



IN LEAGUE REPORTER
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ST. LOUIS
8706 Manchester Road, Ste. 104, St. Louis, MO 63144
314-961-6869
www.lwvstl.org
January, 2008

From the President:

Dear Members and Friends,

If I go back far enough I guess my forefathers were pagans at one point or another. Maybe that is why I have an inner urge to start celebrating the new year during the winter solstice. I like to fancy that longer days with more light symbolize renewed hope and opportunity---another chance to get it right. Of course we still have to address the problems of winter but, with less heat and more light, that also fits into the resolve-to-do-better mindset.

For the League of Women Voters this includes defining our stand on U.S. immigration policy. Do we have all the answers? Of course not! The more we read and hear the more we realize that this is an issue of staggering complexity. However, as citizens and League members we do have an obligation to give it our informed consideration and to weigh in on the public discourse with a moderate, rational, humane position.

Do make an effort to attend the January unit meetings and participate in the discussions.

Whatever your celebratory persuasion, I wish you warm, wonderful holidays and an even better new year.

Doris Buzzell

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CALENDAR

Unit schedule for January (Immigration Consensus) follows on page 3

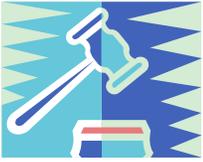
December 24, 25, 31, January 1	Office Closed
Weds., January 9, 2008 6:00 PM	Board Meeting
Weds., January 16, 2008 9:00 AM	Intl. Relations—County Libr NOTE: day change and time
Weds., January 16, 2008 1:00 PM	Env. Quality Committee meeting, League office
Sat., January 19, 2008 9:00 AM	Education Committee meeting, League office
Weds., January 23, 2008 7:00 PM	MO Non-Partisan Court Plan Meeting (pg. 2 for details)

Tues., February 5, 2008

Presidential Primary—don’t forget to



ALL-MEMBER MEETING



What's up with the Missouri Non Partisan Court Plan? Possible upcoming legislative issues Information and more..!!

Speakers: Judge Thea Sherry & Judge Mary Pat Schroeder

Date: Wednesday, January 23, 2008

**Location: World Trade Center, 121 South Meramec, Clayton,
1st floor training room**

Time: 7:00 pm

Sponsor: League of Women Voters of St. Louis

Cost: free (Information, directions or carpool information: LWV office at 314-961-6869)

League Members---Bring Your Friends!



EQ Committee - will meet the third Wed., Jan 16, 1 p.m. at the League Office. We will plan for extension of our plan to give further support for the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement program and discuss future efforts. Is anyone interested in night meeting(s) of this group? Let me know.

---Betty Maag (call the office for more info)

The LWV Housing Committee...

Springs forward in March 2008 with an exciting and informative panel discussion on eminent domain, gentrification, and affordable housing. Our panelists will consist of developers and community advocates from St. Louis City and County. In late summer or early fall, we will have a bus tour of housing development projects in both the City and County. Several organizations are interested in co-participating on these programs.

--Charlene Dummett, Chair



to everyone who helped with Winter Wonderland at Tilles Park:

Mary Beth Reynolds, Marj Courtney, Paula Souza, Arlene and Herb Nickels, Esther Clark and Elise and Denny Joerger and their grandsons, Drew and Paul.

It was wet and chilly, as we worked in the rain, but we always have a good time; and the League will receive a check for \$500 for our efforts.

--Barbara Elbrecht

JANUARY UNITS: IMMIGRATION STUDY FOR CONSENSUS

In this month's ILR, we have the consensus questions along with background notes done by the LWVUS study committee on pages 4-13.

Please read, digest, ponder, and decide how you will contribute to our unit discussions in January.

We value everyone's input. There are five units in our area, and I sincerely hope you will be able to attend at least one of the meetings.

---Judith Smart, Immigration Chair

For more info on meeting locations and directions, please call the League office.

