



Bulletin

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League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover

President's Letter

By Stefani Traina Goldshein

The League is always working on many important issues and prioritizing can be challenging. The national study of immigration has reached the consensus phase, so a good portion of this Bulletin contains information that will help you start thinking about and preparing for our upcoming consensus unit in January. I'd like to thank Diana Walsh, Susan Stott, Gail Mann, Becci Backman, and Alix Driscoll for volunteering to tackle the information that's posted on the LWVUS website, as well as to investigate other research published on immigration. They will be our resource committee for the consensus unit. We've scheduled the unit for 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 12th at the Andover Historical Society, with a break for a delicious lunch. The consensus questions will necessitate a good bit of discussion, and we are hopeful that many of you will plan to attend.

Our recent immigration forum garnered attendance that included many fellow Leaguers from other communities. The discussion was lively and productive. Many thanks to Becci Backman and Gail Mann for lining up the speakers and organizing an informative evening. We hope to sponsor more forums on this subject, even after we've come to consensus.

The 13th annual Community Read-Along week went smoothly, thanks to the efforts of League coordinators Sondra Finegold and Denise Boucher, and school coordinators, Mim Chapman, Ronna Markell, Charissa Rigano, Sarah Edwards, Renita Johnson, Lisa Hubschman, Anne Casey, Carol Donovan, Laury Barbanti, Liz Elowe, Rosemary Halloran and Bonnie Sawyer. The Read-Along brings people together, and by doing so helps strengthen our community. One reader, (also a League member), commented that it's a wonderful project for the League to be involved in.

Finally, I hope to see many of you at our holiday potluck dinner on December 6th. There's always room for last minute RSVP's, so it's not too late to say you're coming. National program planning allows us to revisit the League's

rich past and to focus on the many issues the League has studied over the years. This year's dinner will also include an informal discussion by a couple of our members who have graciously agreed to talk with us about their experiences as immigrants to America.

~ SAVE THE DATE ~

LWVUS Immigration Study Consensus Unit

Saturday, January 12, 2008

9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

**Andover Historical Society
97 Main Street, Andover**

Lunch will be served.

RSVP by January 8 to stefraina@comcast.net.

We hope this schedule will allow for maximum interested member participation.

There will be presentations and then discussion of the consensus questions.

Holiday Potluck

Thursday, December 6th

6:00 a.m.—9:00 p.m.

**Universalist Unitarian Church
6 Locke Street, Andover**

National Program Planning and an informal immigration discussion. Bring your orange Handbook.

**Contact Jennessa at 978.470.3290 or
jennessa@celebratestudio.com for details.**

Global Interdependence and Migration

According to a National Intelligence Estimate, globalization is stimulating migration with significant implications for the U.S. Expanding international trade, finance, investment and information flows are accentuating economic insecurity and migration pressures.

Migration pressures on the U.S. and within the Americas region are expected to continue to rise in the next decade. Despite strong economic prospects in Mexico, the disparities in living standards, increased demand for labor in the U.S. and immigration reunification laws will sustain Mexico as the single largest source of authorized and unauthorized immigration to the U.S.

Remittances

The flow of remittances (the transfer of money by foreign workers to their families and communities in their home countries) from the U.S. has reached record amounts and represents a major source of income for millions of individuals and communities. According to an Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) study, Latin American households receive \$60 billion annually from remittances worldwide, more than these countries receive in aid from the U.S. and from institutions such as the World Bank.

Remitted funds have a positive impact on the development and welfare of countries receiving the funds. The money foreign-born workers send home is mainly used to cover basic necessities. For example, about 8% of remitted funds in Oaxaca, Mexico, is spent on business startups or investments, while 92% goes to meet daily needs. Remittances improve access to education and health care for families in immigrants' home countries and help banks finance imports from the U.S., offsetting country trade deficits (where imports exceed exports).

U.S. Policies

U.S. agricultural policies, e.g., farm subsidies, have resulted in unexpected consequences, including an increase in unauthorized immigration. Subsidies have allowed U.S. farmers to sell corn at prices below cost. Corn is the centerpiece of the Mexican diet, and, according to a 2003 Oxfam briefing paper, the Mexican corn sector was being displaced by subsidized low-cost corn imports from the U.S. Thus, millions of Mexicans, unable to make a living in Mexico, emigrated to escape rural poverty.

Current heightened interest in alternative fuel for automobiles means things are changing; corn-based ethanol production in the U.S. has increased, driving up corn prices as well as exports. Consequently, feedstock and tortilla prices have risen, hurting the pocketbook of many Mexicans. On the other hand, rising corn prices benefit Mexican corn growers.

Employment Issues

Pressure to emigrate will continue if many new working-age people entering the job market in developing countries fail to find work. According to a National Intelligence Estimate, Mexico's new job creation rate is 700,000, while the number of new workers entering the Mexican market is nearly one million annually. Mexico also has a brain drain—nearly a third of all Mexicans with advanced degrees leave Mexico for the U.S.

