

LWVFNUC VOTER

Voter

The League of Women Voters
Of Fremont, Newark and
Union City



Immigration Study Consensus Meeting(s)

Monday, November 19 and (if needed) November 26

7:00 pm

At the home of Carolyn Hedgecock

4677 Sterling Court

Fremont



Who should be deported?

Should we allow entry for employment needs?

Should we allow entry for family reunification?

For more effective procedures in dealing with immigrants,
should we have an identification document for all people residing
in the U.S.?

Should we allow entry only to well educated English
speaking immigrants?

Questions need answers.

Come help answer them.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By the time this voter, reaches you, we will already have celebrated LWVFNUC's 50th anniversary. We can justifiably look back with pride at what League members have accomplished in the last 50 years. We were fortunate enough to be able to honor two founding members who continue to inspire us. However, we can not sit on past laurels because we have so much more work to do. The twenty-first century and beyond bring unprecedented challenges but the future also holds much promise. To assist Leagues to continue to be effective and viable, the League of Women Voters of California held as part of the regional workshop on September 29, 2007, a session on the "21st Century League" by Janis Hirohama, LWVC President. She outlined four areas that we as an organization need to focus on to increase our effectiveness: 1) Strength through diversity, 2) Coalitions, 3) Embracing Technology and 4) Flexibility.

She also stressed the importance of leadership and mentorship of new members and our youth. She emphasized the need to develop our membership, which is the life blood of the League, she said. Ms. Hirohama's overall message, at least the way I heard it, was that we need to thoughtfully and creatively – and often quickly – respond to both challenges and the promise posed by a fast paced, rapidly changing world. Our very existence may well depend on how we adapt.

The regional workshop also held a session on one of our basic bread and butter practices, "How To Do a Study" by Linda Craig, LWVC Advocacy Director. This and the other sessions were useful in helping even seasoned Leaguers to hone their core competencies and to better fulfill our mission to educate and advocate.

LWVFNUC, I am happy to report has indeed been doing just that, educating and advocating. In October we held a candidates' forum for the elections in the City of Newark, taped a cable program on Fremont's General Plan, testified regarding the A's process to build a stadium in Fremont and pulled together the 50th anniversary celebration in record time.

In November, we will hold two crucial meetings of our general body, to come to consensus on the issue of immigration. The immigration committee has been meeting to discuss the logistics and enable us to be come prepared for the consensus meetings. We hope you will participate in the consensus process – because it will take our collective wisdom, experience and analysis to craft our stance on this contentious issue.

—Syeda Yunus

BOARD BRIEFS

In the October 11, 2007 Board Meeting, the Board:

- Discussed the status of the 50th anniversary celebration
- Received a report on the Action Committee's activities – specifically the testimony read at the Fremont City Council's meeting regarding the A's.
- Provided guidance on future program meetings, including the upcoming November consensus meetings.
- Heard the Treasurer's report and the report on our newest way of fundraising – Homeowners Association elections.

LWV TESTIMONY TO FREMONT CITY COUNCIL

Good evening, Mr. Mayor, Councilmember's, I am Jean Holmes, representing the League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark and Union City.

The League has been closely following the proposed move of the Oakland As to Fremont.

We have watched with interest the Power Point presentations and listened to the discussion at Council Work sessions.

We are very pleased to hear that the actual Development Application will soon be filed for Council and Staff analysis.

The League requests that in addition to the EIR and the Traffic Study, you add an impartial Cost/Benefit analysis to assess the net effect of the proposed project to the City of Fremont and its residents.



Questions to be answered by the Cost/Benefit Analysis **would include the following:**

- What are the direct and indirect costs to be paid by the City and how much additional revenue is expected to offset these costs?
- Who will actually own the stadium and the land under it?
- Who will own the stadium in 30 years?
- What is Alameda County's involvement in ownership?
- What will be the effect of the Ballpark Village's "Santana Row" on existing Pacific Commons merchants? And on Fremont's Downtown plan?

What will be the impact on the General Fund of allowing 3100 dwelling units versus the currently designated 4.6 million square feet of Office and R&D?

This is the largest project ever proposed in the City of Fremont. It is important that the decision, Yea or Nay, be made after thoughtful consideration of thorough research which lays bare all the facts. All of Fremont's citizens need to be confident in the decision you make.

