



ELEVATING IMMIGRATION ADVOCACY

LWV Convention Immigration Caucus

June 24, 2022

Making Democracy Work for All



“The monarch butterfly represents the dignity
and resilience of migrants”



Welcome & Introduction of Caucus Planning Team

LWV California: Katherine Gavzy
Beryl Flom
Jane Andrews

LWV New Mexico: Meredith Machen

LWV Illinois: Kim Reed

LWV Texas: Linda Wassenich

Brief background of caucus and goals

Goals of Caucus

NATIONAL CONTEXT & ADVOCACY

- LWVUS positions and recent advocacy
- New possibilities for advocacy



STATE LEVEL POLICIES & LWV ADVOCACY SUCCESSES

LWV IMMIGRATION GOOGLE GROUP & ACTION TEAM

RESOLUTION AT SUNDAY PLENARY

DISCUSSION & WRAP UP



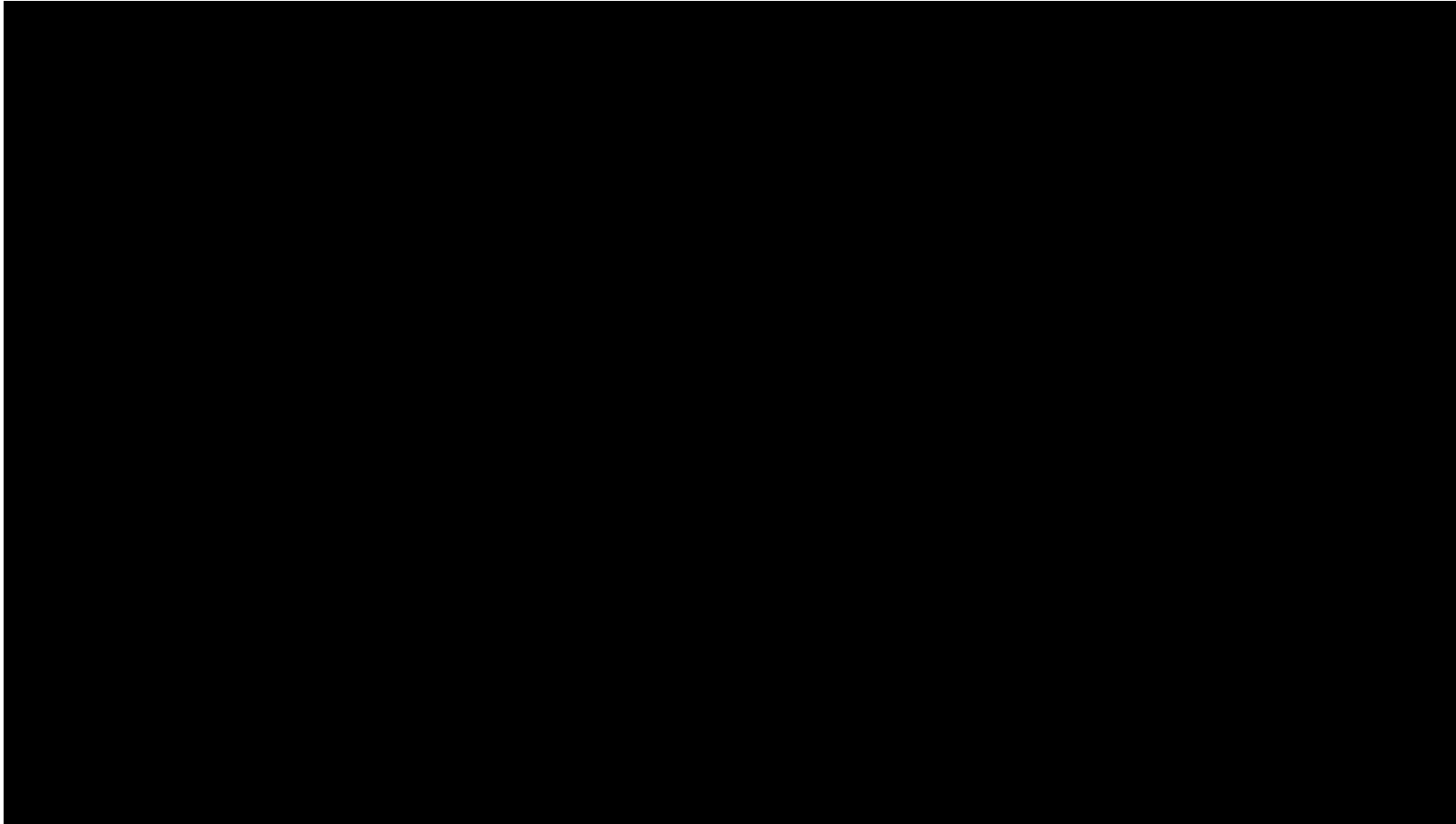
Dulce Garcia: Voice of an Immigrant

Dulce came with her family from Mexico when she was a child and grew up in San Diego. She is a DACA recipient and immigration attorney.

Dulce is now the CEO of Border Angels, a humanitarian non-profit helping asylum seekers.

Dulce sued the Trump administration after the termination of DACA and argued before the Supreme Court in 2019 defending DACA.

Video of Dulce Garcia



Immigration Reform: 6/24/2022 Summary

- Stalemate on legislation
 - support in House but not Senate for DACA & farmworker bills
- Executive and judicial actions on immigration:
 - “whiplash” of differing presidential policies
- Border management: Title 42 & Remain in Mexico (MPP):
 - unresolved judicially
 - “patchwork enforcement system”
- Asylee processing: long wait, value of executive orders
- Workforce issues: recent extension of work visas for 1½ years

LWV Immigration Position (2008)

- Promote reunification of immediate families
- Meet the economic business and employment needs of the US
- Be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises
- Provide for student visas
- Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons
- In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status

The League and Immigration Advocacy

LWV Immigration Resolution passed at LWVUS Convention 2020:

“Be it resolved the League of Women Voters reaffirms our commitment to Immigration reform: laws that provide efficient, expeditious systems for immigrants to enter the United States. The League stands in solidarity with immigrants and our partners in the immigrant rights community. Congress must take immediate action to pass common sense, fair immigration policies that end the crisis at our borders, end the separation of families, ensure their health and safety, and provide a clear path to citizenship.”

Immigration has been a legislative priority for LWVUS

