

# THE PROENGLISH Advocate

## 2010 Mid-term Election Results and what they Mean for Official English

On November 2, Republicans won massive majorities at the local, state, and federal levels and pulled off the largest single day gains in the House of Representatives since 1948, as well as the largest gains of any political party in local, state, and federal races combined in more than 100 years. Democrats not only lost dozens of seats in the House, a handful in the Senate, and hundreds in the state legislatures, but they lost several decades worth of seniority in both chambers of Congress.

The House for the 112th Congress will be comprised of 242 Republicans and 193 Democrats. The House GOP gained 87 freshman congressmen, which accounts for a 63-seat net pickup. Republicans' historic gains left the Democrats with the smallest number in the House since 1946 and effectively ended Rep. Nancy Pelosi's (D-CA) House Speakership, making her the shortest serving Speaker of the House in the nation's history.

The 2011 U.S. Senate—whose balance of power will stand at 51 Democrats, 47 Republicans, and 2 Independents (who caucus with Democrats)—will welcome 13

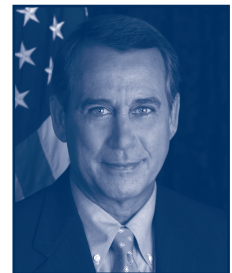
freshman Republican Senators and 3 freshman Democrat Senators. Although the Democrats retained control of the Senate, the GOP has significantly increased its filibuster power.

It is very good news that the 112th Congress' Freshman class will include a substantial number of strong official English advocates, including (but not limited to) Senators Roy Blunt (MO), Marco Rubio (FL), and Rand Paul (KY), as well as Members of Congress Jeff Landry (LA-3rd), Allen West (FL-22nd), Mo Brooks (AL-5th), Tim Walberg (MI-7th), Lou Barletta (PA-11th), Scott DesJarlais (TN-4th), Tim Scott (SC-1st), Steve Womack (AR-3rd), Bobby Schilling (IL-17th), Bob Gibbs (OH-18th) and Tom Marino (PA-10th).

Unfortunately, a handful of dedicated, pro-English Democrats lost their seats and will not be returning for the next Congress, including Reps. Gene Taylor (MS-4th), Lincoln Davis (TN-4th), Chris Carney (PA-10th), and Travis Childers (MS-7th). Higher numbers of pro-English congressmen—especially gaining an ally in Speaker of the House, Rep. John Boehner

(R-OH)—increases the likelihood of getting official English legislation to the House floor, and it also decreases the risk of harmful Amnesty bills or multilingual mandates slipping through the House and Senate.

The new Congress should seriously consider bringing several popular, bipartisan English bills to the House floor, including Rep. Steve King's English Language Unity Act, or Rep. Virginia Foxx's Multilingual Services Accounting Act, or Rep. Tom Price's Common Sense English Act. The 2010 midterm elections certainly have reinforced the wide-ranging support and overwhelming call for the 112th Congress to once-and-for-all make English the nation's official language, as Americans have elected more official English supporters to Congress who understand the critical importance of achieving national linguistic unity.



Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-OH)

# Oklahoma's English victory motivates state legislators

The overwhelming success of the official English constitutional amendment in Oklahoma has sparked optimism in many state legislators all across the country and it has motivated many to introduce official English bills for the 2011 legislative session.

State legislators in four states—PA, MD, NV, and TX—have already announced their intentions of introducing bills to make English the official language of their state. ProEnglish is also eyeing five other states—ME, MI, MN, OH, and WI—as top targets to get official English bills through the legislatures this year. Pennsylvania State Rep. Rose Marie Swanger, Texas State Rep. Jim Jackson, and Nevada State Rep. Lynn Stewart will all introduce official English bills.

Baltimore County Delegate Pat McDonough (R-MD) plans to take it a step further by reintroducing his official English bill at both the state and the county levels. When asked why he continues to introduce his bill after several years of legislative inaction, McDonough explained, "I introduce the bill every year for the sake of the people, and to keep it in the news. We are not a multicultural country. We are a multiethnic country. English is a powerful unifying force in our culture."

