

La Voz de La Conexión



July 2021

La Voz, a Spanish term for “the voice,” is the monthly news digest for La Conexión and the La Conexión Immigrant Solidarity Committee (LC-ISC). The LC-ISC is a project of La Conexión to build solidarity and support to the local immigrant community in the community at-large.

Connect with us on Facebook

Like the La Conexión Immigrant Solidarity Committee on [Facebook](#) for up-to-date events and local and national news. Information about the La Conexión organization is provided on their [Facebook page](#) and [website](#).

La Conexión News

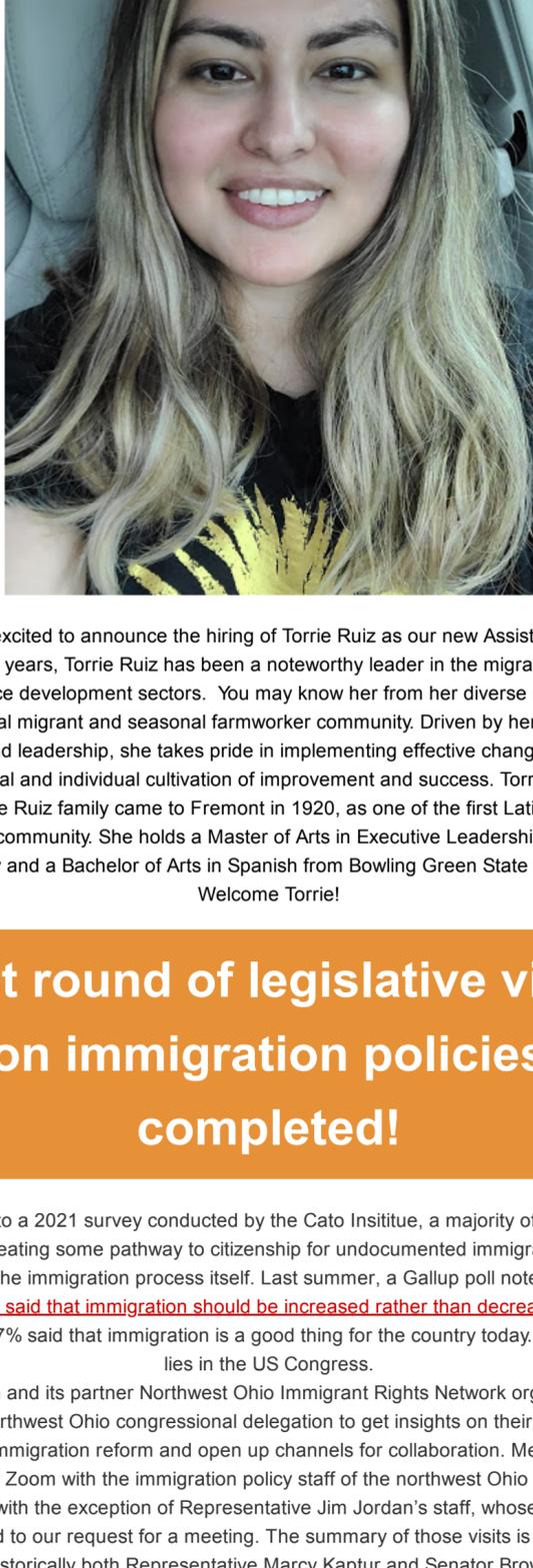
Second round of relief funds distributed to agricultural workers by La Conexión

For the second time, La Conexión has been awarded funding by Hispanics in Philanthropy and Justice for Migrant Women to distribute relief funds to agricultural workers. These essential workers, who have continued putting food on our tables during the pandemic, are, for the most part, ineligible for government relief funding and they lack health insurance. The incapacity of Congress to pass immigration reform that would adjust their status to legal residents is again another punishment for these essential workers, and highlights their continued exploitation. We are very proud of this funding and humbled by the opportunity to serve our community this way. Arriba La Conexión!



La Conexión, a 501(c)3 organization, can accept tax-deductible donations. You can donate through the Facebook page: look for the [blue “Donate” button](#). All proceeds benefit La Conexión. Facebook does not take a fee or any portion of the money.