The League of Women Voters works for "active and informed participation of citizens in their government". We are counting on you to make that possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Setsuko Amann
Lucia Corral Pena

EDSOURCE CONFERENCE

On October 19, 2007, EdSource hosted an unprecedented day-long forum for the presentation and sharing of research-based education policy options submitted by a broad and diverse range of K-12 organization and opinion leaders in California.

Much recent research, including the "Getting Down to Facts" studies overseen by Stanford University, have identified factors across the state that hinder school success and ultimately, student outcomes. Because the governor has deemed 2008 the "Year of Education Reform," the Conference aimed to stimulate dialogue about these factors in order to increase understanding and facilitate the work of policymakers developing comprehensive, meaningful, research-based policy reforms.

The over 350 attendees included top-level business and civic leaders, researchers, education professionals, community and reform advocates, and state officials. The Conference focused on research-based policy options related to: education governance, school finance, personnel and leadership, and education data systems.

The 47 ground-breaking policy briefs submitted for this Conference are now available on the EdSource California School Finance website, at <http://www.californiaschoolfinance.org/tabid/169/Default.aspx>. The briefs will be searchable by keyword and downloadable individually. Check back soon for video and photographs from this event.

SCHOOLS CHIEF JACK O'CONNELL COMMENTS ON PUBLIC ADVOCATES LAWSUIT OVER HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS

SACRAMENTO - State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell today issued the following statement regarding a lawsuit filed by Public Advocates Inc., against the U.S. Department of Education over California's Highly Qualified Teacher plan.

"Highly effective teachers are the most critical factor in a student's success," O'Connell said. "I agree with the plaintiffs' desire to have effective teachers in every California classroom. While California followed federal guidance in the development of our Highly Qualified Teacher Requirements and California's High Objective Uniform State Standard of Evaluation (HOUSSE) process, we know that unfortunately in California public schools there remains an inequitable distribution of highly qualified teachers. Too often, schools serving students who are African American or Latino have a disproportionate number of under-qualified and inexperienced teachers and administrators. This is a factor in why we have an achievement gap in our state between students who are African American or Latino and their peers who are white or Asian.

"While there is no single or easy way to fix the achievement gap, ensuring that students who need the most help get access to highly effective teachers is certainly part of the solution. The California Department of Education, as part of the federally approved Revised State Plan for No Child Left Behind Highly Qualified Teacher, has already established a protocol to assist school districts in writing plans to ensure they more equitably distribute highly qualified teachers in our lowest-performing schools. The plan requires districts to review and revise district policies and practices regarding the recruitment, retention, and professional development of their teaching staff and administrators.

"In addition, my administration is focused on finding ways to close the achievement gap, and I have appointed my P-16 Council to work exclusively on this issue. They will be presenting their recommendations at a summit on the achievement gap this November."

Barbara Inatsugu
League of Women Voters of California
Program Director for Education (PK-12)

NICE WORDS FOR SMART VOTER

Thought you might want to see a kudo for the Smart Voter and the League from Monterey County, CA:

>Dear SmartVoter & the League of Women Voters:

>In filling out the SmartVoter Candidate entries, my wife, Anita Arellano and I often had problems come up, things we didn't understand how to do; BUT, we've finally got it all in. AND we really want to thank you. This and related sites the League is doing are wonderful projects for democracy. Eleanor Roosevelt would be proud of you. I can imagine it now - There's a new note in the "Eleanor Basket" on FDR's desk, "Franklin, have you seen what the League's done now? Isn't it splendid how these women [and men, now] are working to make America a better place! Hurrah for the League!"

>When we recover from the expenses of this campaign, you may be sure that we will put something in the LWV's Christmas stocking at the end of the year. We are both members of the League. Keep up the good work, Carl Pohlhammer & Anita Arellano

See Smart Voter for Newark City Council Election Information.

www.SmartVoter.org.

Election is on November 6, 2007



KEEPING TABS ON TRANSIT FUNDING

By Alec MacDonald

By themselves, the words “transportation infrastructure” might not sound exciting enough to turn heads—but attach a few dollar signs, and people tend to start paying attention. So with \$1.3 billion in Proposition 1B allotments slated to flow toward Bay Area transit operators over the next ten years for capital projects, there’s plenty of reason to take notice. Down the line, this funding should translate into scores of vital improvements for rail, bus, and ferry systems all across the region.

