

HANDOUT: LWVC CONVENTION 2023 CAUCUS: The LWV and Immigration: State and National Advocacy

LWVUS web page on Immigration:

<https://www.lwv.org/other-issues/immigration>

INFORMATION ON BILLS OF NOTE:

(Items in bold have been endorsed by the LWV)

NATIONAL: Information on bills can be found at [congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov)

Dream Act of 2023 (S 365)

Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021 (HR 1603 in 117th Congress)

US Citizenship Act of 2023

CALIFORNIA: Information on bills can be found at <https://leginfo.ca.gov>

Food 4 All bills (AB 311, SB 245)

Link for LWVC bill status report: <https://lwvc.org/bill-status-report>

JOIN AN IMMIGRATION INTEREST GROUP & GOOGLE GROUP:

US Immigration Interest group and Google Group:

contact janea@lwvsandiego.org or katherineg@lwv-pa.org

CA Immigration Interest group and Google Group:

contact Beryl Flom at berylflom@gmail.com

IMMIGRATION BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND TALKING POINTS FOR COMMUNITY DISCUSSION:

available at lwvsandiego.org/immigration

GOOD SOURCES OF UP-TO-DATE INFO:

National Immigration Forum weekly bulletin (on Fridays):

<https://immigrationforum.org/>

Bipartisan Policy Center – podcasts on immigration:

<https://bipartisanpolicy.org/policy-area/immigration/>

California Immigrant Policy Center (CIPC): caimmigrant.org

CHIRLA (Committee for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles): chirla.org

PRESENTER CONTACT INFORMATION:

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LWV POSITION ON IMMIGRATION:

The League of Women Voters believes that immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises. Provision should also be made for qualified persons to enter the United States on student visas. All persons should receive fair treatment under the law.

The League supports federal immigration law that provides an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlogs) for legal entry of immigrants into the United States.

To complement these goals the League supports federal policies to improve economies, education, job opportunities and living conditions in nations with large emigrating populations.

In transition to a reformed system, the League supports provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

The League supports federal payments to impacted communities to address the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.

Criteria for Legal Admission to the United States: The League supports the following criteria for legal admission of persons into the United States:

- Family reunification of spouses or minor children with authorized immigrants or citizens;
- Flight from persecution or response to humanitarian crises in home countries;
- Economic, business and employment needs in the United States;
- Education and training needs of the United States;
- Educational program opportunities; and
- Lack of a history of serious criminal activity.

Administration and Enforcement: The League supports due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal and right to humane treatment. The League supports:

- Improved technology to facilitate employer verification of employee status
- Verification documents, such as status cards and work permits, with secure identifiers;
- Significant fines and penalties for employers who hire unauthorized workers;
- Improved technology for sharing information among federal agencies;
- More effective tracking of individuals who enter the United States; and
- Increased personnel at borders.

The League also supports programs allowing foreign workers to enter and leave the United States to meet seasonal or sporadic labor needs.

Unauthorized Immigrants Already in the United States: In achieving overall policy goals, the League supports a system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status, including citizenship, by paying taxes, learning English, studying civics and meeting other relevant criteria. While policy reforms, including a path to legal status, remain unachieved, the League does not support deporting unauthorized immigrants who have no history of criminal activity