

# THE PROENGLISH Advocate

## Rigged Vote in Puerto Rico Produces Artificial Majority for Statehood

On Election Day 2012, for the very first time in its history, Puerto Ricans produced a majority vote in favor of becoming the 51st U.S. State. The non-binding referendum was made up of two questions: 1) Do you want to change Puerto Rico's current status with the United States? and 2) Which new status do you prefer?

On the first question, 54% of voters indicated that they favored a change of status, while 46% voted for no change. The result of the second question produced 61% of voters choosing statehood, 33% choosing "sovereign free association," and 6% for total independence from the United States.

Although at first glance it appears that a clear majority, 61%, of Puerto Ricans favor statehood, the devil is in the details. When you tally the number of voters who chose statehood and compare it to the total number of voters who chose something other than statehood—including independence, free association, or left the question blank altogether out of protest—what you find is that there

is no clear majority in favor of statehood at all. 802,000 people voted for statehood, but 978,000 people voted for something other than statehood or not at all. This means that of the 1.7 million voters who participated in the referendum, more people (175,000 more) opposed statehood than supported it.



Outgoing Gov. Luis Fortuno

These numbers certainly call into question the "clear majority" that the pro-statehood party claims to have achieved. Many believe that the results represent an overwhelming majority of Puerto Ricans united against statehood.

"Statehood won a victory without precedent but it's an artificial

victory," argues Angel Isreal Rivera Ortiz, a political science professor at the University of Puerto Rico. "It reflects a divided and confused electorate that is not clear on where it's going." Many believe, as Rivera does, that neither Congress nor President Obama will view this referendum as a clear mandate from the Puerto Rican people.

The fact that a majority of Puerto Rican voters oppose statehood was reiterated in their votes to oust pro-statehood Governor Luis Fortuno from office after just one term. Popular Democratic Party candidate Alejandro Garcia Padilla, who wants Puerto Rico to preserve its semi-autonomous commonwealth status, won the governorship and his anti-statehood Popular Democratic Party also regained control of both chambers of the Puerto Rican congress.

For now, the future of the statehood effort is uncertain but the certified results of the referendum will be sent to the White House and the congressional leadership, and it would be up to them to begin the process of possibly admitting Puerto Rico

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# Congress Defunds Unlimited Taxpayer Funded Translation Services at DHS



Rep. Steve King

In June, the U.S. House of Representatives passed an amendment to prohibit taxpayer dollars from funding unlimited translation services at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The agency was required to provide written and oral interpretation services in any language requested by the public under a Clinton-era executive order (EO 13166).

The amendment offered by Rep. Steve King (R-IA) passed by a bipartisan vote of 224 to 189 (Roll Call 362). While offering his amendment on the House floor, Rep. King stated: “We got along fine without this executive order up until the year 2000, and we’ll get along fine without it after 2012.”

“The assimilation component doesn’t take place if you facilitate

foreign language speaking within government,” Rep. King continued. “87 percent of Americans support this policy – the policy of English as the official language. There is nothing in it that prevents Justice or emergency services from using language services for taking care of the people.”

There is no federal reimbursement for enforcing this executive order and it covers tens of thousands of state and local government agencies as well as government contractors. It affects schools, libraries, hospitals, unemployment offices, fire and police departments, public health clinics, and countless private agencies that receive direct or indirect support from the federal government.

Rep. King offered this amendment on the heels of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) recent decision to implement a nationwide “language access plan” after an unnamed illegal alien of Guatemalan origin filed a complaint with USDA. The illegal alien alleged that the U.S. Forest Service violated her “civil rights” by calling Border Patrol for back up and translation assistance when she was discovered to be without identification and picking a plant

without a permit in a national forest.

When the Border Patrol arrived, the illegals fled and one of them drowned in a nearby river. As a result, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project stepped in and filed a complaint with the USDA.

The USDA’s internal ruling, which came from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, determined that the U.S. Forest Service’s use of Border Patrol agents was “discriminatory.” The U.S. Forest Service is now required to develop a “language access plan” for non-English speakers, among other measures, including mandatory “sensitivity training” for the Forest Service officer who reported the illegal aliens to Border Patrol. ProEnglish Executive Director Robert Vandervoort described the USDA’s interpretation of the law as erroneous: “The USDA is wrongly equating language with national origin, which no court has ever held.”