Naturally, the process isn’t a simple one. Taking such an enormous sum of money and divvying it up to fulfill the Bay Area’s extensive and diverse needs requires lots of calculation, debate, and hand-wringing. Moreover, the region doesn’t operate in a vacuum, and the decisions of lawmakers in Sacramento hold plenty of sway over the fate of Proposition 1B funds. Yet despite these complications, there are a few established criteria that provide a generalized picture for how the spending will take shape.

The most basic guideline dictates that some of the money will be distributed according to revenue that Bay Area transit operators generated in fiscal year 2006, and the rest will be distributed according to the region’s population (see diagram). For revenue-based funds, this means that \$922 million will be released to the operators through the state treasurer’s office; for population-based funds, the duty falls to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to hand out \$347 million.

Building a Budgetary Framework

For its share, MTC has already set up a framework for this purpose with the Proposition 1B Regional Transit Funding Program, adopted as Resolution 3814 on June 27. On top of the population-based \$347 million, this framework also incorporates \$72 million in State Transportation Assistance surplus revenue (\$46 million of which is derived from gasoline sales tax “spillover,” earmarked for transportation purposes according to 2002’s Proposition 42, the Transportation Congestion Improvement Act).

Folding in these additional sources not only pushes the program total to \$419 million, but also creates a little flexibility for how MTC can administer the funds, since STA money can go toward not only capital expenditures, but operating ones as well.

It is still yet to be determined exactly how these finances will align with specific applications, as MTC’s Anne Richman explained that the details are to be hammered out in the coming months. “What we plan to do is work with the transit agencies to figure out the projects and match the funding to the costs,” she said. “We’ll probably start those things in the fall... we expect they’re not going to need the money right away.”

While the exact outcomes won’t materialize for a while—Proposition 1B has a ten-year timeframe, after all—MTC’s framework offers a preview, breaking down the allocations into four main categories: urban core transit improvements, Lifeline funding, capital improvements for Northern Counties/Small Operators, and operating enhancements for Northern Counties/Small Operators (see diagram).

Within those categories, MTC staff has designated expected financial commitments for some of the predictable needs. As perhaps the most straightforward of the four, the urban core portion has been laid out already. It comprises five projects with authorized dollar amounts: San Francisco Muni’s Central Subway (\$100 million), Santa Clara VTA Line 522/523 Bus Rapid Transit (\$45 million), BART SFO Settlement Agreement (\$24 million), and a pair of BART extensions to Warm Springs and Eastern Contra Costa County (\$17 million each).

The extensions were actually late entries into the mix after BART put forth a funding match proposal. With the agency pledging \$20 million from its own budget for each project, those lines will now receive \$37 million a piece. Expecting this new source will finally help make service to Warm Springs a reality by late 2013, Paul Medved, the project’s Principal Engineer, pointed out that it had been “one of the original extensions that BART contemplated building at the same time as Dublin/Pleasanton, Pittsburg, Colma, SFO, and should have been built some time ago. So in a certain sense it’s long overdue.”

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On the eastern Contra Costa County side, Senior Planner Walter Gonzalez didn't offer a timetable for completion, but pointed out the benefits for the future. "It's going to be a great congestion reliever," he said, proceeding on to explain that "the eBART line is equal to one lane of traffic on State Route Four—so hopefully we'll be pulling cars off the road."

While both projects have clear value, their inclusion frustrated those who were hoping the framework would instead direct more funding toward Lifeline, an MTC program meant to bolster "projects that result in improved mobility of low-income residents" (according to Attachment A of the agency's Resolution 3726).

Lindsay Imai, Transportation and Housing Program Associate for Urban Habitat, voiced disappointment that the BART match resulted in a \$10 million reduction in the amount previously dedicated to Lifeline—which even prior to that shift was lower than the regional environmental justice organization felt was warranted.

"Lifeline came out of an initial MTC study in 2001 identifying gaps in bus service in low-income communities—communities that are most dependent upon public transit to meet their basic transportation needs," she said. "Based on that study, if we're really going to fill the gaps, it would cost about \$109 million a year in 2001 dollars. In contrast, the Prop 1B allotment provides only \$14.3 million a year."

More Opportunities Down the Line

The challenge of meeting need is nothing new in the transit sector, of course—demand for funding always outweighs supply. With budgets perpetually tight, any and all sources necessitate consideration. So while there is no comparable framework for the revenue-based portion of the Proposition 1B transit pot, operators are naturally preparing for when that money comes down the pipeline.

