



The Voter

VALUES Discussion Important Basis for Immigration Study Consensus

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What values should form the basis of immigration policy in the United States?

This is the key question that the League of Women Voters US asked local Leagues to address during our participation in the national Immigration Study. "What has been missing from much of the debate on immigration policy is articulation of the values that should form the core of our policies," says the LWVUS in its background material for the

WHEN: Saturday, December 1st, 10:00-noon

WHERE: Hospice of San Joaquin, 3888 Pacific Ave., Stockton

Note: Hospice is immediately north of Central Methodist Church. It has a separate parking lot which can only be accessed when going north on Pacific.

Refreshments will be provided.

Join us!

Study. The local Immigration Study Committee is hosting a meeting that seeks to elicit these values from our membership. Members will be asked a series of questions focusing on issues such as whether ethnic and cultural diversity are important to immigration decisions, what place family unification, business needs, political asylum, economic hardship should have in US policy. These questions will be the basis of a lively discussion. Your

Holiday Party: December 11th

How to contact the League:
 LWVSJC
 P.O. Box 4548
 Stockton, CA 95204
 209-465-0293
 Email: LWVSJC@gmail.com
 www.sjc.lwvnet.org

Once again the holiday season is here—so it must be time for our Holiday Party!

Our annual holiday gathering will once again be at Dee's home in Meadow Lake in Stockton. Dee will provide the ham for dinner and League members are invited to bring a dish to share. This has always been an evening to enjoy—good food and good companions. *AND—*



Time: 12/11, 5:30 p.m.

Place: Dee's
 5921 Widgeon Court/
 Stockton

What to Bring:
 A dish to share and a wrapped White Elephant Gift

Please RSVP: 477-3628

there's the White Elephant exchange! What a hoot! You will marvel at the things that some of your fellow League members have received and are willing to "re-gift" anonymously!

The Holiday Party is always a lot of fun. Join us for a great evening.

To help Dee plan for seating, it would be very helpful if you would rsvp. Thanks!

President's Message — Ann Pentecost

The Holiday season is upon us. I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving.

To get in a festive mood, plan to join fellow League members at the Holiday Party on December 11th. It is always a fun evening, with good food and good company. Besides, the White Elephant Gift Exchange is a classic source of entertainment!

Just a note about the party information: since our newsletter is now online, we are taking a more cautious approach to giving out the full names with addresses of League members. Dee okayed the information we put in the Voter. If you need any further information, please consult your member directory or contact the League via telephone or email.

This Voter has a new feature: a book review by one of our Board members,

Jane Wagner-Tyack. Jane thought it was a book that could be of interest to League members. Let us know what you think. We would welcome contributions of a similar nature.

The Immigration Study is the prime focus of this issue. I hope many of you will participate in the Values Discussion on December 1st. This study is on an important and very complex issue—and one of local interest. We need to have our voices heard in this study. Join us on 12/1 as well as on January 12th for the Consensus meeting.

2008 will be a year of elections—and voter services. Even while we are focusing on the Immigration Study, we will be gearing up for the February election. Your participation would be welcome.

Happy Holidays!

LWVSJC News

WATER PRIVATIZATION LAWSUIT SETTLEMENT SWELLS LWVSJC BANK ACCOUNT

The City of Stockton settled with the plaintiffs in the water privatization law suit. The LWVSJC was one of the plaintiffs and, as such, we received \$2475. "This has been a legal and moral victory" said Ann Pentecost, League President. "It has also been a financial boon to the League."

The Board has not decided yet what to do with this pleasantly unexpected windfall. The Board plans to review its revenue and expenditure accounts in December to help determine the disposition of these funds. The Board may opt to add the money to our operating revenue or add it temporarily to our Ed Fund account to increase interest from the account.

BOARD NEWS

Carolyn Pometta resigned from the Board due to increased work commitments. Carolyn was always willing to volunteer (kickoff social, yard sale, etc.) which was much appreciated. She will continue to be our liaison to the SJ Commission on the Status of Women. Thanks, Carolyn.

Diane Park, longtime liaison between the League and CCCoS, has resigned from her off Board position in that capacity. Diane helped us understand the intricacies of public interest lawsuits and the appropriateness of pass through donations to CCCoS from the Ed Fund. She kept us informed about the suit's progress. This was a big undertaking. Thank you, Diane!