Global competition to attract foreign graduate students to universities is growing. In 1989, American universities awarded twice the number of PhDs granted by Asian countries. According to a July 2006 Migration Policy Institute study, by 2001, the gap had closed putting the U.S. in more competition for the highly skilled workers needed to fill U.S. jobs.

Immigration policy affecting high-skilled workers becomes increasingly important as the competition for high-skilled labor increases around the world. Ease of employment-linked permanent residency is a factor that can facilitate or deter immigration to the U.S.

Solutions

Robert Pastor, Director of the Center for North American Studies at American University, concludes that narrowing the income gap between Mexico, the U.S. and Canada is the only way to stop the flow of migrants. He supports the proposed North American Investment Fund, funded by Mexico, the U.S. and Canada, which would be used to build highways, roads and broadband internet lines in southern Mexico to connect it to North America. The effort would not stop illegal immigration, but is projected to double Mexico's growth rate and reduce the income gap with the U.S. by 20% in a decade.

Tamar Jacoby (Foreign Affairs, Nov/Dec 2006) points out that immigrant influx is the product of changing U.S. demographics, global development and increasingly easy international communications. Pressures to emigrate from developing countries will remain intense, fueled by poverty, lack of jobs, population growth and political instability. At the same time, globalization increases access to information about lifestyles and opportunities in industrialized countries. The global integration of the labor market for both highly skilled and unskilled workers is also a continuing trend. Immigration laws and policies need to take into account these realities, along with the effect of other laws and policies such as farm subsidies and NAFTA.

This brief is based on the LWVUS Immigration Study Committee background paper, "Effects of Global Interdependence on Migration" by Dorrit Marks. The paper (including full citations of sources) is available at www.lwv.org.

The National Voter, June 2007

Immigration: Impact on U.S. Economy

Historically, immigrants have come to this country for a variety of reasons, but economic opportunity has always been a major draw. And, the U.S. economy has not disappointed. It has accommodated an expanding labor supply that today includes 1.5 million immigrants per year whose spending on housing and consumer goods helps stimulate the economy and increase the demand for still more labor.

Workforce Shortfall

At a time when a “baby boomer” decrease is anticipated in the workforce, economists expect demand to create millions of new jobs. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 56 million new jobs will be created in this country between 2002 and 2012. During this same period, more than 75 million Americans will retire, and declining native-born fertility rates will be approaching replacement level. Various interests consider new immigrants a necessary labor source to meet this shortfall.

Costs and Benefits

Immigrants have had a profound impact on company creation, economic innovation and market value in the U.S. A *PRNewswire* article (November 15, 2006) reported that over the past 15 years, immigrants founded one of every four U.S. public companies that received venture capital. Forty-seven percent of current venture-backed companies in the U.S. have immigrant founders. Nearly half of the immigrant entrepreneurs surveyed came to the U.S. as students and started their own businesses within 12 years of entering the country. According to a Migration Policy Institute publication, *Immigration and America's Future: A New Chapter*, the number of Hispanic-owned businesses has grown at three times the national average, while the number of Asian-owned businesses has grown at twice the national average.

Furthermore, the negative effect of authorized and unauthorized immigrants on public-sector budgets is small. Immigrant workers pay into social insurance programs, lessening strains on social assistance for the elderly. Many unauthorized workers use false ID numbers and pay Social Security taxes but are ineligible to receive benefits. Less than three percent of immigrants receive food stamps. Unauthorized workers support local school districts through property taxes, indirectly as renters or directly as homeowners.

Taxes paid to the federal government and increased macroeconomic productivity result in a net benefit to the country as a whole from immigrants. However, studies indicate that costs and benefits are not evenly allocated locally. Communities face demands for costly services from immigrants, particularly in education and health care, which are not offset by tax income. But this type of financial burden is appli-

cable to all low-income, uninsured populations—unauthorized, authorized and native-born. As Tamar Jacoby notes (*Foreign Affairs*, Nov./Dec. 2006), the additional state tax burden per native household is, on average, no more than a couple of hundred dollars a year.

Perceived Problems

Opponents of immigration often suggest that if employers paid American workers more, they could reduce the need for foreign labor. However, many industries cannot pay more, because they would be undercut by imports from abroad. Even in sectors such as construction and hospitality, where the work must be done in the U.S., companies must decide whether it is better to lure Americans to jobs that require lower skills than those that they possess by paying more for less-skilled work. Meanwhile, because they complement rather than compete with most native-born workers (this, in turn, attracts additional capital), immigrant workers are a factor in raising rather than lowering most American wages.

For the past decade, market forces have attracted 1.5-1.8 million skilled and unskilled immigrants to work in the U.S. each year. However, annual legal quotas admitted only about a million immigrants, resulting in a significant imbalance. A realistic immigration system would make the annual legal intake more or less equal to the flow generated by supply and demand. The U.S. currently issues 5,000 visas per year to year-round unskilled workers, while 400,000-500,000 additional such workers are needed to keep the economy growing.