Kate Miller, Manager of Capital Development, Legislation, and Grants for AC Transit, commented, "We're going to be using the revenue element for strategic capital improvements and to reduce the age of our fleet—but the Lifeline element of MTC's proposal is very important to AC Transit, and we hope to use both the Lifeline funding and the 1B revenue funds appropriated to AC Transit to accomplish this."

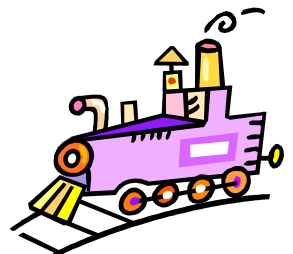
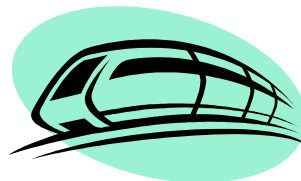
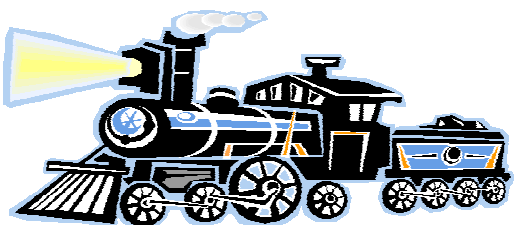
On the other side of the Bay, Caltrain has a fairly extensive wish list, given that much of the agency's infrastructure is due for an overhaul. "We inherited the system we currently have from Southern Pacific back in 1991," Public Information Officer Jonah Weinberg explained, and thus far have only been able to afford improvements "bit by bit." He listed rolling stock, rail cars, and trackage as new materials slated for purchase, with refurbishing of terminal platforms also planned.

Caltrain is not the only one looking to do station makeovers, either. Linton Johnson, Chief Spokesperson for BART, described his agency's aim to "modernize our stations with that money—better lighting, better access, possibly even using technology to make the customer experience better."

Ultimately, a better customer experience will be a top priority for all recipients of the various types of Proposition 1B transit funds. So while it's the dollar signs that tend to get people paying attention, the underlying value of all this budgetary work must be kept in mind: cultivating an invaluable resource which Bay Area residents depend on each and every day. By those terms, the words "transportation infrastructure" should sound plenty exciting.

For more details about the transit element of Prop 1B, visit <http://www.mtc.ca.gov/funding/infrastructure/index.htm> or call Anne Richman at (510) 817-5722.

To learn more about Urban Habitat's transportation advocacy efforts, visit <http://urbanhabitat.org/> or call Lindsay Imai at (510) 844-1191.



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EFFECTS OF GLOBAL INTERDEPENDENCE ON MIGRATION

By Dorrit Marks

According to a National Intelligence Estimate, globalization is stimulating migration, and this growing movement of people has implications for the United States. Expanding international trade, finance, investment and information flows tend to accentuate economic insecurity and migration pressures. The Mexican peso crisis of 1995, for example, contributed to a surge in illegal immigration to the United States

Migration pressures on the United States and within the Americas region is expected to continue to rise in the next decade. The report finds that despite strong economic prospects in Mexico, disparities in living standards, the increased demand for labor in the U.S., and immigration rules regarding family ties will sustain Mexico as the single largest source of authorized and unauthorized immigration to the United States. Central America will remain the second-largest source of unauthorized immigrants and a change in the government of Cuba or deterioration of the political, human rights or economic situation in Haiti could lead again to mass emigration to the U.S. from these countries.

Immigration Demographics

Immigrants are generally young and mobile. They go where there is work. Tamar Jacoby says immigrants create a just-in-time delivery of workers to places where they are most needed. Immigrants communicate with their compatriots still at home, letting them know that the job market is flat in one area and booming in another.² Refugee resettlement in the U.S. reflects a new trend of resettlement in smaller cities such as Utica, NY, or mid-sized metropolitan areas such as Des Moines, IA, or Spokane, WA. Previously, popular urban locations included major cities such as New York City with its large foreign-born population.³

Remittances

The flow of remittances (the transfer of money by foreign workers to their families and communities in their home countries) from the United States has reached record amounts and represents a major source of income for millions of individuals and communities. Latin American households receive \$60 billion annually from remittances worldwide. This is more than these countries receive in aid from the United States and from institutions such as the World Bank, according to an Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) study.