With regard to other English issues, 41 states currently allow their driver's license tests to be given in languages other than English, even though multilingual driver's tests are proven to threaten public safety. Drivers who cannot read and understand English are a threat to the safety of all motorists, including themselves. Such drivers cannot understand traffic signs and directions, read highway warning signs or read hazard signs on other vehicles, and they are unable to communicate with police or public safety officials in the event of an accident or other emergency.

So far, at least eight states will be considering driver's license bills in the 2011 session. ProEnglish bill be pushing a target of 17 states to pass driver's license bills, which include TN, SC, ND, NC, MT, MO, IN, ID, GA, FL, AL, MI, MN, OH, PA, TX, and WI.

Among those state legislators who plan to introduce driver's license bills are former Nevada Assemblyman and recently turned-State Senator Don Gustavson, North Carolina State Rep. Julia Howard, Montana State Rep. Janna Taylor, Alabama State Senator Scott Beason, Georgia State Senator Jack Murphy, and Tennessee State Sen. Bill Ketron.

The prospect of major gains for official English and related issues at the state level can be attributed to the campaign successes of so many supporters of official English in the recent mid-term elections.

Republicans picked up 680 seats in state legislatures across the country, the most in the modern era, and 19 state legislative bodies flipped to the GOP. Historic changes include the North Carolina legislature flipping to a Republican majority for the first time since 1870, and the Alabama legislature flipped to Republican for the first time since 1876. Also flipping from Democrat to Republican were the Wisconsin and New Hampshire state legislatures, the Maine and Minnesota Senates, and the State Houses in Indiana, PA, MI, OH, IA, MT, and CO. Tennessee and Texas went from virtually even numbers of Republicans and Democrats to massive GOP majorities. The GOP won 23 Governorships while the Democrats won 11.

This month, state legislatures will welcome many newly elected official English supporters from both sides of the aisle and ultimately set the stage to make 2011 one busy year for the official English movement.

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# ProEnglish News



## Georgia Rep. Tom Price Receives American Unity Award

Georgia Rep. Tom Price (R) was selected to receive the Theodore Roosevelt American Unity Award for the 111th Congress by ProEnglish's Board of Directors. The award is given once every two years to recognize a member of Congress that ProEnglish's board feels has shown outstanding leadership in the battle to make English our official language.

"Since he was first elected to Congress in 2004, Representative Price has dedicated himself to promoting America's melting pot by co-sponsoring H.R. 997 in the 111th Congress to enact English our nation's official language," said ProEnglish Executive Director Jayne Cannava. "His state of Georgia is one of 31 states that have passed this designation into law and the congressman's tireless advocacy and leadership is invaluable in the continuing bipartisan effort to pass this legislation in the new Congress."

"The ProEnglish board could not have selected a more deserving recipient this year, especially in light of Congressman Price's further introduction of a bill to protect employers who enact English-in-the-workplace policies, and his overall vocal opposition

to the growing and costly demand for multilingual services and interpreters throughout government," said ProEnglish Chairman Bob Park.

In 2008, 2009, and 2010, Representative Price introduced his bill, the Common Sense English Act,

which protects employers who have English in the workplace policies and has garnered bipartisan support. Park continued, "In addition to his work on official



ProEnglish staff presents Rep. Tom Price with the American Unity Award.

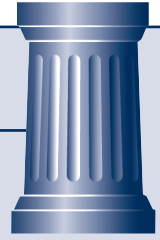
English, Congressman Price has been a leader on all the issues that threaten the role of English as the common unifying language of our country. He truly earned this recognition."

The award is named in honor of the 26th President of the United States who was outspoken in his commitment to the need for new immigrants to learn English to assume their rightful place in society and fully assimilate to the American 'melting pot.'

