

Doris Meissner's talk on LWVUS Immigration Panel, June 2007 – Major Points

1. We are a nation of immigrants

Four periods of large immigration

Peopling the country

Westward expansion

Industrial revolution/growth of cities

Now

2. Demographic issues

We are an aging society

We are no longer producing enough new workers

Last major group (females) has already entered workforce

Potential sources: >55 and foreigners

3. Skill gap

Hourglass shape

Low skilled labor market less than high school educational level

High end engineering, math, etc.

Not enough indigenous workers

Immigration serves competitive need

4. Overall effect of immigration

Inconclusive evidence as to whether immigrants take jobs away

Some localities, job types: yes

Macro impact: impact is success for economy and nation

Lowers prices of goods and services, housing, taxes (sales), SS

5. Undocumented immigrants

Southwest border is important, but overemphasized

40% illegals overstayed visas

6. New growth states:

60-70% immigrants used to go six states: CA, FL, TX, IL, NY, NJ

These states have developed ways to cope

Mid-90s on: immigrants going everywhere where immigrants haven't been for 60 years

GA, NC, IA, NV, SC

mtb

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