UNIVERSITY CITY/CLAYTON*

Tuesday, January 8

9:15 a.m. coffee

9:30 a.m. meeting

Leader: Carol Portman

WEBSTER GROVES/KIRKWOOD*

Wednesday, January 9

9:30 a.m. meeting

Leader: Mary Long

CHESTERFIELD/CREVE COEUR*

Thursday, January 10

9:30 a.m. meeting

Leaders: Jean Srenco and Marion Stuvland

WEBSTER GROVES/KIRKWOOD

Thursday, January 10

7:00 p.m.

Leader: Esther Clark

LEAGUE OFFICE

8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104

314-961-6869

ST. LOUIS CITY UNIT

Saturday, January 12

10:30 a.m.

Contact: Betty Ann Gilbert

Corner of Euclid and Washington, one block east of Kingshighway, one block south of Delmar

TRINITY CHURCH

Euclid and Washington

LWVUS Immigration Study Consensus Background and Discussion Questions

The following discussion questions may be used to help participants focus on the various viewpoints associated with the consensus questions and sub-questions. Brief background material has been provided for most of the questions.

Each question will be rated: High Priority, Lower Priority, Disagree or No Consensus

QUESTION 1. FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LAWS SHOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION CRITERIA SUCH AS:

a. Ethnic and cultural diversity (rate)

Background Information

From its founding, this country has been made up of a mixture of ethnic groups. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 denied entrance by race for the first time, while a 1924 law incorporated a quota system to limit immigrants from southern and eastern Europe. This system was broadly followed until 1965 when the quota system was eliminated. In recent years, large numbers of unauthorized/undocumented and authorized/documented immigrants have come to the U.S., especially from Mexico and Central America, to work and live, changing the demographics of large parts of the country

Discussion Questions

1. What contributions to American culture– such as food, art, music, language, literature, traditions, for instance – have been made by immigrants from different parts of the world?
2. What problems arise when immigrants retain their cultural traditions, stay connected to their native countries and continue to speak their native languages, rather than becoming integrated into and assimilated by the larger American culture?

b. Economic, business and service employment needs in the United States. (rate)

Background Information

Historically, large numbers of immigrants have come to this country for economic opportunity, and the U.S. economy has accommodated the expanding labor supply that today encompasses 1.5 million immigrants per year. With Americans retiring at increased rates, economists expect this expansion to continue. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 56 million new jobs will be created between 2002 and 2012. By 2010, nearly 43 percent of all job openings will require only minimal education.

Discussion Questions

1. Are immigrants necessary to bolster the current and future work force, or could those jobs be filled in other ways?
2. Should employers be required to pay Americans higher wages in order to reduce the need for foreign labor?

c. Environmental impact/sustainability (rate)

Background Information

Any increase in the population of the U.S. helps accelerate the continued expansion of the economy, which frequently creates conditions harmful to local environments. On the other hand, most major environmental impact issues have global impact and are not limited by borders.

Discussion Questions

1. Are you concerned that population growth due to immigration may have a serious negative impact on the environment?
2. Because most major environmental issues have global impact, how will curtailing immigration lessen environmental impact on the U.S.?

d. Family reunification of authorized immigrants and naturalized citizens with spouses and minor children (rate)

Background Information

Many believe that policies that facilitate the stability of families are in the best interest of both the immigrant families and the U.S. Naturalized citizens and legal permanent residents are more productive workers and more invested in their communities if their spouses and minor children are allowed to join them in the U.S. in a timely manner. However, this must be balanced against admitting persons with skills needed by U.S. businesses. Some people think that meeting the needs of the economy is more beneficial to the country as a whole than indirect benefits from family reunification.

Discussion Questions

1. What priority should be accorded to immigration policies that ensure family reunification?

e. History of criminal activity (rate)

Background Information

History of criminal activity generally indicates a propensity for crime, and crime is already a costly social and economic problem in the U.S. However, data show lower crime rates among immigrants than among native born.