Disaster or Inconvenience

A legitimate way to assess the role and value of immigrants' contribution to America is to consider what would happen if the influx stopped or if those already here left the country. Proponents of comprehensive reform (“bring in more workers”) believe this would be disastrous. In some regions, they contend, whole sectors of the economy could collapse. Opponents maintain that a cut-off would mean, at most, a temporary inconvenience for a few employers, who would soon wean themselves away from their dependence on foreign workers. Whichever path is chosen, there is one certainty: the consequences will affect everyone.

This brief is based on two LWVUS Immigration Study Committee background papers, “Immigration and the Economy” by Chris Carson and “Economic Aspects of Authorized and Unauthorized Immigration” by Dorrit Marks. These papers, including full citations of sources, are available at www.lwv.org.

The National Voter, June 2007

Family Reunification and Diversity Policies

Family Reunification Policies

U.S. immigration laws have always included provisions designating persons eligible or ineligible to enter the country based on the perceived common good. Originally, paupers, those engaged in immoral activities and the physically handicapped were banned. In 1882, the Chinese Exclusion Act restricted entry for immigrants from China. It wasn't until 1924 that the first quota act affecting non-Asians was passed; it set limits on immigrants from the southern and eastern portions of Europe.

The current policy originated with the Immigration Act of 1965. The new law eliminated the national origin quota system that had favored immigrants from Europe to the exclusion of those from other parts of the world. It created a system favoring diversity of country of birth. The 1965 Act also provided a "family preference" quota framework that systematized the sponsorship of relatives of legal immigrants, emphasizing the reunification of immigrant families.

Among current immigrants, family unity is one of the most powerful motivators. Since 1965, between 50 and 70 percent of U.S. immigrant visas distributed annually have been allotted to close family members of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents. During the past ten years, more than 200,000 persons per year have been admitted to the U.S. as beneficiaries of family preference visas.

How effective is the current policy in reuniting immigrant families? For spouses and minor children of U.S. citizens, the wait to reunite is often less than a year. However, many legal permanent residents ("green card holders") are not so fortunate. These individuals, who themselves have waited many years to enter the U.S. legally, often precede their spouses and children to the U.S. in order to find work and housing and save money for air tickets for the rest of the family. They soon learn that family preference category visa quotas and processing backlogs can delay the legal reunification of their family in the U.S. for many years. For example, the spouse or minor child of a legal permanent resident from Mexico can expect to wait more than a decade to receive a visa to enter the U.S.

These deficiencies in the system force many families to resort to illegal immigration rather than wait for years for permission to enter legally. The result is that a significant percentage of the estimated 11 million unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. are the spouses and minor children of legal permanent residents who have been approved for family-based visas but are caught in the years-long preference category logjam.

Clearly, the current family reunification system is not working well for many legal permanent residents and their im-

mediate family members. Furthermore, the lack of a reasonably timely family reunification option within the legal system is contributing to the breakdown of the integrity of the U.S. immigration system.

There are no easy fixes for our family-based immigration system. However, unless our nation finds the political courage to come to grips with the short-and long-term implications of our current untenable policy, tens of thousands of families desperate to be together rather than face interminable separation are likely to continue resorting to unauthorized immigration.

Diversity Policies

Diversity of country of birth is integral to who we are, and what our country is, but not everyone agrees about how much value to place on diversity. The U.S. both caps the number of immigrants from a given country and allows for a "diversity lottery" to ensure at least some possibility of entry from all countries. Despite these policies, Mexican-born immigrants composed a predominant segment of the entire U.S. foreign-born population in 2000, and are predominant to an even greater degree today.

Critics argue that today's immigrants are too different—they hang on to their culture, stay connected to their native countries and continue to speak their native languages. Proponents of the diversity policy say these connections have always been a part of immigrants' lives, and that today's immigrants own their homes, intermarry with other Americans and are learning English at rates as high, or higher, than was true for earlier ethnic groups.

The differing viewpoints may result from the larger numbers of immigrants living in communities that have never had immigrant populations before. Change can be difficult to manage, particularly such sudden change as many communities have experienced with respect to immigration and diversity. Generally, and over time, change, immigration and diversity have been embraced in this country's communities more frequently than they have been rejected.

This brief (posted on our Web site prior to publication here) is based on LWVUS Immigration Study Committee papers, "Immigration Policy: Family Reunification" and "What Motivates Immigration to America?" by Patricia Hatch and "Immigration: Diversity and Inclusion" by Deborah Macmillan. These papers (including full citations of sources) are available at www.lwv.org.

The National Voter, October 2007

Border Enforcement

Brief History

Border control received growing attention in the 1970s after the U.S. terminated the U.S.-Mexico *bracero* program and implemented per-country limits on legal immigration. The 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) greatly increased Border Patrol funding.

Ten years later, Congress passed the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA), drastically increasing full-time active-duty Border Patrol agents in areas with the most illegal crossings, adding more barriers and expanding IDENT, the existing automated fingerprint system. IIRIRA also mandated a system for tracking entries and exits of students and foreign-born visitors to be fully operational by 2003.

