



The League of Women Voters of Nashville  
 P. O. Box 158369  
 Nashville, TN 37215  
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 www.LWVnashville.org

THE VOTER Vol. 60 No. 2

October, 2007

### Calendar of Events

The League sponsors meetings and events for the public as well as for League members.

Date	Time	Place	Description
<b>Wednesday, October 24</b>	5:30-8:00 p.m.	Downtown Library, 615 Church Street, parking garage enter from 7 <sup>th</sup> St.	<b>Immigration Discussion &amp; Consensus</b> , Box Suppers \$9 (reserve by contacting KarenHWeeks@comcast.org) or bring brown bag.
<b>Thursday, October 25</b>	6:00, 8:15 & 10:00	Belcourt Theatre	<b>Kilowatt Ours: A Plan to Re-Energize America—The National Edition.</b> Film by Jeff Barrie. \$10. Proceeds to support energy conservation in Tennessee.
<b>Monday, October 31</b>	11:30-2:00	Green Hills Library, 3701 Benham Ave. 37215	<b>Immigration Discussion &amp; Consensus</b> , Box Lunches \$9 (reserve by contacting KarenHWeeks@comcast.net) or bring brown bag.
<b>Monday, November 5</b>	5:15 p.m.	Looby Library, 2301 Metro Center Blvd, 37228	<b>LWV Nashville Board Meeting</b>

### SPECIAL EDITION: IMMIGRATION STUDY AND CONSENSUS

Discuss the issues and contribute your views! Join us in a national League immigration study and consensus process. The Nashville League will hold two meetings, **October 24 at 5:30 at the Downtown Public Library, and October 31 at 11:30 at the Green Hills Public Library.** Our local consensus will help the LWVUS create an immigration position in time to shape national policy on this high profile topic.

Box lunches will be provided for \$9.00 for those who **reserve by contacting** (before October 22 and October 29 respectively) [KarenHWeeks@comcast.net](mailto:KarenHWeeks@comcast.net) or 373-3551 by October. Or bring your own brown bag!

To prepare for the meetings, read the contents of this special edition of the Voter. In these pages you will find LWVUS Briefing Papers #1 and # 2; the Executive Summary of *Immigration Issues in Tennessee* (See full report at [www.comptroller1.state.tn.us/RA\\_NR/NRreports.asp](http://www.comptroller1.state.tn.us/RA_NR/NRreports.asp)); and the LWVUS Consensus Questions that we will be discussing at the meeting. Please also read LWVUS Briefing Papers #3 and #4 in your October *National Voter*, or access them online at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). Our thanks to the committee: Karen Edwards, Dale Farran, Debby Gould, Reba Holmes, Tana McDonald, and Karen Weeks.

PLEASE BRING YOUR COPY OF THIS VOTER WITH YOU TO THE MEETING.

## **Immigration Consensus Questions**

Nashville League members will have two opportunities to discuss and share their views regarding the consensus questions below at meetings held on October 24 and October 31, 2007. The combined results will then be sent to the LWVUS and will contribute to a new national League position. Come and join us!

**Instructions: Rate each of the following High Priority, Lower Priority, or Disagree (except where other instructions are given).**

**Question 1a: 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 livable 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 1b: Select the three most important of the above criteria and list them in priority order:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 2: Unauthorized immigrants currently in the U.S. should be treated as follows (High Priority, Lower Priority, or Disagree):**

- a. Deport unauthorized immigrants
- b. Some deported/some allowed to earn legal adjustment of status based on length of residence in US
- 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 (with minimal or no backlogs) for legal entry into the U.S. for immigrants who are: (rate each High Priority, Lower Priority, or Disagree):**

- a. Immediate family members joining family member already admitted for legal permanent residence in the US
- b. Entering the US to meet labor needs
- c. Entering the US as students
- d. Entering the US because of persecution in home country

**Question 4a: In order to deal more effectively with unauthorized immigrants, federal immigration laws should include (rate as High Priority, Lower Priority, or Disagree):**

Social security card or other national identification card with secure identifiers for *All* persons residing in the US

**Question 4 b: Federal immigration law dealing with unauthorized immigrants should be enforced by including (rate as High Priority, Lower Priority, or Disagree):**

- 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 US to meet seasonal and sporadic labor needs
- viii. Significant fines proportionate to revenue for employers who fail to take adequate steps to verify work authorization of employees

**Instructions, questions 5 and 6: Please mark each question as Consensus or No Consensus**

**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 US foreign policy to proactively help improve economies, education and job opportunities, and living conditions of nations with large emigrating populations.**

**Question 7: If desired, please add your brief comments (limited to 150 words).**

**WELCOME, JUDY RAINES!** Judy is the League's new Office Administrator. A native of Richmond, Virginia, Judy moved to Nashville in 2003 with her husband, Pat, who is the Dean of the College of Business at Belmont University. She has worked in the field of medical support services and since coming to Nashville has been involved with re-launching the Relay for Life and with St. Luke's Mobile Meals and Senior Companion Program. She looks forward to working with the League—serving the community while being an agent for positive social change. She also enjoys reading, knitting, sewing and marathon training. Judy can be contacted at [lwnash@comcast.net](mailto:lwnash@comcast.net). Her office hours are Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:00-noon.

**FILM: KILOWATT OURS: A Plan to Re-energize America—the National Edition.** Join us at the world premiere of this documentary directed by Nashvillian Jeff Barrie to be shown at the Belcourt Theatre Thursday, October 25 at 6:00 p.m., 8:15 p.m., and 10:00 p.m. Barrie will be on hand to lead discussions about the film after each screening. All proceeds from the evening will support energy conservation efforts in Tennessee. Tickets (\$10) go on sale September 28 at the Belcourt or online at <http://tickets.belcourt.org>. Barrie has received numerous awards for his documentaries. For additional information about the project, visit [www.kilowattours.org](http://www.kilowattours.org).

**The LWN Board, 2007-2008:**

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**Immigration Consensus Meetings  
October 24 and 31**