

1 The Montgomery Voter

November 2007

The League of Women Voters of Montgomery
P.O. Box 231323, Montgomery, AL 36123-1323
334 264-VOTE or 334 270-0539

The Presidents' Message

by

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THE NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED.

NEW DATE & TIME: NOVEMBER 28TH – NOON UNTIL 1 P.M.

Agenda: Discussion of LWVUS Immigration Study Materials and Vote on Bylaws Changes

The date change for the General meeting reflects a change in the schedule at the church and an attempt to get a large membership presence for the discussion of the immigration study materials from National. Please read the four study briefs found in the October *Montgomery Voter* and bring them with you to the meeting. If you have time, reading the materials in this *Voter* will aid the discussion. As you read the material on Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama relate it to the study briefs and the reasons immigrants have come to this nation.

Another agenda item at the November meeting is a vote to change the bylaws. *LWVUS requires that all local Leagues have the same first three article as those found in the National bylaws.* Since National Convention changed the LWVUS bylaws (the word citizen was dropped from Article II and life time membership was dropped from Article III), *we must change ours to comply with National.*

Additional portions of Article III, will change wording.

The following represent the old and new bylaws wording. A vote on these changes will be held at the November meeting on the 28th.

Old Bylaws Sections Impacted:

ARTICLE II

Purpose and Policy

Section 1. Purpose.

The purpose of the League of Women Voters of Montgomery is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Section 2. Political Policy.

The League shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

ARTICLE III Membership

Section 1. Eligibility.

Any person who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. Types of Membership.

a. Voting Members. Citizens at least 18 years of age residing within the Montgomery area who join the League shall be voting members of the League of Women Voters of Montgomery, Inc., the League of Women Voters of Alabama, and of the League of Women Voters of the United States. Those who have been dues paying members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.

b. Associate Members. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

New Wording – Proposed:

ARTICLE II Purposes and Policy

Sec. 1. Purposes. The purposes of the LWVUS are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Section 2. Political Policy.

The League shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

ARTICLE III Membership

Sec. 1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the LWVUS shall be eligible for membership.

Sec. 2. Types of Membership.

a. Voting Members. Citizens at least 18 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues and of the LWVUS; (1) individuals who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be honorary life members excused from the payment of dues.

b. Associate Members. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

Time Line of Immigration to U.S. 1815-1950

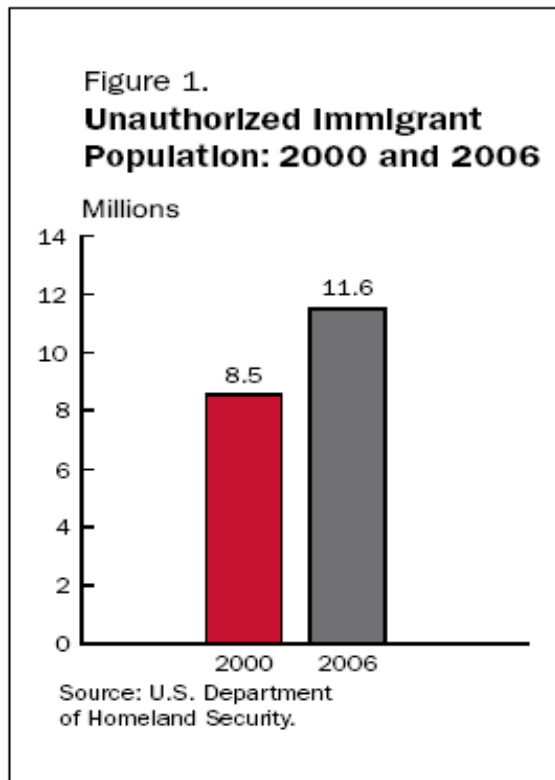
Source: http://www.ellislandimmigrants.org/ellis_island_immigrants.htm