LWVUS Immigration Advocacy 2020-22

Priorities for the New Biden Administration: 1/27/2021 Letter

Other Immigration Reform Advocacy

- Support for the Dream & Promise Act - letters
- Expand Temporary Protected Status – 2/17/21 letter to Biden & Mayorkas with 125 advocacy & civil rights organizations

See other advocacy statements at

<https://www.lwv.org/other-issues/immigration>

Proposed Priorities for LWVUS Advocacy for 2022-24

- Expand pathways to citizenship or legal status for current residents
- Increase Legal Permanent Residents (green card holders) and visa quotas to help fill workforce shortages in agriculture, hospitality, health care, elder care, technology, construction, the military, and other essential areas

Tim Kane (Hoover Institution at Stanford)

*The Immigrant Superpower, How Brains, Brawn and Bravery Make America Stronger (2022):
the strategic advantage of immigrants to the US*

- Expand the Dream and Promise Act (DACA)

Priorities for LWVUS Advocacy 2022-24, p.2

- Increase budget for personnel to improve unacceptable backlogs in the citizenship and asylum process
- Address the basic human needs of asylees and refugees while providing orderly border control
- Expand alternatives to detention

Value of Collaboration

- Current LWVUS coalition:
Leadership Conference on Civil & Human Rights (civilrights.org)
230 organizations
- Potential for additional LWVUS collaboration:
Alliance for a New Immigration Consensus
- Other non-partisan state and national coalitions

Why elevate immigration advocacy now?

- Crucial during hyper-partisan times to persist in immigration reform efforts
- New opportunities for consensus are emerging
- Value of LWVUS role as a clear-thinking, disciplined, credible voice with strong grassroots support
- Immigration reform is a core LWV value aligned with DEI and Making Democracy Work for All

Proposed Initial Resolution for Convention

Whereas the League of Women Voters has a long-standing immigration position since 2008 and a strong commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI);

Be it resolved that LWVUS actively advocate for Immigration Reform as a legislative priority including support for

- increased pathways to citizenship, work permits, and legal permanent status;
- legislation to ensure DREAMers have stable documented status;
- safe and humane treatment of all residents and those seeking asylum;
- an efficient, expeditious, and fair system for immigrants to enter the US;
- keeping migrant families together; and
- a workforce sufficient to support our economy.

