



GOLDEN STATE OF IMMIGRATION?

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Immigration in California is anything but a one-sided, clear-cut issue. More importantly, it is an issue not to be ignored as it affects nearly every aspect of our state's social, political and economic well-being.

Today, immigrants and their children make up almost half of our population. As one third of the state's workforce, with their services, taxes and buying power, it is well documented that immigrants make a net contribution to California's economy. Forty-five percent of Latinos in California are immigrants. They comprise and will continue to grow as a major voting population of our State, slated to become half of the state's population by 2040.

On the front burner of current debate is the newly-ignited vigilantism, the 2006-2007 budget process shifting monies away from social services, the Real ID proposal, and continued attempts by the federal government to control the relations between immigrant populations and local law enforcement.

Local municipalities throughout California, and especially along the U.S.-Mexican border, are being asked to utilize their own resources to enforce federal immigration laws. When these local governments are not responsive, Border Patrols have gone beyond their usual jurisdiction to make arrests of citizens and non-citizens outside international border areas.

Trying to create solutions, some at the federal level propose reinstating a Bracero-type temporary worker program to suit the needs of business owners reliant upon the inexpensive seasonal labor, while opponents cite the

historical precedence of such programs and their ill long-term effects.

Facing economic crisis and an overwhelming uninsured citizenry, opponents argue that those not entitled to legal California resident benefits should receive nothing. However, this approach has continually resulted in inflated emergency-room costs for easily-preventable medical conditions.

As the debate heightens over the year, the Latino Caucus remains poised to bring you up-to-date information on the latest immigration policy changes.

ARTS & POLITICS

SONG FOR CESAR-At our Annual Board Retreat in San Diego, the Cesar Chavez Foundation and Song for Cesar, comprised of musicians Abel Sanchez and Jorge Santana, made presentations to Latino Caucus Board Members.



WALKOUT - The Latino Caucus Board of Directors was

invited to a special premiere of the new Chicano Productions film *Walkout* in Washington, DC during the National League of Cities Annual Conference in March. Directed by Edward James Olmos and produced by Moctesuma Esparza, *Walkout* tells the true story of a public school walkout in East Los Angeles in 1968, the largest protest by high school students in the history of the United States. The predominately Chicano student body, led by teacher Sal Castro and 17-year-old Paula Chrisostomo, protested when demands for a better education were dismissed by principals and the School Board.



The Latino Caucus of the League of California Cities serves as a leader to improve the quality of life, advocate on behalf of the Latino community, and provide, promote and develop leadership. The Latino Caucus is an effective voice in the development of public policy affecting our cities, constituents, and all of California.

LEGISLATIVE SPOTLIGHT: Assembly Member Juan Arambula

As Chair of the Assembly Jobs, Economic Development, and Economy Committee, how will Legislation impact the future of local government and how will the immigration issue impact the economic viability of the State?

The Assembly Jobs Committee is in the midst of a comprehensive review of the California Enterprise Zone program, and seeks to develop policies ensuring the program is working towards its intended purpose – stimulating business and industrial growth in depressed areas of the state and creating job opportunities for all Californians. Many local governments in California use enterprise zones to attract and retain businesses in their areas and the Committee remains committed to guaranteeing Californians a good return on their investment in this program.

As Latinos, it is important that we refocus the public debate to recognize our immigrant population's contribution to California's economy.

Immigration, for too long, has been a divisive issue in California politics. As a member of the California Economic Strategy Panel, we were recently presented with a report, *The Impact of Immigration on the California Economy*, that debunks many of the myths regarding immigration being a drain on the California economy. The report concludes that immigration provides an overall net economic benefit to California. As Latinos, it is important that we refocus the public debate to recognize our immigrant population's contribution to California's economy.

How will the Infrastructure Bonds proposed by the Governor's Administration affect California's Latino communities? Are there specific proposals that will benefit or have adverse effects on our community?

The Governor's Infrastructure plan is a step in the right direction towards improving the quality of life for California's Latino Community. I am concerned, however, that historically underserved areas like the Central Valley may be overlooked in infrastructure funding. Many rural communities in my district lack basic infrastructure, like sewers and access to

clean water, a critical disadvantage to generating growth and economic development. An equitable infrastructure proposal must improve upon the basic wellbeing of all areas of the State and invest in future economic growth.

As a member of the California State Legislature, how have you been able to impact the Latino community in the San Joaquin Valley?

During my time as a Member of the Assembly, I have worked to improve educational opportunities, create good-paying jobs, and increase access to health care for all residents. While some progress has been made, much more remains to be done.

This next year, one of my focuses will be on how to improve the learning opportunities for our children in historically under-performing schools. All students must leave school with basic math and reading skills that will support them in becoming successful adults.

What advice do you have to Latino mayors and city council members aspiring to the California State Legislature?

Latino mayors and city council members seeking to progress to the Legislature should be conscientious of and responsive to the communities they represent. It is imperative that we serve as good stewards for our communities, while preserving our culture and values. Latino local government officials should prepare themselves to address both local and statewide issues.

