

Immigrant Day 2008

Immigrant Communities: Making California Strong

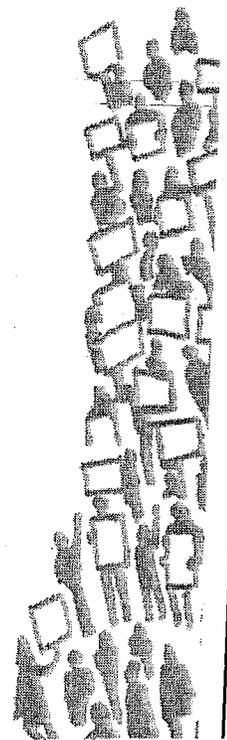
WELCOME!

Welcome to the 12th Annual Immigrant Day! This year's event, "*Immigrant Communities: Making California Strong*" highlights immigrant contributions to our state. In the face of a growing budget deficit, immigrants are an economic engine of our state helping to make California the sixth largest economy in the world. Immigrants work in all sectors of our economy from manufacturing to healthcare and pay billions of dollars in local, state, and federal taxes. California's future is tied to the success of immigrants and their families.

By attending Immigrant Day, you help to bring a unified voice to Sacramento in support of California's diverse immigrant communities. As immigrant advocates, we support many proposals that seek to improve the lives of immigrants. We also need to make our voices heard on harmful proposals that can reduce services to our children, the elderly or disabled. **We thank you for joining us this year as we celebrate the legacy of immigrants in our state, recognize the contributions immigrants make to California and make our voices heard!**

DAY'S AGENDA

8:30-9:30 AM	ARRIVAL, REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST	West Steps of Capitol
9:30 am-10:00 AM	GATHER INTO GROUPS FOR LEGISLATIVE VISITS	West Lawn/ West Steps of Capitol
10:00-12:00PM	LEGISLATIVE VISITS	Inside State Capitol
12:00-2:00 PM*	LUNCH AND TOWN HALL	Westminster Presbyterian Church 13th & N Sts
2:00-2:30 PM	WRAP UP – RETURN TO BUSES	West Lawn/ West Steps of Capitol



PRINCIPLES FOR STRATEGIC ADVOCACY

"I have never lobbied anyone before." "Why would I want to talk to a politician?" "Why would they listen to me?"

These are common feelings we have heard about legislative advocacy. From our own experience, this work is not rocket science. Below are a few strategies to keep in mind when engaging in advocacy work.

- ♦ **TELL A STORY** – Politicians hear, every day, all day long, policy options, goals, and information. What they don't always hear are the individual stories about their constituents that they can retell. The most powerful advocacy efforts weave individual stories and anecdotes into the discussion. You and your efforts will be remembered by the stories you tell. Tell honest stories about real people.
- ♦ **DO THE RESEARCH ON YOUR REPRESENTATIVE** – Find out what issues interest your legislator. Is she a doctor? If so, she will care about health issues. Is he a former local official (e.g. member of the Board of Supervisors)? If so, highlight how your issue affects local governments. How has she voted in the past? Consistency in voting for issues is important to politicians.
- ♦ **PUT YOURSELF IN THEIR SHOES** – Politicians care a lot about getting re-elected or running for another office. They fear that how they vote will be reflected in campaign literature by their opponents. If their district voted overwhelmingly in support of Proposition 187, legislators may be hesitant to vote for immigrants. Be prepared for this reality and develop arguments to help them defend their voting patterns.
- ♦ **IMAGINE THE HEADLINE** – Policy decisions often get made by how the headlines in the local newspapers read. When developing your messages, think in terms of headlines; how would you want this issue to be portrayed in the media?
- ♦ **WHO LISTENS TO WHOM?** – Politics is based on human relationships. And personal relationships will get you far in politics. If your legislator does not listen to you, explore who she may hear. Perhaps a member of your Board of Supervisors is close to the legislator; or a member of her/his faith; maybe a large hospital in her district. Try to demonstrate that many different people, with many different interests, and some with personal relationships, agree with your position.