The same illegal alien has also filed identical complaints with both the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security. At least for DHS, the King amendment,

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## The ProEnglish Advocate

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# ProEnglish News



## Peter Lee Joins ProEnglish Staff



Peter Lee

ProEnglish is pleased to welcome Peter Lee as its new Website and Social Media Manager. Mr. Lee is originally from Wading River, New York and received his undergraduate degree at Franklin and Marshall College. He worked for a year in

Chile teaching English where he became proficient in Spanish. After that experience, he received training at the Leadership Institute and worked for a year at the Capital Research Center, a philanthropic watchdog organization.

"I know firsthand the importance of one common language for a nation," Mr. Lee said, "and I am excited to use my skills to advance the cause of official English in America." ProEnglish Chairman Dr. Rosalie Porter stated, "We are delighted to have Peter Lee on board. He is a welcome addition to our office. She added, "He brings a wonderful set of skills to ProEnglish, which will help us as we continue to advance the cause for official English."

## ProEnglish Attends 2012 Values Voters Summit

In September, ProEnglish held an exhibit at the 2012 Values Voters Summit in Washington, D.C. The three-day summit attracted thousands of top activists and voters from across the country. They listened to talks about important cultural issues from speakers like Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky and TV actor Kirk Cameron.

ProEnglish was the only organization at the conference to address the important issue of official English. Many of the attendees learned about official English issues for the first time by visiting our exhibit booth. The overwhelming response was positive and ProEnglish signed up hundreds of new supporters.

## Correction

In the previous issue of the *ProEnglish Advocate* we stated that our new Board of Advisors member Richard Munro was a high school Spanish teacher. This was a mistake. Mr. Munro is a high school English, Social Studies, and American History teacher. We regret the mistake.

## ProEnglish Testifies Before Congress

### • Continued from page 1

into the union. ProEnglish has long been anticipating this outcome which is why a week before the Election, ProEnglish sent a coalition letter to the U.S. Congress urging them to include specific English language requirements in any legislation to admit Puerto Rico as the 51st State. Twenty-one signatories join ProEnglish on the letter, including the principles of several influential national grassroots organizations, former Congressmen, and Tea Party leaders. To read the letter, please visit our homepage at [www.proenglish.org](http://www.proenglish.org).

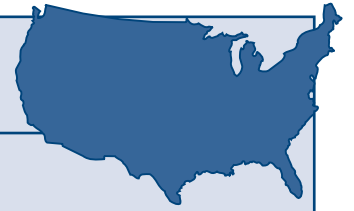
## Congress Defunds Unlimites Taxpayer

### • Continued from page 2

if the Senate can preserve it, will have a preventative effect on similar rulings coming out of that agency.

"The ACLU and illegal alien rights groups battle these disputes in private between the agencies in order to come to a settlement where both the courts and the taxpayers are absent from the table," said ProEnglish government relations director Suzanne Bibby to The Washington Times. ProEnglish believes that Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack must publicly explain why he plans to force taxpayers to fund translations for illegal aliens during a time of record high deficits.

# Around the Nation



## Carroll County, Maryland Weighs English Ordinance



Carroll County, MD is poised to become the third Maryland county to adopt an official English ordinance in the last nine months. Carroll County Commissioner Haven Shoemaker, who re-

presents the Hampstead area, introduced his ordinance in late September and was inspired by the two previous Maryland counties who adopted official English earlier this year—Frederick and Queen Anne's.

Fellow Commissioner Richard Rothschild was determined and straightforward in his support for Shoemaker's proposal. "This is woefully overdue on the national level," Rothschild said. "By not making English the official language, we are allowing the factionalization of society. Multiple languages weaken a country and create all kinds of problems for employment."



Haven Shoemaker

Shoemaker subsequently invited ProEnglish to attend the preliminary open session on the afternoon of September 27 where the board of commissioners openly debated and discussed the proposed ordinance. During the public comment period, a Westminster resident addressed the commissioners in Spanish. She then translated her statement, suggesting that the ordinance was "stupid" and "bad for business."