California topped all states with \$13.2 billion in remittances, followed by Texas, New York, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey and Georgia—all states with large Hispanic populations. However, the greatest percentage increases in remittances are found in other states, including Iowa and Arkansas. None of the 13 states registering more than 100 percent growth rates in remittances in 2006 were among the “big” seven.⁴

The money foreign-born workers send home is mainly used to cover basic necessities. In Oaxaca, Mexico, only about 8 percent of remittances were spent on business start-ups or investments. The rest went to daily and household expenses. Besides helping the families back home, there is evidence that remittances also have a positive impact on the development and welfare of countries receiving the funds. Remitted funds help offset the negative effects of trade deficits where imports exceed exports. Remittances also help finance and improve access to education and health care for families in the home countries of immigrants.

Remittances are used for investment and to alleviate poverty. A larger share of the remittance money is being used for investment purposes in some developing countries such as Guatemala. In urban Mexico, remittances from the U.S. were the source of almost one-fifth of capital invested in micro-enterprises.⁵ According to IDB estimates, Mexico will receive remittances totaling more than \$24 billion in 2006.⁶ Remittances represent the second largest source of foreign earnings for the country after receipts from oil exports.⁷

In addition to these indications that remittances enhance growth and reduce poverty, there are negative consequences, particularly the dependence remittances create by permitting family members to reduce their work effort, that some studies point out.⁸

Unintended Effect of U.S. Policies

U.S. policies have inadvertently increased unauthorized immigration. For example, U.S. farm subsidies, an important part of U.S. agriculture policy, have resulted in unexpected consequences. In the U.S., corn, cotton, wheat, rice and soy beans receive billions of dollars in government subsidies. Such subsidies

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allow U.S. farmers to sell corn, for instance, at prices below cost. Corn is the centerpiece of the Mexican diet, and, according to Oxfam, the Mexican corn sector is in acute crisis because of subsidized low-cost corn imports from the U.S. Millions of Mexicans, unable to make a living in Mexico, are emigrating to escape rural poverty.⁹

NAFTA tariff reductions have opened the Mexican market to corn imports from the U.S. and Canada, and local Mexican farmers are unable to compete. American corn prices in Mexico are 15 to 20 percent lower than the cost to produce corn in the U.S., displacing nearly a million farmers in the Mexican market since NAFTA went into effect in 1994.¹⁰ Large Mexican corn purchasers buy U.S. corn not only because of the lower price of corn but also because buyers that contract with U.S. exporters have access to loans through the U.S. Commodity Credit Corporation at 7 percent for 3 years as opposed to the high 25 to 30 percent interest rates they pay to Mexican lenders.¹¹ The situation is only expected to worsen in 2008 when Mexico is required to comply with a NAFTA deadline to totally eliminate its corn and bean import tariffs.

On the positive side, cheaper corn lowers the price Mexican consumers pay for tortillas and to feed their cows. And, in the U.S., corn prices may rise because of the role of corn in ethanol production as an alternative fuel for automobiles.

NAFTA

Because of NAFTA, trade is now 55 percent of Mexico's gross domestic product compared to 30 percent in 1990. Foreign investment is up by more than 225 percent since 1994.

Despite these positive effects, there are economic problems in Mexico. According to an article in the Minneapolis Star Tribune, "Real wages for most Mexicans are lower than when NAFTA took effect. And Mexican wages are diverging from rather than converging with U.S. wages, despite the fact that Mexican worker productivity has increased dramatically." ¹²

NAFTA has caused Mexico to become an export-dependent economy to Mexico's detriment. Component parts are imported, processed and assembled for re-export without enough value-added to greatly benefit the Mexican economy.

Mexico's Labor Market

Many new working-age people entering the job market in developing countries will fail to find work and some will decide to emigrate. Mexico, for example, has a new job creation rate of 700,000, while the number of new workers entering the Mexican market is nearly one million annually.¹³ Mexico also has a brain drain - nearly a third of all Mexicans with advanced degrees leave Mexico for the United States. Emigration has become a substitute for the lack of opportunities in Mexico.