Discussion Question

1. Is it fair that under current immigration law individuals' minor offenses that would be considered misdemeanors for American citizens can be grounds for exclusion or deportation of immigrants?
2. Should immigrants be held to the same legal standards and accorded the same rights as American citizens?

f. Humanitarian crises/political persecution in home countries (rate)

Background Information

Historically, Americans have prided themselves on providing safety to those fleeing persecution in their homelands. However, refugees rarely bring financial resources when they flee their homelands and may become financial burdens on their communities.

Discussion Questions

1. Do we have a continuing obligation to provide safety to those fleeing persecution in their homelands?
2. Should we accept fewer refugees because of concern that they could become a financial burden on their communities?

g. Immigrant characteristics: health and age. (rate)

Background Information

Federal law has historically included provisions for medical examinations to identify immigration applicants with inadmissible health-related conditions. The law requires medical examinations for all refugees and applicants applying for immigrant visas from outside the U.S. The list of communicable diseases that can make an applicant inadmissible include, among others, tuberculosis, HIV infections, Hansen's Disease and several sexually transmitted diseases. Age, on the other hand, has not been regulated, except to determine eligibility for a child as a minor in order to accompany a parent.

Discussion Questions

1. Should we refuse entrance to immigrants with serious communicable diseases that have been virtually eliminated in this country, even those that can be eliminated and/or controlled by modern medicine?
2. Should immigration policy give preference to relatively young and productive immigrants so that fewer older or retired immigrants are granted visas?

h. Rights of all workers to safe working conditions and liveable wage (rate)

Background Information

Many feel that ensuring safe working conditions and a liveable wage for all workers improves the country as a whole. Others are concerned that these improved conditions would make unauthorized immigration more appealing and exacerbate current border control problems.

Discussion Questions

1. Should Federal law limit immigrating workers to those who are guaranteed a job with safe working conditions and a liveable wage, taking into consideration that such a guarantee could increase costs to be passed on to consumers and that workers who are citizens would not have the same guarantee?

i. Rights of families to remain together (rate)

Background Information

The pull of family ties is one of the most powerful motivations for immigration. Keeping families intact reflects a core American value. Many believe that immigration policies that ignore this motivation unintentionally promote unauthorized immigration. Others believe that immigrants are aware of the possibility of a lengthy separation when they decide to emigrate.

Discussion Questions

1. Because immigration policies that ignore the pull of family ties unintentionally promote unauthorized immigration, should family reunification be an important priority for immigration reform?

2. Is long-term separation from immediate family members one of the costs that immigrants must be willing to pay when coming to the U.S.?

j. Rights of all individuals in U.S. to fair treatment under the law: fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal and humane treatment. (rate)

Background Information

The Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution forbids depriving any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law and denying any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws. Non-citizens must be accorded these constitutional rights, but many would not receive even these rights in their home countries.

Discussion Questions

1. Should immigrants, including unauthorized immigrants, be afforded this Fourteenth Amendment protection?

2. Do you agree that because many immigrants would not be granted the most basic rights in their own countries, they should not have the same legal protections as U.S. citizens?

k. Education and training (rate)

Background Information

Studies have shown that high skilled immigrants contribute more to the U.S. economy. However, while education and training are important, the U.S. badly needs workers with little or no education and training to fill jobs in manufacturing, service industries, agriculture, construction, and restaurants.

Discussion Questions

1. Should immigrants with specialized training and strong academic credentials receive priority admission?

2. Should workers with little or no education and training needed to fill jobs in manufacturing, service industries, agriculture, construction and restaurants and hospitality, be given a lower priority than highly skilled workers?

