

THE PROENGLISH Advocate

Statehood Bid Requires Official English Status



Puerto Rico's status as a U.S. commonwealth, where residents enjoy U.S. citizenship and other benefits, has dominated the political life of the island for decades. In the latest twist of this status debate, a June 11 non-binding referendum was rigged by Gov. Ricardo Rosello and his ruling party to indicate pro-statehood sentiment— even though less than one-in-four voters participated.

The opposition Popular Democratic Party— which prefers the island's current status-- fostered a successful voter boycott. "The referendum was rigged to support statehood because Rosello's party initially sought to exclude the territorial option from the ballot," ProEnglish Chairman Dr. Rosalie P. Porter charges. In any event, she says, "any legislative attempt by the island to become the 51st state must stipulate that English become its primary official language of the government, courts and school system. The island, after all, is predominantly Spanish-speaking."

"Let's remember that the 2011 recommendations from President Barack Obama's Task Force on Puerto Rico's Status says that, if the U.S. commonwealth ever applies for statehood, Congress has ultimate authority over admission and English must play a central role in the daily life of the island," Porter says. "At a minimum, we believe a large majority must become fluent in English for statehood to be even considered."

Porter warns that Rosello "will now push his own

admission scheme-- a Tennessee-style strategy to force Congress into statehood admission." This refers to Tennessee's territorial governor who — after convening a constitutional convention wherein delegates "converted" the territory into a state— applied for admission by sending "elected" senators and representatives to stand and lobby in the hallways of Congress demanding their seats. "Congress caved and admitted Tennessee. This must not be allowed to happen regarding Puerto Rico," she says.

Spanish is the dominant language of the island, spoken by 95 percent of the population. Accepting Puerto Rico as a new state, without a specific designation of English as the primary official language of the island, would automatically transform the United States into a bilingual nation. In fact, ProEnglish believes Canada's experience ought to remind us of the consequences. Accepting Quebec with its official French language made our northern neighbor bilingual-- creating a sharp cultural and political divide, and adding high costs to government translation and other services.

Indeed, any congressional debate over statehood would be messy. The spotlight would shine on how expensive it would be for U.S. taxpayers to admit this poverty-ridden island to the union. In fact, Rosello's open admission that he seeks statehood so mainland taxpayers can bail out the island from its financial and economic woe is certainly not the best argument for Congress to hear.

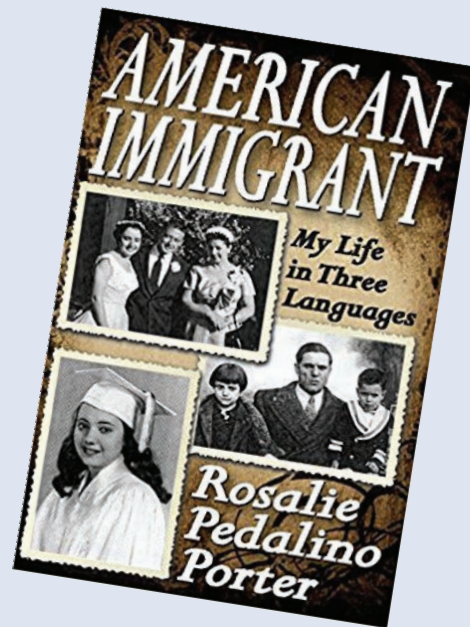
The following information applies to the enclosed package in its entirety. ProEnglish is a project of U.S., Inc. U.S., Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization and as such, can expend only a specific portion of its overall resources on lobbying activities. While your contribution will not be earmarked for a specific campaign, its availability at this time will assist us in meeting all of our goals. A copy of our latest financial report may be obtained from either the Secretary of State of New York, Albany, NY 12231 or from U.S., Inc. 445 East Mitchell St., Petoskey, MI 49770-2623. The official registration and financial information of U.S. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. West Virginia residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

www.proenglish.org



Bicoastal Bilingual Mischief



The fastest growing demographic in U. S. public schools is non-English speaking children, now numbering over 5 million. How can we best teach these children the English language for their entry and participation in regular classrooms, to learn school subjects taught in English?