There are some positive developments: The Mexican government is funding the Mexican Talent Network, a nonprofit organization to help engineers and technology professionals find opportunities and contacts abroad while keeping their ties with Mexico. A Mexican manufacturer of microscopes, a recent beneficiary, received assistance in making contacts to help tap the U.S. pharmaceutical market.¹⁴ The newly-elected president of Mexico, Felipe Calderon, plans to create an investment climate in Mexico that will attract U.S. investment. He is focusing on improving labor competitiveness and creating jobs in Mexico. Immigration will not be a key issue for him in Mexico's relations with the U.S.¹⁵

Robert Pastor concludes that narrowing the income gap between Mexico, the U.S. and Canada is the only way to stop the flow of migrants. He supports the North American Investment Fund funded by Mexico, the U.S. and Canada, and sponsored by Senator John Cornyn (R TX). The North American Investment Fund would be used to build highways, roads and broadband internet lines in southern Mexico, thereby connecting the south to North America. The effort would not stop illegal immigration, but is projected to double Mexico's growth rate and reduce the income gap with the United States by 20 percent in a decade. Andres Oppenheimer believes this investment would be a more effective way to stem unauthorized immigration than investing in a fence.¹⁶

Competition for Graduate Students and High-Skilled Workers

Global competition to attract foreign graduate students to universities is growing. In 1989, American universities awarded twice the number of PhDs granted by Asian countries. By 2001, the gap had closed. The U.S. is losing its dominance in attracting the most talented students to higher education and faces more competition for the highly skilled to fill U.S. jobs.¹⁷

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The share of international students studying in the U.S has fallen, while Australia, Japan, New Zealand and some European countries have seen a large growth of international students entering higher education programs in their countries. To combat this decline the U.S. may need to revisit stringent entry provisions stemming from U.S. security concerns.

Globalization increases the demand for high-tech and other professional workers. Developed countries will continue to compete in order to fuel their information technology and strategic sectors. High-tech workers and entrepreneurs will emigrate from countries such as India, East Asia, and Russia, provided immigration laws are sufficiently flexible to allow them easy entry.¹⁸ Immigration policy affecting high-skilled workers becomes increasingly important as the competition for high-skilled labor increases around the world. Ease of employment-linked permanent residence is a factor that can facilitate or deter immigration to the U.S.

Foreign-Born Professionals

In the U.S., discussions about the immigration of scientists and engineers focus primarily on the extent to which foreign-born professionals displace native workers. These high-tech immigrants, however, affect more than labor supply and wages. In today's global economy, foreign-born engineers start new businesses and generate jobs and wealth at least as fast as their U.S. counterparts.

While the main economic ties between immigrants and their home countries in the past were the remittances sent to families left behind, today more and more skilled U.S. immigrants eventually return home. Those professionals who remain in America often become part of transnational communities that link the United States to other economies.

The new immigrant entrepreneurs foster economic development directly by creating new jobs and wealth, as well as indirectly by coordinating information flows and providing linguistic and cultural know-how that promote trade and investment with their home countries. The economic contributions of high-skilled immigrants enhance trade and investment flows. Indications are that a 1 percent increase in the number of first-generation immigrants from a given country translates into a nearly 0.5 percent increase in exports to that country.¹⁹

An effective overhaul of the U.S. immigration system must address the global integration of labor markets. According to Tamar Jacoby, immigrant influx is the product of changing U.S. demographics, global development and increasingly easy international communications.²⁰ U.S. immigration policy debate is usually considered a domestic issue, but its consequences have important implications for other countries as well.

Illegal migration is a regional issue. Nearly 80 percent of the unauthorized population in the United States comes from Latin America, primarily from Mexico and Central America. "The goal should be to shift economic integration into a healthier pattern, moving away from the mutually reinforcing dependencies on remittances and cheap labor to a system of regulated labor flows and economic interdependence ... Remittances to migrant countries of origin, emigration, or current foreign assistance programs are not likely to sufficiently develop regional economies to have the necessary broad-based impact to mitigate the root causes of migration."²¹

Conclusions

Pressures to emigrate from developing countries will remain intense, fueled by poverty, lack of jobs, population growth and political instability. At the same time, globalization will increase access to information about lifestyles and opportunities in industrialized countries.²² The global integration of the labor market for both highly skilled and unskilled workers is also a continuing trend. Immigration laws and policies should take these realities into account, along with the effect of other laws and policies such as farm subsidies and NAFTA.