The Latino Caucus Newsletter strives to provide a forum for communication among members. If you would like to include an announcement in an upcoming issue, please contact us at CallatinoCaucus@aol.com

REGISTER NOW



15TH ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE FORUM

9AM-12PM

MAY 17, 2006

SHERATON
GRAND HOTEL

MAY 17, 2006

California's Infrastructure Bond Proposal. Come and hear Bond Conference Committee Co-Chair John Laird, along with other Committee Members discuss evolving infrastructure measures. Participate in a candid interactive discussion focusing on transportation, education, water and affordable housing funding emerging from infrastructure bond proposals. This discussion will build upon the work already done by the League and provide the tools necessary to have heart-to-heart discussions with Legislators regarding the needs of local government as it relates to infrastructure. **Sign-up today: (916) 669-1343.**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: NORA CAMPOS, SAN JOSE

In a state that prides itself on cultural diversity and inclusiveness, the rapid growth of the Latino community in California has been well documented. Since 1950, Latinos in our state have grown by a factor of ten and as a result, one in every three Californians are of Latino decent. As colleagues, we know firsthand how our community's growth has contributed to the election of Latinos at all levels of government. However, as our population has grown, so has our strength as an economic force.

Latinos are flexing our economic muscle and the business world is paying attention. In 2004, Latinos in California accounted for \$198.5 billion (28.9%) of all Latino buying power in the United States, a number expected to grow 8.2% by 2006.

As locally-elected officials, the benefit to our cities is clear. In the City of San José, the \$72.5 million revitalization of a historically blighted retail shopping center created both a landmark and gateway to the heart of the Latino community. A dynamic mix of mainstream and national and local Latino businesses, Plaza de San José has already become retail success. FAMSA, a Mexico-based furniture and electronics store, opened stronger than all 13 United States based stores and also ranks second in sales. With walkable pathways and open plazas decorated with cultural public art, Plaza de San José is a shopping experience that caters to the needs of local residents.

Latino elected officials share a great responsibility. In our roles as Caucus members, we must continue to work side-by-side to support efforts that promote economic development in our communities. Through our combined efforts, we can be an effective voice as our political and economic stature continues to expand.

Source: University of Georgia, Selig Center for Economic Growth

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Hon. Maria Alegria, *City of Pinole*
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Richard LeGaspi, *La Miranda/Norwalk Unified School District*
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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME IS HERE! We've included a membership form on the back cover to make it even easier for you to renew today!

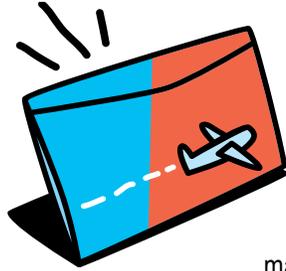
THE *WRIGHT* AMMENDMENT?

The Wright Amendment is federal law that has been in effect since 1979. The law restricts one airport in America., Dallas Love Field, to allow service only to Texas and the four surrounding states. In 1997, through the Shelby Amendment, three more states were added, and in 2005, federal law also included Missouri.

The eight states are in close proximity to T e x a s (Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arkansas, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Kansas, and Missouri). No other airport in the United States is restricted in this manner. Originally, the law was designed to protect the then fledgling DFW airport. Today, DFW is the world's third busiest airport.

The primary carrier at Love Field is Southwest Airlines, which is headquartered in Dallas. In 1979, the airline was a small carrier, serving only Texas cities and Louisiana. Today, Southwest is one of the largest domestic carriers in the U.S., providing service to 62 cities in 32 states, including eight California cities. The airline has 69% of the entire California intrastate market.

The Wright Amendment is a consumer-based issue.



Repealing the Wright Amendment would open up many markets to free competition to and from North Texas. The *Southwest Effect*, a term coined by the US Department of Transportation, occurs when Southwest Airlines enters a market—fares drop and an economic boon ensues. This phenomenon happened in all eight of the California cities when Southwest began service to the state in the 1980's and early 1990's, dropping fares between intrastate cities up to 61%, and increasing traffic up to 462%. A recent study which examined the economic impact of repealing the Wright Amendment in four California cities showed that the savings to Californians would be in excess of \$500 million each year, and would allow for many low-fare options to and from the North Texas area.

Southwest Airlines is leading the fight to repeal the Wright Amendment that will allow Americans more choice in customer convenience and lower airfares. For more information, and to help support this effort, please visit: www.setlovefree.com.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: JOHN E. ARRIAGA

This year the Latino Caucus has charged itself with taking a more proactive role in public policy issues directly impacting our communities throughout California. Of highest priority are health care, housing needs and education. Through our partnerships with the State Legislature, the California Latino 5-A-Day Campaign, the National Association of Latino Elected Officials Educational Fund and various development agencies, the Caucus is working to educate municipal leaders through forums and intensive workshops about these imperative issues and all possible solutions that can be reached at the local and state levels.

Other immediate issues are at stake with the Governor's recent bond proposal, which would allocate \$222 billion over the next 10 years for infrastructure needs. At our Annual Retreat in San Diego, Board Members discussed in depth the impact of these proposals on resources for Latinos statewide, on everything from education to water supply. Led by our Public Policy Committee, which is chaired by Los Angeles City Council Member Tony Cardenas, the Caucus Board is meeting with State Legislators to ensure adequate resources for local governments to meet the growing demands and needs of California's diverse demography.



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR...



APRIL 5, 2006

Long Beach Councilwoman Tonia Reyes Uranga
& The League of California Cities-Latino Caucus host the
LONG BEACH GRAND PRIX NETWORKING EVENT

6PM @ THE MUSEUM OF LATIN AMERICAN ART ~ 628 ALAMITOS AVENUE, LONG BEACH

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Legislative Conference
May 17-18 Sacramento, CA

Two-Day Housing Summit
May 19-20 Los Angeles, CA

**NALEO Annual Conference
Latino Caucus Reception (Tentative)**
June 22-24 Dallas, TX

**Summer Conference, Reception
& 4th Annual Golf Classic**
July 27-28 Monterey, CA

**Annual Conference &
16th Annual Award Gala**
September 6-9 San Diego, CA

For more information: (916) 669-1343



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