- 1815: The first great wave of immigration begins, bringing 5 million immigrants between 1815 and 1860.
- 1818: Liverpool becomes the most-used port of departure for Irish and British immigrants.
- 1819: The first federal legislation on immigration requires notation of passenger lists.
- 1820: The U.S. population is about 9.6 million. About 151,000 new immigrants arrive in 1820 alone.
- 1825: Great Britain decrees that England is overpopulated and repeals laws prohibiting emigration. The first group of Norwegian immigrants arrives.
- 1846-1847: Crop failures in Europe. Mortgage foreclosures send tens of thousands of the dispossessed to United States.
- 1846: Irish of all classes emigrate to the United States as a result of the potato famine.
- 1848: German political refugees emigrate following the failure of a revolution.
- 1862: The Homestead Act encourages naturalization by granting citizens title to 160 acres.
- 1875: First limitations on immigration. Residency permits required of Asians.
- 1880: The U.S. population is 50,155,783. More than 5.2 million immigrants enter the country between 1880 and 1890.
- 1882: Chinese exclusion law is established. Russian anti-Semitism prompts a sharp rise in Jewish emigration.
- 1890: New York is home to as many Germans as Hamburg, Germany.
- 1891: The Bureau of Immigration is established. Congress adds health qualifications to immigration restrictions.
- 1892: Ellis Island replaces Castle Garden.
- 1894-1896: To escape Moslem massacres, Armenian Christians emigrate.
- 1897: Pine-frame buildings on Ellis Island are burned to the ground in a disastrous fire.
- 1900: The U.S. population is 75,994,575. More than 3,687,000 immigrants were admitted in the previous ten years. Ellis Island receiving station reopens with brick and ironwork structures.
- 1906: Bureau of Immigration is established.
- 1910: The Mexican Revolution sends thousands to the United States seeking employment.
- 1914-1918: World War I halts a period of mass migration to the United States.
- 1921: The first quantitative immigration law sets temporary annual quotas according to nationality. Immigration drops off.
- 1924: The National Origins Act establishes a discriminatory quota system. The Border Patrol is established.

- 1940: The Alien Registration Act calls for registration and fingerprinting of all aliens. Approximately 5 million aliens register.
- 1946: The War Brides Act facilitates the immigration of foreign-born wives, fiancés, husbands, and children of U.S. Armed Forces personnel.
- 1952: The Immigration and Naturalization Act brings into one comprehensive statute the multiple laws that govern immigration and naturalization to date.
- 1954: Ellis Island closes, marking an end to mass immigration.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Estimates Current Unauthorized Immigrant Population Tops 11 Million

Source: *Estimates of the Unauthorized Immigrant Population Residing in the United States: January 2006* by Michael Hofer, Nancy Rytina, and Christopher Campbell. (http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/statistics/publications/ill_pe_2006.pdf)



Legally resident immigrant population – all persons who were granted lawful permanent residence; granted asylee status; admitted as refugees; or admitted as nonimmigrants for a temporary stay in the United States and not required to leave by January 1, 2006.

Nonimmigrant residents – aliens who were legally admitted temporarily to the United States for specified time periods such as students and temporary workers.

Unauthorized resident immigrant population –

all foreign-born non-citizens who are not legal residents; foreign-born persons who entered the United States without inspection or were admitted temporarily

Table 1.

**Period of Entry of the Unauthorized Immigrant Population:
January 2006**

Period of entry	Estimated population January 2006	
	Number	Percent
All years	11,550,000	100
2004-2005	1,330,000	12
2002-2003	1,240,000	11
2000-2001	1,590,000	14
1995-1999	3,240,000	28
1990-1994	1,980,000	17
1985-1989	1,270,000	11
1980-1984	910,000	8

Note: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

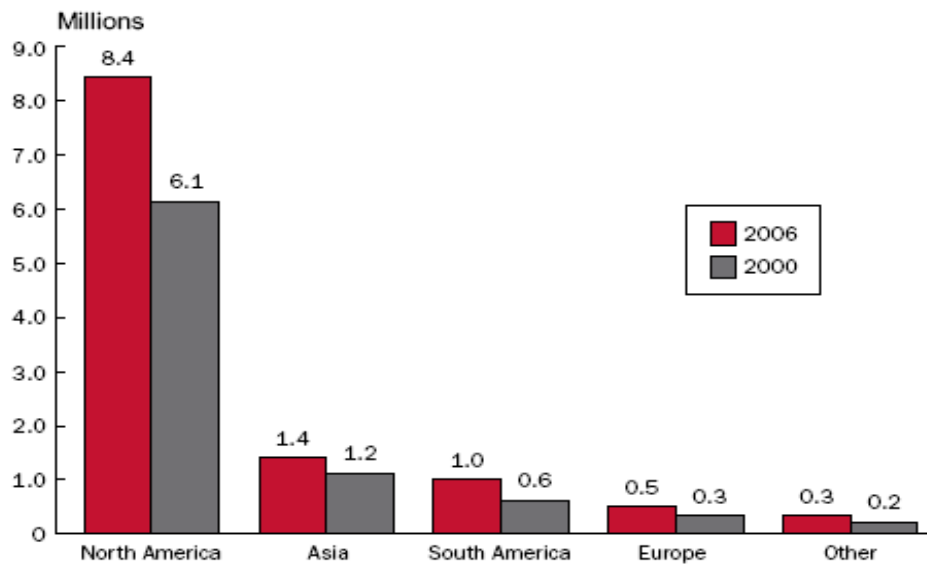
Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

and stayed past the date they were required to leave; includes those applying for adjustment to lawful permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) Section 245(I), and those who have applied for asylum or Temporary Protected Status (TPS). (Beneficiaries of TPS are technically not unauthorized but were excluded from DHS estimates of the legally resident immigrant population due to insufficient data for estimating this population.)

