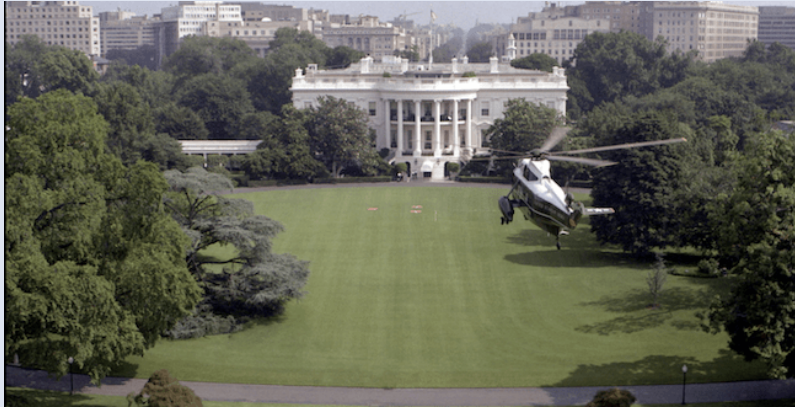




THE PROENGLISH Advocate

Official English And The 2024 Elections



Official English has the potential to emerge as a very important issue in the 2024 presidential and congressional elections.

ProEnglish is in daily contact with the offices of countless senators and representatives on Capitol Hill in a diligent effort to continue to build greater support and cosponsorship for the English Language Unity Act. The bill designates English as the nation's official language of governmental operations and establishes a uniform language requirement for the citizen naturalization process.

The passage of official English legislation in Congress will save Americans countless billions of dollars in current, government-mandated translation and interpretation costs, and also will encourage cultural and linguistic integration by new arrivals to our nation.

ProEnglish is canvassing the 2024 presidential candidates in order to measure the degree of their support for official English legislation.

ProEnglish also is supporting official English efforts in various states across the nation as we seek to add to the 32 states that already have passed official English legislation.

Please support ProEnglish as we seek passage of the English Language Unity Act in Congress, and as we work to add to the number of states passing official English legislation. There is much work to do on behalf of official English in this 2024 election year, and we are very grateful to you for all of your support.

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Juan Soto Immerses Himself In English



Juan Soto was traded from the San Diego Padres to the New York Yankees. Baseball fans will remember that Soto originally signed with the Washington Nationals in 2015. He quickly joined the Nationals' Dominican Academy and immediately began to immerse himself in English by using the Rosetta Stone language-learning software lessons.

Soto initially practiced English for one hour a day, five days a week. After the Dominican Academy, Soto joined the Nationals' Class A affiliate, the Hagerstown Suns. He met Suns catcher Tres Barrera, who was born in Texas to Mexican parents. Soto told Barrera that he only wanted the two of them to converse in English.

Barrera told the Washington Post that he remembered how Soto would go to a McDonald's near the Hagerstown ballpark every day to practice his English by ordering from the menu. When Soto was called up to the Nationals, he told manager Dave Martinez, "No Spanish, only English."

Soto himself also recalled the role that his mother played in his English lessons. "I remember her telling me that if I wanted to be a star, I had to know the language in the country I wanted to play in," he reflected. "She was right. Moms always are!"

Vivek Ramaswamy Wants English As Only Language On Ballots



Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy recently posted the following statement on X (formerly known as Twitter):

"English should be the only language used on ballots & in voting booths. Seems like a quick-and-easy win. This shouldn't be controversial."

Quebec Battles “Franglais”



The Wall Street Journal reported that French-speaking Quebec is fretting over the creep of English slang words into French discourse.

Language is a hot button issue in Quebec, which twice has flirted with secession from majority English-speaking Canada. French is the official language of Quebec’s government, education, courts, and commerce; however, provincial authorities are alarmed over what they perceive as a waning of French language use in homes and workplaces.

A specific concern is the creep of “Franglais.” This is the mixing of French with English slang. Many longtime residents of Montreal readily admit to using “Franglais” these days.

“People find it spicy and delightful,” a Montreal journalist observed. “It’s survival of the best words, as far as I am concerned.”

Quebec’s government has passed several laws further requiring citizens to conduct daily life and business strictly in French. For example, many contracts must be written in French to be legally binding. Most government services are only offered in French, with a few exceptions made for tourists or certain classes of “historical anglophones.”

Food and drink are also a part of the French-English language issue. A pub manager in Quebec recently had to provide a French translation of the slogan, “It’s a lovely day for a Guinness,” and then had to post the translation next to a Guinness poster featuring toucans balancing beer glasses on their beaks.

Even Kentucky Fried Chicken is not immune from the language battle. If one is looking for KFC in Quebec, then one must search for “PFK” – that is “Poulet Frit Kentucky.” We assume that it is still “Finger Lickin’ Good” in Quebec, be it in French, English, or “Franglais.”

Ukrainians Learn English

The Washington Post recently published an article detailing how Ukrainians isolated by the war there are learning English through a Washington-area volunteer network of instructors.

The program is called Speaking English Language Overseas (“SELO”), and it pairs English tutors with groups of Ukrainian students, and particularly those located in the Ukrainian countryside.

SELO was started in 2020 by Inna Golovakha, a Ukrainian immigrant who lives in Arlington, VA. Golovakha had taken part in a program to teach Ukrainian teachers and students English in a rural country village. She saw a great need for bolstering English language skills there, and so she founded SELO.

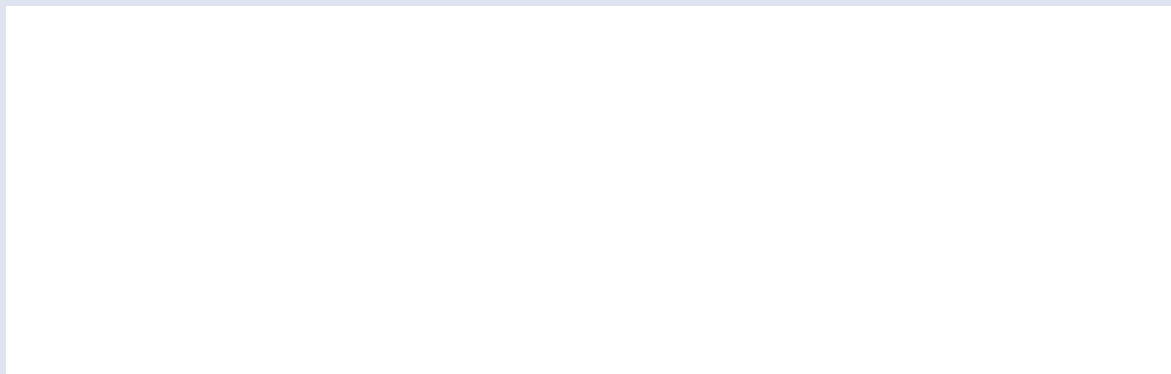
Shortly before the war began, SELO had grown to 200 participants in Ukraine and 24 English speaking volunteers in the USA and elsewhere.

The war made attending school in person too dangerous, so students take advantage of learning English virtually. The war, however, has made even virtual classes a challenge, and some Ukrainian students have had to leave their lessons to flee to cellars and bomb shelters.

Nonetheless the Ukrainian students continue to participate and to learn English, even as the war rages all around them. And it all started because he learned English.



ProEnglish
20 F Street NW, 7th Floor
Washington, DC 20001



“We have but one flag; we must also learn one language, and that language is English.”

- President Theodore Roosevelt

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20 F Street NW, 7th Floor
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: (202) 507-6283
Website: www.proenglish.org

Executive Director

Stephen Guschov, Esq.

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