

LWVUS Immigration Study Summary of Consensus Questions
LWV La Plata Information Meeting October 25, 2007

Question 1: Federal immigration laws should take into consideration criteria such as the following:

- a. Ethnic and Cultural Diversity
- b. Economic, Business and Service Employment Needs
- c. Environmental Impact/Sustainability
- d. Family Reunification of Authorized Immigrants and Citizens with Spouses and Minor Children
- e. History of Criminal Activity
- f. Humanitarian Crises/ Political Persecution in Home Countries
- g. Immigrant Characteristics (health and age)
- h. Rights of All Workers to Safe Working Conditions and Liveable Wage
- i. Rights of Families to Remain Together
- j. Rights of all Individuals in U.S. to Fair Treatment Under the Law (Fair Hearing, Right to Counsel, Right of Appeal, and Humane Treatment)
- k. Education and Training

Question 2: Unauthorized immigrants currently in the U.S. should be treated as follows:

- a. Deport Unauthorized Immigrants
- b. Some Deported/Some Allowed To Earn Legal Adjustment of Status Based on Length of Residence in U.S.
- c. Some Deported/Some Allowed to Earn Legal Adjustment of Status Based on Needs of US Employers
- d. All Allowed to Earn Legal Adjustment of Status by Doing Things Such as Paying Taxes, Learning English, Studying Civics, Etc.
- e. If Deported, Assess Fines Before Possible Re-Entry
- f. Assess Fines Before Allowed To Earn Legal Adjustment Of Status

Question 3: Federal immigration law should provide an efficient, expeditious system for legal entry into the U.S. for immigrants who are:

- a. Immediate Family Members Joining Family Member Already Admitted for Legal Permanent Residence in the U.S
- b. Entering the U.S. to Meet Labor Needs
- c. Entering the U.S. as Students
- d. Entering the U.S. because of Persecution in Home Country

Question 4a: In order to deal more effectively with unauthorized immigrants, Federal immigration law should include a Social Security Card or Other National Identification Card with Secure Identifiers for All Persons Residing in the U.S.

Question 4b: Federal immigration law dealing with unauthorized immigrants should be enforced by including:

- i. Physical Barriers (such as Fences) and Surveillance at Borders
- ii. Increased Personnel at Land, Air, and Sea Entry Points
- iii. More Effective Tracking of Persons with Non-Immigrant Visas Until They Leave the Country
- iv. Verification Documents, such as Green Cards and Work Permits with Secure Identifiers.
- v. Improved Technology to Facilitate Employer Verification of Employee Visa Status
- vi. Improved Technology for Sharing Information Among Federal Agencies
- vii. A Program to Allow Immigrant Workers to Go in and Out of the U.S. to Meet Seasonal and Sporadic Labor Needs
- viii. Significant Fines Pro-Propionate to Revenue for Employers Who Fail to Take Adequate Steps to Verify Work Authorization of Employees

Question 5: Federal immigration law should address and balance the long-term federal financial benefit from immigrants with the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.

Question 6: Federal immigration law should be coordinated with U.S. foreign policy to proactively help improve economies, education and job opportunities, and living conditions of nations with large emigrating populations.