

Proposed LWWUS Position on Protecting the Rights of Immigrants

POSITION IN BRIEF: The League of Women Voters believes that all residents, regardless of immigration status or citizenship, should be treated with dignity and respect. This means that residents, regardless of immigration status or citizenship, should have access to essential state-funded services, have the opportunity to avail themselves of legal representation in court and immigration proceedings, and have the opportunity to live and work in safety. The League encourages all elected officials and government leaders to take action to ensure these fundamental rights. It also means that political leaders have an obligation to condemn xenophobia, discrimination, and anti-immigrant rhetoric.

Specifically, the League believes

I-1: Xenophobia, racism, discrimination against immigrants, and anti-immigration rhetoric must be condemned at all levels of government, business, and civil society. Elected officials and government leaders should take clear and consistent actions to counter these threats to democracy.

I-2: States should encourage federal policies that protect the rights of immigrants, including through litigation when necessary.

I-3: States should take leadership in ensuring access to legal services for all persons, regardless of immigration status. This is particularly important for immigrants in removal proceedings.

I-4: State and local governments should seek to provide essential services to all residents, regardless of immigration status.

I-5: States should take steps to ensure effective coordination among state agencies and other organizations that interact with immigrants and refugees, including funding to permit such coordination.

I-6: States should ensure safe working conditions, fair pay and benefits, and the right to unionize for all workers, regardless of immigration status.

I-7: States should urge the federal government to issue timely work authorization permits to immigrants and refugees.