LWVSJC Board of Directors for 2006-2007

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Nominating Committee

Dee Matteucci, Chair; Tandy Gotschall, Sally Miller and two Board members to be appointed

Helen Pearson Award Committee

Vickie Markarian, Chair; Fran Abbott, Sylvia Kothe

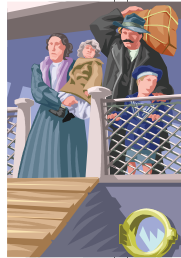
Federal Immigration Policy And Proposed Reforms

Eight background papers on immigration issues can be found on the national League website: www.lwv.org For Members section. Excerpts from one of these papers is published here to give our members an idea of the issues and their complexity. Members are encouraged to seek out the complete documents.

OVERVIEW: FEDERAL IMMIGRATION POLICY AND PROPOSED REFORMS

By Deborah Macmillan, LWV of East Windsor-Highstown, NJ, LWVUS Immigration Study Committee

Federal immigration policy applies directly to anyone who has immigrated or who wishes to immigrate to the U.S. It does not apply to persons born in the 50 states, the District of Columbia or U.S. territories.



Federal policy determines:

- Who may immigrate to the U.S.
- How or if they may become citizens

Legal Immigrants and categories under which they may enter the U.S.

Immigrants who enter the U.S. legally today are most likely to do so as a spouse or child of a citizen or permanent resident (or as another family member). The next largest group enters under an employment-based preference or as a refugee/asylee. Diversity immigrants, the last group of any size, come from many countries under a "lottery" system without respect to the number entering from their countries via other visa groups.

In 1965, a major revision of immigration law set quotas for these various groups. These quotas indicate the primary foci for U.S. Immigration policy:

- Employer need
 - Family reunification
 - Human rights
 - Diversity of country of origin
- The 1965 legislation eliminated the 1924

country-based quotas heavily weighted to immigration from Germany, Great Britain and Ireland, opening immigration to all countries. The 1965 diversity requirement set a maximum for each country of 7% of the total immigration in a given year eventually leading to de facto quotas. As a result, legal immigration from Mexico, China, India and the Philippines, the countries that send us the most immigrants, is markedly lower than it would be if entry from a country were proportionate to those who wanted to come.

Temporary Visitors

Tourists, students and guest workers are also determined by federal policy. Temporary work quotas are complicated. The 2005 quota for skilled professional workers was 65,000 but the actual number was roughly 124,000.

Temporary visitors should have little relevance for permanent immigration but 25-40 percent of unauthorized immigrants are individuals who have overstayed temporary visas.

Employment visas and trade agreements

Employment is a major goal for both immigration and visitor policy, but trade agreements and immigration laws and policies can be spectacularly out of sync. For example, NAFTA contributed to the substantial increase in trade between the U.S. and Mexico, while immigration from Mexico to the U.S. grew more restricted and more problematic.

Quotas as Policy

Numeric quotas are indicative of the importance of family unification, em-

ployment (mostly skilled) and diversity. These quotas indicate a desire to limit immigration in order to minimize the disruption of large-scale or uncontrolled immigration. Much of the current focus on control stems in part from the very visible increase in immigration over the last several decades. This is true even though the percentage of immigrants today in terms of current population figures is no larger than it was in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Covert Border Crossings

Originally, groups of immigrants entering this country covertly was predominantly male and highly transient. As illegal border crossing has

become more difficult, return trips have decreased and migrating groups include entire families. As a result, more children of unauthorized immigrants have been born in the U.S. and permanent residence has become a more likely prospect for their families.

Naturalization/Rights of Naturalized citizens

Immigrants who wish to become citizens may do so through the naturalization process. The process requires

- 5 years of residence (3 for spouses of citizens or members of the military)
- The ability to read, write and speak simple words and phrases in English
- A basic knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of American history and principles of U.S. government

An immigrant seeking naturalization

(Continued on page 4)

Immigration Policy & Proposed Reforms

(Continued from page 3)

must have maintained good moral character for 5 years.

The 'good moral character' clause will generally prevent naturalization by those who have been arrested or convicted of a crime in the 5 years before application; who have purposefully withheld child-support payments; who have failed to file their tax returns; who are "habitual drunkards" or who have lied to receive government benefits.



Rights of other immigrants

Immigrants who have not gone through the naturalization process, as well as unauthorized immigrants and immigrants legalized in the 1986 amnesty program, have many of the same rights as native-born citizens. Only citizens may vote in federal elections. Few jurisdictions allow non-citizens to vote.

Permanent (legal) residents may sponsor immediate relatives (spouses and children under 21) and other family members, though at a lower priority than citizens.