BUILD DIVERSE COALITIONS – Once you have identified who listens to whom, involve these individuals and institutions with the work you are doing. Although these stakeholders may not agree on everything, they may agree on the issue you are working on. The power of having many voices carry the same message should be used to move your agenda forward.

THINK IN TERMS OF 50% PLUS ONE – Politics is based on the majority. Politicians win their elections based on 50% plus one of the votes cast. Most legislation passes based on a majority of those present and voting. You don't have to convince all legislators to agree with your position; just 50% plus one. Focus on the swing votes of "marginal" members. Ten calls from Assembly member Maldonado's district may be equal to 200 calls to Senator Burton.

MONEY DOESN'T MATTER THAT MUCH – Some advocates may worry, "How do we find the money to fund my legislation?" Although it is very important to advocate for your proposal in the State budget, your job is to build the political will behind the issue. Anything can happen **as long as there is the political will to make it happen**. Use advocating in the state budget process as a strategy to build political will.

CHAMPIONS AND ENEMIES – As an effective advocate, your most challenging task will be to make champions out of your "friends" and neutralize your enemies. There will always be a core group of legislators who will vote *with* you; the challenge is to get them to advocate *for* you. Two types of legislators to target as champions: (1) legislative leadership (e.g. Speaker of the Assembly and President Pro Tempore of the Senate) and (2) "marginal members" – those legislators who won their elections by few votes.

ASK FOR SPECIFIC ACTIONS – Getting your legislator's support is sometimes not good enough. Always ask for something more than their vote. If the legislator says the Governor does not support your legislation, ask him to help set up a meeting for your coalition to meet with the Governor. Request that the legislator speak with a different member who may be sitting on the fence. Ask for him to participate in a press conference your coalition is hosting.

ALWAYS FOLLOW-UP – To maintain a relationship with your legislator, follow-up activities are critical. Send a letter thanking her for meeting with your group. Provide additional information, press clippings, reports, and letters of support. Ask for a follow-up meeting at another point in the legislative process.

Immigrant Day

Immigrant Budget Issues and New Bills

The Budget:

In these difficult economic times, as California faces a serious budget crisis, it is particularly important to preserve critical health and human services programs that serve low-income residents. Cutting these programs places the health and safety of Californians at risk, and is not an effective way to address the budget problems. We support maintaining current funds for the Medi-Cal program, CalWORKs, the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) and the Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI), as well as cost-of-living adjustments for seniors and persons with disabilities who rely on SSI/SSP. In addition, we support continuing the state's investment in the Naturalization Services Program, which helps immigrants who wish to become U.S. citizens.

Proposals for new laws that would benefit Immigrant communities:

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SB 840— SINGLE-PAYER HEALTH CARE COVERAGE — BY SENATOR KUEHL — This bill creates a new health care system for California that provides health coverage to all California residents, regardless of their income or employment status. The Medi-Cal and Healthy Families program would become part of this new universal health care system.

SB 32— HEALTH CARE COVERAGE: CHILDREN — BY SENATOR STEINBERG — This bill would allow children in families earning up to 300% of the federal poverty level to receive Healthy Families and Medi-Cal. This bill would also eliminate citizenship and immigration status requirements from these two programs, making the programs available to more children in California.

AB 2327— EFFECTIVE DISASTER ASSISTANCE ACT — BY ASSEMBLY MEMBER CABALLERO— This bill would make sure that victims and evacuees who need help during and after a disaster will be able to get it, and will not be asked to show information or documents that are not necessary to determine whether they are eligible for aid under state or federal law. The purpose of this bill to make sure that everyone who needs help during a disaster can receive it.

AB 2844— PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: CALWORKS AND THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM — BY ASSEMBLY MEMBER LAIRD — This bill declares that people who receive CalWORKs or Food Stamps would have to prove they are still eligible for the program two times each year instead of four times.

