

## Immigrants

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tective status since 1990. The bills were also backed by Sen. Jack Reed (D) and Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy (D), both of Rhode Island, a state in which the immigrant population is mostly comprised of Liberians.

"Politicians pay attention to immigrant groups with the most people," said Titi Owele, a Nigerian-American immigrant and resident of Washington, D.C. "That's why Clinton is focusing on the Hispanics, since they are the majority. Hopefully, someone

like Obama will care for the plight of the African immigrant in America, since his father was an African immigrant."

In September last year, President Bush deferred the deportation of the Liberians on this special status until March of 2009, a decision that met him with a warm welcome and mass gratitude on his visit to Liberia in late February.

"I pay attention to things like that. Immigration issues are very important," Wilson said. "I think it should be the main focus of

many immigrants, even if they are citizens, because I guarantee they all know somebody that's waiting on some kind of change of immigration policy."

According to the Bureau of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, about 18,000 Africans in Minnesota alone have become U.S. citizens in the past 10 years. There are almost twice as many eligible voters statewide.

However, many naturalized citizens from African demographics are not registered to vote, or are not voting. Groups like Minnesota ACT have African focus groups that reach out to African voters in these regions to get them to register to vote, and to participate during elections.

For the two largest immigrant groups—Latino and Asians—though voter turnout was well below the population growth of the two groups, their impact still played a major role in the California democratic primary for Sen. Hillary Clinton.

"The political and voting culture are very different in America than they are in most African countries," said Saspo Sankoh of the Sierra Leonean Embassy in D.C. "For most African voters, it's too early to make a decision. In Sierra Leone many people wait until the very last minute to vote, because at that time the candidate is completely exposed. Many African voters know nothing of these candidates, or don't think that the candidates can do anything for them. What they assume

of America is though the actions of these presidents may slightly change, the process still remains the same, and change just sounds good in theory."

Many Africans, however, are hopeful that Sen. Obama will protect Africa since it is a land of his ancestors. According to allafrica.com's Nigerian correspondent Okello Oculi, "His presidency could, besides pursuing a pro-African foreign policy, influence U.S. transnational corporations, the Military Industrial Complex and scientific institutions to be fair to the continent."

Barack Obama's father, Barack Hussein Obama Sr. was born in Nyanza Province, Kenya. Although Obama refers to the respect and love he had for his father in his 1995 book "Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance," he has recently fought the depiction of media publication of a photo of him in Kenya, dressed in traditional garb that makes him look Muslim. "I am Christian," Obama asserted.

"It's only natural to assume that someone that is similar to you will defend you. That's the reason why many women are voting for Hillary Clinton," said Sam Mandu, an immigrant from Malawi and resident of Bethesda, Md. "Obama's appeal to most is that regardless of what he is or what his background is, he genuinely seems to care for the rights of all people. And aside from the votes of Blacks or Africans, maybe that's what will take him to the White House."

## Youth

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"Society and the media have this sly way of making Republicans seem like bad people. From what I understand, you have to be a heartless person to even admit that you are a Republican. Plus, look at what Bush has done to our country," she said. "I bet a lot of Republicans have turned into Democrats after that disaster."

Kent, like many young people, have a tendency to vote as their parents vote, and reside with the same party as their parents. When asked, 24 out of 25 college students admitted to claiming allegiance to a particular party, which was the same as their parents. However, when asked if they truly understood the goals and objectives of the opposing party, only 11 out of the same 25 claimed to know. "Because my parents are Democrats, I've always said I was a Democrat. When I think of Republicans, I think of people like [President George W.] Bush and [Vice President Dick] Cheney who don't seem to care about the American people. I think of Republicans as selfish money-hungry people who only care about other selfish money hungry people," said senior Georgetown University business finance major Beth Kanowski.

Polls have shown that Sen. Barack Obama won the state of Iowa during this primary election season because of an overwhelmingly strong under-25 demographic turnout. In fact, polls also show that the number of absentee ballots (including those of college students, and students abroad) that were turned in prior to the election exceeded the total number of ballots in the 2004 primary election (absentee and non-absentee voters combined). Why are young people coming out to vote in these alarming numbers? Howard University alum John Minor, 23, spoke about when he knew he would vote for Obama.

"Senator Obama came to

speaking at [Howard University's] Convocation ceremony earlier this year, and he really sealed the deal for me. He spoke about lowering tuition costs for students in higher education, he spoke about increasing the level of responsibility on the government to comfortably bring our troops from overseas back into our society... he spoke about a lot of things that have to do with my life as a student."

Because of the falling approval rate for the current political state of the country, the idea of change seems pervasive across age groups. David Bositis, senior political analyst for the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, agrees.