Since 1996, permanent residents other than refugees have faced increasing restrictions with respect to access to the courts and use of social services including Medicaid and Social Security.

Rights of U.S. Citizens by Birth

Children born in this country are U.S. citizens, with all the rights of other U.S. citizens. This includes U.S.-born children of unauthorized immigrants. The first sentence of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution reads as follows:

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State

wherein they reside.

Legal challenges have been difficult but procedural challenges may have more impact. For example, because proof of citizenship is now required for a child to receive treatment under Medicaid, treatment could be denied to a new born infant until proof of citizenship is verified, a process that could take several weeks.

CHANGES SINCE 2001

In 2002, the Patriot Act extended the criteria for foreign-born entrance (or denial of entrance) to include security and terrorist concerns, health grounds, criminal history, indigence and previous removal. People judged to be 'anarchists and political extremists' have been excluded since the assassination of President McKinley by a Polish anarchist in 1901.

In 2005, the Sensenbrenner bill provided for 700 miles of security fencing along the Mexican border. The fencing has been largely unfunded.

National Language

The United States has never had an official language. The issue has been raised off and on since we first became a nation. Each time it has been rejected. We do, however, require most immigrants to speak and understand simple English in order to become citizens.

PROPOSED REFORMS

Pathway to citizenship: Congress will likely create some path to citizenship for the large number of unauthorized immigrants currently in the U.S. The legislation will probably be coupled with policies and regulations intended to limit unauthorized immigration in the future.

Amnesty for Children: Overall amnesty similar to that in 1986 seems unlikely. Amnesty for individuals educated in our

schools whose parents brought them to this country when they were too young to have a say in the decision to enter without documents is a more likely reform.

Changed status for Children of Unauthorized Immigrants: several proposed amendments to the 14th Amendment's citizenship clause would give automatic citizenship to a native-born child only if at least one parent were a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

Increased Quotas: Increased quotas where pressure is the highest could substantially cut the number of new unauthorized immigrants, especially if visa applications were processed promptly. Mexico, Latin America, the Caribbean, India and China would benefit. Increased quotas for temporary workers and low-skilled workers seem possible.

State and Local Legislation and Enforcement: Local jurisdictions, both state and municipal, have attempted to legislate reforms when federal control is perceived as weak or absent. They seem aimed at limiting local expenses or at seeking redistribution of incomes to cover local expenses. At the same time, some in the federal government are seeking to push back responsibilities to the local level.

These local efforts run counter to the norm established in the late 1800s, at the time of the creation of the INS to concentrate responsibility and action at the federal level and to make immigration policy uniform across the country. That uniformity will be at issue if there is a move away from federal to local/state immigration laws and policies.

Border Enforcement Issues

This study brief was published in the Nation Voter and is based on the LWVUS Immigration Study Committee background paper, "Federal Immigration Policy: Enforcement Issues" by Barbara Margerum.

Brief History

Border control received growing attention in the 1970s after the US terminated the *bracero* program and implemented per-country limits on legal immigration. The 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) greatly increased Border Patrol funding. In 1996, Congress passed the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act, drastically increasing full-time active-duty Border Patrol agents in areas with the most illegal crossings, adding more barriers and expanding the automated fingerprint system. IIRIRA also mandated a system for tracing entries and exits of students and foreign-born visitors to be fully operational by 2003.

After September 11, 2001, immigration functions became a key element of national security in the US PATRIOT Act. In 2003, the INS was abolished; its func-

tions were transferred to the Dept. of Homeland Security. In 2006, Congress passed the Secure Fence Act authorizing 700 miles of fencing along the U.S.– Mexico border.

Employer Sanctions

Employer sanctions have been an important, but not very effective, element of border enforcement since 1986. Most employers consistently require necessary documentation; unauthorized immigrants increasingly use falsified documents. Employers must check Social Security numbers with the Social Security Administration, a process that can take months.

Basic Pilot, a federal online document verification system, is available but seldom used.

Enforcement Costs and Benefits

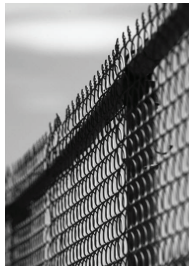
In the two decades since passage of IRCA, the Border Patrol's budget has grown by more than 500% and its per-

sonnel by more than 200%. Despite that, it is estimated that 10.3 billion unauthorized immigrants now live in the US, with inflows averaging well over half a million per year.