AB 1472 - PUBLIC HEALTH: CALIFORNIA HEALTHY PLACES ACT OF 2008 — BY ASSEMBLY MEMBER LENO This bill would provide information and guidance to people who are making decisions about how to use land, and what kind of transportation to provide communities. The information would support children and their development; environmental health; and strives to prevent injury, illness and chronic disease in communities as a way to reduce health disparities among Californians.

LANGUAGE ACCESS:

SB 1523— DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS: LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PROCEDURES — BY SENATOR KUEHL — This bill would make sure that victims of domestic violence are given information

in a language they can understand when an incident of domestic violence takes place and the police are called to the scene. The notices given to victims would include information about the crime, and about services that are available to the victim. This bill also requires police and other law enforcement to receive training that will make sure that they provide timely, effective, and accurate communication with persons who do not speak English well.

AB 1930— EMERGENCY SERVICES: POPULATIONS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY — BY ASSEMBLY MEMBER TORRICO — This bill makes sure that the California Emergency Council considers vulnerable populations and ways to address their needs when it makes its report to the state. This bill also requires the council to recommend improvements for emergency preparedness for persons who do not speak English.

AB 3050— LEGAL AID: COURT INTERPRETERS — BY ASSEMBLY MEMBER JONES— This bill would make sure that individuals who go to court in civil actions or proceedings have an interpreter present if they do not speak or understand English. The purpose of this bill is to help people who cannot speak English, or do not speak it well to understand everything that is happening in the court and to communicate with their attorney. The new law would also have the court pay for interpreters who are hired as a result of this bill.

EDUCATION

AB 2083 — STUDENT FINANCIAL AID: ELIGIBILITY — BY ASSEMBLY MEMBER NUNEZ

SB 1301 — STUDENT FINANCIAL AID: ELIGIBILITY — BY SENATOR CEDILLO —

These two bills are exactly the same. They would allow individuals who are exempt from paying out-of-state tuition at public colleges and universities to apply for institutional financial aid, including loans, grants, scholarships and work-study. This new law would apply to California State University, California Community Colleges, and to the University of California (but it must vote to do so).

WORKERS' RIGHTS:

AB 2076— E-VERIFY — BY ASSEMBLY MEMBER FUENTES — This bill confirms that California's public agencies and other state entities elect not to use the E-verify system to verify a worker's employment authorization unless required to do so by federal law. It also prohibits cities and counties from requiring employers to use E-verify. The primary purpose of this bill is to publicize the problems with the use of E-verify, which has been shown to make frequent errors and to be used to discriminate against workers; and to ensure that California does not adopt this flawed system.

SB 1244— EMPLOYMENT RETALIATION — BY SENATOR ALQUIST— This bill says that an employer cannot discriminate against an employee or job applicant because that person's co-worker or immediate family member has filed a complaint with the Labor Commissioner, or has testified or will testify in a Labor Commission proceeding.