QUESTION 2: UNAUTHORIZED IMMIGRANTS CURRENTLY IN THE U.S. SHOULD BE TREATED AS FOLLOWS:

Background Information

Approximately 12 million immigrants currently live in the U.S. without authorization or have overstayed their visas. The question of giving these unauthorized immigrants some type of amnesty is dividing Congress and the country.

a. Deport unauthorized immigrants (rate)

Background Information

Many feel that because unauthorized immigrants broke the law to come here, deportation appropriately reverses the process. Others argue that unauthorized immigrants are here because the U.S. government does not issue a sufficient number of visas to meet labor demands.

Discussion Questions

1. Some people argue that because they have broken the law unauthorized immigrants should be deported and not granted legal status in the U.S. Do you agree?
2. Others argue that we have unauthorized immigrants because the government doesn't issue enough visas to meet labor demands, and that it would be unfair to plan mass arrests and deportation of millions of unauthorized immigrants?

b. Some deported/some allowed to earn legal adjustment of status based on length of residence in the U.S. (rate)

Background Information

As precedent, the 1986 law's amnesty provisions were based on length of residency. Immigrants who could show ability to support themselves were allowed to stay in this country.

Discussion Questions

1. Should immigrants who have lived in this country for an extended period of time and have shown they can support themselves and have integrated themselves into our society be allowed to stay?
2. Is it fair to give someone priority status in the legalization process because they have been in violation of U.S. laws for a longer period of time?

c. Some deported/some allowed to earn legal adjustment of status based on needs of U.S. employers (rate)

Background Information

The U.S. has an expanding economy requiring a larger labor force than Americans can supply. Providing jobs for immigrants, even low-skilled jobs, serves the U.S. economy well, but many feel that unauthorized immigrants, working for low salaries, drive salaries down for some low-income American workers.

Discussion Questions

1. Does allowing unauthorized immigrants achieve legalization because of their work status serve the expanding U.S. economy well?
2. If unauthorized immigrants who are willing to work for low salaries drive salaries down for some low-skilled American workers, should the immigrants be deported?

d. All allowed to earn legal adjustment of status by doing things such as paying taxes, learning English, studying civics, etc. (rate)

Background Information

Immigrants who gain English proficiency and assimilate quickly in other ways will qualify for better jobs and pay higher taxes. But many feel that all immigrants are expected to assimilate and unauthorized immigrants who have learned English, studied civics and paid taxes should not be rewarded with legal adjustment of status.

Discussion Questions (for 2d.)

1. Should unauthorized immigrants who gain English proficiency, qualify for better jobs, and pay higher taxes be granted legal status?

e. If deported, assess fines before possible re-entry (rate)

Background Information

Fines would help compensate the U.S. for deportation costs as well as for any advantages/benefits unauthorized immigrants received while living in this country. Others maintain that most unauthorized immigrants have been paying taxes and fees for services they cannot access, which would compensate for deportation and legalization costs.

Discussion Questions

1. Should unauthorized immigrants be penalized by paying fines before re-entry, fines that would help compensate the U.S. for the cost of deporting them and for any advantages/benefits they received while living in this country without authorization?
2. Should payment of taxes and fees for services unauthorized immigrants have been unable to access, including substantial payments to Social Security, be sufficient to cover costs such as deportation and legalization and make re-entry penalties unnecessary?

f. Assess fines before allowed to earn legal adjustment of status (rate)

Background Information

Unauthorized immigrants pay taxes and fees for services they cannot access, which would compensate the U.S. for legalization costs. Others feel that unauthorized immigrants should be penalized in some way for breaking the law when they entered the country illegally.

Discussion Questions

1. Should unauthorized immigrants be penalized for breaking the law by paying fines to help cover the cost of their legalization and to compensate the U.S. for any advantages/benefits they received while living in this country without authorization?
2. Because most unauthorized immigrants work at low-skilled, low-paying jobs, should payment of taxes and fees for services unauthorized immigrants have been unable to access, including substantial payments to Social Security, be adequate compensation?