Dorrit Marks, LWV of Miami-Dade County, FL, is a member of the Immigration Study Committee

NOTEBOOK PAGE

LWVFNUC ~~VOTER~~ LWVUS Immigration Study Consensus Questions

You will be asked to rate these as “high priority”, “lower Priority” “disagree” or “no consensus”

Question 1: Federal immigration laws should take into consideration criteria such as the following (not listed in any particular order or hierarchy)

- a. Ethnic and Cultural Diversity
- b. Economic, Business, and Service Employment Needs
- c. Environmental Impact/Sustainability
- d. Family Reunification of Authorized Immigrants and Citizens with Spouses and Minor Children
- e. History of Criminal Activity
- f. Humanitarian Crises/ Political Persecution in Home Countries
- g. Immigrant Characteristics (health or age)
- h. Right of All Workers to Safe Working Conditions and Livable Wage
- i. Rights of Families to Remain Together
- 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)
- k. Education and Training.

Question 2: Unauthorized immigrants currently in the U.S. should be treated as follows:

- a. Deport Unauthorized Immigrants
- b. Some Deported/Some Allowed to Earn Legal Adjustment of Status Based on Length of Residence in U.S.
- c. Some Deported/Some Allowed to Earn Legal Adjustments of Status Based on Needs of US Employers
- d. All allowed to Earn Legal Adjustment of Status by Doing Things Such as Paying Taxes, Learning English, Studying Civics etc.
- e. If Deported, Assess Fines Before Possible Re-Entry
- f. Access Fines Before Allowed to Earn Legal Adjustment of Status

Question 3: Federal Immigration law should provide an efficient, expeditious system (with minimum or no backlogs) for legal entry into the U.S. for immigrants who are:

- a. Immediate Family Members Joining Family Member Already Admitted for Legal Permanent Residence in the U.S.
- b. Entering the U.S. to Meet Labor Needs
- c. Entering the U.S. as Students
- d. Entering the U.S. Because of Persecution in Home Country

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.

Question 4b: Federal Immigration law dealing with unauthorized immigrants should be enforced by including:

- i. Physical Borders (such as fences) and Surveillance at Borders
- ii. Increased Personnel at Land, Air and Sea Entry points
- iii. More Effective Tracking of Persons with Non-Immigrant Visas Until They Leave the Country
- iv. Verification Documents, such as Green Cards and Work Permits with Secure Identifiers
- v. Improved Technology to Facilitate Employer Verification of Employee Visa Status
- vi. Improved Technology for Sharing Information Among Federal Agencies
- vii. A Program to Allow Immigrant Workers to go in and out of the U.S. to Meet Seasonal and Sporadic Labor Needs
- viii. Significant Fines Pro-Portionate to Revenue for Employers Who Fail to Take Adequate Steps to Verify Work Authorization of Employees

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 .

Question 6: Federal immigration law should be coordinated with U.S. foreign policy to proactively help improve economies, education and job opportunities and living condition of nations with large emigrating populations

Question 7: Comments:

What a wonderful evening of fun! Everyone went way beyond their committee assignment and it showed. We already have two emails thanking us for the event. And I think we picked up a new member who is a neighbor of honoree Julianne.

Here is my own assessment of our stupendous gala. The formula goes back to my friend who does a listing of the 'real winners' once we have completed a dog related event.

The REAL Winners are...

Best imitation of Marilyn Singer with quick responses, energized ideas, and relentless work ethic - John Smith

Best leadership with enthusiasm for every aspect of the planning—Syeda Yunus

Most angelic, artistic and motivated flower arranging - Sister Marge

Best penmanship and best idea for non-bloodletting name tags - Alison Kieft

Best meeting location with endless goodies and best oversight on costs - Miriam Keller

Best detective for locating lost former presidents and members - Carolyn Hedgecock

Best by far envelope stuffer and invitation sender - Mary Roulet

Best mail sorter and speediest check deposit person - Jean Holmes

Most inspired and creative invitation designer - Jane Mueller

Most relieved - Alex Starr

And for non committee members...

Best ad hoc historian - Marilyn Singer

Best display organizer - Vesta Wilson

Best wine picker - Peter Starr

Most creative and speediest program designer - Doug Tinney

Most generous non-member assistant and speediest airport chauffeur—Syeda's sister Rubina



Greeting attendees at the door
were Alison Kieft and John
Smith

Alex Starr and our
honorees, Mary Ann Dil-
lon and Julianne Howe



Cell phone in hand, Syeda
Yunus smiles happily



One of our displays



11
Alice Johnson comes all
buttoned up.

LWVFNUC *VOTER* OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA



FUSD Board of Education Members, Nina Moore and Laura York



Ellen Culver and Judy Keller enjoy a laugh.