"I think it's pretty clear that it's Barack Obama's campaign [that is attracting the youth vote], because about 70 percent of that age group is voting for Barack Obama," said Bositis. "I think it [the youth voter turnout] has something to do with change, and that his campaign has been about change... I think young people are looking for the change, and he represents change more than any of the other candidates."

As far as Republicans voting, the numbers are not as impressive, Bositis confirms. "There is not a large number of Republicans voting. Turnout in the Republican primaries has been pretty weak so far, and even older Republicans are not voting that much," he said.

Although the primary elections are not yet over, it is relatively clear what issues young people are concerned with. With the large youth turnout as of current polls, it seems as though this presidential election will be strongly influenced by young people.

Aside from the political and economic issues at stake, Minor has a different principal regarding his vote.

"I think that no matter why young people are voting more, it's more important to

note that they are voting, regardless of what for. Too many years have passed where the youth and minorities were overlooked, mainly because we allowed ourselves to be [overlooked]. If you don't vote, you don't have a say. Period," he said. "Pretty soon, we'll be the ones who are running for the White House and for the Senate. Pretty soon [the current youth] will run this country, and we'll need the future youth to vote for us. I just hope they see the need for change, just as we do right now."

## Your Horoscope Says... March 13 - 19

### ARIES

Your rewards come not only from what you do, but from who you are! Give yourself a well-deserved pat on the back and work some wonders. You are full of positive energy this week; use it to your advantage.

Soul Affirmation: I care deeply about the feelings of others.

Lucky Numbers: 10, 11, 26

### TAURUS

Practical matters may seem like nuisances that are only there to spite your sunny mood this week. The vibration has its place though, and if you apply yourself to practical things, you'll have a lot accomplished by the end of the week. Avoid spinning your wheels on impossible projects or relationships.

Soul Affirmation: Distant love is sometimes sweeter.

Lucky Numbers: 17, 24, 29

### GEMINI

Excellent vibrations accompany you to meetings and appointments or anywhere where your gifts of communication can be used. You'll have managers eating out of your hand if you choose to exercise a little charm.

Soul Affirmation: I call on my creative talents to pay my bills.

Lucky Numbers: 18, 32, 47

### CANCER

Charming, simply charming! You have everything going for you this week, so make the most of it. You are capable of handling many projects, and equally capable of asking for help if you need it.

Soul Affirmation: My imagination is the source of my happiness.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 12, 30

### LEO

If you acknowledge your need to be with someone this afternoon, the universe will probably provide. Ask for help if you need it. There are many resources available to you that you could be drawing from. All you have to do is ask.

Soul Affirmation: I accept fate and see good in it.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 26, 28

### VIRGO

Watching the sunrise will help quell any impatience that may arise within you this week. As you watch the sun kiss the sky, imagine that the universe is embracing you with love.

Soul Affirmation: I judge no one, especially myself this week.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 5, 54

### LIBRA

A surge in your personal power enables you to slay any dragons that you happen to meet this week. If you keep your attention on your own personal dragons, you'll be advancing your own best self by knocking out some less than healthy habits. Use the force for good!

Soul Affirmation: Shining brightly is something that I can do even in shadows.

Lucky Numbers: 20, 33, 51

### SCORPIO

Here's a chance to get to the bottom of an issue that's been bothering you for quite some time. This week, you'll feel objective enough to focus on the situation, and not the person who may unwittingly have caused the situation. Go for it!

Soul Affirmation: The enjoyment of good food is high on my agenda this week.

Lucky Numbers: 15, 43, 55

### SAGITTARIUS

Information flows smoothly to and from you this week. You are in your element as communications come and go. You'll learn much as you listen and observe others. Be easy on yourself this week.

Soul Affirmation: I enjoy flirting with new ideas.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 14, 32

### CAPRICORN

Someone may try to push your buttons this week. Don't let it get on your nerves. You have the power to focus your attention on positive thoughts and ideas. They will prove much more worthwhile in the long run than a short-term blow-out with an unequal adversary.

Soul Affirmation: When I am clear about who I am, the world becomes clearer.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 45, 50

### AQUARIUS

Conclusions can be reached; but don't jump to them. Things are working out in your best interests. Ignore any negative attitudes and stay focused on your goals and plans. You are winning!

Soul Affirmation: My hunches pay all week this week.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 11, 13

### PISCES

This is a perfect week for some fun. You know how to have fun and it's calling you out to play. Say what you need and the rest will follow in perfect order! Have a good time!

Soul Affirmation: The search for fun occupies my time. Enjoy!

Lucky Numbers: 1, 19, 33