These definitions are from p. 1 of the report cited above. The figures are from the same report.

In Figure 2, Mexico is included in the North American category as are the nations of Central American such as Honduras and Nicaragua.

Figure 2.
**Region of Birth of the Unauthorized Immigrant Population:
January 2006 and 2000**



Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Table 3.**Country of Birth of the Unauthorized Immigrant Population:
January 2006 and 2000**

Country of birth	Estimated Population In January		Percent of total		Percent change	Average annual change
	2006	2000	2006	2000	2000 to 2006	2000 to 2006
All countries.	11,550,000	8,460,000	100	100	37	515,000
Mexico	6,570,000	4,680,000	57	55	40	315,000
El Salvador	510,000	430,000	4	5	19	13,333
Guatemala.	430,000	290,000	4	3	48	23,333
Philippines.	280,000	200,000	2	2	40	13,333
Honduras.	280,000	160,000	2	2	75	20,000
India	270,000	120,000	2	1	125	25,000
Korea	250,000	180,000	2	2	39	11,667
Brazil.	210,000	100,000	2	1	110	18,333
China	190,000	190,000	2	2	-	-
Vietnam.	160,000	160,000	1	2	-	-
Other countries	2,410,000	1,950,000	21	23	24	76,667

- Figure rounds to 0.0.

Note: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Table 4.**State of Residence of the Unauthorized Immigrant Population:
January 2006 and 2000**

State of residence	Estimated population In January		Percent of total		Percent change	Average annual change
	2006	2000	2006	2000	2000 to 2006	2000 to 2006
All states.	11,550,000	8,460,000	100	100	37	515,000
California.	2,830,000	2,510,000	25	30	13	53,333
Texas	1,640,000	1,090,000	14	13	50	91,667
Florida.	980,000	800,000	8	9	23	30,000
Illinois	550,000	440,000	5	5	25	18,333
New York	540,000	540,000	5	6	-	-
Arizona	500,000	330,000	4	4	52	28,333
Georgia	490,000	220,000	4	3	123	45,000
New Jersey	430,000	350,000	4	4	23	13,333
North Carolina	370,000	260,000	3	3	42	18,333
Washington	280,000	170,000	2	2	65	18,333
Other states	2,950,000	1,750,000	26	21	69	200,000

- Figure rounds to 0.0.

Note: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Immigration Patterns in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana

Source: B. J. Almond, Rice sociologists study pattern of migration to Gulf Coast. Available at: <http://www.media.rice.edu/media/NewsBot.asp?MODE=VIEW&ID=8148&SnID=2>; Source of Table 1: Katharine Donato and Shirin Hakimzadeh, The Changing Face of the Gulf Coast: Immigration to Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. Available at: <http://www.migrationinformation.org/Feature/display.cfm?id=368>

Rice University researchers and sociologists Katharine Donato and Shirin Hakimzadeh studied the historical migration patterns to the Gulf Coast of various immigrant groups. In a discussion of the research on Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana Donato indicates that most immigrants during the first half of the 20th Century were from Europe. Italians and Germans made up most of these immigrants. Those from Italy were largely from Sicily and were recruited to replace African-American farm laborers.

In the latter half of the century settlement patterns differed by state. In 1970 almost 13 percent of Louisiana’s foreign born population came from Honduras. This was: “Thanks to a close trading relationship between the Standard Fruit Company in New Orleans and banana growers in Honduras” (paragraph 5).

Then there came a wave of Vietnamese immigration. These immigrants were assisted in their settlement by the Catholic churches in Louisiana. The Vietnamese represented 15% and 12% of the state’s foreign-born population in 1980 and 1990. A large percentage of the Vietnamese became part of the fishing industry.

In both Alabama and Mississippi the largest group of immigrants in the last half of the 20th Century was Germans – 31% of the 1970 foreign born population.