After September 11, 2001, immigration functions became a key element of national security in the U.S.A. PATRIOT Act. This law required greater information sharing at all levels of government, took steps to bring visa issuance and documentation requirements at home and abroad under tighter control, and mandated the inclusion of biometric technology and tamper-resistant machine-readable entry-exit documents.

In 2003, the Immigration and Naturalization Service was abolished; its functions were transferred to the newly created Department of Homeland Security (DHS). In 2006, Congress passed the Secure Fence Act authorizing 700 miles of fencing along the U.S.-Mexico border at an estimated cost of \$9 billion (about \$2.5 billion more than the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's FY 2005 budget).

Employer Sanctions

Employer sanctions have been an important, but not very effective, element of border enforcement since 1986. Although most employers consistently require necessary documentation, unauthorized immigrants increasingly use falsified documents. Unless the documents are obvious forgeries, they must be accepted by employers, who must also verify Social Security numbers with the Social Security Administration—a process that can take months.

Basic Pilot, a federal online document verification system, is available. But few employers are registered, largely because questioning documents or asking for further documentation can lead to problems as illustrated by the Swift and Company "catch 22" experience. The company has participated in the Basic Pilot system since 1997. However, it was sued in 2001 by the Justice Department for discrimination against immigrant workers. Subsequently, Swift and Company has been careful not to inquire too deeply into job applicants' "paper work." Result: Immigration agents raided the company's meatpacking plants in mid-December 2006.

Enforcement Cost and Benefits

Total immigration enforcement spending increased fivefold

between 1985 and 2002—from \$1 billion to almost \$5 billion. During this period, the southwest border consistently received the biggest share. Since the DHS took over, funding increases have largely gone to border enforcement, the only component of immigration funding that consistently wins bipartisan political support.

Construction of San Diego's triple fencing in 1993–94 resulted in a drop in that sector's undocumented immigrant apprehensions (450,152 in FY 1994 vs. 100,000 in FY 2002). However, during that same period, the Tucson sector's apprehensions soared 342 percent, making the Tucson sector the most popular crossing point for migrants along the entire border.

In the two decades since passage of IRCA, the Border Patrol's budget has grown by more than 500 percent and its personnel by more than 200 percent. Despite these increases, it is estimated that 10.3 million unauthorized immigrants now live in the U.S., with inflows averaging well over half a million per year.

The Undocumented Population

Although large numbers of the rising undocumented population cross the U.S.–Mexico border illegally, a significant number enter the country legally, overstay their visas and become illegal. DHS officials concede that they lack the funding and technology to meet their December 2007 deadline for exit-monitoring systems at the 50 busiest crossings.

Large numbers of undocumented Mexican citizens are persuaded by the Border Patrol to return voluntarily to Mexico, but the majority of the increasing number of non-Mexican immigrants caught crossing the border are released and ordered to appear in court at a future date—an appointment few of them keep. The detention system is simply not large enough. In addition, undocumented immigrants who face increased costs and dangers, even death, crossing the border, are no longer crossing as frequently. Fencing and increased Border Patrol activity may be keeping more unauthorized immigrants inside the U.S. than outside it.

No Simple Answer

According to most assessments, using current single-approach border control programs to deal with protection against terrorists, apprehension of criminals, and the illegal entry of people and goods just may not be effective or efficient.

This brief, posted on our Web site prior to publication here, is based on the LWVUS Immigration Study Committee background paper, "Federal Immigration Policy: Enforcement Issues," by Barbara Margerum. The paper (including full citations of sources) is available at www.lwv.org.

The National Voter, October 2007

The LWVUS Immigration Study Consensus Questions

Question 1: Federal immigration laws should take into consideration criteria such as the following (not listed in any particular order or hierarchy): Rate each of the following “High Priority,” “Lower Priority”, “Disagree,” or “No Consensus.”

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

In Question 1, Of these items, please take a moment and select the three most important criteria and list them, in order (1, 2 and 3, with 1 being the most important)

Question 2: Unauthorized immigrants currently in the U.S. should be treated as follows: Rate each of the following “High Priority,” “Lower Priority”, “Disagree,” or “No Consensus.”

- Deport Unauthorized Immigrants
- Some Deported/Some Allowed To Earn Legal Adjustment of Status Based on Length of Residence in U.S.
- Some Deported/Some Allowed to Earn Legal Adjustment of Status Based on Needs of U.S. Employers
- All Allowed to Earn Legal Adjustment of Status by Doing Things Such as Paying Taxes, Learning English, Studying Civics, Etc.
- If Deported, Assess Fines Before Possible Re-Entry
- 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 of the following “High Priority,” “Lower Priority”, “Disagree,” or “No Consensus.”

- Immediate Family Members Joining Family Member Already Admitted for Legal Permanent Residence in the

U.S.

- Entering the U.S. to Meet Labor Needs
- Entering the U.S. as Students
- 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:

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: Rate each of the following “High Priority,” “Lower Priority”, “Disagree,” or “No Consensus.”

