Immigration and Naturalization Act (INA), provides for an annual limit of 675,000 permanent immigrants from the rest of the world, with certain exceptions for close family members. Lawful permanent residency allows a foreign national to work and live lawfully and permanently in the U.S.

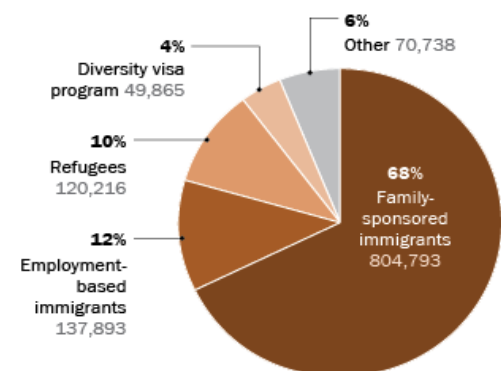
According to the American Immigration Council, U.S. immigration process has traditionally focused on four basic principles: 1) reuniting families, 2) admitting immigrants with skills that are valuable to the U.S. economy, 3) protecting refugees, and 4) promoting diversity. An informative and detailed fact sheet on their website cites the complexity of this process. These “traditional” four basic principles are undergoing intense scrutiny under the present administration. Even before 2017, many proposals have sought to shift the nation’s immigration system away from its current emphasis on family reunification and employment-based migration, and toward a points-based system that prioritizes the immigrants with certain education and employment qualifications. These proposals have received renewed attention under the Trump administration.

(1) Reunification of Family/Family-based Immigration. In 2016, 804,793 people received family-based lawful permanent residence in the United States. Under this program, someone can receive a Permanent Resident Card (commonly called a green card) by having a spouse, child, sibling or parent already living in the country with U.S. citizenship. (<https://www.uscis.gov/family/family-green-card-holders-permanent-residents>) Immigrants from countries with large numbers of applicants often wait for years to receive a green card because a single country can account for no more than 7% of all green cards issued annually. (https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2013/01/31/how-long-is-the-immigration-line-as-long-as-24-years/?utm_term=.8f2c3170c9aa)

Today, family-based immigration (also called “chain migration”) is the most common way people gain green cards. President Trump has proposed restricting green cards to only spouses and minor children. For other family members, a Senate bill would make a limited number of green cards available under a skills-based point system. (<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/08/23/upshot/immigration-quiz-raise-act->

Green card categories that have faced or may face reductions

Admission categories for fiscal 2016 lawful permanent residents



Note: “Other” includes parolees and asylees.
Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

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(2) Employment-based Immigration.

The traditional employment visa program, the H-1B visa, accounts for about 24% of all temporary visas for employment. In fiscal 2016, 180,057 highly-skilled foreign workers received H-1B visas .

(<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/04/27/key-facts-about-the-u-s-h-1b-visa-program/>). Under the Trump administration, the number of H-1B applications challenged by the federal government has increased. In addition, the administration has considered restricting the number of years foreign workers can hold H-1B visas. In Congress, long-standing efforts to expand the H-1B visa program continue, though a Senate bill would replace the existing eligibility criteria with a point system similar to that proposed for family-based green cards and would eliminate a green card for immigrant investors who put money into commercial U.S. enterprises that are intended to create jobs or benefit the economy.

(3) Refugee Protection

The United Nations 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol define “refugee” as a person “who is unable or unwilling to return to his or her home country, and cannot obtain protection in that country, due to past persecution or a well-founded fear of being persecuted in the future on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.” Congress incorporated this definition into U.S. Immigration Law in the Refugee Act of 1980. (<http://www.refworld.org/docid/3be01b964.html>)

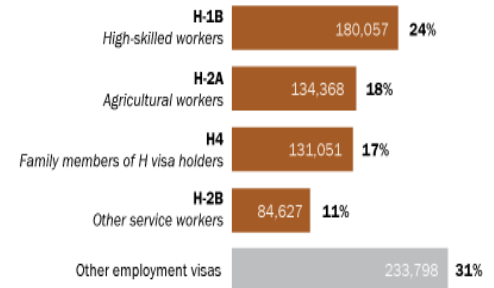
In 2016, the U.S. admitted 84,995 refugees. One of President Trump’s first acts as president was to freeze refugee admissions, citing security concerns. In 2017, the US had the fewest admissions since 2007 of 53,716, reflecting the lower admissions cap he imposed. In January 2018, refugee admissions resumed, but for fiscal 2018, were capped at 45,000, the lowest since Congress created the modern refugee program in 1980. (https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/us-lifts-ban-on-refugees-grom-high-risk-matations-but-pledges-tougher-scrutiny/2018/01/29/1c8a33f4-051a-11e8-877-2a059f168dd2_story.html)

Recently, our country and especially our state of Texas have struggled with whether “asylum seekers” are also “refugees.” According to the American Immigration Council (<https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/asylum-united-states>), asylum is a protection granted to foreign nationals already in the United States or at the border who meet the international law definition of a refugee. So yes, asylum seekers = refugees.