## 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.

# Congress



## Promising prospects for English bills in the 112th Congress

ProEnglish supports nine English bills that are pending in the current Congress. Once reintroduced in 2011, those bills will have an excellent shot at getting some real action!

At the very top of our agenda are two bills that would, once-and-for-all, make English the official language of the United States: 1) Rep. Steve King's (R-IA) English Language Unity Act, and 2) Rep. Peter King's (R-NY) National Language Act. Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-OK) is the lead sponsor of the Senate counterpart to Rep. Steve King's official English bill.

Rep. Virginia Foxx's (R-NC) Multilingual Services Accounting Act would end speculation on the cost of multilingual government services. Currently, government agencies do not report how much money they spend each year providing translated documents, multilingual websites, translators, and textbooks, but they should. Past analyses place the cost in the ballpark of at least \$2 billion a year!

President Bill Clinton's Executive Order 13166, which requires all federal agencies to provide multilingual services upon request, is one reason for this hefty price tag. Of course, Rep. Peter King has introduced a bill which would effectively repeal the Clinton executive order.

Rep. Dean Heller's (R-NV) American Elections Act would require ballots used in Federal elections be generally printed only in English and amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to modify the requirement that certain jurisdictions provide ballots and other voting materials in languages other than English. This would solve the problem that was encountered by Cuyahoga County, OH during the recent-midterm election, where the U.S. Department of Justice stepped in and forced the county to foot an exorbitant bill to provide bilingual ballots for its Spanish-speaking voters, who made up less than 5% of the total population.

The need to protect the rights of employers to have English on-the-job rules is imperative, and Rep. Tom Price (R-GA) has the bill to do just that! Price's Common Sense English Act will clarify that language and national origin are not equivalent. This is the common argument from the official English opposition, and it has regularly been struck down by the courts, but passing this legislation

would prevent the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) from bringing lawsuits against employers with English in the workplace policies.

Ultimately, the key to moving bills to the floor begins at the committee level, so having good committee chairs is crucial to a bill's moving forward for a vote. Most of our English bills are referred to the Education and Labor Committee, the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, and the Judiciary Committee.

It's very good news that the 112th congress will place a few English-friendly congressmen in committee chairmanship positions. Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX) will chair the all-important Judiciary Committee, Rep. Jon Kline (R-MN) will chair the Education and Labor Committee, and Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA) will chair the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

## School's Spanish Pledge of Allegiance renews need for PLEDGE Act

Edmond, Oklahoma mom Melissa Taggart was delighted when she found out that her eighth-grade son would be learning a foreign language in school, until she realized that his assignment was to recite the Pledge of Allegiance in Spanish.

Threatened with the prospect of receiving a zero grade for refusing to complete the assignment, Taggart complained to the school, where she was informed that if she had complained prior to the assignment being given, her son would have been given an alternative assignment.

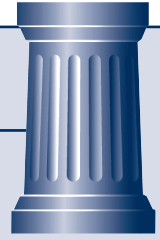
Associate Superintendent and public information officer for the Edmond School District Brenda Lyons countered, "The Pledge assignment has been in place for years. It is written in the curriculum that students need to learn something they are familiar with."

But Taggart disagrees, "There are poems, lyrics, and great writes that she could have chosen that emphasize the Spanish culture and to teach our children. Why the Pledge of Allegiance?" After significant publicity over the incident, Taggart's son has been given an alternative to avoid receiving a zero.

Continued ►



# Congress



Students all over the country from Arizona to Wisconsin to Oklahoma are experiencing a similar dilemma and are being asked to recite the Pledge of Allegiance in Spanish and other languages in the name of “diversity.”

But the question is, should American taxpayer-funded schools be allowed to require the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in languages other than English? If your answer is NO, do not fret because Congressman Paul Broun (R-GA) has the solution!