- Physical Barriers (such as Fences) and Surveillance at Borders
- Increased Personnel at Land, Air, and Sea Entry Points
- More Effective Tracking of Persons with Non-Immigrant Visas Until They Leave the Country
- Verification Documents, such as Green Cards and Work Permits with Secure Identifiers.
- Improved Technology to Facilitate Employer Verification of Employee Visa Status
- Improved Technology for Sharing Information Among Federal Agencies
- A Program to Allow Immigrant Workers to Go in and Out of the U.S. to Meet Seasonal and Sporadic Labor Needs
- Significant Fines Proportionate 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 pro-actively help improve economies, education and job opportunities, and living conditions of nations with large emigrating populations.

Question 7: Comments

From the LWVUS Website

While Governments Wrestle to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions Households Can Accomplish More Sooner

By Norman Viehmann

Presidential Economic Advisor Robert Shapiro cites three classes of action that governments can take to slow the annual increase of greenhouse gas emissions:

1. **“Command and Control Regulation:** Mandates quantitative limits on the emissions of each nation or each company and plant;
2. **Global Caps and Tradable Permits, or ‘Cap-and-Trade.’** Set quantitative targets for emission reductions and timetables to achieve them, and let nations and companies buy and sell “rights” to produce the targeted emissions. Each state or region would issue and distribute permits to produce emissions up to a capped level, and permits representing any difference between a target or cap and a country, state or a company’s actual emissions can be traded or transferred.
3. **Carbon Taxes:** Raise the cost and price of products and activities that result in CO2 emissions by taxing the fossil fuels that produce them, either nationally or in a global version through international agreement on a harmonized tax on carbon-based fuels, net of each country’s existing energy taxes and subsidies.”

It is clear that all of these alternatives result in higher costs to consumers. Because climate change is causing much higher costs every year from storm damage and severe droughts, the longer it takes to slow the rise in emissions the greater their multiplying effect on consumer costs. The second and third alternatives take much longer to bring about greenhouse gas reductions than the command and control regulations such as those enacted by California.

Thirty percent of American emissions come from household energy consumption. Our emissions are increasing at the rate of 4.5% per year. Changing all of your light bulbs to CFLs can reduce your electricity bill by 10%. If done universally it would erase two-thirds of a year’s increase.

A survey of forty-five Andover households showed that the range of energy consumption for household groups with an equal number of occupants and equivalent heated area, the homes with the highest annual consumption ranged from one and a half to over three times those with the lowest use. We have a huge opportunity to reduce wasteful and frivolous consumption of electricity, and we can accomplish it quickly.

A mandated rate for home electricity that takes into account the number of household occupants and annual income

could answer the need to introduce a fair and effective incentive to reduce energy use immediately. Greenhouse gas electric-rate legislation would only need to be in effect until sufficient alternative energy sources have been brought online and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to a mandated target level.

During World War II, the government rationed critical products and put price controls on them. These included beef, butter and gasoline. The escalating risks to our economy imposed by the effects of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change on property values, agriculture, flora and fauna, and the costs of public health easily dwarf the risks of World War II. Regressive rates on electricity would be an infinitesimal price to pay for the insurance that they would provide against the climatic risks posed as the average world temperature accelerates toward the critical increase of 3 degrees centigrade.



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Energy Legislation and Global Climate Change

FROM the LWVUS website

TO: Members of the Senate and House of Representatives

FROM: Mary G. Wilson, President DATE: Nov. 15, 2007

The League of Women Voters strongly urges you to support the fuel economy standards for motor vehicles passed by the Senate and the renewable electricity standards enacted by the House. These two provisions, adopted in either house earlier in the year, should form the basis of energy legislation in this Congress. Together they would constitute a significant down payment on the changes needed to curtail global warming.

Global climate change is one of the most serious threats to the environment, health and economy of our nation. Recent scientific studies show that global warming is already causing environmental changes that will have significant global economic and social impacts. Moreover, U.S. energy policy needs to be put on a new footing. Inefficient and excessive energy consumption is polluting our air, undermining our economic competitiveness and threatening our national security.

This summer, the Senate adopted corporate average fuel economy (CAFE) standards for motor vehicles that will help bring the industry into the 21st Century. The legislation increases fuel economy standards to 35 mpg by 2020, the first significant increase in decades. CAFE standards have demonstrated their effectiveness, both in cutting dependence on oil imports and reducing consumer costs. These new standards promise to make a substantial contribution to protecting against global climate change. American industry has shown its ability to adapt and change; these standards are necessary for environmental protection and economic competitiveness.

The House energy bill requires that 15% of our electricity will come from renewable sources by 2020. Wind, solar, or other renewable power sources are key to curbing global warming, and the renewable electricity standards (RES) ensure an orderly transition to their use.

The Senate-passed CAFE standards and House-passed RES standards are the two essential building blocks for a responsible energy policy that makes significant reductions in the pollutants that cause global warming and cuts U.S. dependence on fossil fuels. We urge you to vote for the inclusion of both provisions in any energy legislation.

Energy Efficiency Tips

By Charissa Rigano, Environmental Action Committee

Reprinted from Mass Energy Summer 2007.