In July 2018, the Council on Foreign Relations reported, in an article titled “The U.S. Immigration Debate” by Claire Felter and Danielle Renwick, that Donald Trump has signed several executive orders that affect immigration policy and more specifically refugees. Capping admissions through the refugee program at 45,000 in fiscal year 2018 makes it more difficult for individuals to seek asylum, as more than 180,000 people had applied for asylum in 2016 alone. In 2018 the President’s Zero-Tolerance Policy implemented at the southern border called for authorities to arrest and criminally prosecute all unauthorized immigrants—including those seeking asylum—which resulted in more than 2,000 child migrants being separated from their parents or guardians. Although this family separation policy was terminated in June of 2018, thousands of juvenile refugees/asylum seekers are still in detention centers in Tornillo, Texas, as well as other federally and privately operated facilities.

H-1B visas account for a quarter of temporary employment visas issued in 2016

Temporary employment visas issued, fiscal year 2016

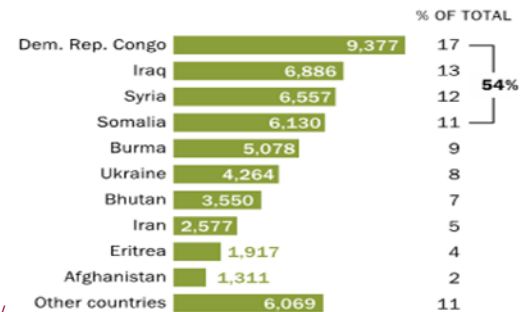


Note: "Other employment visas" includes H1B1, H3, L, O, P and Q visas.
Source: U.S. Department of State.

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More than half of U.S. refugees in 2017 were from D.R. Congo, Iraq, Syria and Somalia

Number of refugees entering the U.S. in fiscal 2017, by origin country



Note: Data do not include special immigrant visas and certain humanitarian parole entrants.
Source: U.S. State Department’s Refugee Processing Center accessed Aug. 30, 2018.

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Although U.S. immigration laws make clear that migrants seeking asylum may do so either at or between border crossings, President Trump said in November 2018 that he would limit asylum to individuals entering at official crossing points on the southern border. (“Trump Pledges Asylum Crackdown and Tent Cities,” *New York Times*, November 2, 2018.) The *New York Times* reported that Trump said the government would erect massive tents for large-scale detention of migrants as the U.S. did not have space at the border to manage the requests. Despite these and other new immigration rules, asylum seekers continue to flow to the southern border of the U.S., fleeing persecution from their home countries in Central America (*USA Today*, October 31, 2018). As of November 8, 2018, according to *Politico*, the Trump administration announced executive actions that will totally restrict the ability of migrants to seek asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border.