For 20 years, English Immersion classes across the country have proven most successful. Evidence from California and Arizona shows a majority can learn English well enough for regular school work and to pass state tests in English and math within 1-2 years.

From the 1970s through the 1990s, non-English speakers were taught in bilingual classrooms where most teaching was done in the student's home language, usually Spanish. Bilingual programs segregated children by language and ethnicity, for 3-6 years, a costly and ineffective method.

In a 2009 U.S. Supreme Court ruling (*Arizona vs. Flores*), Justice Breyer reaffirmed "...the rights of Spanish-speaking students...to learn English in order to live their lives in a country where English is the predominant language," and cited "documented academic support for the view that

Structured English Immersion is significantly more effective than bilingual education."

English Immersion is challenged on both coasts. California voters were mistakenly convinced to vote for a ballot question in 2016 that effectively removed the requirement for English Immersion—if and when it gets state funding. Massachusetts Rep. Sanchez introduced a bill in 2017 to remove the requirement for English Immersion. It did not pass, but it will be submitted again next year.

Arguments in both California and Massachusetts that new laws would bring "choice" are bogus. Under current laws, parents can petition for a bilingual program. Mostly they don't want it. In both states, 85% of English Learners are enrolled in English Immersion classes. Very few parents want their children taught in Spanish or Mandarin or any other language during the school day.

Can anyone doubt that learning the common language of our country is the most useful skill for non-English speaking children, giving them access to education, work, and to be fully participating citizens of the United States? ProEnglish opposes changes to programs that are working well for millions of children.

Dr. Rosalie Pedalino Porter is chairman of the Board of Directors of ProEnglish, author of *American Immigrant: My Life in Three Languages* (Transaction Publishers, Rutgers University)



Arizona Courts Reject English-Speaking Student's Plea for Justice



On April 18 the Arizona Supreme Court turned down nursing student Terri Bennett's appeal of lower court decisions upholding Pima County Community College's Gestapo-like persecution of her. Her crime: protesting that she couldn't learn because her bilingual Spanish-English classmates refused to speak English during small group study sessions she was assigned to attend.

After classmates ostracized and bullied her, and ignored her requests to use English, she carefully followed the college's procedures for registering a complaint about her learning environment. In a rage, school administrators called her "a bigot and a bitch," and threatened her saying that she would "not get a job."

Days later, when she tried to go to class, she was met by armed security guards and escorted off the campus as if she was a dangerous terrorist. She was handed a letter saying she was being suspended from school because "you may present an unreasonable risk of danger to yourself or to others." Administrators trumped up a number of false and uncorroborated accusations against her to justify their actions.

ProEnglish intervened on Bennett's behalf and backed her lawsuit because ProEnglish believed that, apart from the school's outrageous persecution of her for being politically incorrect, its actions violated the official English amendment to the Arizona constitution.

Unfortunately, her case was assigned to District Court Judge Richard S. Fields, whose actions revealed he was clearly biased in favor of the college. He threw out Bennett's best claims, allowed damaging hearsay evidence to be introduced against her, and in ruling after ruling, sided with the college. Effectively steered by a one-sided admission of claims and evidence, the six-member jury ruled against her. Adding to the rank injustice and the denial of her First and Fourth Amendment rights, the judge ordered Bennett to pay the school's six figure claim for attorney fees.

Bennett appealed the ruling to an appellate court, and then to Arizona's highest court. The Arizona Supreme Court now has slammed the door on Bennett's last hope for justice, and rewarded Pima County Community College's ugly persecution of one of its own students for the crime of not being able to speak Spanish.

California Sues Forever 21 over English workplace policy



California's multilingual enforcers took aim at clothing retailer Forever 21 in April, to punish the company for the sin of having an English-on-the-job policy.