Comm. Shoemaker responded that his proposal was a simple, common-sense concept. "It doesn't single out any segment of the population, it merely says that for the purpose of Carroll County government, English is the official language." Comm. Rothschild elaborated on Shoemaker's point and explained a recent dilemma about a county resident who only spoke

Armenian and was circulating a petition written entirely in the man's native language. Rothschild explained how long it took the county (1 month) to find an interpreter who could translate Armenian and the high cost to the county taxpayers to accommodate just *one* resident.

ProEnglish Director of Government Relations Suzanne Bibby followed the public comment period and testified before the commissioners in favor of the ordinance: "ProEnglish believes that the current system, where some foreign languages are accommodated and others are not, is discriminatory. The only way to make it non-discriminatory is for the county government to communicate in one, unifying language—English."

After her testimony, the 4 panel board (1 commissioner was absent) voted unanimously to approve sending the ordinance to a public hearing, after which a final vote will follow. Check the ProEnglish website and the next newsletter for updates on this ordinance.

## Bilingual Ballots Impose Unnecessary Costs

Fairfax County is the most populous jurisdiction in the state of Virginia. It is also the only county in the state's history that has a federal mandate requiring language assistance to Hispanic voters in a presidential election. Fairfax County Registrar Cameron Quinn estimates the cost of the mandate at between \$75,000 and \$125,000.

ProEnglish Executive Director Robert Vandervoort was quoted in the *Washington Times*, where he pointed out, "the fact that we are requiring ballots to be printed in languages other than English when, if you have to become a citizen, you have to learn English...it's definitely a disconnect." Vandervoort continued by calling the effort, "a misguided approach," and stating the concern that it might lead to non-citizens voting.

# Around the Nation



400 miles northeast, voters in Boston, Massachusetts will have access to multilingual ballots. For the first time, the city will offer ballots in Chinese. Asian voter turnout has historically been very low in Boston, where ballots are also offered in Vietnamese. Boston City Councilor Matt O'Malley called it, "an absolutely reasonable cost for all Bostonians to have a ballot." For the presidential primary in March, the print-

ing of bilingual ballots cost Boston \$75,000.

Multilingual ballots place an arbitrary and wasteful unfunded mandate on local governments. They also increase the likelihood of voter fraud and other errors. For these reasons and others, ProEnglish is strongly opposed to the issuance of multilingual ballots.



# In the Courts

## Update on Lancaster School of Cosmetology

ProEnglish is defending Debbie Dunn, the owner of the private Lancaster School of Cosmetology in Lancaster, PA in an ongoing and frivolous complaint filed with the Pennsylvania Human Rights Commission (PHRC). Ms. Dunn insists that English be spoken in her classroom to prevent disruptions and distractions. One former student, Ms. Mariam Rosado, took issue with this school policy and challenged it with help from the PHRC's attorneys, claiming discrimination.

been equated with national origin discrimination by the courts. Consequently, formal hearings that ProEnglish was invited to participate in were postponed by the PHRC (including one originally scheduled for back in May).



In the matter of *Rosado v. Lancaster School of Cosmetology*, ProEnglish and its attorneys noted to the PHRC that language has never

Eventually the case was closed, or so it seemed. In early September, attorneys with the PHRC tried to reopen the case. This was challenged on procedural grounds, and it appears the attempt to reopen this case has stalled. ProEnglish will keep you informed on our webpage and in our newsletter once we are assured of *Rosado v. Lancaster School of Cosmetology's* final resolution.