QUESTION 3. FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LAW SHOULD PROVIDE AN EFFICIENT, EXPEDITIOUS SYSTEM (WITH MINIMAL OR NO BACKLOGS) FOR LEGAL ENTRY INTO THE U.S. FOR IMMIGRANTS WHO ARE:

a. Immediate family members, joining family members already admitted for legal permanent residence in the U.S. (rate)

Background Information

Many believe that policies that facilitate the stability of families are in the best interest of both the immigrant families and the U.S. Naturalized citizens and legal permanent residents are more productive workers and more invested in their communities if their spouses and minor children are allowed to join them in the U.S. in a timely manner. However, this must be balanced against admitting persons with skills required to meet this country's labor needs. Others think that meeting the needs of the economy is more beneficial to the country as a whole than indirect benefits from family reunification.

Discussion Questions

1. Are policies that facilitate the stability of immigrant families in the best interest of both the immigrant families and the U.S.?

(for 3a. continued.)

2. Is meeting the needs of the economy more beneficial to the country as a whole than indirect benefits, such as higher productivity and increased community investment, that can result from giving family reunification a high priority?

b. Entering the U.S. to meet labor needs (rate)

Background Information

For the past decade, market forces have attracted 1.5 -1.8 million skilled and unskilled immigrants to work in the U.S. each year. However, annual legal quotas admitted only about a million immigrants, resulting in a significant imbalance.

Discussion Questions

1. Should Federal immigration policy make the annual legal intake of workers more or less equal to the flow generated by supply and demand?
2. Should employers be required to pay higher wages to all workers in order to attract native-born workers to fill most of the jobs currently held by immigrants?

c. Entering the U.S. as students (rate)

Background Information

Students come to this country on non-immigrant visas with expiration dates. They are here temporarily and for a specific purpose – to attend school. These students are a major part of the life of most American universities, especially at the graduate level in science and technology, and academia competes for them.

Discussion Questions

1. Because of this country’s excellent educational opportunities, should we encourage students from abroad to come here to go to school so that they will be able to use their expertise to help people in their home countries and elsewhere, as well as in the U.S.?
2. Should we reduce the number of visas granted to foreign students because some may overstay their visas, becoming unauthorized immigrants, and because study in the U.S. contributes to a “brain drain” in developing countries?

d. Entering the U.S. because of persecution in home country. (rate)

Background Information

Historically, Americans have prided themselves on providing safety to those fleeing persecution in their homelands. However, refugees rarely bring financial resources when they flee their homelands and may become financial burdens on their communities.

Discussion Questions

1. Do Americans have an obligation to provide safety to those fleeing persecution in their homelands, as well as a special obligation to those refugees who can no longer remain safely in their homelands because of the aid they gave to U.S. troops during time of war?
2. Should we accept fewer refugees because of the inordinate amount of assistance and support required to keep them from becoming a financial burden on their communities?

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. (rate)

Background Information

The national identification card debate became more intense after 9/11 and has gone far beyond the Social Security card. The Real ID law, enacted on May 11, 2005, requires states to issue drivers licenses based on all of the following sources of verifiable information – a photo ID, documentation of birth and current address, and proof that a Social Security number is legitimate. These drivers' licenses will be required as primary identification for the Social Security Administration, airline travel, entering national parks, and opening bank accounts, for instance. Provisions are to become effective in December 2009.

Discussion Questions

1. Should we have a national identification card as recommended by the 9/11 Commission in order to hinder both terrorists and unauthorized immigrants, as well as to reduce fraud and improve airline security?
2. Would a national identification card infringe upon Americans' privacy and possibly facilitate identity theft?