Broun currently has a bill in Congress, the Pledge Language is English Declaration and Government Endorsement (PLEDGE) Act, which would bar federal funding for schools that permit or require the Pledge of Allegiance and our National Anthem to be recited or sung in languages other than English.

It is clear that the American people overwhelmingly agree that public policy, and the taxes citizens pay, should be used to promote civic unity, not civic disunity, whether that means linguistic or any other kind. Since Taggart’s ordeal with her son’s Spanish-language assignment, Oklahoma has amended its constitution to make English the official language of the state. Implementation legislation will be forthcoming in the 2011 legislative session, and it will most likely address and remedy the foreign-language Pledge problem in schools.

Without a doubt, the Pledge of Allegiance is a national expression of loyalty, political values, and love of country that unites all Americans, and it should be recited in the language in which it was created—English. The time has come for the new Congress to pass the PLEDGE Act.

## DREAM Act Nightmare is over...for now

In the closing days of the lame duck session, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) called a vote on The Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act (H.R. 5281), which would legalize approximately 2.1 million illegal aliens under the age of 30 who plan to attend college or join the military. Unfortunately, out of the six different versions of the bill that were introduced, none had an English language requirement.

On December 8, the House narrowly passed its version of the DREAM Act by a vote of 216 to 198. Eight Republicans voted YES, 38 Democrats voted

NO, and 20 Members did not vote at all. Of course, had those who were absent voted on the bill, the DREAM Act could have been defeated.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid attempted to hold a vote on the House-passed version of the DREAM Act rather than proceeding to the Senate version (S. 3992) on December 9. But, he was denied consent to do this, so instead, he offered a motion to table (to kill) his own motion to proceed to the Senate DREAM Act, which was agreed to by a vote of 59-40. This means that a Senate vote on the DREAM Act was further delayed.

On December 18, Leader Reid scheduled a third and final cloture vote on the House-passed version. The cloture motion failed by a vote of 55 to 41. 60 votes were needed to succeed.

The United States is experiencing a record wave of non-English speaking immigration. There are an estimated 12 million illegal aliens currently residing in the U.S. today. The Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) recently released a report indicating that the DREAM Act will cost state and local taxpayers over \$6.2 billion annually.

The White House didn’t let the projected cost of implementing this bill stop them from promoting it. In a last ditch effort to win over Senate Republicans, White House Defense Undersecretary Clifford Stanley said “[w]e have a lot of undocumented students out there who really are talented. Bringing in talented people in the cyclical nature of our [military] recruiting process is really important.”

Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) wholeheartedly disagrees with the administration and believes the DREAM Act is “unrestricted amnesty.” White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Cecilia Muñoz fired back. “What this does is give people...an opportunity to receive protection under the law, but in exchange for a deep commitment on their part,” she explained, arguing that the requirement to pursue education or join the military is “very, very far from an amnesty.” “Removing incentives for immigrants and native-born non-English speakers to learn English and instead increasing taxpayer-funded, government-mandated multilingual services for the over-300 languages currently spoken in the U.S. is bad public policy,” said Suzanne Bibby, ProEnglish Director of Government Relations.

## Around the Nation



### CA Gov. vetoes bill that would have harmed English Learners

In a critical victory for California taxpayers and supporters of official English, Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed SB 930 on September 30.

If signed, SB 930, would weaken limited-English-proficiency (LEP) requirements under the Public School Performance Accountability Program.

Currently, students who have limited English skills have one year to take the California standardized test in their native language. After that year, they must take the test in English.

SB 930 attempted to reinstate harmful pre-Proposition 227 practices by expanding the number of years English learners can take a primary language test from one year to three years, allowing LEP students to take the pupil assessment tests twice, one in English and one in their primary language and incorporating the higher of the two test scores, even if the higher score was achieved on the primary language test.

“SB 930 is bad legislation. Delaying the learning of English, the language of school and community life, lowers student grades on standard achievement tests,” said Dr. Rosalie Porter, ProEnglish Board Member. “With 327 languages spoken in the U.S. today, the job of our public schools is not to maintain native languages, but to give students the tools they need to learn English, the language of success in the United States.”