Introducing La Conexión's new assistant director: TORRIE RUIZ



We are so excited to announce the hiring of Torrie Ruiz as our new Assistant Director. For over 13 years, Torrie Ruiz has been a noteworthy leader in the migrant education and workforce development sectors. You may know her from her diverse roles working with the local migrant and seasonal farmworker community. Driven by her passion for advocacy and leadership, she takes pride in implementing effective change to promote organizational and individual cultivation of improvement and success. Torrie grew up in Fremont. The Ruiz family came to Fremont in 1920, as one of the first Latinx families to settle in that community. She holds a Master of Arts in Executive Leadership from Liberty University and a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from Bowling Green State University. Welcome Torrie!

First round of legislative visits on immigration policies completed!

According to a 2021 survey conducted by the Cato Institute, a majority of Americans favor creating some pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants and simplifying the immigration process itself. Last summer, a Gallup poll noted that [more Americans said that immigration should be increased rather than decreased](#). In the same poll, 77% said that immigration is a good thing for the country today. The problem lies in the US Congress.

La Conexión and its partner Northwest Ohio Immigrant Rights Network organized visits to the northwest Ohio congressional delegation to get insights on their positions regarding immigration reform and open up channels for collaboration. Meetings were conducted by Zoom with the immigration policy staff of the northwest Ohio congressional delegation, with the exception of Representative Jim Jordan’s staff, whose office never responded to our request for a meeting. The summary of those visits is as follows: Although historically both Representative Marcy Kaptur and Senator Brown have not been known leaders on immigration issues, their staff showed alignment with and support of our policy goals and indicated they would vote accordingly. Senator Portman’s staff indicated his support for legal residency for the Dreamers, but he seems to be against residency for other segments of the immigrant population. The dialogue with Rep. Kaptur’s, Sen. Brown’s, and Senator Portman’s policy staff was very fruitful, showing potential. Staff were open and willing listeners. Sen. Portman’s staff indicated his desire for bipartisan action on these issues and highlighted the Senator’s involvement in a bipartisan group collaboration on the issue.

The meeting with the office of Representative Latta, however, offered a very different and disappointing experience. The congressman, it seems, has not adequately prepared his immigration policy staff person, so she was not able to offer an articulate vision of his position on any of the major issues related to immigration. Despite multiple questions posed, we could not get a clear answer on the congressman’s position on any of the core issues.

La Conexión and the Northwest Ohio Immigrant Rights Network will continue efforts to find ways to engage our congressional representatives and move them to act in ways that agree with the vision of the American public on these issues. Please contact us and let us know if you want to help with these efforts!

National and International News

“Republicans go all-in on immigration as a political weapon,” Politico

Trump and House Republicans continue to use immigration as a wedge in anticipation of upcoming elections, including the 2024 presidential election. Republican strategist John Thomas notes how important immigration policies are to Republican voters, and GOP officials like Texas Governor Abbot and North Dakota Governor Noem are capitalizing on this issue by visiting the U.S.-Mexico border with Trump and ordering National Guard troops to the border, respectively.

“Farmworkers Endure Brutal Conditions During Historic Heat Wave”, VICE

Already-vulnerable agricultural workers, including children and elderly laborers, continue to work during the Pacific Northwest’s heat dome crisis. Some workers have suffered from heat-related illnesses, and employers have failed to provide safety measures for their workers, including shade.

“Immigration judges union moves toward gaining authority,” Associated Press

From the article: “The U.S. Justice Department has dropped its opposition to reviving a union for immigration judges that had been stripped of authority during the final months of the Trump administration...The judges’ union said in a statement Tuesday that it was optimistic the move would lead to restoration of collecting bargaining rights and reverse what it said was an attempt by the Trump administration to silence judges.”

Become Involved with the La Conexión Immigrant Solidarity Committee

We are looking for additional volunteers who are interested in advocacy, educational programming, communications, and other tasks. Anyone interested in becoming involved, please contact: laconexionimmigrantsolidarity@gmail.com.

Giving to La Conexión

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Donations can also be made by mail at:
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