4B. FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LAW DEALING WITH UNAUTHORIZED IMMIGRANTS SHOULD BE ENFORCED BY INCLUDING: (RATE EACH)

i. Physical barriers (such as fences) and surveillance at borders

Background Information

Beginning with the Immigration Act of 1990, immigration legislation increasingly focused on unauthorized immigration and border enforcement issues. The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) initiated a series of strategies designed to stop immigrants from crossing the U.S. - Mexico border without authorization – “Operation Hold the Line” in the El Paso, TX, area and “Operation Gatekeeper” in California. These systems were a combination of physical barriers such as fencing, as well as high power light systems, and movement sensors. In 2006, Congress passed the Secure Fence Act, with the primary purpose of building 700 miles of new fencing and enhancing the technology to make the U.S.-Mexico border more secure. The cost of building the fence is estimated at \$9 billion. The northern border has received little attention, primarily because immigrants trying to enter from Canada without authorization generally present false papers at border stations instead of crossing in unregulated areas, as they do from Mexico.

Discussion Questions

1. Are physical barriers such as fences the most effective way to stop unauthorized immigrants, terrorists, smugglers, and drug traffickers in non-regulated border areas, as well as to provide important deterrents that increase the risk of apprehension?
2. Are fences and increased surveillance at borders worth the cost of dealing with increases in the smuggling industry as well as concerns about deaths as people cross in more remote and dangerous areas?

ii. Increased personnel at land, air and sea entry points

Background Information

Many argue that more personnel might reduce vigilante efforts, which are problematical, and also reduce the financial burden on state and local police and government. However, increasing the size of the Border Patrol is difficult and takes time. Retention rates are poor because of low pay relative to other law enforcement jobs, poor working conditions and few opportunities for advancement.

Discussion Questions (for ii.)

1. Are more border guards needed to increase border security and reduce the financial burden on state and local police and government?
2. As expenditures for border security have risen, the number of unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. has increased as well. Will increasing Border Patrol personnel (which has been increased 200 percent in the last 20 years) bring our borders under control?

iii. More effective tracking of persons with non-immigrant visas until they leave the country

Background Information

While 60 percent of unauthorized immigrants enter this country at the southern border, 40 percent come in legally through ports of entry – airports, seaports, northern and southern borders, and overseas consulates - and then overstay their visas. In 1996, Congress defined enforcement more broadly to reflect the need to cover air and land ports of entry and mandated a system for tracking entries and exits of students and foreign-born visitors be fully operational by 2003.

Discussion Questions

1. Should we give a high priority to increasing funding for existing systems capable of effectively tracking foreign students and temporary foreign workers until they leave the country, or should higher priority be accorded to developing a less costly system of issuing machine readable, tamper resistant visas and other travel and entry documents to all international visitors before they enter the U.S.?
2. Are current routine inspections of the documents of train, ship and airline passengers by Immigration and Customs a violation of the Americans' civil rights?

iv. Verification documents, such as green cards and work permits with secure identifiers.

Background Information

Social Security cards, "green" cards and immigration authorization cards are generally accepted as the best documents to verify work eligibility, but without secure identifiers they are easy to falsify.

Discussion Questions

1. Should adding biometrics to Social Security or "green" cards be given a high priority?
2. Would adding biometrics to the Social Security card, turning it into what many call a national identification card, raise issues of privacy and confidentiality?

v. Improved technology to facilitate employer verification of employee visa status

Background Information

To verify employee eligibility, employers must maintain a record (I-9 form) showing they have asked for and examined one of more than two dozen specified documents that prove employment eligibility. Employers must also verify Social Security numbers with the Social Security Administration – a process that currently can take months. The result is that roughly half of all unauthorized workers are hired by employers who fully comply with I-9 requirements, but have been unable to verify quickly and reliably the authenticity of workers' identity documents. In addition, questioning the documents, or asking for further documentation, can lead to discrimination charges. Basic Pilot, a voluntary federal online system, is available to verify job-seekers' documents. As of 2006, only 3,624 employers were registered with Basic Pilot, less than one-twentieth of 1 per cent of all employers in the U.S.

