

LWVF Immigration Committee

Framework for Education and Advocacy

A summary of the LWV **Position on Immigration:**

- Reunification of immediate families
- Provision for economic, business and employment needs of the United States
- Responsiveness to those facing political or humanitarian crises
- Provision for qualified students to obtain visas for study in the United States
- Due process for all persons
- A system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to learn legal status

Though most immigration law is federal -- some state laws and local ordinances can apply to the immigrant population, such as in-state tuition and drivers' licenses for the undocumented and protection against wage theft.

Recent Legislation & Executive Orders

- US Senate passed a comprehensive immigration bill in 2013. US House has passed neither comprehensive nor piecemeal immigration legislation
- Executive Orders are temporary in nature and are intended to provide relief until legislation is enacted
- The following Orders provide for work permits and defer deportation:
 - Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals – June, 2012. Those who gain benefit from this Order are often called DREAMers
 - Expansion of DACA* -- Announced November, 2014
 - Creation of Deferred Action for Parental Accountability(DAPA)* -- Announced November, 2014

* = Texas federal judge ordered an injunction on these two orders. US Department of Justice preparing a response

Some Immigration Facts

- US Foreign Born Population = 40.4 M or 12.9%
 - 990,553 received new green cards
 - 779,929 became citizens
- FL Foreign Born Population = 3.74 M or 19.4%
 - 75.2% from Latin America and the Caribbean
 - 48.5% of Foreign Born have become U.S. Citizens
- Federal Comprehensive Immigration Reform will
 - Reduce deficit by \$200B over 10 years
 - Increase real GDP 3.3% by 2023/5.4% by 2033
- In Florida economic output would total \$17B
 - Over 29% of business owners are immigrants
 - Immigrant-owned businesses
 - Created 22,000 new jobs in 2014
 - Employed 25% of the labor force
- Immigrants innovate as scientist and engineers
 - Nationally representing 50% of PhDs in math and IT and 57% in engineering
 - 53% of Florida science, tech, engineering and math (STEM) graduates are foreign born

For more information

- To view presentation visit the Speakers Bureau page of www.thefloridavoter.org
- For questions or to schedule a presentation contact one of the Immigration Committee Co-Chairs

Your LWVF Immigration Committee Co-Chairs

Karen Coale, LWVSPA kcoale@tampabay.rr.com
Evelyn Garcia, LWVPBC dhacf@yahoo.com
Elizabeth Pines, Esq., LWVF Board epines@pineslaw.com