

# Your VOTER

(GUIDE TO LWV SAN BERNARDINO ISSUES, ACTION, & INFO)

## Immigration Issues to be Explored Nov. 10

What promises to be an information-packed meeting welcomes members and guests to League's first general meeting of the fiscal year. Come, bring your concerns and brains to ponder the immigration situation that has morphed into a crucial challenge. Your study committee has invited authorities and agencies who deal daily with the impact of immigration on Southern California to share their knowledge with us. Topics to be addressed include: economic impact, health service impact, schools and colleges' involvement, social services that need to be provided, disrupted families, lack of housing and sanitation, literacy, and many other related impacts. This is a chance to ask questions of those involved with immigration control, the naturalization process, and service providers.

The meeting will take place at Villasenor Branch Library (525 No. Mt. Vernon), 3 to 6 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 10. There is parking behind the library and in the shopping center (northeast corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and Mt. Vernon). Do not miss this meeting. You will want to have background from the experts in order to participate in the consensus we will vote upon before the end of January.

For a brief background summary of U.S. immigration, see the two most recent *National Voters* and/or check the immigration study online at [www.lwv.org/](http://www.lwv.org/). If you have trouble, call Gloria or Marion to lead you through the process. Call Susan Nieblas, study chair if you have questions: (909) 338-8260, [snieb0818@aol.com](mailto:snieb0818@aol.com).

Committee members include: Ann Brenan, Annetta Casey, Dotti Garcia, Donna Kaufman, Carol Kennedy, Millie McKim, Marion Vassilakos.



## MEMBER HELP NEEDED FOR VOTER EVENTS AT CSUSB and SBVC

President Gloria Anderson will need help from members for League outreach voter registration at CSUSB, from 4-6 p.m. on October 18, with a candidates' event at 6 p.m. at the Upper Commons (Obershaw Hall). The event is open to students, faculty, and the community. Student moderators will pose the questions that have been developed by students and which include aspects of voting such as registration, education, and mobilization; public safety. We need League members to register just attend. A promotional flyer should be available by website. There will be intermissions with entertainment campus.

The Valley College day-before-election event is not available at VOTER deadline. Members interested in [glorand@juno.com](mailto:glorand@juno.com) (909)338- 4163.



higher education in the Inland Empire; and voters and screen questions at the forum or to the time the VOTER is in the mail/on the provided by two Greek organizations on

all day on Monday, November 5. Details were participating can contact me for details:

## CANDIDATES TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AT LWV-NCNW FORUMS OCT. 22, 23

Candidates for San Bernardino city council wards 3, 5, 6, and 7 will respond to questions asked by citizens on Monday Oct., 22; and candidates for city-wide elected offices of City Attorney, City Clerk, and City Treasurer will respond to questions submitted by citizens on Tues., Oct. 23.

The events will be held at San Bdnno City Hall from 7:00 to 9:00 p. m. Voter Service chair John Longville reports that the forum will follow League guidelines, and each candidate will be timed to 5 minutes for opening statement and 3 minutes for closing. The body of the forum will consist of citizen questions asked of candidate. The forum will be broadcast on cable KCSB (3) live and rebroadcast during the period prior to Nov. 6. The National Council of Negro Women and League of Women Voters are sponsoring this event.

## SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY VOWS TO GO GREEN

Green takes on new meaning in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, defining stewardship of the planet rather than envy or naiveté. This fall San Bernardino County unveiled its Green County San Bernardino program. It has been touted as a series of programs and incentives intended to promote environmental building standards, reduce pollution, decrease effects of climate change and cultivate ecologically-responsible habits in the daily lives of residents and businesses. Incentives are encouraged for compliance with programs including such practices as green buildings, hybrid vehicles, and energy efficient power generation. Though the brochure prepared by SBdnno Co was not online at the time of editing, it should be accessible soon at: <http://www.greencountysb.com/>. Other sites include: [www.h2ouse.org](http://www.h2ouse.org), [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com), [www.aceee.org](http://www.aceee.org), [www.enrgystar.gov](http://www.enrgystar.gov), [www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org), [www.eere.energy.gov](http://www.eere.energy.gov).



