

La Voz de La Conexión



November 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](#).

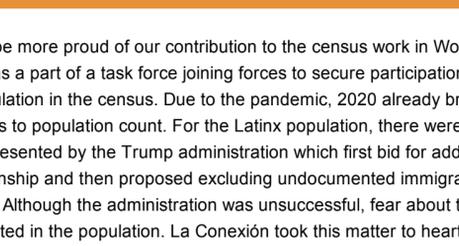
La Conexión News

LEARN ABOUT REFUGEE LIFE! YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR EVENT WITH OMAR MOHAMED

What a fantastic occasion to learn about refugee life directly from a former refugee! La Conexión and the NW Ohio Immigrant Rights Network are organizing a virtual event featuring Omar Mohamed. Mohamed is a refugee who came to the USA as a child. He authored the brilliant graphic novel for all ages *When Stars are Scattered*, narrating his life with his brother as young children in a refugee camp. Reading the book prior to the event is not necessary, but if you wish to read it, you can pick up a copy at your local library. The virtual event will be held on November 16, 7-8:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required to obtain the access link for the event. Register here: <https://bit.ly/WhenStarsAreScattered2>.

Our goal is to better understand the refugee experience, consider ways immigrants and refugees make our communities stronger, and explore the role of the community at large in this process.

The event is co-sponsored by an array of wonderful organization including USTogether, NIOT, Welcome BG, Welcome Toledo-Lucas County, the Human Relations Commission of the City of BG, the Islamic Center of Greater Toledo, The Islamic Society of NW Ohio, United Muslim Association of Toledo, the Social Justice Group of Sylvania UCC, BRAVE, and others!



CONTRIBUTION OF LA CONEXION TO THE WORK ON THE CENSUS SHOWS IN THE NUMBERS!

We couldn't be more proud of our contribution to the census work in Wood County! La Conexión was a part of a task force joining forces to secure participation of the Wood County population in the census. Due to the pandemic, 2020 already brought severe challenges to population count. For the Latinx population, there were additional challenges presented by the Trump administration which first bid for adding a question about citizenship and then proposed excluding undocumented immigrants from the census count. Although the administration was unsuccessful, fear about the census was already planted in the population. La Conexión took this matter to heart, and with no funding provided, did a tremendous job contacting members one-on-one and through social media to dispel fears and secure counting.

The results are in the numbers: It was particularly the growth of the Latinx population in Wood County, 46% between 2010-2020, that contributed to the 5% growth of the County's overall population. The county white-non Hispanic population went down 0.4% in the period. The Census accounted for 8,280 Latinx in the county. Additionally, the growth of other non-white minority groups also contributed to the population growth. The next two largest groups are Black-only and Asian-only. The Black population grew 30% and the Asian population grew 19% in this period.

As expected, the 2020 Census showed that the US overall, but also Ohio and the NW Ohio region, are becoming more diverse. More than half (51.1%) of the total U.S. population growth between 2010 and 2020 came from growth in the Hispanic or Latino population.

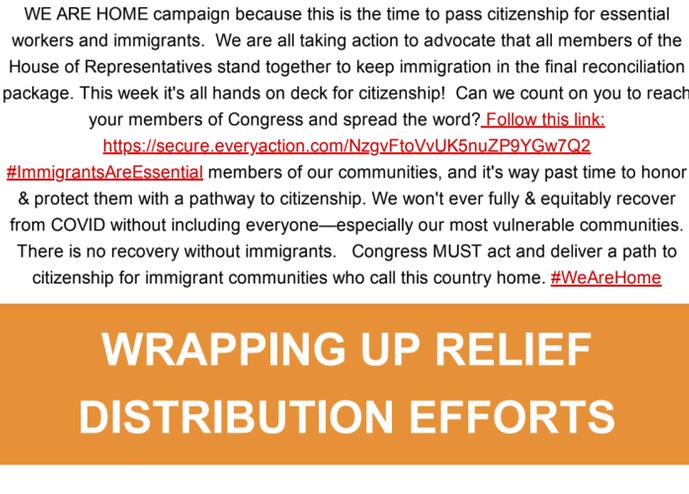
Ohio's Latinx population grew slower than the rest of the country, but the growth was concentrated in Northwest Ohio. On average, NW Ohio saw a 5% percentage decrease in the White (Non-Hispanic) population, and a sizable percentage growth in their Latinx populations: 20% increase on average in the region.