Construction of San Diego's triple fencing in 1993-94 resulted in a drop in that sector's undocumented immigrant apprehensions (450,152 in 1994 vs. 100,000 in 2002). However, during that same period, the Tucson sector's apprehensions soared 342%.

The Undocumented Population

Large numbers of undocumented population cross the U.S.-Mexico border illegally but a significant number enter legally, overstay their visas and become illegal. DHS lacks funding and technology to do exit monitoring. Many undocumented Mexican citizens are persuaded by Border Patrol to return—but non-Mexicans are referred to a court system. Few keep their appointments and detention facilities are inadequate.



LWVC STILL FOCUSED ON REDISTRICTING

The League of Women Voters of California and its coalition partners continue to meet with legislators to press for placing a redistricting reform measure on the February 2008 ballot.

In August, the League issued a press release outlining its stance on the issue:

"We support a redistricting process with three major components: an independent commission that will represent the interests of all Californians; an open process that invites participation by everyone interested; and fair criteria for drawing districts," said Janis R. Hirohama, presi-

dent of the League of Women Voters of California. Recognizing that redistricting reform will need an amendment to the state constitution, LWVC and California Common Cause support the legislative process as the way to place a reform proposal before the people. With input from all corners, a legislative bill can be improved and honed in ways that an initiative cannot.

LWVC took further action in September when it analyzed shortcomings in Speaker Nunez's proposed legislation:

"We commend the Speaker for being committed to the issue and moving forward. However, important changes are needed in order to address our concerns with the proposal. The proposal's selection process gives the Legislature too much unfettered ability to cherry-pick the commissioners. Towards that end, we recommend that the legislative picks must come from a screened pool of applicants. We also believe that the current list of disqualifications is inadequate to ensure that commissioners are free of ties to elected officials."

LWVUS Highlights

National Voter

LWVUS' National Voter may go online—like us! The LWVUS is seeking input from its members (you!) with the email duplicated below:

“Some of you have told us to remove you from *The National Voter* mailing list because you prefer to read the magazine online at our Web site. You have cited environmental issues as one of your main concerns.

We are pleased to report that we are exploring a way to deliver *The National Voter* to you electronically. In order to make electronic delivery a financially viable option, we need to have at least 6% of our subscribers sign up to receive an electronic version in place of the printed magazine. We will continue to print high-quality copies of our acclaimed magazine.

If you opt to receive an electronic copy, you would help achieve the following:

- Help protect our environment and preserve our natural resources by decreasing our use of paper, inks, the energy needed to drive the printing process and the transportation costs of mail delivery.
- You would receive the latest issue in your e-mail as soon as it is ready to go out. No need to wait for the U.S. Postal Service to deliver; this currently takes up to three weeks in some jurisdictions. No more copies lost in the mail, either.
- Support the League's long-term efforts to advance technologically by increasing our use of electronic communication to replace paper-based communi-

cation.

- Reduce the cost of postage for *The National Voter*. The U.S. Postal Service increased our postage by a whopping 37 percent in May 2007.”



LWVSJC went to an online Voter in October of this year for many of the same reasons the national League has cited: less environmental impact, enhanced availability and cost reduction.

If you haven't responded to LWVUS re an online National Voter, we urge you to do so.

Membership Information Online

A note from LWVUS for our Members:

“Please encourage members to visit the “Login” section of the LWVUS Web site to update their own contact information in the LWVUS database. If a member has previously registered (i.e., set up a password), they can log in and use the “Update Profile” option on the left side of the page to update their address, telephone number, e-mail address and preferences about how they want to be contacted by the LWVUS. If a member has not previously registered, they may do so on the right side of the “Login” area. Please note that members who have not yet entered their e-mail addresses into the database may still use this process; they should follow the prompts after entering their first and last names.”

LWVUS ADVOCACY

Leagues File *Amicus* Brief in Indiana Voter ID Case

The LWVs of Indiana and Indianapolis and the LWVUS filed a joint *amicus* brief in the Supreme Court case that will determine the constitutionality of an Indiana law requiring voters to present photo ID at polling places. The brief details experiences of a number of Indiana voters whose votes were not counted or whose rights were denied, and points out that each and every individual has a fundamental right to vote.

League Urges Congress to Support Stronger Environmental Standards

The League urged the House and Senate this week to support both fuel economy and renewable electricity standards. The League believes that the two provisions, together, should form energy legislation in this Congress.

The League's letter said, in part, “Global climate change is one of the most serious threats to the environment, health and economy of our nation. Recent scientific studies show that global warming is already causing environmental changes that will have significant global economic and social impacts. Moreover, U.S. energy policy needs to be put on a new footing. Inefficient and excessive energy consumption is polluting our air, undermining our economic competitiveness and threatening our national security.”