As we enter the time of the year when days are shorter and nights are colder many of us see our energy use increase

and bills skyrocket! Here are a few easy tips to curb your household energy use and your bills are sure to follow.

Energy Audit: FREE energy audits are available from your electric and natural gas providers. Contact MASSSAVE at 1-866-527-7283 or online at www.masssave.com for information about current promotions, rebates and other money-saving programs.

Energy Star Appliances: Look for the ENERGY STAR logo when you buy major appliances, light bulbs, windows, and many other products. The logo indicates that this product is energy efficient. For example, using an ENERGY STAR refrigerator will pay for itself in 2-4 years. Refrigeration alone accounts for 8% of your energy use, so the added cost of an energy efficient appliance is minimal.

Lighting: Use compact fluorescent (CFL) light bulbs, especially in your most frequently used fixtures. Each CFL uses 75% less energy than a standard light bulb while providing the same amount of light. Bulbs can be purchased at most retail and hardware stores that sell light bulbs. Rocky's Ace Hardware in North Andover sells them and often offers special deals. You can also go online at www.energyfederation.org/greenstart.

Thermostats: Set thermostats to 68°F or lower in the winter when you are home and down to 55°F when you go to bed or when you are away. An ENERGY STAR-qualified programmable thermostat can do this automatically. Similarly, in the summer, keep your air conditioner set to 80°F or higher, and make sure it is turned off during the day when you are not home.

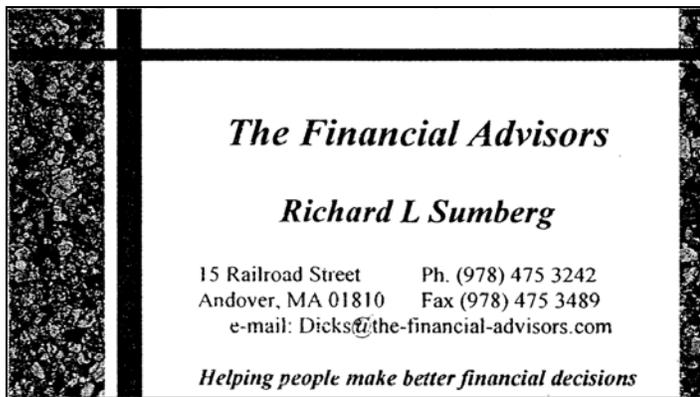
Water Heating: Water heating is the third largest energy expense in your home, after heating and cooling. Turn down your water heater thermostat to 120°F. Take showers instead of baths, use low-flow showerheads and faucets, wash your clothes in cold water and buy a new ENERGY STAR qualified hot water heater if yours is over 7 years old (ask the retailer and your contractor about high-efficiency "indirect water heaters").

Insulate and Weatherize: After your audit you should have an idea where you are losing heat and cool air (and money). Plug the leaks and insulate your home starting with the attic, floors, walls and ceilings. Next, insulate and weatherize ducts, fireplace, and plumbing penetrations. Finally, look at windows and doors.

Make Energy: Consider installing a small wind turbine or solar panels at your home or business. The upfront cost may be high, but there are some great rebates and incentives available. Visit: www.masstech.org/renewableenergy/small_renewables.htm.



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New Members

We are delighted to welcome new member Megan Pietropaolo of Andover. Welcome Megan! We look forward to meeting you at upcoming events.

Membership Update

Each January, local Leagues of Women Voters are asked to take a census of their paid members for the year and then are assessed a "per member payment" by both state and national Leagues to support the programs and outreach activities at those levels.

Note: As of this writing, 29 members have yet to renew their memberships for the 2007-2008 fiscal year. Please check your mailing label on this issue of the *Bulletin* and make sure your membership ends in June 2008. If your label says "Member Thru June 2007," that means you still need to renew your membership for the current year and we encourage you to do so right away. Come January, we will need to drop unpaid members from the list. Many thanks for your attention to this important detail.

Andover Needs Pollworkers

By Randall Hanson, Town Clerk

We are looking for pollworkers.

Members that are interested in being a pollworker should be a registered voter and be available for elections. They also must attend a training session. Workers should be aware that if they are working an election, they would be expected to remain neutral and not work on a campaign.

If interested, come into the Town Clerk's office to fill out paperwork and bring either a passport or license and social security card for identification.

If anyone has any questions, they may call Randy Hanson at 978-623-8259.

Casino Gambling Committee Seeks Members for Action

A LWVM committee is organizing to take action to oppose the Governor's proposal to bring Casino gambling to Massachusetts. Led by Louise Haldeman, LWVM Casino Gambling specialist. To join send your name to:

<mailto:leagueevents@lwwma.org>

LWV Andover/North Andover Membership

_____ \$55 Basic Member _____ \$60 Contributing Member _____ \$75 Sustaining _____ \$75 Household Dues
 (2+ persons in same household)
 _____ \$100+ Patron _____ \$35 Senior Citizen (65 and over) _____ \$35 Student (under 24 yrs. old)

_____ In addition to my membership, I'd like to make a contribution of \$_____.

_____ Enclosed is a separate check containing my tax-deductible contribution of \$_____ payable to the Education Fund

Send checks payable to: **LWV OF ANDOVER/NORTH ANDOVER**, Membership, P.O. Box 514, Andover MA 01810.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ email _____

Thank You! Cynthia Barakatt, Membership, 978.688.3749 / barakatt@comcast.net

Board of Selectmen Meeting 10/29/07 Observer Report

By Stefani Traina Goldshein

The State Ethics Commission will come to Andover on 1/9/08, 7:00 p.m., Memorial Hall Library to discuss the rules around overrides.