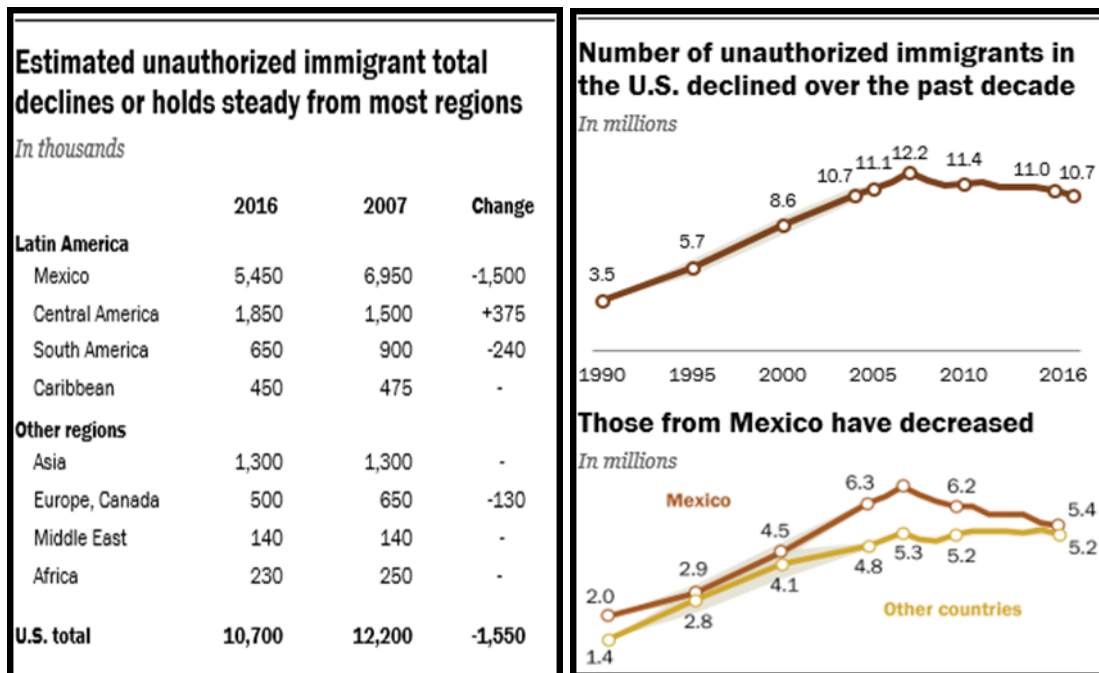
4) Unauthorized/undocumented immigrants

One concern in any discussion about immigration is the presence of unauthorized (i.e., “undocumented”) immigrants in the U.S. There are 10.7 million unauthorized immigrants living in the United States with the largest group, about half, from Mexico. The number of people caught at the U.S.-Mexico border while trying to cross illegally generally rises and falls from month to month. However, the Pew Research Center reports that more Mexican immigrants returned to their home country from the U.S. than migrated to the U.S. in the past eight years. While Mexicans remain the largest undocumented group, the number of unauthorized immigrants from Central America has increased to 1.9 million over the past decade, followed by those from Asia, South America, Europe, Canada, the Caribbean, and Africa. Some of these unauthorized immigrants crossed the U.S. border illegally, while others arrived on temporary legal visas but stayed past their deadlines.

According to the Pew Research Center, there are fewer unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. than a decade ago, and most have lived in the U.S. for at least a decade. Eight million are working or looking for work and are parents to more than 5 million children who live with them. Most unauthorized immigrants live in just six states, Texas included. (minicourses@pewresearch.org)

Two categories of unauthorized immigrants in the U.S., have had some legal protection until now and have been eligible to work under two government programs. DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) applies to the nearly **700,000** unauthorized young adults who were brought to the U.S. as children and have applied for DACA protection. The second program, Temporary Protected Status (TPS), applies primarily to the **195,000** Central American immigrants from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti, whose countries the U.S. government deemed dangerous because of natural disasters or conflict. In 2017-18 the administration ended Temporary Protected Status for thousands of Haitians and Nicaraguans who have been living in the US following environmental disasters in their home countries, as well as for Hondurans, Nepalis, and Salvadorans with similar status,

leaving hundreds of thousands in a virtual “no man’s land.”



Given all the difficulties of immigration, the question remains: “Why do people come?” Suzanne Gamboa, an NBC News reporter, wrote on June 20, 2018: “Immigrants from the Northern Triangle of Central America—El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras—seek escape from corruption, weak and unstable government institutions and political turmoil. These conditions make it difficult to combat the gangs and violence perpetrated upon innocent people by the transnational gangs, such as MS-13 and the 18th Street Gang (both founded in Los Angeles) as well as drug cartels and criminal organizations that are documented as being horrifically violent and hold neighborhoods and cities in a grip of fear that often includes police.” She further reported that Jason Marczak, the Director of the Atlantic Council’s Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center, has said, “People will come because they are trying to survive!”

Although discussion of immigration tends to focus on refugees and undocumented immigrants, it is important to remember that this is only part of the immigration picture. The American Immigration Council’s Fact Sheet “Immigrants in Texas,” (<https://americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/immigrants-in-texas>) reveals that over a third of all immigrants in Texas are naturalized U.S. citizens; immigrants make up more than a fifth of the labor force in Texas; they have contributed tens of billions of dollars in taxes; as consumers, immigrants add tens of billions of dollars to Texas’ economy; and immigrant entrepreneurs in Texas generate billions of dollars in business revenue.

A *Dallas Observer* article of February 21, 2017, by Joe Pappalardo, presents five surprising facts about immigrants in the Metroplex. A bipartisan group of mayors and business leaders with the Partnership for a New America Economy highlighted the positive influence on our local economy and reasons why business owners and politicians are eager for immigration reform that preserves the economic benefit of immigration in DFW.

1. The percentage of immigrants in DFW is less than 20% of the population.

Dallas-Fort Worth Metro Area

Immigrant Residents	Immigrant Share of Population
1,233,624	17.7%
Immigrant Taxes Paid (2014)	Immigrant Spending Power (2014)
\$8.4B	\$25.5B
Immigrant Entrepreneurs	Immigrant Share Rank Among Largest Metro Areas
86,926	#15

2. After construction, office workers account for the second biggest immigrant work force.

Top Five Industries by Share of Immigrant Workers

46.3%	Construction
34.3%	Administrative Support
33.2%	General Services
31.4%	Tourism, Hospitality, and Recreation
29.7%	Manufacturing

3. The percentage of immigrants with graduate degrees is nearly the same as the native-born population in DFW.

Workforce Education	Foreign-Born Population	Native-Born Population
Less Than High School	39.4%	8.3%
High School & Some College	35.2%	56.8%
Bachelor's Degree	14.2%	23.5%
Graduate Degree	11.2%	11.4%