Of Interest to Members

REVIEW

The End of America by Naomi Wolf

Reviewed by Jane Wagner-Tyack

Most Americans would be deeply offended at the suggestion that there are any similarities between the U.S. in the first decade of the 21st century and Nazi Germany in the 1930s. A new book by Naomi Wolf urges us not to be so complacent. In *The End of America: Letter of Warning to a Young Patriot*, Wolf shows alarming parallels between 20th century totalitarianism and America since 9/11.

Wolf identifies ten steps that occur in shutting a democracy down and shows how they have been employed by dictators from Lenin and Mussolini to the Chinese Communist Party and Chile's Pinochet, usually through laws passed by compliant legislative bodies.

First, leaders invoke a terrifying internal and external threat (e.g., international terrorism), then they establish prisons (like Guantánamo) where people can be held and without the right of habeas corpus. Leaders then develop a paramilitary force. Wolf posits that Blackwater, "the world's largest private security force [which] is available outside the scrutiny of Congress" could fit this bill.

The move toward dictatorship involves surveiling ordinary citizens, infiltrating citizen's groups, and arbitrarily detaining and releasing citizens. Wolf cites warrant-less e-mail and phone monitoring, reviewing millions of private bank transactions in 2006 without warrants or subpoenas and American citizens who have been detained, searched, and released under the authority of the USA PATRIOT Act as well as examples of actions to curtail the right to peaceable assembly.

Another strategy is to restrict the press. In addition to listing attempts to silence reporters, Wolf discusses the Bush Administration's reliance on false news and faked documents.

Finally, a leader seeking totalitarian control will subvert the rule of law. Wolf discusses signing statements and other legislative maneuvers.

Election laws are also vulnerable. "In trusting that 'the pendulum will swing' when it is time for the votes to be counted, we are like a codependent woman with an abusive boyfriend; surely next time he will do what is right."

Emphasizing that this is not a partisan issue, Wolf references both the liberal American Freedom Campaign and the conservative American Freedom Agenda. (An eight-minute American Freedom Agenda clip on YouTube covers most of Wolf's points.)

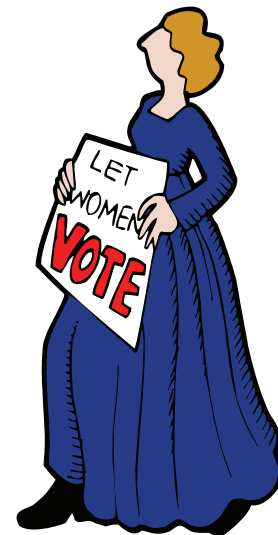
Wolf's feminism (she authored the 1991 international bestseller *The Beauty Myth*) is joined here by a passionate political activism. She shows how the founders of the American Republic understood the importance of vigilance. They understood that democracy was fragile, vulnerable to any leader able to subvert the Constitution's carefully constructed checks and balances. Wolf challenges us to "stand our ground and fight for our nation, and take up the banner the Founders asked us to carry."

With Sympathy

LWVSJC extends sincere condolences to former League member Peggy Guttieri on the passing of her husband Bill. Bill was Director of Catholic Charities Stockton Diocese and directed programs over a six-county area. Musically gifted and deeply contemplative, he is mourned by his family and many friends in Stockton and the region.

Family suggests that those interested may make donations to Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America or to a charity of your choice.

Peggy has moved to Ohio. If you would like her new address, please contact the League office or email.





League of Women Voters
of San Joaquin County
P.O. Box 4548
Stockton, CA 95204

www.sjc.lwvnet.org

CALENDAR

What VALUES should underlie Immigration Policy? A Discussion

Saturday, December 1, 2007 10:00 a.m.—Noon

Hospice of San Joaquin, 3888 Pacific Avenue, Stockton (directions on Page 1)

Holiday Party for League Members

Tuesday, December 11, 2007; 5:30 p.m., 5921 Widgeon Court/Stockton (Meadow Lake)

White Elephant gift exchange and potluck will get the season off to a fun start.

Immigration Study Consensus

Saturday, January 12, 2008 10:00 a.m.

Place TBA

LWVC Leadership Council is scheduled for May 16-18, 2008 in Sacramento.

LWVUS Convention: June 13-17, 2008, Portland, Oregon

Board Meetings

All League members are welcome to attend Board meetings. Board meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.