Our Keynote Speaker,
Delaine Easton



Mary Roulet



State Senator, Ellen Corbett



Miriam Keller , looking very happy



Beautifully set tables

LWVFNUC VOTER

It's easy to JOIN the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Any person, man or woman, who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League may join. To be a voting member, one must be at least 18 years of age and a U.S. citizen

Annual dues includes membership in Local, Bay Area, California and National Leagues.

Make your check payable to: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS and mail it with this form to:

LWVFNUC-MEMBERSHIP, P.O. Box 3218, Fremont, CA, 94539



_____ Individual Membership - \$50 _____ Household - \$75
Donate to LWVNUC \$ _____ Donate to Ed. Fund \$ _____ Total enclosed \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____ New Member _____ Renewal _____ Transfer

from _____

Dues and contributions to the League are not tax deductible. Contributions to L.W.V. Ed Fund are deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more information, or for confidential financial dues assistance, please contact: Judy Keller—jkeller@genelabs.com

Mission Statement

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

Diversity Policy

LWVFNUC affirms its commitment to reflect the diversity of our communities in our membership and actions. We believe diverse views are important for responsible decision making and seek to work with all people and groups who reflect our community diversity.

LWVFNUC Voter

Published 10 times a
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PO Box 3218

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510-794-5783

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The LWVFNUC storage office address is:

4368 Enterprise St., off Grimmer, near
Automall.

Materials are available 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM with
permission of a board member.

An Ongoing Series.....

A History of the American Suffragist Movement

1637 Anne Hutchison is convicted of sedition and expelled from the
Massachusetts Colony for her religious ideas.

1652 The Society of Friends, better known as Quakers, is founded
in England. Quakers will make vital contributions to the
abolitionist and suffrage movements in the United States.
One Quaker woman, Mary Dyer, will be hanged in 1660 for
preaching in Boston.

1776 During the second Continental Congress, Abigail Adams en-
treats her husband, John, to "remember the ladies" in the
new code of laws he is writing.

1790 The Colony of New Jersey grants the vote to "all free
inhabitants".

1807 New Jersey women lose their vote, with the repeal sponsored
by a politician who was nearly defeated by a female voting
block ten years earlier.

1829 Author Frances Wright travels the United States on a paid
lecture tour, perhaps the first ever woman to do so. She at-
tacks organized religion for the secondary place it assigns
women, and advocates the empowerment of women through
divorce and birth control.

1838 Sarah Grimké publishes "Letters on the Equality of the Sexes
and the Condition of Women" She and her sister, Angelina,
will be active in both the suffrage and the abolitionist
movements.

1840 The World Anti-Slavery Convention is held in London.
Abolitionists Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton at-
tend, but they are barred from participating in the meeting.
This snub leads them to decide to hold a women's rights
convention when they return to America.

1848 Three hundred people attend the first women's rights conven-
tion in Seneca Falls, New York. Among the attendees are
Amelia Bloomer, Charlotte Woodward, and Frederick Doug-
las. Lucretia Mott's husband, James, presides. Stanton

1849 authors the Declaration of Sentiments, which sets the
agenda for decades of women's activism. A larger meeting
follows in Rochester.

To be continued.....



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VOTERS OF FREMONT,
NEWARK AND UNION CITY**
P.O. Box 3218 Fremont, CA, 94539
(510) 794-5783

WATCH VOTING MATTERS

Watch Syeda Yunus interview Phyllis Merrifield, Miriam Keller and Sandy Pantages . Topic: 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Fremont, Channel 29, every Wednesday at 7:30 PM

Newark, Channel 6, every Thursday at 7 PM

Union City, Channel 15, every Thursday at 9:30 PM

Visit our website:
<http://www.lwvfnuc.org>
And
[Smart Voter.org](http://SmartVoter.org)

CALENDAR

Thurs., Nov. 8	LWVFNUC Board Meeting	7:15 pm	Sisters of the Holy Family Auditorium
Fri., Nov. 9	Education Committee	9:30 am	Miriam Keller's home
Mon., Nov. 19	Immigration Consensus Meeting	7:00 PM	Carolyn Hedgecock's home
Wed., Nov. 21	Cable Taping "Voting Matters"	2:00 PM	Comcast Studios
Mon., Nov. 26	Immigration Consensus Meeting (If needed)	7:00 PM	Carolyn Hedgecock's home
Thurs., Nov. 29	Action Committee (brown bag)	12:30 PM	Marilyn Singer's home.

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