# In Congress

## ProEnglish Surveys the 2012 Congressional Candidates on Official English

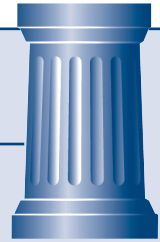


Pennsylvania	
 Congressman Bill Shuster <small>Race: U.S. House, PA-9th Party: Republican (website) View his completed survey</small>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports Official English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Opposes Bilingual Ballots <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Opposes Clinton's EO 13166 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Supports English-in-the-Workplace <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Opposes DREAM Act Amnesty <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Supports Requiring English for Puerto Rican Statehood <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> </ul>
 Congressman Lou Barletta <small>Race: U.S. House, PA-11th Party: Republican (website) View his completed survey</small>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports Official English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Opposes Bilingual Ballots <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Opposes Clinton's EO 13166 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Supports English-in-the-Workplace <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Opposes DREAM Act Amnesty <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Supports Requiring English for Puerto Rican Statehood <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> </ul>

Over the summer, ProEnglish mailed a six-question survey to candidates of every political party - Republican, Democrat, Libertarian, Independent - for every U.S. Senate and House race in the nation. Although we do not endorse political candidates, ProEnglish aims to educate its mem-

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# In Congress



## ProEnglish Surveys the 2012 Congressional Candidates on Official English

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bers and the greater public about where these candidates and incumbents stand on the issues vital to the ProEnglish mission. For those candidates who returned the survey to us, their responses were published on the ProEnglish website in mid-October.

“We’ve received surveys from 25 different states, and from candidates in the Republican, Democratic, Independent and Libertarian parties,” said ProEnglish Executive Director Robert Vandervoort. “We hope that publishing these results has helped voters make better informed decisions about the candidates.”

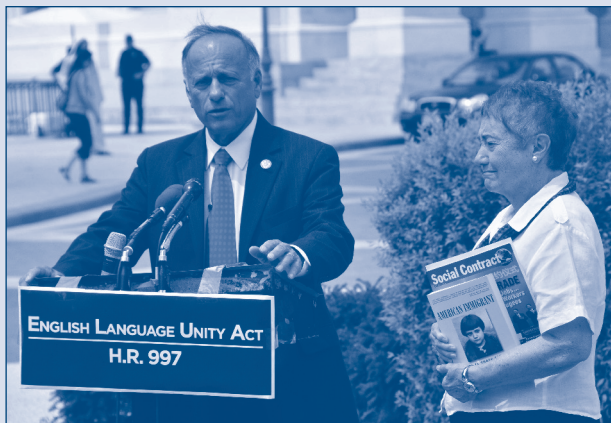
Is *your* incumbent Congressman or the challenger you supported on Election Day on our list? Check out the candidate page to see which strong pro-English candidates won or lost on Election Day.

At [www.proenglish.org](http://www.proenglish.org), you will find a list of the candidates—some of whom competed in nationally high-profile races—who completed the survey or responded via letter explaining their

record, along with a profile of their responses. You can even view the original survey with the candidate’s signature. The page can also be accessed by typing this web address into your browser: <http://proenglish.org/data/2012-election/2012-congressional-candidates>.

The issue of official English should be an easy one for every candidate and legislator to support. Nearly 9 out of 10 Americans say they want English to be our official language. This means that to achieve that goal, we need pro-English allies in the halls of Congress to push our bills to the floor for votes and offer amendments. If voters are not electing candidates who value English unity to Congress, then the goal of passing an official English law through Congress becomes that much more difficult. The reality is that there are few political issues that poll higher than making English the official language, so it’s time that voters start pressing election contenders about their stance on this issue and then follow up with them once they have been voted into office.

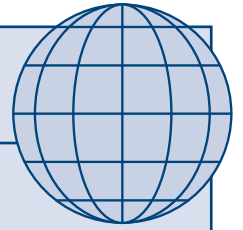
## ProEnglish Ally Rep. Steve King Re-Elected



Rep. Steve King and Chairman Rosalie Porter

Rep. Steve King (R-IA) survived his re-election bid in a newly drawn district. Rep. King won 53 to 45 percent over his opponent, Christie Vilsack. For the past ten years, Rep. King has been the lead sponsor of official English legislation in the House of Representatives. In August, Rep. King’s official English bill was heard before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution. ProEnglish Chairman Dr. Rosalie Porter testified on behalf of this bill at the hearing. Rep. King also spoke at a ProEnglish panel on multiculturalism in February.

# Around the World



## Canada's struggles with bilingualism continue



A sandwich was thrown, a seizure was suffered, and a ticket was swallowed. Three disparate events in the past two months shared one thing in common: they represented the struggles inherent in a bilingual nation. All of these incidents have occurred in Canada since the election of a nationalist-leaning Parti Quebecois.