Arriba, mi gente!

(We want to thank our wonderful BGSU grad intern Evan Snapp for his contribution to this census analysis)

You can donate to La Conexión via the blue donate button on our [Facebook page](#).

All proceeds benefit La Conexión.



TAKE ACTION: CAMPAIGN PUSH FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM



La Conexión and the NW OH Immigrant Rights Network are teaming up with the national WE ARE HOME campaign because this is the time to pass citizenship for essential workers and immigrants. We are all taking action to advocate that all members of the House of Representatives all stand together to keep immigration in the final reconciliation package. This week it's all hands on deck for citizenship! Can we count on you to reach your members of Congress and spread the word? [Follow this link: https://secure.everyaction.com/NzgvFtoVvUJK5nuZP9YGw7Q2](https://secure.everyaction.com/NzgvFtoVvUJK5nuZP9YGw7Q2)

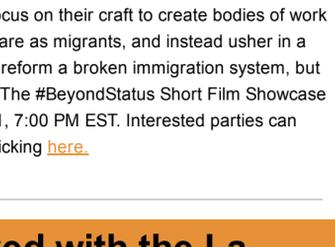
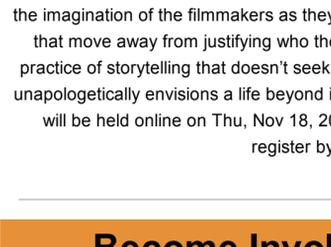
#ImmigrantsAreEssential members of our communities, and it's way past time to honor & protect them with a pathway to citizenship. We won't ever fully & equitably recover from COVID without including everyone—especially our most vulnerable communities. There is no recovery without immigrants. Congress MUST act and deliver a path to citizenship for immigrant communities who call this country home. #WeAreHome

WRAPPING UP RELIEF DISTRIBUTION EFFORTS

As the colder months approach, we are working hard to wrap up our relief distribution efforts throughout NW Ohio. Through a grant from the Hispanic Federation, we were able to provide relief funds to excluded essential workers. This new relief distribution effort extended beyond agricultural workers to essential workers of any industry, such as restaurants and cleaning services, who did not qualify for government assistance, such as unemployment and stimulus benefits. Another key component to our work through this grant was to combat vaccine hesitancy. Our outreach workers shared information and educational materials in Spanish from the CDC on the safety of the vaccines and demystified common misunderstandings related to the vaccines. To encourage vaccinations by providing accessible options, we offer information on locations where people can receive the vaccine for free without making appointments in advance. We are proud of our continued contributions to community health and wellbeing. Arriba La Conexión!

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National and International News

Tapachula, Mexico, Is an Open-Air Immigration Prison for the U.S., *The New Republic*

Because U.S. immigration policies require many migrants to remain in Mexico until they have been processed, hundreds of Haitians, “Hondurans, Cubans, Venezuelans, Guatemalans, Dominicans...are being held in the notorious Siglo XXI detention center, but most of them are in an open-air prison bound by the city limits: Migrants must be granted refugee status in Mexico to leave Tapachula, and that onerous process can take months.”

“Caravan of mostly Central American migrants advance slowly across Mexico,” *Reuters*

The latest caravan of mostly Central American migrants is on its way to Mexico City or the U.S. border in the hopes of receiving refugee status. This group of thousands, including many children, have yet to encounter Mexican soldiers or immigrant officials.

“New Guidance Bars Immigration Enforcement in “Protected Areas,” *New York Times*

The Biden administration has designated “schools and university campuses; hospitals, clinics and other medical facilities, in addition to Covid-19 testing and vaccination sites; places of worship; and sites where children gather, such as playgrounds, day care centers and foster care facilities”...“off limits to immigration arrests or other types of enforcement.”

Beyond Status Short Film Series

Beyond Status is a series of short films made by and about migrant storytellers from The Center for Cultural Power. From the website: “These shorts serve to showcase the imagination of the filmmakers as they focus on their craft to create bodies of work that move away from justifying who they are as migrants, and instead usher in a practice of storytelling that doesn't seek to reform a broken immigration system, but unapologetically envisions a life beyond it.” The #BeyondStatus Short Film Showcase will be held online on Thu, Nov 18, 2021, 7:00 PM EST. Interested persons can register by clicking [here](#).

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

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.

Donations can also be made by mail at:
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