Michael Burke, the new Veterans Agent, presented information about an upcoming luncheon for veterans, the Veterans Day ceremonies and initial plans for a meeting on 11/14 to discuss the possibility of constructing a Korean War Memorial in Andover.

Town Manager Stapczynski announced that Andover has received a Leading By Example award for its pursuit of green initiatives. He thanked the League and Plant & Facilities Director, Joe Piantedosi, for their efforts in helping Andover to win this award. DPW Director, Jack Petkus, gave important information about leaf collection in Andover. No longer can residents use plastic bags for leaves. Eliminating plastic bags not only saves the Town \$10K, but paper bags produce better compost. The compost is free for the taking.

The School Building Task Force will give an update at the end of November. Town Clerk Randy Hanson thanked the plant and facilities and police departments for their help with the two extra elections. Next year will be busy, as well. Select Board Chair, Brian Major, thanked Planning Director, Paul Materazzo and Chris Huntress (Lowell Junction Task Force) for speaking with residents of the Olympic Village neighborhood about their concerns surrounding the proposed I-93 interchange. He also thanked Jack Petkus for the additional parking that has been created at Deyermont Field.

Health Director, Tom Carbone and Jack Petkus presented proposed amendments to the Town's sewer policies, which hadn't been updated since 1980. They proposed streamlining the process by removing the individual sewer connections from meeting agendas. Nothing would be issued without the approval of the Town engineer, Conservation Commission, and plumbing inspector. The updated policy will contain clearer standards in light of new technology. The list of current sewer stations will be updated. Spending priorities will be recommended. There will be a peer review analysis of sewer capacity in some areas of town. An example was given of a pump station on Osgood Street that became overwhelmed during a recent storm. Illegal sewer connections may be the culprit. The boards will receive periodic updates about new sewer connections so they can stay in the loop without holding up the process.

The Mid-Year Review appeared next on the agenda. It will be an informational overview of selected projects in town.

Time will be set aside for presentations and then for a question and answer session. The board asked the League to partner with them to help publicize the event and to facilitate the question and answer session. Department heads will attend to answer questions citizens may have. This event dovetails with the League's mission to inform citizens and to encourage active participation in government.

Claudia Bach and visiting Beijing Principal Biao Wang, arrived at the meeting, where Principal Wang was presented with a key to the Town of Andover.

Board member Jerry Stabile gave an update on the FY2008 goals. Buzz will take the four main goals and put them into a matrix that's been used previously. A strategic planner from Phillips Medical Systems informed Buzz that there is also software available that will help refine the goals into strategies.

The 11/19 BOS meeting will include a public hearing on the CIP, a vote on the tax classification, and more information on the FY2008 goals.

The nonprofit cable access corporation was approved by the board. This represents an exciting opportunity for Andover and local access television. They will come back to the board with more information soon.

Tri-Board Meeting, November 1, 2007

By Stefani Traina Goldshein

The following information is posted on the Town of Andover's website. Click on <http://andoverma.gov/spotlight/7>.

Long-Range Financial Planning

On November 1st the members of the Long-Range Financial Planning sub-committees of the Board of Selectmen, School Committee, and Finance Committee presented their preliminary report...

The Long-Range Financial Planning group was formed in the early summer of 2007 in response to a pledge the three boards made following the 2007 Annual Town Meeting to get an earlier start on fiscal planning for the FY2009 budget process, and working together on developing a consensus based three-year fiscal forecast.

The preliminary report given on November 1st outlined the group's work to date, which included the development of a fiscal forecasting tool; formulating key revenue and expenditure assumptions; and discussion of various fiscal scenarios. The resulting consensus based three-year fiscal forecast predicts preliminary cumulative deficits of -\$2.7 million in FY2009; -\$4.0 million in FY2010; and \$3.8 million in FY2011.

Continued on Page 2

Tri-Board Meeting (Continued from page 10)

The Long-Range Financial Planning group has concluded that the Town of Andover has developed a permanent "structural deficit" with its current level of services and cost structures; and that addressing it will require some combination of cuts in services, additional fees, and/or a Proposition 2½ operational override (in addition to pursuing continued aggressive cost-saving initiatives).

The group has pledged to continue to work together over the coming months to consider and weigh the various budget balancing options, with the aim of developing a consensus based approach for addressing the predicted structural deficit for FY2009 and beyond.