In September, a man named Alex Montreuil had a sandwich thrown at him in Jewish General Hospital. The sandwich contained tomatoes, which sparked a dangerous allergic reaction in Montreuil's body. His crime? Speaking English to a woman behind the counter in the hospital's café.

Then, two weeks later in a Montreal suburb, a couple alerted paramedics because its two year-old son had suffered a seizure. They were met with a rude response from a dispatcher who responded to the couple's request, which was spoken in English, by saying he only speaks French.

Finally, in October, a woman named Mina Barak had her cash eaten by a ticket machine in the Montreal metro. When the English-speaking Barak tried to pass through the turnstile, a station worker forbade her from doing so and told her to, "speak French and go back to your country." After Barak used a nearby telephone to file a complaint, the station worker re-emerged in fit of rage, put the would-be passenger in a headlock, and punched her repeatedly.

### English Proficiency Index Notes Surprising Results

Recently, Education First released its 2012 English Proficiency Index (EPI). The study, which compares average English language

ability for adults in 54 different countries, found that English proficiency is inextricably linked to economic success.

Many of the report's findings highlight the prominent position English occupies in the world. High English proficiency is directly tied to better incomes, more innovation, and increases in exports. In a statistic that bodes well for the future, the study finds that young professionals, aged 25-35, speak the best English of any age group.

Some of the report's more intriguing findings included Sweden ranking most proficient of all countries studied, and women being better English speakers than men in almost every single country.

## Gabon heads toward official English



A small country in Africa is the latest to make a push for English as its official language. The west-African nation and former French colony of Gabon

already has French as an official language, but would like to make English official as well. The plans to do so were announced by Alain Claude Bilie By Nze, spokesman for the Gabonese President Ali Bongo Ondimba.

Bilie By Nze offered strong support for the decision: "You know very well once you leave the Francophone space, if you do not speak English, you are almost handicapped." He also pointed out that the use of English in Gabon's former colonizer France is trending upward, so it should be no surprise that his country aims to move in the same direction. Gabon is one of the most prosperous nations on the continent, and currently boasts a Human Development Index (HDI), which ranks first in all of Sub-Saharan Africa.

# Ways to help win the battle for official English online

**1. Join ProEnglish's online action alert network:** Make your voice heard on official English, bilingual ballots, bilingual education and similar issues. Sign up to receive email alerts when things are happening in Congress. You will get up-to-the-minute information on upcoming votes, talking points, and contact information you can use to email or call your congressmen. To sign up, visit <http://capwiz.com/proenglish/mlm/signup/>.

**2. Contact your elected representatives:** Express your support for laws to make English the official language, stop government sponsored multilingualism, or expand incentives for immigrants to learn English. To send emails to your elected representatives at no cost, visit our Legislative Action Center online at <http://capwiz.com/proenglish>.

**3. Help ProEnglish grow:** Tell your friends about our fight to preserve English as the unifying language of our nation. Send them a link to our website at [www.proenglish.org](http://www.proenglish.org). Mention ProEnglish in every email you send by adding information about ProEnglish to your email signature.

**4. Write letters to the editor:** Write letters in support of making English our official language. Or respond to news stories about English-on-the-job, English in schools, or the use of English by government agencies.

## How to Put ProEnglish in Your Will

ProEnglish is a tax-exempt organization. Thus under IRS rules, any size bequest made to ProEnglish is deductible from the taxable portion of a person's estate. That can reduce a person's estate taxes under certain circumstances. A gift to ProEnglish can be made by simply including the following language in your will, "I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to ProEnglish a project of US, the sum of \_\_\_\_\_dollars" [or "I hereby give devise, and bequeath to ProEnglish a project of US, \_\_\_\_\_percent of my residual estate"]. Anyone interested making a gift to ProEnglish in their will should first check with their attorney or tax-advisor.

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:

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

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Exp. Date

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Authorization Signature

**Send to: ProEnglish • A Project of US**  
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Please remember ProEnglish in your estate planning. Contribute safely online at [www.proenglish.org](http://www.proenglish.org). All contributions are tax deductible.