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The Migration Information Source is a project of the  
Migration Policy Institute

# About the Source

The Migration Information Source provides fresh thought, authoritative data from numerous global organizations and governments, and global analysis of international migration and refugee trends. A unique, online resource, the Source offers useful tools, vital data, and essential facts on the movement of people worldwide.

Working with a team of international correspondents, we chronicle global migration movements, provide perspectives on current migration debates, and offer the tools and data from numerous global organizations and governments needed to understand migration. We do this in a way that is accessible to researchers, policy makers, journalists, and other opinion shapers.

Our advisory board and other prominent migration scholars who contribute to The Source include some of the most respected voices in the migration and refugee fields. The Source also relies on the good will of several global organizations and governments who make their data and research publicly available on our site.

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## Table of Contents

<b>Migration Experts Size up 2006</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>#1 Good-bye Multiculturalism — Hello Assimilation?</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>#2 UN High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>#3 US Immigration Reform: Better Luck Next Year</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>#4 Darfur Situation Worsens, Violence Spreads to Chad</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>#5 All About the Border</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>#6 Growing Competition for the "Right" Skilled Workers</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>#7 Crisis in Lebanon Displaces Lebanese, Foreign Workers, and Refugees</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>#8 US State and Local Governments Respond to Federal Inaction on Immigration</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>#9 Regional Migration in the Limelight</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>#10 How to Fight Homegrown Terrorism: Surveillance, Outreach, or Both?</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Ones to Watch: US Immigration Reform, Openness to Migrants, Biometrics, Displaced Iraqis</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Policy Beat: Elections Improve Odds for Immigration Reform in 2007</b>	<b>25</b>

## Migration Experts Size up 2006

The Migration Information Source asked leading migration experts from all over the world, "What surprised you most this year?" Their answers came from the headlines as well as personal observations about what the media does — and does not — report.



**Peter D. Sutherland**

*Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on International Migration and Development*

"The most surprising aspect of international migration, for me, has been the continuing absence of coordination between departments of state in host countries on the various aspects of migration policy."

**Mark Krikorian**

*Executive Director, Center for Immigration Studies*

"What I found most surprising in 2006 was that no measure to legalize illegal aliens and increase legal immigration reached the president's desk. The sense of inevitability of such a measure among opinion-leaders was only reinforced by the massive illegal-alien marches in the spring and the passage of such an amnesty/foreign-worker bill by the Senate in May.



"Despite quibbles over specifics, support for the Bush-McCain-Kennedy approach of amnesty plus increased inflows was well-nigh universal among elite institutions — Big Business, Big Labor, Big Media, Big Religion, Big Academia — making it all the more astonishing that the public resistance to such a measure was able to prevail in the House of Representatives."



**Frank Sharry**

*Executive Director, National Immigration Forum*

"I was surprised that, prior to the November elections, many politicians in Washington, DC believed that demagoguing the problem of illegal immigration would play better with voters than enacting comprehensive legislation.

"I was not surprised that the message coming out of those elections is that voters want solutions and fixes, not slogans and fences."

**Howard Duncan**

*Executive Head, International Metropolis Project, Canada*

"From this Canadian's point of view, one of the most remarkable trends was that of the return migration of highly skilled professionals to Hong Kong, China, and other Asian countries. Although return migration is a common phenomenon, the number of returnees, especially to Hong Kong, is significantly higher than one would expect.

"Why this is happening is not completely clear, but we can plausibly suppose that the rapid

economic development of the country and the consequent increased opportunities for highly paid employment figure large in people's decision to return.

"Furthermore, the number of people from the People's Republic of China seeking to immigrate to Canada and elsewhere appears to be in rapid decline, and we expect that China's position as Canada's top source country will give way to India in the not so distant future, perhaps with a large returnee flow to accompany this shift.

"With a continuation of the Asia's economic development and the creation of increasingly high-caliber universities in the region, Canada and other OECD countries will need to take into account the possibility that they can no longer consider China and other Asian countries as providing a stable large supply of highly skilled immigrants and students into the future."

## Issue #1: Good-bye Multiculturalism — Hello Assimilation?

Multiculturalism was supposed to be the ideal middle ground where immigrants could adapt to a country's norms and values while maintaining their culture and traditions. Today, different countries are trying to find the right "mode" of conversation with immigrants and where within the society to have that conversation.

In 2006, European politicians dealt multiculturalism numerous public blows, which the media was only too happy to cover. Multiculturalism, policymakers essentially said, has failed to adequately integrate immigrants and their descendants.



**Prospective immigrants to the Netherlands must take and pass a "civic integration exam."**

Since the late 1990s, Europe's emphasis on strict integration policy has increased: learn our language, our history, our culture, and live by our laws and values. The UK, which didn't require a citizenship test until 2005, fully implemented the test this year, and Germany's regional governments introduced tests on top of the 600-hour, federally mandated language courses.

However, the Netherlands has taken the hardest line. As of March 15, prospective immigrants from nearly every country (EU and Western countries excepted) must take and pass a "civic integration exam" at one of the country's 138 embassies before they can be issued a visa.

Included in the exam's optional study packet is a controversial DVD entitled "Coming to the Netherlands." The two-hour video shows prospective immigrants what they can expect, including men who kiss each other and women who go topless at Dutch beaches (an edited version is available in countries where such material is banned). The message: Anyone offended should not come.

In Denmark, the *Jyllands-Posten* daily newspaper placed itself in the middle of the multiculturalism debate by publishing satirical cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed in September 2005. The reason? Free speech was perceived to be under threat, and the newspaper took it upon itself to teach Muslims a lesson in Danish democracy. In response this winter, Muslims in the Middle East boycotted Danish products and set fire to Danish flags and embassies. Back at home, tensions increased between Muslim Danes and Danish society, hurting rather than helping integration.

Debates about Muslim women's dress — the burqa in the Netherlands and the veil in the UK — reinforced the assimilation theme.

Nor were dyed-in-the-wool assimilationists the only ones to jump on that bandwagon.

**Migration Information Source: Top 10 Migration Issues of 2006**

Indeed, Jack Straw, former foreign secretary and current leader of the House of Commons, angered some British Muslims when he said in October, "Communities are bound together partly by informal chance relations between strangers, people being able to acknowledge each other in the street or being able to pass the time of day. That's made more difficult if people are wearing a veil. That's just a fact of life."

Even in Canada, which has a deep commitment to immigration and where multiculturalism is a 20-year-old policy and an entrenched value, doubts have begun to surface. On the one hand, Aga Khan, the spiritual leader of the Ismaili sect of Shia Islam, highlighted Canada's multiculturalist reputation when he chose Ottawa as the home of his new research center on pluralism.