[Long-Range Financial Preliminary Report – 11/1/07](#)

[Three-Year Revenue & Expenditure Forecast – As of 11/1/07](#)

[Related Andover Townsman Article – 10/31/07](#)

Observer Report

The November 1st meeting included the Select Board, School Committee, and the Finance Committee. The presentation, given by FinCom member, Mark Merritt, drove home how serious Andover's budget situation is. It was noted that how the FY2009 budget is balanced will have an impact on the projected deficits for the next two fiscal years. Ways to balance the budget include cuts in services, an override, and additional fees, in addition to continuing efforts to pursue cost savings initiatives. When the audience was asked for ideas, League member, Amy Janovsky, mentioned three potential sources of revenue worth exploring: passage of the Community Preservation Act, which would qualify Andover for matching state funds for various projects, a waste reduction program that would encourage less waste and more recycling, thereby reducing the solid waste budget, and looking at a differential pricing structure for water to both encourage conservation and to generate additional revenue. It was noted that all water revenues remain within the water enterprise fund and therefore are restricted to those uses; they cannot be used for general operating expenses. As the group discussed how to prepare for their next meeting, other ideas mentioned included looking at the budget in chunks, and making significant changes, as opposed to 'nibbling everyone to death.' The Tri-Board was urged to be creative, and to be allowed to put ideas on the table without fear that they will factionalize people if they explore ways to cut the budget. It was noted that the group was meeting on November 1st, not March 1st, which was a very good first step. The information about the budget model the group developed is posted on the Town's website. I encourage everyone to review it to help you become informed as we enter the upcoming budget cycle.

The meeting concluded with a presentation by Town Manager, Buzz Stapczynski, of the Capital Improvement Plan for FY2009-FY2013. The plan is available at <http://andoverma.gov/publish/reccip/>.

I-93 Interchange Tri-Town Meeting on November 15

By Alix Driscoll, Observer

There was pressure on our representatives, Chris Huntress, Buzz Stapczynski and Paul Materazzo, to go along with and come to consensus on what the business community representatives and Wilmington and Tewksbury town officials seem to want for an interchange design--a new variation of the Loop (alternative 9). The Loop was designed for the Mills Corporation, the original mall developers. The new design is called 9A. Bob Halpin, of the Merrimack Valley Economic Development Council, wanted all three towns to agree to 9A for the upcoming meeting with state and federal officials on Monday, November 19. Andover representatives said they were not ready to commit to the design. Chris Huntress planned to bring the 9A design back to the Lowell Junction Interchange Task Force. It was also noted that there must be discussion in Andover about what impact the design will have on our community. The three designs which would be brought forward to the Monday meeting included the Loop (9A), the Diamond (#4), and the Trumpet (#3), (which federal officials indicated in the spring would meet their highway rules standards because it would be less expensive and would include a connection to the local public roads). At any rate, the design of the interchange is not settled; Huntress said he would be scheduling a task force meeting to discuss the new 9A and other alternatives. With regard to the land formerly owned by Mills Corporation, it's been purchased by Simon Co. (based in Indianapolis). The Simon Company's representative was noncommittal about how the land would be developed. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 17, 8:00 a.m. at Memorial Hall Library in Andover.

The Massachusetts Conference for Women

Tuesday, December 11, 2007
Boston Convention & Exhibition Center
415 Summer St., Boston, MA
7:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Register online at:

www.MAConferenceForWomen.org

Presented in conjunction with the MA Commission on the Status of Women.

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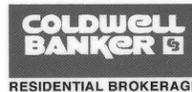
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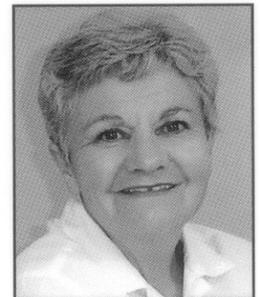
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Schedule of Events

			Time	Description	Address
December	5	W	9:15 am	Monthly Meeting. Open to all League members.	11 Forbes Lane, Andover
	6	Th	6:30 pm	Holiday Dinner / NATIONAL PROGRAM PLANNING	UU Church, 6 Locke Street, Andover
	14	F	All Day	January Bulletin Deadline. Email articles to <i>stef-traina@comcast.net</i>	
	14	F	11:30 am	Monthly Lunch Gathering (Members & Friends Welcome)	Panera Bread, North Andover
January	2	W	9:15 am	Monthly Meeting. Open to all League members.	6 Roulston Circle, Andover
	8	T	7:00 pm	Running for Office Workshop: For declared candidates and people who are considering running for local elective office. Learn nuts and bolts of campaign finance law, filing deadlines, etc.	Select Board Meeting Room, North Andover Town Hall
	12	Sat	9:00 am — 3:00 pm	Immigration Study Consensus Unit	Andover Historical Society, Andover
	14	M	11:30 am	Monthly Lunch Gathering (Members & Friends Welcome)	Panera Bread, North Andover
	18	F	All Day	February Bulletin Deadline. Email articles to <i>stef-traina@comcast.net</i>	
	31	Th	1:30 pm	Going "Green" Community Workshop	Andover Senior Center

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