Also, be it resolved that LWVUS provide flexibility for state and local Leagues to advocate in support of long-established priorities on immigration in areas such as basic human needs.

Final Resolution for Convention

- Whereas the League of Women Voters has had a long-standing immigration position since 2008 and a strong commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI);
- Be it resolved that LWVUS actively advocates and supports Immigration Reform at all levels of LWV.

Sunday Morning Plenary: Support the Proposed Resolution on Immigration

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR NAME, EMAIL, AND PHONE
(via clipboard and/or chat)

PLANNING MEETING VIA ZOOM: SATURDAY 5:30-6 Mountain Time

Zoom link will be sent to all who provide emails.

You can automatically join our Zoom meetings by clicking

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86251945433>

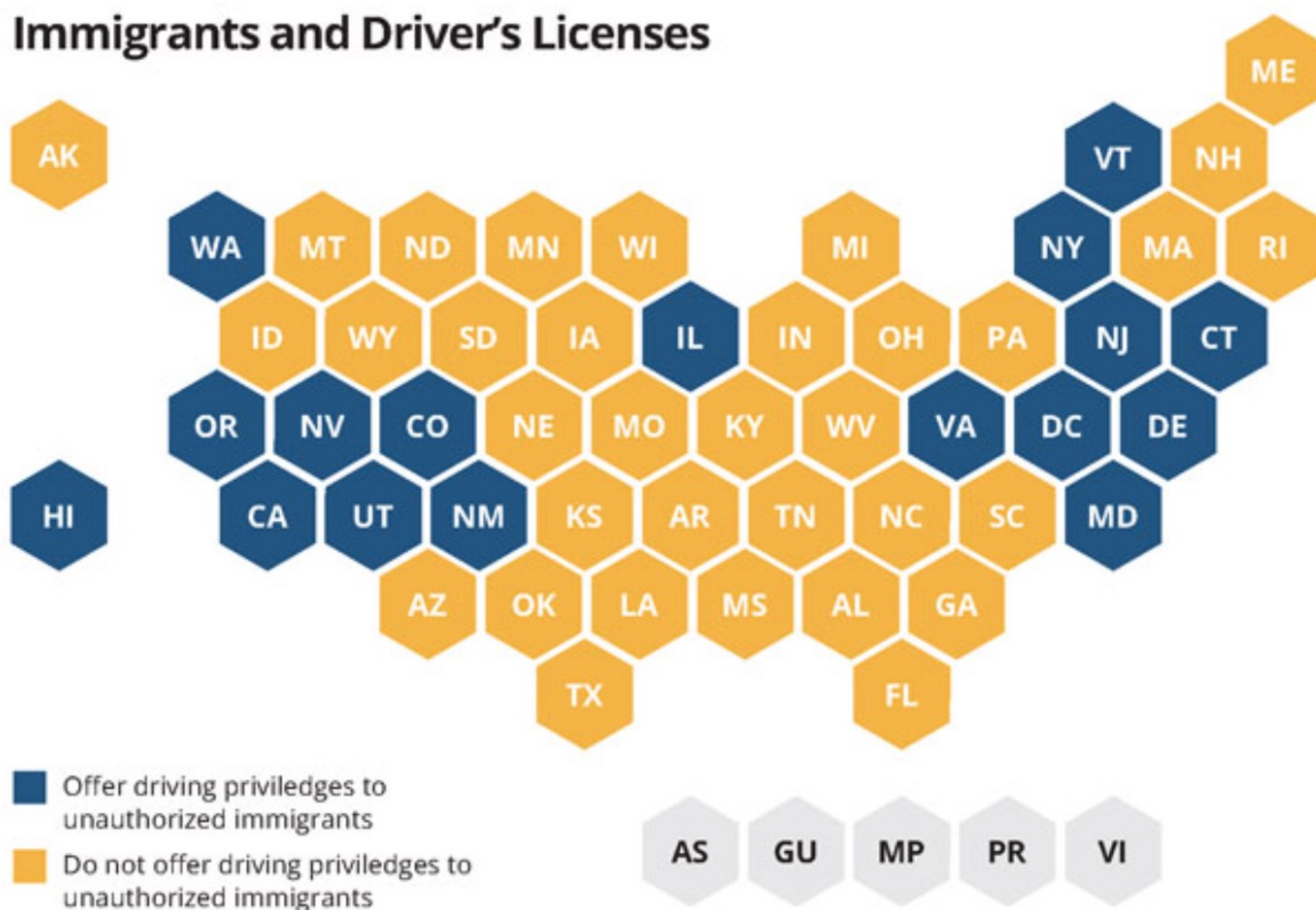


State-Level Accomplishments & Frustrations

Many state and local government policies affect residents without status

- Basic human needs: access to pandemic relief, health care, tenant protections, and eligibility for public benefits
- Criminal justice: limiting law enforcement work with ICE
- Driver's licenses: 17 states now offer this
- Voting in local & school elections
- Employment: state identification card and professional licensure
- Education: lawsuit to stop educating undocumented children

Immigrants and Driver's Licenses



Source: NCSL, 2021

State Policies: Input from Caucus Attendees

What actions on immigration has your state taken?

What are the barriers to action in your state?

Effective immigration coalitions you work with?

Non-partisan organizations you recommend?

Resource:

National Conference of State Legislatures' database of state policies related to immigration: <https://www.ncsl.org/research/immigration/immigration-laws-database.aspx#terms>

LWVUS Immigration Discussion Google Group

Join with LWV members across country for ideas, information and support

- Discuss strategies for addressing the treatment and rights of undocumented immigrants currently in the US
- Learn about new advocacy efforts for legislation to improve the legal process for asylees and refugees
