 **NON-CITIZEN
VOTING RIGHTS:
A CONTROVERSY
“COMING SOON TO A
THEATER NEAR YOU”!
(No kidding!)**

By Stephen L. Bakke  January 31, 2015



A New Issue?

I started thinking about this topic after reading an article by Ron Hayduk, political science professor at Queens College, City University of New York. He is the author of “Democracy for All: Restoring Immigrant Voting Rights in the United States.” He describes non-citizen voting rights as “the suffrage issue of our time.” This introduction led me to investigate other research that has been done on the subject in recent years. I must admit, I hadn’t given this controversy much thought before, but I found it very intriguing. My first reaction was to ask: Is this what the “anti-amnesty” argument is all about?

Background

In recent years a concerted effort has been gathering force to expand the immigrant rights movement to include a push for non-citizen voting rights in the U.S. Many proponents want this effort to include extending voting rights even to illegal aliens (which they prefer to call undocumented immigrants – let’s compromise and call them ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS). According to the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS), leaders of this cause are an alliance of liberal/progressive academics and law professors, local and state political leaders most often associated with the Democrat Party or other progressive parties.

“The Constitution, the Congress, and the courts have enshrined voting as a central, core, and indispensable element of American citizenship and democracy.” (Quote from CIS) Additionally, every state in the U.S. bars non-citizens from voting in national or state elections. Proponents of non-citizen voting rights argue that it’s only fair to allow non-citizens to vote since they shoulder many of the responsibilities of citizens, like paying taxes, but are not formally represented.

My Observations about this Movement

Based on a limited amount of research on this emerging issue I have a few observations:

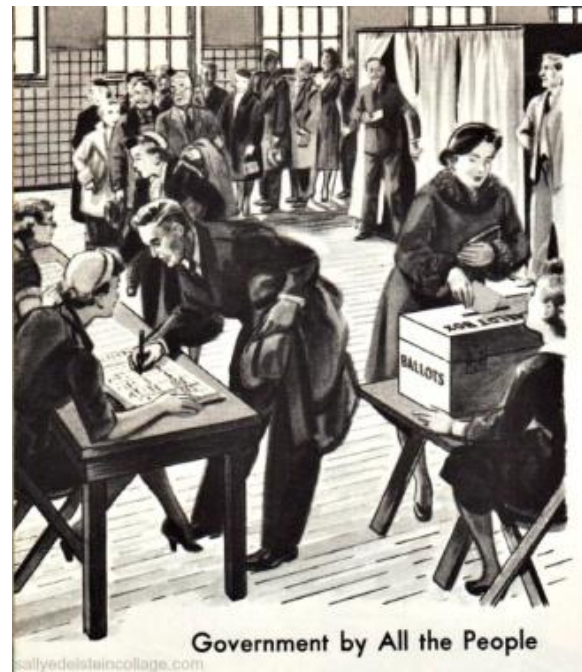
- Proponents of non-citizen voting rights view the naturalization process as an artificial barrier to citizenship, rather than a sensible process.
- The national security aspects of immigration regulation and control are ignored by these proponents.
- For proponents, having illegal immigrant status is just a handicap to be accommodated, rather than any sort of transgression with consequences.
- There is little room for nationalism. Proponents are known to view nationalism as a manifestation of chauvinism.

- With this group, there seems to be very little value placed on national allegiance.
- Under this movement, borders are seen as artificial impediments to multiculturalism, and “on balance,” bothersome.
- Perhaps this concept would take us so far away from tradition that maintaining the U.S. into perpetuity would not be a valued goal?
- This phenomenon is consistent with Dennis Prager’s theory that the traditionally valued motto “E Pluribus Unum” is being replaced by the concept of “multiculturalism.”
- Sadly, this issue has become a political football. Whichever political extreme benefits by gaining votes, you can be sure the leaders of the movement would be from that political affiliation.

My Opinion

We must resist this movement for several reasons:

- Our form of government is indeed exceptional and worthy of preserving.
- Unless it is viewed as something special and somehow to be earned, how can voting ever be taken seriously?
- The concept of exclusive national allegiance, though sometimes flawed, is far better than having no allegiance.
- Exclusive national allegiance is essential for our national defense.
- Regulated borders are essential for defining limits for establishing national defense.
- The naturalization process, if flawed, can be fixed – if properly done it’s an essential part of an orderly and effective immigration system.
- No person can vote objectively in a national election if they have no exclusive national allegiance.
- Ignoring an appropriate legal processes for immigration and naturalization is foolish!



If you believe in American Exceptionalism (i.e. through our form of government), and if you want to perpetuate that belief, the movement to give non-citizens, and even illegal immigrants, voting rights **MUST BE BLOCKED!**