# LWVC BOARD VOTES TO OPPOSE 2 INITIATIVES ON FEB. 2008 BALLOT

Transportation Funding: Prohibits retention of funds earmarked for the Transportation Investment Fund in the General Fund after 7/1/08, and requires repayment of prior borrowing for non-transportation purposes.

Community Colleges: Establishes independent public community college districts and Board of Governors; requires that minimum levels of Proposition 98 funding for school districts and community college districts be calculated and appropriated separately; and other provisions.

The board deferred action on the term limits initiative until the final list of measures for the February 2008 ballot is known. Still pending is a possible water bond (see Special Session information), and possibly four referenda on Indian gaming compacts. Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed the advisory measure on the Iraq War, so it will not appear on the ballot. Information about initiatives is available on the Secretary of State's website at: <[http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections\\_j.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_j.htm)>.



## MEMBER ALERT:

Our faithful VOTER distribution volunteer for a decade John Weinger, is retiring. We need a volunteer immediately. It requires about 2 hours per VOTER edition (not even every month) and then a drive to the main post office on Redlands Blvd. No money involved since we have an account. Our trusty mailing label volunteer, Cathy Goring, edits and prints the labels. We are lucky. Please phone Gloria 338-4163 or [glorand@juno.com](mailto:glorand@juno.com). Thanks. You'll enjoy the diversion. Marion will show you how.

## PREZ SEZ

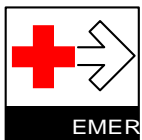
September has been a busy month and October promises to be even busier as we approach the November elections. San Bernardino city offices (clerk, attorney, and treasurer) and four council seats will be on the ballot. Watch for airing of the city council candidates forum on Channel 3 the last week of October, cosponsored by the League and the National Council of Negro Women.

We have also been working on a candidate questionnaire with the Social Justice Coalition. It will be distributed mainly to the wards targeted for an education and get out the vote campaign. If any of you are interested in being a phone bank volunteer, please let me know. Calls will be made during the last part of October.

Be sure to read the article in this issue on the county's Green Plan. We will be monitoring its implementation and commenting as appropriate.

The Immigration Study is finally underway. Susan Nieblas and her committee have been hard at work planning for presentations to the membership. Thanks to all of them!

As always, if you have ideas or comments on what your League is doing, contact me or any board member. We aim to please! Gloria Anderson 338-4163 [glorand@juno.com](mailto:glorand@juno.com)



## LEAGUE OPPOSES AB 8 HEALTH CARE BILL THAT BUILDS UPON EMPLOYER-BASED SYSTEM OF COVERAGE

League believes every Californian should have affordable, quality, comprehensive health care. Unfortunately, AB 8 does not achieve that goal, and in fact would do more harm than good for the people of California. Read more at <http://ca.lwv.org/action/>.

**Membership in LWV is a bargain and a statement. You will be saying that you are committed to the ballot as a means for change and to providing non biased information to voters. The issues your League follows are those that affect every resident's family and community. Get involved in the League of Women Voters.**



\* \$50 One Year individual membership, \$75 household membership, \$40 student membership  
\* Please send me more Information.

NAME/NAMES: \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to League of Women Voters and return with this application form to:  
League of Women Voters, San Bernardino, 568 No. Mountain View #150, San Bernardino, CA 92401-1218

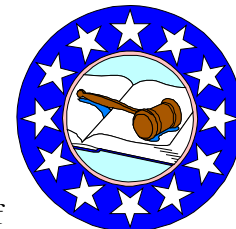
## LWV of San Bernardino Board of Directors

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### KNOW YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