On the other, skeptical voices began to resonate after the arrests of 17 Canadians who were accused of plotting terrorist attacks. Veteran Canadian journalist Larry Zolf had some Canadians nodding in agreement when he wrote in June that multiculturalism is a trap and that "only through assimilation and integration in a Canadian melting pot will ethnic groups like the Muslims find peace for themselves and for their children."

Zolf may as well have been addressing US audiences, many of whom would readily subscribe to his statement.

*For more information, please see the following articles on the Migration Information Source (by issue):*

<b>Features:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Policy Considerations for Immigrant Integration</a> (October 2003)</li><li>• <a href="#">Assimilation Models, Old and New: Explaining a Long-Term Process</a> (October 2006)</li><li>• <a href="#">On the Beach: Racial Confrontation in Australia</a> (February 2006)</li></ul>
<b>Country Profiles:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Denmark: Integrating Immigrants into a Homogeneous Welfare State</a> (November 2006)</li><li>• <a href="#">The Netherlands: Death of a Filmmaker Shakes a Nation</a> (October 2005)</li><li>• <a href="#">United Kingdom: Rising Numbers, Rising Anxieties</a> (May 2005)</li><li>• <a href="#">Canada: Policy Changes and Integration Challenges in an Increasingly Diverse Society</a> (November 2005)</li><li>• <a href="#">Sweden: Restrictive Immigration Policy and Multiculturalism</a> (June 2006)</li></ul>

## Issue #2: UN High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development

For the first time in its history, the United Nations this year hosted a major multilateral discussion devoted exclusively to global migration — a subject that, for years, was considered taboo in international diplomacy.

Conceived and scheduled more than two years ago by the General Assembly, September's UN High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development focused on ways to maximize migration's development benefits and to reduce its negative impacts.



UN photo/Marco Castro

**UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan opened the UN High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in September.**

The meeting brought together 130 countries' representatives, with officials from 16 UN agencies and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Representatives from nongovernmental organizations, civil society, and the private sector met in July to give their input to the meeting. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan opened the event by lauding representatives' decision to attend. "By being here today you show yourselves willing to tackle migration's challenges through dialogue and cooperation, rather than antagonism and isolation," he told them.

Last spring, Annan chose Peter Sutherland — former attorney general of Ireland and director-general of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and chairman of both BP and Goldman Sachs International — to lead the initiative as his Special Representative on International Migration and Development.

The dialogue reflected the concerns of sending, receiving, and transit countries: remittances, brain drain, labor migration, diasporas, migrants' human rights, irregular migration (including trafficking and smuggling), and social and economic integration. The tone of the meeting was consistently constructive. The feared North-South tensions did not surface, and nearly all participants agreed on the value of continuing multilateral consultations.

Although some have dismissed the High-Level Dialogue as all talk and no action, it may yet be the beginning of a new era. Nearly all participating countries said they would like to continue a dialogue on migration and development but that such a forum should be state-led and should only promote cooperation, not produce binding agreements.

Belgium has offered to host the first meeting of a "Global Forum on Migration and Development" in July 2007, and Annan has extended Sutherland's mandate. The forum is expected to take the next steps in building a practical framework for cooperation among states to strengthen the positive links between migration and development.

(Continued from page 6)

For more information, please see the following articles on the Migration Information Source (by issue):

<b>Features:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Migration's Unrealized Potential: The Report of the Global Commission on International Migration (November 2005)</li><li>• Migration as a Factor in Development and Poverty Reduction (June 2003)</li><li>• Fostering Cooperation Between Source and Destination Countries (October 2002)</li><li>• Migration and Development in El Salvador: Ideals Versus Reality (April 2006)</li><li>• Reassessing the Impacts of Brain Drain on Developing Countries (August 2005)</li></ul>
<b>Country Profiles:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Philippines' Culture of Migration (January 2006)</li><li>• Tajikistan: From Refugee Sender to Labor Exporter (July 2006)</li><li>• Burkina Faso: Testing the Tradition of Circular Migration (May 2006)</li><li>• Ghana: Searching for Opportunities at Home and Abroad (March 2006)</li><li>• Morocco: From Emigration Country to Africa's Migration Passage to Europe (October 2005)</li></ul>
<b>MPI Publications (see <a href="http://www.migrationpolicy.org">www.migrationpolicy.org</a>):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Remittances and Development: Trends, Impacts, and Policy Options, A Review of the Literature (September 2006)</li><li>• From Zero Sum to a Win-Win Scenario: A Literature Review on Circular Migration (September 2006)</li><li>• Beyond Remittances: The Role of Diaspora in Poverty Reduction in the Their Countries of Origin (July 2004)</li></ul>

## Issue #3: US Immigration Reform: Better Luck Next Year

In January 2004, President George Bush declared the current immigration system "broken" and proposed a temporary worker program open to the unauthorized as well as new foreign workers. Nearly three years later, the United States has not come much closer to that goal, although events in 2006 may have changed the political climate in which immigration will be debated next year.



**The only immigration-reform bill Congress managed to pass before the midterm elections was the "Secure Fence Act."**

Protests against a House of Representatives bill (HR 4437) in the spring drew hundreds of thousands of immigrants and their supporters in multiple cities — including Los Angeles, Dallas, Chicago, New York, Phoenix, and Washington, DC — and made national headlines. Passed in December 2005, HR 4437 would have made unauthorized presence in the country a felony rather than a civil crime, among other measures.

Seeking to defuse the raucous debate over illegal immigration, the president promised in mid-May to send 6,000 National Guard troops to the US-Mexico border. By the end of May, the Senate had passed a bill that provided for legalization and temporary worker programs as well as tough border security and interior measures.

However, the House refused to negotiate with the Senate, choosing instead to hold hearings around the country during July and August. The hearings quickly degenerated into attempts to garner support for the House's approach to reform by systematically attacking the Senate legislation on grounds ranging from it being too costly to being insensitive to US security interests.

As a result of the impasse, the only immigration-reform bill Congress managed to pass before the midterm elections was the "Secure Fence Act." The bill authorizes the construction of up to 700 miles of double-layer fencing along the Southwest border and allows for the creation of a virtual fence along the entire Southwest border (see [Issue #5: All About the Border](#)). However, Congress appropriated only a small proportion of the funds implementation of the law would require, and gave the president wide latitude on how he could use them.

Although many Republicans and Democrats touted illegal immigration as a key election issue, some major opponents of immigration were defeated on November 7. Most notably, John Hostettler (R-IN), a six-term member who was chairman of the House Immigration Subcommittee, lost his seat, as did six-term member J.D. Hayworth (R-AZ), for whom border security was one of the main campaign issues. Minuteman member Randy Graf, the Republican candidate vying for Jim Kolbe's House seat in an Arizona district bordering Mexico, failed to win.