Discussion Questions

1. Should the Federal online system, Basic Pilot, be mandatory for all employers, regardless of the cost to the government and to employers of implementing and using this program?
2. Are employers, who may feel ill-equipped as document examiners, the most effective group to identify unauthorized immigrants?

vi. Improved technology for sharing information among Federal agencies

Discussion Questions

1. Should we give a high priority to integrating all immigration-related federal databases, such as Basic Pilot (employee verification), US-VISIT (visa records) and the Social Security system, and making the resulting system available to appropriate users to produce optimal results?
2. Would a large centralized federal database raise privacy and accuracy concerns, and be too costly to create and implement?

vii. A program to allow immigrant workers to go in and out of the U.S. to meet seasonal and sporadic labor needs

Background Information

Under current immigration law, temporary immigration visas are used to meet seasonal and sporadic labor needs for low-income workers. Under the law, only 5,000 visas are available annually for low-skilled workers, but two-thirds of the 500,000 that enter the country without authorization each year enter the work force, mostly in low-wage jobs. Because the system is complex, cumbersome, and slow, employers are unable to get workers when and where they need them, and agree that the current system fails to meet their labor market needs. Attitudes toward guest worker programs do not split on the usual pro-or anti-immigrant lines. Some individuals who believe that there are too many immigrants in the U.S. support guest worker and seasonal worker programs as a means of bringing in short-term workers who will not stay and who do not become permanent residents or citizens. Conversely, some individuals who are pro-immigrant advocates oppose guest worker and other temporary labor programs because they worry that they create conditions for the exploitation of workers.

Discussion Questions

1. Is a guest worker program worth the possibility of adverse effects – declining wages and loss of jobs, for instance, for some low-income Americans?
2. If a guest worker program is implemented, should the law include a permanent path to legalization for workers?

viii. Significant fines proportionate to revenue for employers who fail to take adequate steps to verify work authorization of employees

Background Information

Under current law, unchanged since 1986, employer fines for failure to verify work authorization of employees range from \$100 - \$1,000 per immigrant for paperwork errors and from \$250 - \$10,000 for substantive violations.

Discussion Questions

1. Would larger fines that would substantially affect their profits make employers less inclined to accept questionable documentation and give the government greater incentive to aggressively enforce employer sanctions?
2. Because proving intentional violations of immigration law by employers is difficult, will increasing fines actually result in increased prosecutions?

QUESTION 5. FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LAW SHOULD ADDRESS AND BALANCE THE LONG-TERM FINANCIAL BENEFIT FROM IMMIGRANTS WITH THE FINANCIAL COSTS BORNE BY STATES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WITH LARGE IMMIGRANT POPULATIONS. (rate)

Discussion Questions

1. Because the federal government currently realizes a significant financial benefit from Social Security revenues, federal income taxes and Medicare taxes withheld from the wages of authorized and unauthorized immigrants, while some states and localities incur unreimbursed costs for the provision of education, health and social services to immigrants, should this inequitable distribution of resources be redressed?

QUESTION 6. FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LAW SHOULD BE COORDINATED WITH U.S. FOREIGN POLICY TO PROACTIVELY HELP IMPROVE ECONOMIES, EDUCATION AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES, AND LIVING CONDITIONS OF NATIONS WITH LARGE EMIGRATING POPULATIONS. (rate)

Background Information

Development aid has the potential to reduce some of the attractions of emigration to the United States. In Europe, the lowering of trade barriers within the EU, coupled with targeted economic development has turned countries like Ireland and Spain from net out-migration to in-migration countries. In addition, remittances (the funds sent home by foreign-born workers in the U.S.) act as a form of foreign aid that far exceeds the dollars passed from government to government. To the extent that migration is motivated by poverty and unemployment, aid programs that reduce poverty and create jobs are likely to reduce the pressure to leave the country in search of employment and higher wages.

However, development aid is no panacea. Economic motives are not the only or even the primary reason for migration to the United States. The largest number of immigrants come to be reunited with family members, and smaller, but significant numbers come as refugees fleeing persecution. Furthermore, some forms of aid may actually make it easier for developing country governments to postpone the kinds of economic reforms that will create local jobs and reduce economically motivated out-migration. From a humanitarian perspective, conditioning development aid on policies that limit out-migration could have disastrous consequences if it reduces aid to countries where the need is greatest. To the degree that immigration and foreign policy aims differ, coordination may be very difficult.

