

## **LWVUS Immigration Study: Time to Take Consensus**

### **Culmination of the LWVUS Two-Year Immigration Study**

After Convention 2006, the League of Women Voters launched a two-year Immigration Study aimed at helping communities understand the implications of immigration at the local, state, and federal level. As part of this project, League members and leaders around the country and here in Maine have been exploring the underlying values and principles regarding immigration, reasons for immigration, current federal immigration policy, and the impact of immigration in American society. Other related topics covered include:

- business and economic effects and impacts
- diversity
- effects of global interdependence on immigration
- motivation of refugees, asylees and other immigrants

This study is entering the phase when Leagues prepare to take consensus. This will be the first consensus taken by the League in several years – many current League members have never been through a League consensus process.

Grassroots agreement on positions is one of the League's greatest strengths. Preparing for and taking consensus is hard work, but worthwhile. The resulting position will allow the organization to affect national policy for years to come, just as we have been doing in other areas for 87 years – it's part of the organization's history.

### **Timeline**

- **September 2007 to January 2008** – Local leagues and ILO's take consensus

- **February 1, 2008** – Deadline for the LWVUS to receive consensus response forms

- **February 1, 2008 to March 20, 2008** – Immigration Study Committee formulates position

- **Late March/early April 2008** – The LWVUS Board adopts the position

### **Background Papers**

The National Voter has begun publishing a series of briefing papers on immigration, and a series of eight background papers are also available at the LWVUS web site: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).

- Immigration Policy: Family Reunification
- What Motivates Immigration to America?
- Federal Immigration Policy: Enforcement Issues
- Immigration: Diversity and Inclusion
- Effects of Global Interdependence on Migration
- Economic Aspects of Authorized and Unauthorized Immigration
- Immigration and the Economy
- Overview: Federal Immigration Policy and Proposed Reforms

### **Your Turn**

Between now and the end of January, each state and local League around the country and here in Maine will have a chance to participate in taking consensus on these important issues. The deadline for submitting consensus is February 1, 2008. Consensus meetings are being planned in the greater Portland area, in Bath/Brunswick, and in Hancock County. Stay tuned for details of the consensus meetings in your local area. This is your chance to meet with other League members in your community to shape the League's position and advocacy on immigration policy for years to come.

- *thanks to [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)*