**Migration Information Source: Top 10 Migration Issues of 2006**

With Democrats in the majority in both the House and Senate, leadership of the Senate Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Citizenship will likely pass from John Cornyn (R-TX), who cosponsored an enforcement-focused, comprehensive immigration reform bill in 2005 with Jon Kyl (R-AZ), to Edward Kennedy (D-MA). The House leadership has not yet decided on committee assignments (see [Ones to Watch: US Immigration Reform](#)).

*For more information, please see the following articles on the Migration Information Source (by issue):*

<b>Features:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Solving the Unauthorized Migrant Problem: Proposed Legislation in the US (September 2005)</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Immigration Reform and the Catholic Church (May 2006)</a></li><li>• <a href="#">American Immigration Reform from a Scandinavian Perspective (May 2006)</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Rethinking the Last 200 Years of US Immigration Policy (June 2006)</a></li><li>• <a href="#">IRCA: Lessons of the Last US Legalization Program (July 2004)</a></li><li>• <a href="#">The Mexico Factor in US Immigration Reform (March 2004)</a></li></ul>
<b>Policy Beat:</b>
2006 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">President Signs DHS Appropriations and Secure Fence Act, New Detainee Bill Has Repercussions for Noncitizens (November)</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Senate Approves Scaled-Back Immigration Bill, President Calls for National Guard on Border (June)</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Senate Debate Resumes and DHS Boosts Internal Enforcement (May)</a></li><li>• <a href="#">House Passes Enforcement Bill Lacking Temporary Worker Program (January)</a></li></ul> 2005 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Bush Puts Immigration Reform Back on Agenda, Approves Funding for DHS (November)</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Immigration Reform Bill and DHS Restructuring Focus on Enforcement and Facilitation (August)</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Free Flights and New Enforcement Proposals Address Unauthorized Migrants (July)</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Expansive Bipartisan Bill Introduced on the Heels of REAL ID Passage (June)</a></li></ul> 2004 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Bush Proposes New Temporary Worker Program (February)</a></li></ul>
<b>MPI Publications (see <a href="http://www.migrationpolicy.org">www.migrationpolicy.org</a>):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Immigration and America's Future: A New Chapter (September 2006)</a></li></ul>

## Issue #4: Darfur Situation Worsens, Violence Spreads to Chad

Since 2003, at least 200,000 people by UN estimates have been killed in Sudan's Darfur region, and more than two million have been displaced. Unfortunately, 2006 brought the crisis to new depths as the ethnic violence continued and spread into neighboring Chad. The number of refugees and internally displaced has grown, heightening concerns about destabilization in Chad and the Central African Republic.

As of late November, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported there were 218,000 refugees from Darfur in 12 camps in eastern Chad, up from 200,000 refugees in 11 camps in late 2004. To date, the camps themselves have not been attacked. Their residents, especially women, often are assaulted when they leave the camps to forage or search for firewood.



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**Women often are assaulted when they leave the camps to forage or search for firewood.**

In addition, UNHCR reports that more than 90,000 people have been internally displaced in eastern Chad itself, at least 15,000 of them since the beginning of November. Sudanese militias attacked Chadians living near the border earlier this year, forcing some to flee to Darfur, but now non-Arab Chadians as far as 60 miles from the border reportedly have been attacked by Chadian Arabs. The Chadian government believes Sudan has encouraged interethnic conflict in eastern Chad and supported the Chadian rebellion.

The Sudanese government has long been accused of arming local militias called Janjaweed to attack villages belonging primarily to the Fur, Zaghawa, and Massalit tribes, who the government suspects of supporting rebel groups. Khartoum also bombed civilians in northwestern Darfur and Chad this fall, killing and injuring hundreds, according to a Human Rights Watch alert published in November.

There are only 7,000 African Union peacekeepers in Sudan to separate the combatants. The Sudanese government initially refused to allow UN peacekeepers into the country despite a UN Security Council Resolution calling for such a deployment. However, in November, President Omar al-Bashir agreed to allow a mixed UN-African Union force of up to 20,000 troops, though Khartoum has made it clear that UN troops will only be allowed to assist the African force.

The bottom line for Sudanese refugees and internally displaced Chadians: they will not likely be going home anytime soon.

*For more information, please see the following articles on the Migration Information Source (by issue):*

### **Features:**

- [Darfur: Beyond the Brink of Disaster](#) (September 2004)
- [The Internally Displaced in Perspective](#) (May 2002)
- [Confronting the Realities of Forced Migration](#) (May 2004)
- [Refugees: Risks and Challenges Worldwide](#) (November 2002)

## Issue #5: All about the Border

The border between the US and Mexico and the water dividing Europe and North Africa continue to be the world's main fronts in the fight against illegal immigration.

Although the US Congress considered a number of immigration reform proposals in 2006, only one bill passed: the "Secure Fence Act" (see [Issue #3: US Immigration Reform: Better Luck Next Year](#)). In addition, President Bush sent thousands of National Guard troops to the US-Mexico border this summer to help the US Border Patrol. According to US Customs and Border Protection, the National Guard had assisted the Border Patrol with the arrest of 21,400 undocumented aliens as of mid-November.



**Spain's Canary Islands have become a popular entry point to the European Union for thousands of African migrants.**

A continent away, frustrations continued to mount in Southern Europe as thousands of sub-Saharan Africans found their way to EU territory using new routes, mainly over the Atlantic to Spain's Canary Islands and over the Mediterranean to Malta, which joined the EU in 2004. The Italian island of Lampedusa continued to be a destination.

To stem the flow to the Canary Islands — which have received an estimated 26,000 migrants according to press reports — the European border agency Frontex launched the Hera II mission in August. The approach involved sea and air patrols between the West African coast and the Canary Islands. In mid-October, Frontex reported a significant decrease in migrants in the patrol area, and decided to extend the mission.

Another approach to European border control popular in 2006 was multilateral discussions. The initial gathering of 57 European and African countries in Rabat, Morocco, in July produced only vague statements with no binding action plan. But, in a follow-up discussion, the EU promised 18 million euros in development assistance in exchange for African countries agreeing to tighten their border controls.

According to news reports in November, Libya agreed to participate in joint sea-patrols with Frontex. Previously, Libya had refused to participate in EU patrols of the Mediterranean. At the subsequent conference in Tripoli between the European Union and the African Union, Libya and other African countries pledged greater cooperation with the European Union to reduce irregular migration.