The State's Department of Fair Employment and Housing filed suit in San Francisco Superior Court alleging that the store has a policy that prohibited three bilingual English/Spanish-speaking employees from speaking any language except English, even when greeting each other, during rest breaks, and when speaking to Spanish speaking customers.

Ironically, Forever 21 was founded in 1984 by two Korean immigrants who did not speak a word of English when they arrived in the U.S., but who mastered the language and went on to business success with their store chain. The assertion that the company tried to prevent employees from speaking Spanish with Spanish-speaking customers is highly doubtful, as such a policy would likely lose sales to such customers.

Employers who adopt English-on-the-job policies do so not out of spite, but for business necessity reasons; because their managers and supervisors need to understand what's being said, to insure that employees are not disparaging or bullying other employees, engaging in sexual harassment, or otherwise violating laws and / or company policies.

Unfortunately, such sound business policies carry little weight in the wonderland of the multicultural ideologues who worship diversity in every sense, except common sense. They try to outlaw such English-on-the-job policies by asserting that the failure to accommodate languages other than English is the same as discrimination on the basis of "national origin."

The problem is that the two classifications are not synonymous. A person's national origin could be Indian, for example, but their native language could be one of a dozen or more different languages. Similarly, someone could speak French or Mandarin Chinese, but that says nothing about their national origin. So courts have consistently rejected the idea as a false equivalency.

The court plans to hold a conference with Forever 21 and its accusers August 30.

Stephen Guschov Named ProEnglish Executive Director

Stephen Guschov has been named executive director by ProEnglish’s board of directors. Mr. Guschov expects to assume his duties by July 15th after relocating to the Washington, D.C. area.

“The board search committee interviewed a number of strong candidates, but Stephen Guschov stood out from the crowd,” said ProEnglish Chairman, Rosalie Porter. “In addition to being an attorney, Stephen speaks fluent Spanish after spending seven years in Peru working as a pastor and teacher of English as a second language,” she continued. “He knows from firsthand experience the vital role that language plays in assimilation and success in a new cultural environment,” she added.

After returning to the U.S., Mr. Guschov worked as director of engagement for Liberty Counsel, a non-profit religious liberty and constitutional law firm, and then served as executive director of Legal Immigrants for America, a non-profit advocacy group based in the Orlando, Florida area.

He holds an undergraduate degree in political science from Boston University and a law degree from Suffolk University Law School. He is also the author of five books, two screen plays, and numerous articles. His books include *The Bible and Immigration* (2016) and *The Red Stockings of Cincinnati: Baseball’s First All-Professional Team* (1998).

“It would be hard to find a better qualified person to lead ProEnglish at a time when we have a historic opportunity to make English the official language of government operations, thereby promoting our nation’s unity through our common language,” concluded Porter.

The ProEnglish Advocate

Board

Rosalie Porter, Chairwoman
Cliff Colwell
Phil Kent
K.C. McAlpin
John Tanton
Asgar Asgarov

Executive Director

Steven Guschov, Esq

The ProEnglish Advocate is published quarterly by ProEnglish. ProEnglish is a non-profit membership-based organization dedicated to educating the American people about the importance of preserving English as our common language and making it the official language of the U.S. All contributions to ProEnglish are tax-deductible.



20 F Street NW, 7th Floor
Washington, DC 20001
phone: (202) 507-6203 fax: (571) 527-2813
website: www.proenglish.org

Permission is hereby granted to copy or distribute any or all of The ProEnglish Advocate

Keep up the good work. Here is my donation:

\$25 \$50 \$100 Other _____

I would like to become a member of ProEnglish

Please send a \$ 25 gift membership to:

Name

Street

City, State, Zip

Email

IMPORTANT If this is a gift membership, please print your name here:

 Check AMEX
 MasterCard Visa

Card No. Exp. Date

Authorization Signature

Send to: **ProEnglish* A Project of the U.S., Inc.**
20 F Street NW 7th Floor
Washington, DC 20001

Please remember ProEnglish in your estate planning. Contribute safely online at www.proenglish.org. All contributions are tax deductible