- Share new and proposed immigration policies at the state and local level
- Form a nationwide action team

JOIN THIS GOOGLE GROUP:

Send an email to lindavote@gmail.com or meredith.machen@gmail.com requesting to join, and you will get a confirmation email approval. <https://groups.google.com/group/lwvus-immigration-discussion-group>

Leaders' Update: receive information and give input to LWVUS

LWVUS emails information every two weeks via the **Leaders' Update**.

Receive information on Immigration Advocacy from LWVUS staff.

All members can sign up for it at

http://participate.lwv.org/signup_page/league-update

Submit information about your state and local immigration advocacy through the Federal Action Form or by emailing individuals at national.

Wrap-up: Look for Monarch Butterfly Logo

- Conveners/Delegates Present at Convention:
Jane Andrews, 781 956-0269,
Katherine Gavzy, 510 508-9062
Meredith Machen, 505 577-6337
- Online Caucus Conveners/Observers:
Kim Reed, former LWVIL Immigration Specialist,
kimreed178@gmail.com
Beryl Flom, LWVCA Immigration Interest Group,
edflom@sbcglobal.net



Questions and Comments



Thank you for Making Democracy Work for All





Immigration Caucus Steering Committee

Katherine Gavzy is a LWV Pasadena Area Board Member and founding member of the LWV CA Immigration Interest Group.

kathgav4@gmail.com



Beryl Flom chairs the Immigration and Deportation Committee of the LWV San Diego and the LWV CA Immigration Interest Group.

edflom@sbcglobal.net

Caucus Steering Committee Members



Dr. Meredith Machen is former president of the LWV New Mexico, co-moderates the LWVUS Immigration Google Group and coordinates the LWVNM Education and Immigration and Special Projects.

meredith.machen@gmail.com



Jane Andrews is a LWV San Diego Board Member, member of Immigration Committee of LWVSD, and founding member of the LWV CA Immigration Interest Group.

janea@lwvsandiego.org

Caucus Steering Committee Members



Kim Reed is a member of the LWV of Glen Ellyn IL and former LWVIL Immigration Specialist.

kimreed178@gmail.com



Linda Wassenich is a former LWVUS and LWVTX Board Member who co-moderates the LWVUS Immigration Google Group.

lindavote@gmail.com