

Popular Government

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Over the last two decades, newcomers to North Carolina have included large numbers of immigrants from many countries, but particularly from Latin America and Asia. Immigration is generally regulated at the federal level, but its impact is increasingly felt at state and local levels. Ten years ago, *Popular Government* offered an in-depth examination of immigration (see the Fall 1999 issue). Much has changed since then, yet immigration still is a heated and complex topic, often at the forefront of governments' and citizens' concerns. This issue of *Popular Government* explores some of the ways in which state and local governments and communities have responded to North Carolina's growing immigrant population.

The articles address (1) the growing involvement of county sheriffs and other local law enforcement agencies in the enforcement of federal immigration law, and the costs and the benefits of that involvement; (2) local governments' authority to enact immigration laws and policies, and the extent to which such measures run afoul of federal law; and (3) immigrants' access to primary, secondary, and higher education, and the corollary issue of teaching students—both U.S. citizens and immigrants—whose limited proficiency in English presents a barrier to their academic achievement.

We hope that these articles will assist local and state policy makers, administrators, and communities as they respond to the challenges and the opportunities posed by North Carolina's changing demographics.

—Sejal Zota and John B. Stephens,
coeditors

School of Government Resources on Immigration

Resources focused primarily on issues of immigration law are available to assist state and local government officials, including judicial branch employees. Visit www.sog.unc.edu/programs/immigration, or contact Sejal Zota, immigration law specialist, at szota@sog.unc.edu or 919.843.8404. Among the resources on the website is a 2009 update of *Immigrants in North Carolina: A Fact Sheet*, which provides information on the size and the composition of North Carolina's immigrant population, and data on its economic impact.

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Immigration Enforcement in the Workplace: A Review of Past and Current Law and Policy

Sejal Zota

A specialist in immigration law reviews law and policy on immigration enforcement in the workplace, including requirements for verification of employment eligibility, efforts to enforce immigration law in the workplace, and more. Go to www.sog.unc.edu/popgov.

The Impact of North Carolina Driver's License Requirements and the REAL ID Act of 2005 on Unauthorized Immigrants

Shea Riggsbee Denning

As recently as 2001, North Carolina was widely known as a state in which a nonresident, unauthorized immigrant could easily obtain a driver's license. The REAL ID Act of 2005 has unquestionably changed this situation. Go to www.sog.unc.edu/popgov.

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