President George W. Bush, The White House, Washington, DC 20500  
Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 445-2841  
Senator Barbara Boxer, 201 No. E St., San Bdn 92401, (909) 888-8525  
Senator Dianne Feinstein, 11111 Santa Monica Blvd #915, LA, CA 90025, (310) 914-7300  
Representative Jerry Lewis, 1150 Brookside #J-5, Redlands, CA 92373 (909) 862-6030  
Representative Joe Baca, 201 No. E St., San Bernardino, 92401 (909) 885-2222  
State Senator, Bob Dutton, 8577 Haven Ave., Rancho Cuc., 91730 (909) 466-4180  
State Senator Gloria Negrete McLeod, 4959 Aalo Verde St. #100B, Montclair, CA 91763, (909) 621-7483  
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Assemblyman Bill Emerson, 10681 Foothill Blvd. #325, Rancho Cuc 91730 (909) 466-9096  
Assemblyman Paul Cook, 34932 Yucaipa Blvd. Yucaipa 92399 (909) 790-0479  
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**WHERE ARE THE IMMIGRANTS?** -- *article based on a presentation July 21, 07, at LWVLA Workshop. The full document is a great resource and is available online: [http://ca.lwv.org/lwvonly/studies/imm\\_us07/lwvla\\_workshop\\_speakersnotes.pdf](http://ca.lwv.org/lwvonly/studies/imm_us07/lwvla_workshop_speakersnotes.pdf). I apologize to the presenters Irma Strantz LWVPasadena and Jo Anne Aplet LWVLA for the editing that abbreviated these pages from the document. –your editor: Marion*



In 2004 there were 31 million non-elderly immigrants living in the U.S. who came from diverse backgrounds and regions of the world. One third of them were naturalized citizens; one quarter of the remainder (20 million) were non-citizens living in the country for more than 12 years, and another quarter had been here less than 5 years.

Mexicans account for a higher share of immigrants in California (43% ) than in the U.S.(32%), but California's Mexican immigrants are less likely to be unauthorized (i.e., illegal) than is the case nationally (38% to 53%).... Asians comprise 38% of legal immigrants, and 15% of California's illegal residents. European immigrants of whom 12% are working age represented 80% of all immigrants, much higher than 60% of natives. Overall, immigrants in California increase the pool of working-age adults....Non-citizen workers are more likely to be in low wage jobs, such as labor and service occupations (hotels, casinos), construction and agricultural industries.

For production occupations in L.A., about 80% of workers were foreign born, while only 20% were natives, a reverse of the national picture.

Because of the recent crack-down on undocumented field workers in California, (typically 8 out of 10 field hands), agriculture workers are now offered \$10 to \$12/hr., much like construction jobs.

Unauthorized adults were four times as likely as natives to lack health insurance coverage. In L.A. a higher share (60%) lack health insurance coverage. In L.A. 44% of illegal immigrant children, compared with 13% of native children were uninsured. When asked in a CHIS interview survey, when uninsured were asked about their citizenship status, 63.5% in L.A. were citizens, 14.6% held a green card, and 21.9% had no green card.

Family income for illegal families was significantly lower than that of legal immigrant or native families. However, the longer they stayed, the higher the income. In California in 2003, 27% of illegal immigrant adults were poor (with family incomes below 100% of the FPL, compared with 12% of natives. Almost 2 out of 5 children of illegal immigrants were poor in California and L.A.

**THE FUTURE:** Whatever the outcome of the immigration debate, there will be a strong impact on California. Heavy economic dependence on illegal labor means that massive deportations, etc., will be costly for the state. Children and Family Services agency will be stretched to assist families splitting apart because the children are .citizens and the

parents are being deported. If legalization occurred, Cal would still face large, poor immigrant populations with great needs for healthcare and other services.



Immigrants in California increase the pool of working age adults, with illegal immigrants having the strongest impact on the 18-29 age group and legal immigrants on the 30-49 age group. As the native born population ages, dependency of native born elders on immigrant workers will increase. Immigrants, including the unauthorized, will become an even greater source of government revenues to support services for the state's burgeoning elderly population.

The census bureau grouped employment into five categories, depending on the skill level required, ranging from very low to very high. Both male and female workers from Mexico and Central America are concentrated in the very low and low brackets, although female employees from these areas are also well represented in the middle category. The very low category includes agricultural workers, dishwashers and cooks, maids, helpers on construction sites and hand packagers. The low category includes grounds maintenance workers, painters, and construction workers. The middle category only lists food service managers. The high category includes professions which require certification, such as accountants and registered nurses, and the very high category includes professions such as doctors and college teachers which require post graduate degrees and extensive training.

Workers from Mexico and Central America between the ages of 25 and 64 were employed in just eight sectors: construction (18%), restaurants (9%), landscaping (5%), agriculture (4%), food manufacturing (4%), services to buildings and dwellings (3%), textiles, apparel and leather (2%), and private households (2%). Only about 15% of workers born in the U.S. and other parts of the world are employed in these occupations.