Leading up to Governor Schwarzenegger’s veto, ProEnglish aggressively worked behind the scenes, urging Schwarzenegger and our members in California to oppose SB 930. We are proud to say that our message was heard.

In his veto message, Governor Schwarzenegger agreed with ProEnglish’s arguments for opposing SB 930, stating that: *“Ultimately, I continue to believe that schools should remain focused on providing English Learners with the necessary instruction and support to become English proficient. As an immigrant myself, I believe strongly that learning English as quickly as possible is essential to success in this state and this country. Therefore, I want to ensure that there are no disincentives in our school system to achieving that goal for our English Learner student population. For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.”*

While Governor Schwarzenegger’s veto of SB 930 marks a significant victory for ProEnglish, the bill will almost certainly come up again in 2011. Hopefully the new Governor, Jerry Brown (D) will agree with the outgoing Governor that schools should remain focused on English immersion, rather than seeking to weaken the standards for English Learners.

### Jackson, NY Votes Down Revised Official English Ordinance

On December 1, after months of town meetings, deliberations, and postponements, the town of Jackson, New York, voted down an ordinance that would have repealed and replaced the existing law declaring English as the official language of the town with an ordinance that could withstand a legal challenge.

In April, the New York Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) sent a letter to the Jackson Town Board threatening litigation if they did not scrap the official English ordinance passed in March. The original ordinance read: “The Town Board hereby designated English as the official written and spoken language of the elected officials and their appointees to be used in all official meetings and business conducted by the elected officials and their appointees.”

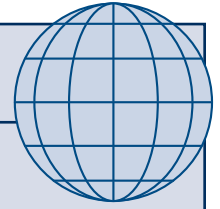
This past summer, ProEnglish Executive Director Jayne Cannava worked with Jackson Town Board Member Roger Meyer and provided a revised official English ordinance that could withstand constitutional scrutiny. Meyer introduced the second measure in an effort to repeal and replace the first official English ordinance.

Ultimately the measure failed by a vote of 3-2, in large part due to the threats from the ACLU. “We know the ACLU would probably sue us,” said Jackson Town Deputy Supervisor Edward Rouse, who voted for the measure. The original official English ordinance remains in place, but the ACLU has already stated that they will work with the Board to repeal it, or else the town of Jackson could face costly litigation.

In an interview with the New York Times, Meyers defended the proposed official English ordinance by reminding critics that “we have records going

Continued on page 8 ▶

## Around the World



### German Chancellor: Immigrants Should Learn to Speak German

Multiculturalism has failed, and immigrants should learn to speak German, proclaimed German Chancellor Angela Merkel at a recent October youth gathering of Merkel's Christian Democratic Union party in Potsdam, Germany.

Sending shock waves around the world, Merkel said that Germany's attempt at building a multicultural society had, in her words, "failed, utterly failed." Merkel explained that the "multikulti" concept, where people from different cultures and speak different languages are expected to function and live happily side-by-side does not work in Germany.

Responding to pressure from critics and members within her own party, Merkel addressed concerns that Germany must take a tougher position and require that immigrants adapt to German society, by becoming proficient in German.

Days prior to Merkel's speech, a study by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation think tank found that 30 percent of Germans believed Germany was "overrun by foreigners" who had come to Germany primarily to receive social benefits.

In response, Turkish Prime Minister Abdullah Gul addressed concerns over the 2.5 million Turkish immigrants living in Germany, many of which do not speak German. "When one doesn't speak the language of the country in which one lives, that doesn't serve anyone, neither the person concerned, the country, nor the society," said Gul.

To address concerns that Merkel's remarks could be perceived as anti-immigrant, Merkel stressed that Germany still welcomed immigrants, but that immigration

had to be approached with assimilation, not multiculturalism, as the goal.