Meanwhile, in May, Australia approved a budget that increases spending on its northern maritime border, identified as a weak point in January after Indonesians from the Papua province were able to reach Australian shores and claim asylum. In all, the country will spend over AUS\$500 million, including AUS\$389 million over four years in a cross-agency effort to crack down on illegal fishing vessels that also pose security and migration risks.

*(Continued from page 11)*

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<b>Country Profiles:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">A New Century: Immigration and the US</a> (February 2005)</li><li>• <a href="#">Mexico: A Crucial Crossroads</a> (March 2004)</li><li>• <a href="#">Morocco: From Emigration Country to Africa's Migration Passage to Europe</a> (October 2005)</li><li>• <a href="#">Spain: Forging an Immigration Policy</a> (February 2003)</li><li>• <a href="#">Australia's Continuing Transformation</a> (August 2004)</li></ul>

## Issue #6: Growing Competition for the "Right" Skilled Workers

It seems the most palatable migrant to the world's developed nations in 2006 is still the one in the medical, scientific, IT, or business and finance fields. The question some countries grappled with this year, though, was how to attract the highly skilled who will actually do well in the labor market.

The UK falls into this category. The government decided to temporarily suspend its four-year-old, points-based Highly Skilled Migrant Program (HSMP) in November because of concerns that the existing system was being abused.



Scientists are among the world's most sought-after migrants.

In addition to improving verification procedures, the UK Home Office will now require English-language fluency and a bachelor's degree, criteria that are supposed to better reflect "the likelihood of a migrant's labor market success." These modifications bring the program even closer to its Canadian and Australian roots.

France and Hong Kong significantly changed their policies, in each case making it easier for the highly skilled to enter — but not without requirements meant to ensure migrants are a good match with labor needs.

Under France's new law, foreigners who possess skill sets of interest to French employers in areas "characterized by recruitment difficulties" will be granted "skills and talents" visas, valid for three years.

This means employers who are not on the government-selected list may have more difficulty (or may face longer waiting periods) obtaining residence permits for migrant workers they wish to employ. Also, eligible candidates must be able to demonstrate that they will contribute to the economic or intellectual and cultural development of both France and their country of origin.

In late June, Hong Kong launched a new, points-based system, the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme, which allows up to 1,000 highly skilled migrants per year. However, to protect Hong Kong's own recent college graduates, the program clearly favors migrants in the 30-to-34 age range who have work experience. Also, earning enough points doesn't guarantee entry, because a 19-member panel still decides who gets in.

Designed to attract talented mainland Chinese, the new program seems to have succeeded on that count: as of November 7, 76 percent of the 86 applications approved (out of 479) were from mainland China, with 12 percent from Australia and New Zealand.

New Zealand, meanwhile, simply wants more migrants (see [Ones to Watch: Openness to Migrants](#)). Its major change: increasing the number of new-resident places available in 2006-2007 to 52,000, the highest level since 2001-2002.

The New Zealand government faced criticism over decreases in migration from Asia due to skilled migrant program changes made a few years ago. For instance, migrants from China

and India could only claim points for work done for a multinational company. Immigration Minister David Cunliffe responded by saying in July that restrictions had been relaxed this year so that migrants could claim points for work experience in occupations where the country has an absolute skills shortage, such as IT, plumbing, and engineering.

In an effort to increase the number of H-1B visas available annually to talented workers, two US research groups decided to investigate the link between immigrant entrepreneurs and venture capital funding. The results: immigrants founded nearly 20 percent of the US startups (including Yahoo and Google) that relied on venture capital before turning to the stock market in the last 35 years.

Maybe the US Congress will get the United States back in the competition in 2007.

*For more information, please see the following articles on the Migration Information Source (by issue):*

<b>Features:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">France's New Law: Control Immigration Flows, Court the Highly Skilled</a> (November 2006)</li><li>• <a href="#">Skilled Migration Abroad or Human Capital Flight</a> (June 2003)</li><li>• <a href="#">Reassessing the Impacts of Brain Drain on Developing Countries</a> (August 2005)</li><li>• <a href="#">The Global Tug-of-War for Health Care Workers</a> (December 2004)</li><li>• <a href="#">New Research Challenges Notion of German "Brain Drain"</a> (August 2005)</li></ul>
<b>Country Profiles:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">A New Century: Immigration and the US</a> (February 2005)</li><li>• <a href="#">United Kingdom: Rising Numbers, Rising Anxieties</a> (May 2005)</li><li>• <a href="#">The Challenge of French Diversity</a> (November 2004)</li><li>• <a href="#">New Zealand: The Politicization of Immigration</a> (January 2003)</li><li>• <a href="#">China: From Exceptional Case to Global Participant</a> (April 2004)</li></ul>
<b>MPI Publications (see <a href="http://www.migrationpolicy.org">www.migrationpolicy.org</a>):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">The Contributions of High-Skilled Immigrants</a> (July 2006)</li><li>• <a href="#">Immigrants and Labor Force Trends: The Future, Past, and Present</a> (July 2006)</li></ul>

## Issue #7: Crisis in Lebanon Displaces Lebanese, Foreign Workers, and Refugees

Lebanon's 15-year civil war, which ended in 1990, forced hundreds of thousands of Lebanese to flee to other countries, including the United States, Canada, Australia, and Brazil. Although this summer's fighting between Hezbollah forces in Lebanon and Israel lasted just over a month (July 12 to August 14), the conflict essentially wiped out 15 years of postwar reconstruction and development and displaced an estimated one million Lebanese, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Of those, about 750,000 were internally displaced and 250,000 crossed the border, primarily to Syria.



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Many Lebanese refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) have returned to find their homes destroyed.

Once the fighting ceased, many refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) were able to return to their area of origin but their homes, in many cases, were destroyed. An estimated 200,000 were still displaced within Lebanon as of November 1, according to UNHCR estimates. Due to severe infrastructure damage, the presence of explosive devices in residential areas, and the loss of traditional community support structures, among other factors, UNHCR believes displacement will continue for another 18 to 24 months.

Shortly after the conflict began, Western governments' scramble to evacuate their citizens made international headlines. About 15,000 American citizens (many of Lebanese origin) were evacuated, as were thousands of Europeans and Australians.

However, Lebanon's numerous foreign workers — Sri Lankans, Egyptians, Bangladeshis, Filipinos, Vietnamese, Indians, Ethiopians, and others — faced more obstacles. In some cases, employers refused to let them leave; in others, the home-country's embassy in Lebanon lacked the resources to help them, or the home country had no diplomatic presence in Lebanon. As of late September, over 6,500 Filipinos and 6,200 Sri Lankans had been repatriated.