Data from the 2000 Census revealed a change in Gulf Coast immigration patterns. Mexico became one of the top-five nations of origin for immigrants to the Gulf Coast – 27% and 24% of the foreign born in Mississippi and Alabama, respectively but only 8% in Louisiana. Other Latino immigrants added to the Louisiana population, including more Hondurans, plus Nicaraguans and others from Central American after a major hurricane hit their homelands.

Table 1. Top Five National Origins of Foreign-Born Populations in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama and Their Share of Those States' Foreign-Born Populations											
A. Louisiana											
1910	%	1960	%	1970	%	1980	%	1990	%	2000	%
Italy	39.8	Italy	18.7	Honduras	12.8	Vietnam	15.0	Vietnam	12.1	Vietnam	14.5
Germany	18.6	Honduras	10.7	Cuba	11.9	Honduras	6.7	Honduras	9.2	Honduras	9.7
France	12.7	Germany	7.4	Germany	11.2	Germany	6.3	India	5.4	Mexico	8.0

Ireland	6.8	England	5.2	Italy	4.9	Cuba	5.4	Cuba	5.3	India	4.7
England	5.1	Canada	3.6	England	4.3	Nicaragua	3.0	Nicaragua	4.9	Cuba	4.7

B. Mississippi and Alabama (combined)

1910	%	1960	%	1970	%	1980	%	1990	%	2000	%
Italy	16.9	Germany	16.8	Germany	31.3	Germany	11.0	Germany	8.2	Mexico	27.7
Germany	11.9	England	14.6	England	8.9	England	5.2	India	6.7	Germany	7.6
England	10.2	Italy	10.1	Canada	4.4	Canada	4.5	England	5.7	Vietnam	5.3
Other USSR/ Russia	6.8	Canada	9.6	Korea	4.4	Korea	4.4	Canada	5.4	India	5.0
Ireland	6.8	Japan	5.1	Italy	3.2	India	3.2	Korea	4.1	China	3.6

The Donato interview indicates the Mississippi immigrants were attracted by jobs in the casinos and forestry, and the Louisiana immigrants worked in shipbuilding and related industries. She gives no information about Alabama, but the co-authored article indicates the German immigrants to the coastal states in recent years are largely military retirees.

During the 1990s Donato reports that the foreign-born population in Alabama and Mississippi doubled and included large numbers of Mexican born. Most of the foreign born coming into all three states settled in metropolitan areas.

By the second half of the 20th century, migration to Louisiana became differentiated from Mississippi and Alabama. In Louisiana, it began with the close trading relationship between the Standard Fruit Company, located in New Orleans, and banana growers in Honduras. By mid century, this relationship led to the settlement of many Hondurans in the city. In 1970, Hondurans represented 12.8 percent of the state's foreign-born population. Although their presence dropped to 6.7 percent of the foreign born in 1980, it grew to 9.2 and 9.7 percent by 1990 and 2000, respectively.

Hurricane Katrina brought thousands of Latino workers to the Gulf Coast in search of construction jobs. If the pattern found with a similar influx of immigrants to Florida after Hurricane Andrew, many of the post Katrina immigrants will stay, and “The region’s present reliance on immigrant labor from Mexico and other Latin American nations may mean even faster growth in the foreign born populations in these communities than such growth pre-Katrina.” (paragraph 14)

LWVM Calendar

Unless indicated LWVM Board & General Meetings are held at The Church of the Ascension,
315 Clanton Street (Smaller meeting room near the entrances to the lower level.)

November 7 – Board Meeting, noon - 1 p.m.

November 21 – **General Meeting** – *Postponed until November 28th.*

NOVEMBER 28 – **GENERAL MEETING** – **NOON - 1 P.M. NEW DATE!!!!**

This will be an informational presentation and discussion meeting focusing on immigration as part of the lead up to consensus for development of a new LWVUS position on immigration. (Please read the summary Study Briefs and bring them to the meeting.)

December 19 – Holiday Party and Potluck Luncheon, noon – 1:15 p.m.

January 2 – Board Meeting, noon - 1 p.m.

January 16 General Meeting – noon - 1 p.m. Consensus meeting on immigration for LWVUS position development

February 20 – General Meeting – noon - 1 p.m. Informational presentation/discussion on local government.

March 5 – Board Meeting, noon - 1 p.m.

March 19– General Meeting, noon - 1 p.m. Discussion of LWVAL Study Materials on Initiative and Referendum.

April 2 – Board Meeting, noon - 1 p.m.

April 16– General Meeting, noon - 1 p.m. Consensus meeting on Initiative and Referendum.

May 21– Annual Meeting, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (Location to be announced)