### English for all International Airports by March 2011

According to requirements set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), all international airports will be required to use English as of March 2011.

Currently, international language policy in the skies allows for each country to use their own language, but upon request, the pilot must be able to communicate in English. Unfortunately, this policy has caused serious breakdowns in communication and threatened the safety of pilots and air traffic controllers.

In March 2010, a Swiss Air flight left an international airport in St. Petersburg, Russia and struck a flock of birds causing serious engine problems and forcing the pilots to issue a mayday signal to air traffic control. The air traffic controllers were unable to understand the pilots' problem for several minutes until another pilot could translate the signal into Russian. Eventually the plane landed safely, but the incident confirmed the need among the international travel community for an official language in the skies.

"The current level is adequate for standard flights, but in an emergency, more fluency is needed to give advice and make quick decisions, requiring at least Level 4 knowledge," said Sergei Melnichenko, a top official at the Kompleng language school for aviation professionals in Russia.

After many delays by the ICAO, in March, all pilots and staff in international airports will be required to demonstrate Level 4 conversational skills on a six-level scale of English proficiency provided by the ICAO.

"I believe being able to speak English should be a pre-requisite for anyone who wants to settle here. The new English requirement for spouses will help promote integration, remove cultural barriers and protect public services."

— British Home Secretary Theresa May

"The worst thing you can have is uneducated, non-English speakers in your country because they are the burden on the system because they can't do what they want and they can't be as productive as possible. The bottom line is making these folks as productive as possible as quickly as possible, especially because they are part of a growing number of immigrants in the country. This ain't rocket science."

— University of Georgia demographer Doug Bachtel

# Around the Nation



◀ Continued from page 6

back to 1816, and they've never been written in anything but English, this law isn't changing anything. It's just making it official that we're going to do what we've been doing for 190 years."

While ProEnglish regrets the decision made by the town board in Jackson, NY, we were happy to assist Jackson in considering a replacement for its official English law and as it stands today, Jackson, New York is still an official English town.

## Lawsuit Filed Challenging Official English in Oklahoma

Voters spoke decisively November 2 on a ballot measure in Oklahoma to enact English as the official language of their state government. ProEnglish urged Oklahomans to vote 'yes' on State Question 751 to enshrine English as the official language in the state constitution.

"Unfortunately the United States is one of the few countries in the world without an official language. So having official English in a state constitution is important to protect it from being thrown out by activist judges who want to substitute their own rule for that of the people," said ProEnglish Executive Director Jayne Cannava.

"The Oklahoma measure, originally introduced by State Rep. Randy Terrill, R-Okla., passed the state legislature in 2009 and then won on the ballot with 76% of the vote, the highest margin of victory of any OK ballot measure in 2010," noted Cannava. This

landslide vote confirms national polls reflecting that a vast majority of Americans – Democrat, Republican and Independent— reject costly and confusing multilingualism and support English as our nation's official language. Oklahoma is now the 31st state to adopt official English.

Unfortunately, one week after the election, opponents of the new English law filed a lawsuit claiming that State Question 751 is unconstitutional.

Tulsa attorney James Thomas originally filed the suit in July, but decided to drop it until the constitutional question was decided in November. He argued the measure was an "infringement on the right of free speech, as protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution." The suit was filed on behalf of Oklahoma resident Delilah Christine Gentges, the Coalition of Hispanic Organizations, and the League of Women Voters.

In the lawsuit, filed on November 9, Thomas cited the plaintiff Delilah Gentges as an Oklahoma resident, a taxpayer, and a person whose employment will suffer imminent injury because she works with refugees from many cultures. Thomas is requesting that the Tulsa County judge issue an injunction to stop Governor Henry from enforcing the official English law.

To date, a hearing has not been scheduled.

ProEnglish is dedicated to assisting legislators in Oklahoma as they move forward with legislation to determine how the new official English law will be implemented in 2011.

Keep up the good work. Here is my donation:

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