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) halted the deployment of Filipino workers to Lebanon shortly after the conflict started. At press time, the ban had not yet been lifted, though the government has acknowledged that some workers have returned to Lebanon in defiance of its policy.

Lebanon is also home to nearly 400,000 Palestinian refugees, some of whom were displaced during the fighting. In an ironic twist, approximately 20,000 displaced Lebanese and Palestinians took shelter in Palestinian refugee camps and other facilities run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

The Lebanese government has included multimillion-dollar UNRWA projects in its recovery plan. As UNRWA Commissioner-General Karen Abu-Zayd told a UN General Assembly committee in October, "We appreciate this as a clear message that the improvement of refugee living conditions is part and parcel of reconstruction and rebuilding in southern Lebanon."

(Continued from page 15)

For more information, please see the following articles on the Migration Information Source (by issue):

<b>Features:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">The Lebanese Crisis and Its Impact on Immigrants and Refugees</a> (September 2006)</li><li>• <a href="#">Domestic Workers: Little Protection for the Underpaid</a> (April 2005)</li><li>• <a href="#">The Political Importance of Diasporas</a> (June 2005)</li><li>• <a href="#">The Internally Displaced in Perspective</a> (May 2002)</li><li>• <a href="#">Confronting the Realities of Forced Migration</a> (May 2004)</li><li>• <a href="#">Refugees: Risks and Challenges Worldwide</a> (November 2002)</li></ul>
<b>Country Profiles:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Israel: Balancing Demographics in the Jewish State</a> (July 2005)</li><li>• <a href="#">Jordan: A Refugee Haven</a> (July 2004)</li><li>• <a href="#">The Philippines' Culture of Migration</a> (January 2006)</li></ul>

## Issue #8: US State and Local Governments Respond to Federal Inaction on Immigration

With the US Congress unable to reconcile vastly differing views of immigration legislation (see [Issue #3: US Immigration Reform: Better Luck Next Year](#)), the city of Hazleton, in eastern Pennsylvania, decided to act, passing its "Illegal Immigration Relief Act" in August. In the process, Hazleton Mayor Louis Barletta became a hero to frustrated citizens nationwide, and the city took the lead in a new trend: local governments passing ordinances intended to discourage the employment and settlement of unauthorized immigrants.

These communities are struggling to cope with large numbers of legal and unauthorized immigrants attracted by jobs and the quality of life they offer. Approximately 50 local governments have considered Hazleton-style laws, with about a dozen taking action.



**The Hazleton law has not been implemented due to legal challenges.**

Thus far, the Hazleton law and others like it have not been implemented due to legal challenges. In November, a federal judge imposed a restraining order that prevents Hazleton's immigration law from being enforced for four months so that a lawsuit filed against the city can go to trial.

Even if such laws are eventually ruled unconstitutional, the symbolism is proving effective: Hazleton claimed in a September press release that it had already seen "a reverse migration of illegal immigrants and a drop in crime and other social costs associated with the phenomenon."

At the same time, numerous state legislatures have debated measures covering everything from the accessibility of health benefits and driver's licenses for unauthorized immigrants to verification requirements for employers. As of October 31, according to the National Council of State Legislatures, 570 pieces of legislation had been introduced; 90 passed legislatures; and 84 bills in 32 states were signed into law — more than double the number of 2005.

In the November elections, Arizonans voted overwhelmingly for four immigration-related propositions, including Proposition 300, which bars unauthorized immigrants from using state funds for child care and education, and Proposition 103, the state's second attempt to make English Arizona's official language (a 1988 measure was overruled by the Arizona Supreme Court and the US Supreme Court).

Colorado narrowly passed two referendums in November, one that denies a state tax credit to employers who knowingly hire undocumented workers and another that directs the attorney general to sue the federal government to demand enforcement of immigration laws.

**Migration Information Source: Top 10 Migration Issues of 2006**

*(Continued from page 17)*

*For more information, please see the following articles on the Migration Information Source (by issue):*

<b>Features:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Rethinking the Last 200 Years of US Immigration Policy</a> (June 2006)</li><li>• <a href="#">IRCA: Lessons of the Last US Legalization Program</a> (July 2004)</li></ul>
<b>Policy Beats:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">President Signs DHS Appropriations and Secure Fence Act, New Detainee Bill Has Repercussions for Noncitizens</a> (Arizona and Colorado) (November 2006)</li><li>• <a href="#">Fall Forecast: Immigration Reform Unlikely, Census Bureau Issues New Data on the US Foreign-Born Population</a> (Colorado) (September 2006)</li><li>• <a href="#">Senate Debate Resumes and DHS Boosts Internal Enforcement</a> (Georgia) (May 2006)</li></ul>

## Issue #9: Regional Migration in the Limelight

Not every migrant crosses a vast ocean or flies halfway around the world to reach safety or a land of opportunity. In fact, regional migration has been the major form of migration for centuries, and was noteworthy in North America, Europe, and Asia in 2006.

It is well known that the Mexican foreign born dominate immigration flows to the United States, forming 4.7 percent of the total civilian workforce in 2006, according to the Current Population Survey. But that is only part of the story: 50 percent of legal migration to the United States comes from the hemisphere, and 80 percent of illegal immigration comes from Mexico and Central America.



Hong Kong is one of the top destinations for Asian migrants.

When the UK and Ireland decided to give labor-market access to citizens of all 10 EU accession states upon their entry in May 2004, neither country expected the unprecedented flows that followed. British researcher John Salt told the Economist this summer that, in absolute terms, the population movement since May 2004 is the biggest single wave of migration in British history.

In Ireland, the estimated number of immigrants hit a record high this year (86,900 from April 2005 to April 2006), with 43 percent coming from EU Member States that joined in May 2004. Of the total, 26 percent were from Poland and 7 percent were from Lithuania.

The UK also saw the number of immigrants from Eastern European EU Member States climb over 50 percent, from 52,000 in 2004 to 80,000 in 2005 according to the National Statistics Office. More Polish citizens — 49,000 — came to the UK for at least a year in 2005 than citizens of any other foreign country.

Perhaps more startling was the Home Office's announcement in March that 345,410 people from the new EU states signed up for the special work registration scheme between May 2004 and December 2005.

Because of the large numbers, both the UK and Ireland have said that citizens of Romania and Bulgaria, which join the EU on January 1, 2007, will have to apply for work permits, a decision the UK will reevaluate after 12 months.

On the other side of the world, migration within Asia has increased dramatically, a trend the International Labor Organization reported this summer. Between 1995 and 2000, 40 percent of an estimated 2.9 million Asian migrant workers found jobs in other Asian countries. In contrast, in the 1970s and 1980s, more than 90 percent of the Asian migrant workforce left the region for jobs in the Gulf countries or in Europe.