Nationally, almost 40% of foreign-born workers were from Mexico and Central America and 15% were from Asia. The majority of these immigrants were concentrated in California and the Southwest. In 2004, foreign-born workers constituted 32% of the labor force in California. The number of workers from Mexico and Central America without a high school diploma continued to increase. The average education attainment level for all workers from Central America is 9<sup>th</sup> grade, 39% of workers from this region completed less than 8 grades.

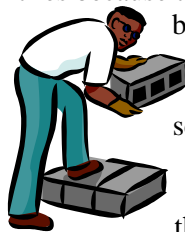


By contrast, immigrants from the rest of the world averaged 14 years of education. Many were employed in high tech industries that were experiencing a shortage of highly skilled workers born and educated in the U.S. In addition trained doctors and nurses from many countries, particularly the Philippines, were coming to Southern California and elsewhere in the U.S.

In 2004, some 3.2 million of the foreign born workers in the U.S. resided in the Los Angeles metropolitan region. The large number of newly arrived unskilled workers had resulted in fewer jobs and in earnings reductions of up to 10%<sup>^</sup> among native-born high school dropouts. The unemployment rate for native born young men between the ages of 16 and 24 averaged 13.3% while it was only 7.3% for young men born in Mexico and Central America.

The percentage of foreign born workers from areas other than Mexico and Central America in the high and very high categories is roughly comparable to that for native born.

Those who welcome young workers from other countries because they will contribute to Social Security when the baby boomers retire are counting on the foreign-born workers' children to assume this burden since the skill sets of new immigrants are likely to be the same as those of current immigrants. However, most of the studies assume, without providing documentation, that their American-born children will have more opportunity to finish school and this will earn wages comparable to other native-born workers who have completed high school and college. This appears to be based more on hope than reality. Children born in Mexico and Central America, but educated in the U.S., also the average high school graduation rate for Latino students, including both native-born and immigrants, is 55% compared to 78% for white students and 59% for African Americans. (Rates are determined by comparing the number of students in each group that completed 8<sup>th</sup> grade with the number who completed high school in five years.)



New immigrants are now heading for other states that use large numbers of unskilled workers in industries such as meat packing, chicken processing, textile manufacturing, etc. Southern California has become an exporter of foreign workers to other states.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. LWV does not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. It does, however, take action on selected government issues in the public interest.

### CALENDAR

Oct. 18 (Thurs.)	Voter registration 4 p.m. with candidate forum 6 p.m., CSUSB, members needed
Oct. 22 (Mon.)	City Council candidate forum, SBdno City Hall, 300 No. D, 7 p.m.
Oct. 23 (Tues.)	Citywide candidate debate, SBdno City Hall, 300 No. D, 7 p.m.
Nov. 1 (Thurs.)	Board meeting 10 a.m., 568 Mtn. View Ave., San Bernardin
Nov. 5 (Mon.)	Voter event at SBVC, Gloria will need volunteers (388-4163)
Nov. 6 (Tues.)	Local Elections, polls open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. VOTE!!
Nov. 10 (Sat.)	Immigration panel gen'l meeting, 3 – 6 p.m., Villasenor Library, 525 Mt. Vernon Contact Susan Nieblas < <a href="mailto:nieb0818@aol.com">nieb0818@aol.com</a> > (909) 338-8260.
Dec. 1, (Sat.)	Holiday party, 2 – 4 p.m., Sweet Dreams Time for Change residence
Now to Jan. 2008	LWVSB Immigration Study Committee will meet and design educational information for the community and League members re- the national League Immigration Study
June 7 (Sat.)	LWVSB Annual Meeting, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
June 13 – 17 (Fri.-Tues.)	LWVUS National Convention, Portland, OR

**LWVSB THANKS HARPER'S PRINTING  
FOR HELP IN REPRODUCING THIS 'VOTER'  
Harper's, 1956 No. E St., LWV's EXCLUSIVE PRINTER AND COPY SHOP**

**League of Women Voters of San Bernardino  
568 No. Mountain View Ave.  
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**October 2007**

**Dated Material**

**YOUR VOTER**