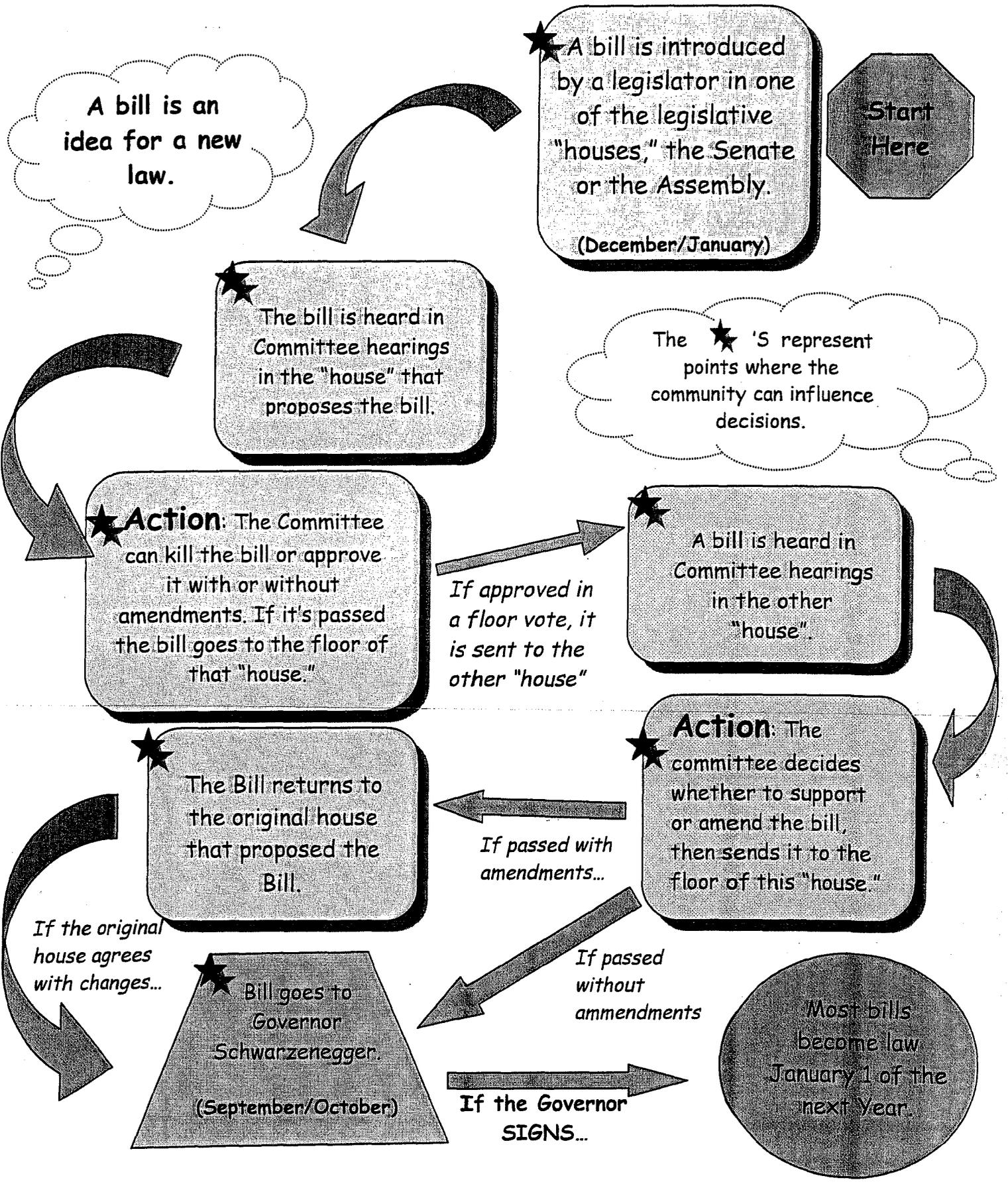
IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

SB 60 — VEHICLES: DRIVER'S LICENSES — BY SENATOR CEDILLO—This bill requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue driver's licenses and identification cards that comply with certain requirements of the federal Real ID Act of 2005. This bill also requires the department to issue a driver's license that permits driving but is not acceptable for federal identification or for any official purpose to an applicant who does not provide valid documentary evidence of lawful status. **Although CIPC has long supported access to driver's licenses for all Californians, regardless of immigration status, we are opposed to the federal Real ID Act because of its discriminatory effect on immigrants, and therefore oppose this bill unless amended.**

We urge the Legislature to enact a driver's license policy that improves public safety by ensuring that all drivers on our streets are trained, tested, licensed and insured in a fair manner.

SB 1094— OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS — BY SENATOR CEDILLO - This bill establishes an Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA) in California that would help new citizens to become active in the civic life of their communities. It also requires that the OIA work with non-profit organizations that serve immigrants to ensure the success of the Naturalization Services Program (NSP). The bill also requires the OIA to submit a plan to the Legislature every other year detailing the goals of the office and results from its efforts.

How a Bill Becomes a Law



The ★'S represent points where the community can influence decisions.

If not signed... re-group and return next year more organized!!! ☺