## Migration Information Source: Top 10 Migration Issues of 2006

New Zealand and Australia both made migration-related announcements during October's Pacific Islands Forum, which adopted an ambitious regional cooperation plan at last year's forum meeting.

New Zealand will allow up to 5,000 Pacific Island workers a year to take on temporary jobs in the country's agricultural sector, a program set to begin in April 2007 (see [Ones to Watch: Openness to Migrants](#)). After much debate, Australia decided against a similar plan, instead announcing that the Australia-Pacific Technical College, proposed at the 2005 forum, will be headquartered in Fiji. Last year, Prime Minister John Howard called the college a way to "promote more competitive workforces and enable greater labor mobility between the Pacific and developed economies such as Australia."

*For more information, please see the following articles on the Migration Information Source (by issue):*

<b>Features:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Europe: Population and Migration in 2005</a> (June 2006)</li><li>• <a href="#">EU Enlargement and the Limits of Freedom</a> (May 2004)</li><li>• <a href="#">Asian Women Migrants: Going the Distance, But Not Far Enough</a> (March 2003)</li><li>• <a href="#">Changing Configurations of Migration in Africa</a> (September 2004)</li></ul>
<b>MPI Publications (see <a href="http://www.migrationpolicy.org">www.migrationpolicy.org</a>):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Fact Sheet: Mexican-Born Persons in the US Civilian Labor Force</a> (November 2006)</li></ul>
<b>Country Profiles:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Ireland: A Crash Course in Immigration Policy</a> (October 2004)</li><li>• <a href="#">United Kingdom: Rising Numbers, Rising Anxieties</a> (May 2005)</li><li>• <a href="#">EU Membership Highlights Poland's Migration Challenges</a> (April 2005)</li><li>• <a href="#">Latvia Looks West, But Legacy of Soviets Remains</a> (February 2006)</li><li>• <a href="#">Australia's Continuing Transformation</a> (August 2004)</li><li>• <a href="#">New Zealand: The Politicization of Immigration</a> (January 2003)</li><li>• <a href="#">Fiji Islands: From Immigration to Emigration</a> (April 2003)</li></ul>

## Issue #10: How to Fight Homegrown Terrorism: Surveillance, Outreach, or Both?

In the five years since the September 11 attacks, a number of Western governments have become convinced that some legal immigrants and children of Muslim immigrants, although the number may be small, can become radicalized and turn on their home country.

Even Canada, whose multiculturalist policies were thought sufficient to protect it from homegrown terrorism, confronted the issue this year when 17 Muslim men and youths, most of them born and raised in Canada, were arrested in June for allegedly planning attacks on the Canadian Parliament building.



The UK government has passed an ID card law in part to counter terrorism.

But how to solve the problem of homegrown terrorism, or at least keep it from growing? The easy answer for governments is by increasing surveillance and intelligence gathering, but they can also build better relationships with Muslim communities and work with them to improve integration (see [Issue #1 Good-bye Multiculturalism — Hello Assimilation?](#)).

Ernst Uhrlau, president of Germany's Federal Intelligence Service (BND) touched on both approaches in his November meeting with the German Federal Office of Criminal Investigations. He stressed that successful integration is an investment in terror prevention, but he also called for a broad-based approach with high-tech observation, intensified checks, and a rigorous border and immigration regime.

The United Kingdom is pursuing the "iron fist" and the "velvet glove" simultaneously. Earlier this year, the Identity Cards Act became law, and it will allow all British residents, citizens and foreign residents, to prove their identity with an ID card by 2009. Prime Minister Tony Blair wrote in a recent newspaper article, "I am convinced, as are our security services, that a secure identity system will help us counter terrorism and international crime."

After the London bombings, the UK government commissioned a well-received report, Preventing Extremism Together. Published in November 2005, it includes input from 1,000 British Muslims. Since the report, the government has created a new department, Communities and Local Government, which stated in July 2006 that it has made progress on a number of the report's recommendations and is committed to "working in partnership with Muslim communities to root out extremism and tackle the causes of radicalization amongst a minority of our young people."

In Australia, fears of homegrown terrorism were heightened by the London transport bombings of 2005 and the December Cronulla Beach riots, then rose further this fall when two Australian-born brothers were arrested in Yemen for their ties to Al-Qaeda. The Australian response thus far has been more surveillance-oriented, with the Australian Security Intelligence Organization (ASIO) receiving a significant boost in its budget this spring.

## Migration Information Source: Top 10 Migration Issues of 2006

ASIO chief Paul O'Sullivan, in an interview with the Australian Broadcast Company in November, said, "I think it comes as something of a shock to see that there are homegrown people who would like to do harm in this country."

Thus far, governments have revealed their preference for control over community-building. The future may well bring more security-oriented legislation in the name of protecting everyone.

*For more information, please see the following articles on the Migration Information Source (by issue):*

<b>Features:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Migration, Integration, and Security in the UK Since July 7 (March 2006)</a></li><li>• <a href="#">On the Beach: Racial Confrontation in Australia (February 2006)</a></li><li>• <a href="#">The People Perceived as a Threat to Security: Arab Americans Since September 11 (July 2006)</a></li></ul>
<b>Country Profiles:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">United Kingdom: Rising Numbers, Rising Anxieties (May 2005)</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Canada: Policy Changes and Integration Challenges in an Increasingly Diverse Society (November 2005)</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Australia's Continuing Transformation (August 2004)</a></li></ul>
<b>MPI Publications (see <a href="http://www.migrationpolicy.org">www.migrationpolicy.org</a>):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Countering Terrorist Mobility: Shaping an Operational Strategy (February 2006)</a></li></ul>

## Ones to Watch: US Immigration Reform, Openness to Migrants, Biometrics, Displaced Iraqis

### The Effect of US Elections on Immigration Reform

Now that the Democrats control both houses of the US Congress, immigration pundits, analysts, and bloggers are speculating about the prospects for immigration reform in 2007 (see [Issue #3: US Immigration Reform: Better Luck Next Year](#)). The Republicans faced a party divide on this issue, but Democrats will face the same problem. What kind of legislation will be introduced, and will it be significantly different than the proposals seen in 2006?

- See [Elections Improve Odds for Immigration Reform in 2007](#) (December 2006)



**Biometrics technology will only become more sophisticated and more pervasive in the years ahead.**

### Increasing Openness to Migrants of All Skill Levels

Although most countries will only actively court the highly skilled (see [Issue #6: Growing Competition for the "Right" Skilled Workers](#)), some are beginning to show a new level of openness that may catch on in 2007. Singapore has already acknowledged it will need more foreign construction workers, and has made provisions for allowing them in. New Zealand has agreed to allow 5,000 temporary workers per year from the South Pacific to work in agriculture. In the United States, where unauthorized migrants tend to work in low-skilled jobs, immigration reform could bring about visas for workers on the lower end of the labor market.