4. Most immigrants here are of working age. (Working age people are the ones who contribute to entitlement programs, rather than the ones who use them)

Age Group	Foreign-Born Population Share	Native-Born Population Share
0-24	15.2%	40.5%
25-64	77.0%	48.7%
65+	7.8%	10.8%

5. Immigrants may be crucial to the future of American healthcare.

Open healthcare jobs to unemployed healthcare workers	6:1
Doctors who were educated abroad	25.6%
Psychiatrists who were educated abroad	30.7%
Nurses who are foreign-born	18.4%
Health aides who are foreign-born	19.4%

Unit Discussion Questions

1. Compare the differences in the terms *immigrant*, *alien*, *unauthorized immigrant*, *asylum seeker*, and *refugee*.
2. Analyze the U.S. Immigration policy focus and the national and state immigration position statement focus of the LWV and LWV Texas as to compatibility or disagreement.
3. Discuss and predict the impact of the current administration's executive orders/policy changes on immigration in Texas.
4. Synthesize a solution to the challenge of the 700,000 DACA and 195,000 TPS immigrants who may ease to be in the protected programs.

Looking to get more involved with the League? Where do your interests lie? The League has long relied on committees of members to explore issues such as education, health care, and the environment, and on League volunteers to work on basic League functions such as voter education, voter registration, candidate forums, and fundraising. The January Voter will discuss committee work in more detail, but as 2018 draws to a close, please consider what interests brought you to the League and where you would like to be more involved in your League in 2019.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

We are the League of Women Voters of Tarrant County (LWVTC), one of the hundreds of local Leagues across the nation whose members — men and women — are committed to Making Democracy Work.

Our nonpartisan political organization encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. LWV does NOT support or oppose any political party or any candidate. Your membership automatically enrolls you in LWV-Texas and LWVUS at no additional cost and provides publications from all three.

Mail your membership application, dues, and contributions to:

LWVTC, P. O. Box 100175, Fort Worth, TX 76185 or enroll online at <http://lwtarrantcounty.org/join.html>.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Basic Membership:

- \$75/yr **Regular** full voting member
- \$115/yr **Family** (two members in one household)
- \$5/yr **Student**

Or consider one of the following:

Supporting Membership:

- \$100/yr **Sustaining** Membership: Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- \$150/yr **Advocate** Membership: Carrie Chapman Catt
- \$200/yr **Patron** Membership: Mary McLeod Bethune
- \$300/yr **Benefactor** Membership: Eleanor Roosevelt

THE VOTER NEWSLETTER BY U.S. MAIL

- \$10/yr (*online VOTER is no additional cost*)

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ City/Zip: _____

Phone: (Home) _____ (Work) _____ (Mobile) _____

Would you like to attend one of our Unit meetings? If so, please indicate which Unit would best suit your needs.

- Arlington Area Downtown Fort Worth Area Northeast Tarrant County
- South/Southwest Tarrant County

JANUARY CALENDAR

January 5 ~ Volunteer Deputy Registrar training, 2-3 p.m., Southwest Regional Library, 4001 Library Lane, Fort Worth 76109. You must preregister for this event (see page 2)

January 14 ~ Board meeting, 5:30 p.m., conference room at League office

January 2018 ~ Units - Topic: Immigration (see pages 3-8 of Voter)

January 15 ~ NE/Mid-Cities Unit Meeting; 6:30 PM, Barnes & Noble in the Shops at NE Mall; Melbourne Rd. next to Best Buy; Reservations suggested. Call Carolyn Kitchens, 817-312-6872, for information

January 17 ~ Fort Worth Downtown Lunch Unit; NOON, Trinity Terrace, 1600 Texas Street; Blue Spire Room, Reservations suggested but not required. Lunch is optional, cost is \$16.payable by cash or check made out to Marjorie Montgomery only. Call Marjorie Montgomery, 817-885-8372 for reservation.

January 17 ~ South/Southwest Dinner Unit; 6 PM, New Location: La Madeleine on Hulen at I-20, in the shopping center. Reservations suggested. Call Nancy Stevens at 817-637-9524 for information.

January 21 ~ Arlington Area Unit; 7 PM, Fielder Museum, 1616 W Abram, Arlington.

February 15 ~ LWVTC 99th anniversary luncheon, Joe T. Garcia's Restaurant

~ we are on the web! ~
www.lwvtarrantcounty.org

All Members and Guests are welcome and encouraged to attend any League event.
League Office Hours: USUALLY M, W, F / 8:30 AM.—12:30 pm
Please call ahead while we are on holiday hours

Welcome New LWV-TC members:

Thanks to renewing LWV-TC members:

Margaret DeMoss

Reed Bilz