



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE UNITED STATES

*Immigration
Study*

Presentation by LWVCC member
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LWVCC CONSENSUS IN JANUARY, 2008

Background information available

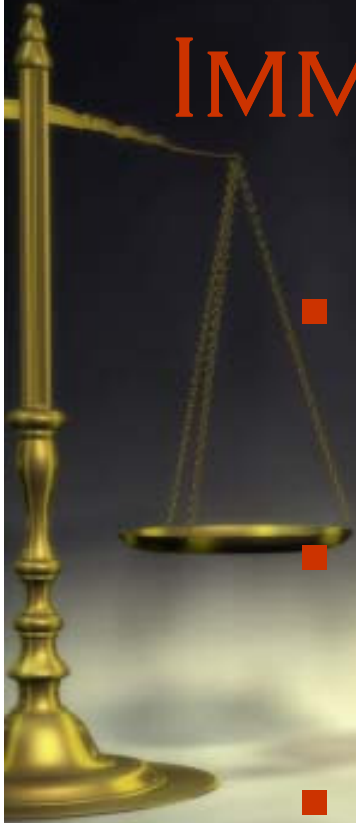
- in National Voter
- www.lwv.org



WE ARE A NATION
GOVERNED BY LAWS

WE ARE A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

- Religious Persecution
- Freedom from Oppression
- Economic Motivation



ECONOMIC MOTIVATION



- Strongest Motivation
- Levels have ebbed and flowed based upon our economic cycles
- Significant Restrictions introduced in 1920's, however . . .



CURRENT VOLUME IS SECOND ONLY TO THAT OF A HUNDRED YEARS AGO

- Jobs to be had and need for labor
- Shortage of unskilled labor

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS OR ISN'T DOING

- 2007 employer applying for unskilled worker would need to wait minimum of 4-5 years
- Typical unskilled worker has no legal way to enter U.S. to seek employment unless sponsored by an employer



GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY

- Led to many businesses hiring unauthorized immigrant workers
- U.S. agriculture policy is inadvertently contributing to illegal immigration





EFFORTS TO KEEP OUT
ILLEGAL ALIENS —
SUCH AS FENCE
BUILDING - HAVE BEEN
A FAILURE



EMPLOYER
VERIFICATION
IS A FAILURE

EMPLOYER SANCTIONS



- Falsified papers
- Discrimination

MORE \$ FOR BORDER CONTROL



Increased dangers lead to increased stays

MARKET BASED SOLUTION

- 5,000 visas issued year round unskilled workers
- Economy requires 400-500 thousand such workers





WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE
FLOW OF IMMIGRATION WAS
STOPPED?

LWVUS QUESTION 1

Federal immigration laws should or should not take into consideration criteria such as,

- a) Ethnic and Cultural Diversity
- b) Economic, Business and Service Industry Employment Needs,
- c) Environmental Impact/Sustainability,
- d) Family Reunification of authorized Immigrants & citizens with spouses and minor children
- e) History of Criminal Activity
- f) Political Persecution in home countries/humanitarian crises
- g) Immigrant health and age**
- h) Rights of all workers to safe working conditions and livable wages**
- i) Rights of families to remain together**
- j) Rights of all individuals (including illegal aliens) in the U.S. to Fair Treatment Under the Law (Fair Hearing, Right to Counsel, Right of Appeal and Humane Treatment)**
- k) Education and Training**

LWVUS QUESTION 2

Unauthorized Immigrants currently in the U.S;
should be treated as follows:

- a) Deported
- b) Some deported/some allowed to earn legal status, based on length of residence in U.S.
- c) Some Deported/Some allowed to earn legal status, based on needs of U.S. employers
- d) All allowed to earn legal status by paying taxes, learning English, studying civics etc.
- e) If deported, assess fines before possible re-entry**
- f) Assess Fines before allowed to earn legal adjustment of status**

LWVUS QUESTION 3

Federal Immigration laws should provide an efficient, expeditious system for legal entry into the U.S. for immigrants who are:

- a) Immediate family members joining family member already admitted for legal permanent residence.
- b) Meeting established labor needs
- c) Entering as Students
- d) Being persecuted in home country

LWVUS QUESTION 4A

In order to deal more effectively with unauthorized immigrants, Federal immigration law should include:

**Social Security Card or Other
National Identification Card with
Secure Identifiers for All Persons
Residing in the U.S.**



LWVUS QUESTION 4B

Federal immigration law dealing with unauthorized immigrants should be enforced by:

- a) Fences and surveillance at Borders
- b) Increased Personnel at Land Air and Sea Entry Points
- c) More effective tracking of persons with visiting visas until they leave the country
- d) Verification documents , such as green cards and work permits with Secure Identifiers
- e) Improved technology to facilitate employer verification of employee visa status
- f) Improved technology for sharing data between Federal Agencies
- g) A reliable program permitting Immigrant workers to go in and out of the U.S. to meet seasonal labor needs
- h) Significant fines for employers who fail to verify the authenticity of work documents of immigrant employees

LWVUS QUESTION 5

Federal immigration law should address and balance the long-term federal financial benefit from immigrants with the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.

CONSENSUS OR NO CONSENSUS

LWVUS QUESTION 6

Federal immigration law should be coordinated with U.S. foreign policy to pro-actively help improve economies, education and job opportunities, and living conditions of nations with large emigrating populations.

CONSENSUS OR NO CONSENSUS