Spain has continued to admit workers from Morocco, Eastern Europe, and Central and South America with mere abandon, joining Italy and Greece in their openness to temporary workers at all skill levels. The question is, will the rest of Europe open up as well?

- See [US Temporary Worker Programs: Lessons Learned](#) (March 2004)

## Biometrics Regulating Flows of People

The United States successfully pushed 24 of the 27 countries in the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) to begin issuing biometric passports by this October. To make sure their citizens could continue to enter the United States without visas, countries from Japan to Australia to the United Kingdom complied. These passports must have a contactless chip with the passport holder's biographic information and a biometric identifier, such as a digital photograph of the holder.

But from this point forward, the technology will only become more sophisticated and more pervasive, all with the goal of speeding up flows of people and reducing security risks. The US Department of Homeland Security is ramping up its biometric plans, hoping to install 10-fingerprint systems at points of entry by 2008. Citizenship and Immigration Canada began a six-month biometrics field test this fall of fingerprint and facial recognition technologies. The UK is charging forward with its national ID card (see [Issue #10: How to Fight Homegrown Terrorism: Surveillance, Outreach, or Both?](#)), which, when it debuts in a few years, will include biometric identification.

And in the private sector, Scandinavian Airlines announced this fall it will be the first airline in the world to introduce biometric security checks to guarantee that passengers who hand in baggage are identical to those who board its flights.

- See [Biometrics, Migrants, and Human Rights](#) (March 2005) *and*
- ["One Face at the Border" - Is It Working?](#) (July 2005)

## The Displaced in Iraq

Day-to-day reporting of the war in Iraq hasn't focused much on what may become an even bigger story in 2007: the growing number of internally displaced and refugees due to sectarian violence. According to UNHCR estimates, about 425,000 Iraqis have fled their homes this year, and about 50,000 Iraqis a month are joining their ranks. In addition, some 2,000 Iraqis are arriving in Syria and 1,000 in Jordan each day. European countries also received more asylum applications from Iraqis in the first half of 2006 than any other nationality. UNHCR has had to change its strategy in Iraq, and it's hoping the international community gets on the humanitarian bandwagon.

- See [Protecting the Rights of the Displaced in Iraq](#) (May 2003)

## Elections Improve Odds for Immigration Reform in 2007

By Julia Gelatt  
Migration Policy Institute

### Mid-term Elections and Prospects for Immigration Reform in 2007

**November election results.** The outcome of the November midterm elections opened new prospects for broad immigration reform in 2007, with Democratic control of the House and Senate and new leadership of immigration subcommittees. Changing patterns among Hispanic voters also may increase both parties' interest in developing policies to lure this growing voting bloc.

Immigration restrictionist James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) will lose control of the House Judiciary Committee, and John Hostettler (R-IN), who led the House Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims lost his bid for reelection. New leadership for the House and Senate subcommittees on immigration has not yet been finalized.

Many observers believe immigration played some role in shaping voters' decisions on November 7, but the message was not always clear. Only about a third of voters told exit pollsters that immigration was extremely important in influencing their voting decisions. Of those, a narrow majority backed Republican candidates. Meanwhile, about 60 percent of voters stated support for a path to legal status for the country's unauthorized immigrants.

Exit polls showed that as many as 70 percent of Hispanics voted for Democratic congressional candidates, while fewer than 30 percent voted for Republicans, showing an 11 percentage point swing toward Democrats from 2004. Responses in exit polls indicate that dissatisfaction over the economy, the Iraq war, and other policies may have contributed more to the shift away from Republicans than opinions on immigration debates.

In addition to Hostettler, other hard-line immigration enforcement incumbents lost their seats, including Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA) and Representative J.D. Hayworth (R-AZ). Candidate Randy Graf (R-AZ), who framed his campaign on combating illegal immigration, lost his bid for a seat in the House.

Yet even while rejecting two enforcement-focused candidates, voters in Arizona also overwhelmingly supported three propositions to counter illegal immigration and a proposition to make English the state's official language. All passed by about 3-to-1 ratios statewide, and won the backing of every county in the state. (For a description of the Arizona propositions, see the **November 2006 Policy Beat** at <http://www.migrationinformation.org/USfocus/display.cfm?ID=491>, and the links below.)

Colorado voters supported a state lawsuit against the federal government to demand better enforcement of federal immigration laws, with 56 percent of voters approving the measure. They very narrowly voted (50.6 percent) to deny employers who knowingly employ unauthorized immigrants a state tax credit.

**Prospects for immigration reform in 2007.** Immigration experts and some members of Congress expressed cautious optimism about the prospects for immigration reform in the 110th Congress while warning that the issue must be resolved before the 2008 presidential elections consume national attention.

**Migration Information Source: Top 10 Migration Issues of 2006**

President Bush appeared hopeful regarding comprehensive reform in a statement on November 8. "I think we have a good chance," he said. "It's an important issue and I hope we can get something done on it."

Analysts believe the chances for comprehensive reform will improve greatly under Democratic congressional leadership, but they also warn that new splits might emerge in the party now that it holds the majority. For example, labor groups are divided on the merits of temporary worker programs.

House speaker Nancy Pelosi did not include immigration reform on her list of six agenda items for the first 100 hours of the new Congress, but has stated that House Democrats will work with Bush to pair tough border security with new paths to legal work and citizenship for the country's unauthorized immigrants.

Action on immigration legislation is expected to begin in the Senate. Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA), who is likely to lead the Senate subcommittee on immigration, has already begun to work with Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Arlen Specter (R-PA) to make plans for a new bill to be introduced early next year.

The bill will probably resemble the one the Senate approved last May. (For more on the provisions of the Senate-passed immigration reform bill, see the June 2006 Policy Beat).