Discussion Questions

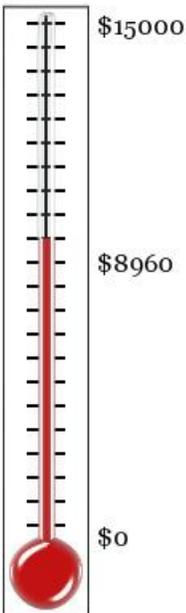
1. Because migration is often motivated by poverty and unemployment, should Federal law increase funding for foreign aid programs that reduce poverty and create jobs in those countries with the largest migrating populations in order to reduce the pressure to leave the country in search of employment and higher wages?

2. Because some forms of aid may actually make it easier for developing country governments to postpone the kinds of economic reforms that will create local jobs and reduce economically motivated out-migration, should U.S. law reduce funding for this type of aid?



Looking for a special and unique gift this holiday season? Want to give something that provides benefits all year long? Think about giving friends and family a gift membership in the League of Women Voters. League members keep our communities strong, fair and vibrant. Share the value of being part of one of our nation's most trusted organizations with the special people on your gift list. New members will receive copies of the League's national, state and local communications, including the National Voter and League E-Voice, and more importantly, they will receive opportunities to impact local, state, and national issues. Give someone you care about the chance to make a difference in their community by becoming a member of LWV. Membership cost is \$60 for individuals.

For more information about gift memberships, please contact the office at 314-961-6869 or email lwvmo@yahoo.com



BE IN LEAGUE WITH THE BEST!!
Support the Information Service with your tax-deductible 2007 contribution by sending your check to the League office by December 31.



REMEMBER YOUR DONATION TO THE INFORMATION SERVICE

League members are undeniably generous, so as the year comes to a close, don't forget to join your peers in donating to the League of Women Voters Information Service. You can **ASSURE DEMOCRACY WORKS** by making your contribution to the *League of Women Voters Information Service today. We need your support.*

Your tax-deductible donation will fund operations in support of education and information services that are so important to your organization. Here in St. Louis, we are the organization providing voter registration for new citizens, conducting candidate forums, bringing the community Voter Guides, and holding voter registration drives so more Americans take the opportunity to vote.

We actively collaborate with other organizations like Focus St. Louis and the Missouri Historical Society to hold community education events and educate citizens. Nearly 800 children learned about the Constitution on September 17th thanks to the active educational efforts of the League.

Your League stands for the American ideal of an educated and active electorate. As a member, no one knows better than you how well our organization does in representing Democracy in America.

In St. Louis, more than 400 member volunteers like you carry out the work of the League in the City and County.

But the **League Information Service** needs your **tax-deductible contributions to continue our work**. What does that achieve? Why should you invest?

- ✓ \$100 will help us print information to educate voters
- ✓ \$500 in contributions allows volunteers to provide a breadth of civic information to voters
- ✓ \$750 in contributions helps the League carry out citizen training and naturalization ceremonies for new immigrants to our nation as well as other educational and outreach services for new citizens
- ✓ \$1,000 produces more Voters Guides for distribution to City and County libraries, universities and senior citizen centers in primary and general elections
- ✓ \$2,500 promotes special educational forums, unit meetings, community events, forums and information in both print and on a new LWV-website
- ✓ Every dollar you can give will help the Information Service continue its important work!
- ✓ No contribution is too small! Your contribution is significant!

Office space, telephones and the technology and staff who support LWVIS publications and voter education activities are essential expenses.

They are not covered by your dues dollars. Your contributions are needed!

You can **ASSURE DEMOCRACY WORKS** with your contribution.

The time has never been more critical. The time is now!