Arizona's Propositions	Weblinks
Denial of certain state services to unauthorized immigrants	<a href="http://www.azleg.state.az.us/2006_Ballot_Proposition_Analyses/final%20SCR%201031%20public%20programs,%20citizens.pdf">http://www.azleg.state.az.us/2006_Ballot_Proposition_Analyses/final%20SCR%201031%20public%20programs,%20citizens.pdf</a>
Bail for unauthorized immigrant felons	<a href="http://www.azleg.state.az.us/2006_Ballot_Proposition_Analyses/final%20HCR%202028%20-%20bail;%20undocumented%20immigrants.pdf">http://www.azleg.state.az.us/2006_Ballot_Proposition_Analyses/final%20HCR%202028%20-%20bail;%20undocumented%20immigrants.pdf</a>
Limits on punitive damages	<a href="http://www.azleg.state.az.us/2006_Ballot_Proposition_Analyses/final%20SCR%201001Standing%20in%20civil%20actions.pdf">http://www.azleg.state.az.us/2006_Ballot_Proposition_Analyses/final%20SCR%201001Standing%20in%20civil%20actions.pdf</a>
English as the official state language	<a href="http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109_cong_bills&amp;docid=f:h5441enr.txt.pdf">http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109_cong_bills&amp;docid=f:h5441enr.txt.pdf</a>

Colorado referenda	<a href="http://www.leg.state.co.us/CLICS2006b/csl.nsf/billcontainers/HB06S-1020/\$file/1020_enr.pdf?OpenElement">http://www.leg.state.co.us/CLICS2006b/csl.nsf/billcontainers/HB06S-1020/\$file/1020_enr.pdf?OpenElement</a> and <a href="http://www.leg.state.co.us/CLICS2006b/csl.nsf/billcontainers/HB06S-1022/\$file/1022_enr.pdf?OpenElement">http://www.leg.state.co.us/CLICS2006b/csl.nsf/billcontainers/HB06S-1022/\$file/1022_enr.pdf?OpenElement</a>
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## **Citizenship Test Redesigned**

USCIS is revising the questions asked on the written and oral English examinations required for citizenship. The new citizenship exam will include fewer fact-based questions and more questions about US democratic principles, such as the contents of the Bill of Rights.

Aside from this changed emphasis, the redesigned test is also intended to standardize testing across the country, following claims of uneven application of testing requirements.

The new questions will be tried out in 10 US cities this winter to resolve any problems and refine the questions. The revised test will be implemented nationwide in 2008.

While USCIS officials say the goal of the redesign is not to make the test more difficult, some immigrant groups claim the test could become harder for lawful permanent residents with less education and English ability, due to its reliance on abstract concepts such as the meaning of democracy.

The 10 cities where the new questions will be tested are Miami, Florida; Boston, Massachusetts; Albany, New York; Charleston, South Carolina; Denver, Colorado; El Paso, Texas; Kansas City, Missouri; San Antonio, Texas; and Yakima, Washington.

\* To view a USCIS Fact Sheet on the naturalization test redesign, go to <http://www.uscis.gov/files/pressrelease/FactSheetNatTest113006.pdf>.

## **Boeing-Led Border Security Measures Begin amid Cost, Management Questions**

Installation of tower-mounted sensors, cameras, radars, and other high-tech border enforcement strategies led by Boeing and its team of subcontractors will have their first test along a 28-mile stretch of the US-Mexico border near Sasabe, Arizona by spring 2007. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) hopes to eventually expand the technology along most of the US-Mexico border.

The desert corridor was chosen as a test site because it was the busiest sector for border crossings in 2006, according to Border Patrol officials.

In September, DHS awarded Boeing a three-year contract with possible one-year extensions to manage SBInet, a component of the broader Secure Border Initiative (SBI), which will include more staffing along the border, technology, and interior enforcement of immigration laws. (For more on Boeing's contract, see the October 2006 Policy Beat.)

Richard Skinner, Inspector General of DHS, has criticized the agency in recent congressional testimony for awarding such a large contract with an indefinite delivery date and unclear objectives. Skinner stated that previous programs to achieve border security, including the Integrated Surveillance Intelligence System (ISIS) and America's Shield Initiative (ASI) failed due to management problems.

Skinner also warned that costs could escalate from the \$2 billion proposed to anywhere from \$8 to \$30 billion. DHS plans to provide a more detailed plan for border measures by December 4.

While Boeing officials have said they will consider using fencing as an alternative to sensors and other technology along some portions of the border, the Bush administration and

Congress appear to be backing down from last September's push for 700 miles of border fencing.

DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff and Democratic leaders in the House Homeland Security Committee met in mid-November to discuss the possibility of using more cameras, sensors, and communications equipment as alternatives to fencing. Chertoff expressed support for the idea, stating, "We think a virtual fence...is the most cost-effective and quickest and best way to get control of the border."

\*To read the statement by DHS Inspector General Richard Skinner, [http://www.dhs.gov/xoig/assets/testimony/OIGtm\\_RLS\\_111506.pdf](http://www.dhs.gov/xoig/assets/testimony/OIGtm_RLS_111506.pdf).

## Policy Beat in Brief

**Immigration Fee Increase.** US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will raise fees in 2007 for immigration benefits such as green cards, work permits, and naturalization, according to USCIS Director Emilio González. While the agency has not officially determined the fee increase, current proposals would nearly double the current costs. Currently, USCIS charges \$180 for an employment authorization application and \$325 for adjustment of status to permanent resident. According to USCIS, the higher fees are needed to cover increased administrative costs for processing applications. Immigrant advocates have said that raising the fee for naturalization from its current \$330 will present a barrier to citizenship for many working-class immigrant families. González, himself a naturalized citizen, defended the proposed increases, stating that "American citizenship is priceless."

\*For a list of USCIS immigration forms and fees, visit the USCIS website at <http://www.uscis.gov>

**New Passport Requirement.** All US citizens and foreign nationals entering the United States by air from Canada, Mexico, or the Caribbean will be required to carry a passport beginning on January 23, 2007, as part of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative. Previously, travelers were allowed to use driver's licenses or birth certificates for identification. The measure, required by the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, is intended to strengthen border security by requiring documents that are more difficult to counterfeit. Officials from Canada and business owners from communities along the US-Canada border warned that the new requirement could prevent some cross-border tourism and delay trade between the two countries. The passport requirement will extend to land and sea travelers by June 2009 at the latest.

\*To read a DHS press release about the new requirements, go to [http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr\\_1164209628449.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1164209628449.shtm)

**Foreign Student Enrollments.** New enrollments of foreign students in US colleges and universities increased 8 percent in the 2005-2006 school year, according to a new report by the Institute of International Education. The total number of foreign students enrolled in US colleges and universities (both new and returning students) remained steady at about 565,000, following several years of declining numbers. The University of Southern California drew the most foreign students, followed by Columbia, Purdue, New York University, and the University of Texas at Austin. About 42 percent of foreign graduate students were from Asia, with the largest numbers from India and China. The top fields of study among foreign students were engineering and business/management.

\*Read the Institute of International Education's report at <http://www.opendoors.iienetwork.org/>

To view the Policy Beat archives, go to  
<http://www.migrationinformation.org/archive.cfm?Cat=policy>

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