

THE PROENGLISH Advocate

Four States Introduce Official English Legislation

Four states have legislation to make English their state's official language this year. If passed, New York, Oregon, Texas, and West Virginia would join the ranks of the 31 states that already have some form of official English law.



State Sen. Bob Hall, State Sen. Michael Nozzolio, State Rep. Sal Esquivel and State Del. Lynwood Ireland

In Oregon, State Representative Sal Esquivel (R-6) is introducing an official English bill in the House of Representatives. Rep. Esquivel is well known in the state as a strong supporter of assimilation and understands how knowing English is the key to success in this country.

"There are at least 138 languages spoken in the State of Oregon," State Rep. Esquivel said. "The State should dedicate itself to assisting people in attaining fluency in English, rather than attempting to learn and do business in the language of individual immigrants."

Rep. Esquivel added, "During the 2015 legislative session I will put forth legis-

lation proposing English be the official language of the State of Oregon."

Cynthia Kendoll, President of Oregonians for Immigration Reform stated, "English is our nation's common language. It is not an American's responsibility to learn foreign languages. It is the immigrant's responsibility to learn and use English."

"All nations need a single, standard means of communication. In America, that linguistic glue is English." She continued, "To expect immigrants to use English is not 'discrimination.' It is common sense."

In New York, State Senator Michael Nozzolio (R-54) introduced the "New York State English Language Empowerment Act" (Senate Bill 1582). The bill notes in its legislative findings that, "throughout the history of New York and the United States, the common thread binding individuals of differing backgrounds has been the English language."

With only few exceptions, the bill would require that all official business of the state be conducted in English. It was referred to the Senate Committee on Investigations and Government Operations.

Continued on page 7

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Spanish Language All Over the Place in State of the Union, and GOP Response



President Barack Obama

Before President Barack Obama's 2015 State of the Union address had even begun, the White House's official website was directing members of the "Latino community" towards Spanish-language closed captioning of the address. They also touted the many ways for listeners to engage in bilingual social media updates.

Those wishing to view Obama's address with Spanish subtitles were in for a few unpleasant surprises. For starters, the subtitles were flashing on an off the screen so rapidly that even the most adept speed-readers might have had trouble. Even more obvious was that the Spanish subtitles were

laden with translation errors, typos, and other seemingly inexplicable mistakes. Examples included a subtitle that read "Es-toy muy org orgulloso de su trabajo," or, "I am very pr proud of his work," and one that read "Joven madre puede escribirle una carte a su presidente koontdles," which translates to "Young mother can write a letter to your President Koontdles." (Note: koontdles is not a word in any language known to man).

The Republican Party gave two responses to Obama's speech, one in English, by Iowa Senator Joni Ernst, and one in Spanish, by Florida Rep. Carlos Curbelo. On the subject of immigration, the content of the two responses was markedly different. Senator Ernst did not even bring up the subject of immigration once in her entire response. The pro-amnesty Rep. Curbelo, however, spoke at length about the topic.

Congressman Curbelo said it is important for the GOP to "work through the appropriate channels....to secure our borders, modernize legal immigration, and strengthen our economy." Curbelo, who has repeatedly voiced his support for a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants, called on President Obama to cooperate with Republicans.

The obvious difference between the two responses made it seem very likely that the Republican Party was tailoring its immigration message differently, based on the language spoken by the viewer. RNC Chairman Reince Priebus was pressed about the differing nature of the speeches, but responded with platitudes and largely sidestepped the question being asked.

The ProEnglish Advocate

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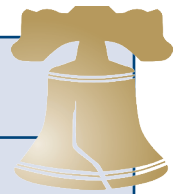
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ProEnglish News



Dan Carter Named New Government Relations Director



Dan Carter

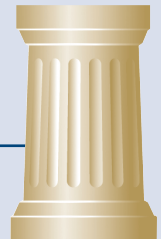
Starting in January, Dan Carter became the new Government Relations Director for ProEnglish. Mr. Carter brings a wealth of experience with him to the position. A former banker and educator, he worked as a Special Assistant to Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao during the George W. Bush administration. He was also the Government Affairs Liaison to the American

Center for Law and Justice. He received his Masters in Education from Georgia Southwestern College.

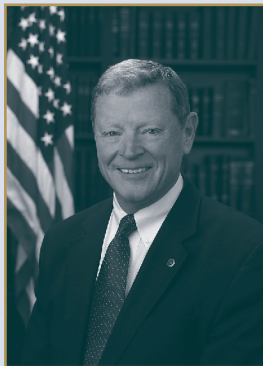
"Making English our official language is something my family and I care passionately about," Mr. Carter said. "It's a common sense issue and I look forward to advancing it at the local, state, and federal levels."

Mr. Carter replaces Mrs. Suzanne Bibby Mayberry, who provided four and a half years of valuable service to ProEnglish. We wish her well in her new endeavors.

In Congress



Senator Jim Inhofe, Defender of English as Official Language of the United States



Sen. James Inhofe

Sen. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma has long fought for the ideals that have made this country strong. The Senator is a U.S. Army veteran and in the halls of Congress he is known for being, as *Human Events* editorialized, an "unabashed conservative unafraid to speak his mind." The same publication ranked Inhofe as number one in a recent "Top 10 Most Outstanding Conservative Senators."

The Senator has a long and illustrious career of public service. He served in the Oklahoma state legislature and was a Congressman from Oklahoma before being elected as a US Senator in 1994.

The senior Senator from Oklahoma is interested in a number of issues, but one of his strongest points of involvement in the Senate is the issue of making English the official language of the United States.

In 2009, upon introduction of the English Language Unity Act, Sen. Inhofe made the following comments:

"The English Language Unity Act is an attempt to legislate a common sense language policy that a nation of immigrants needs one national language. Our nation was settled by a group of people with a common vision. When members of our society cannot speak a common language, individuals miss out on many opportunities to advance in society and achieve the American Dream. By establishing that there is no entitlement to receive documents or services in languages other than English, we set the precedent that English is common to us all in the public forum of government."

Sen. Inhofe plans to introduce a similar piece of legislation during this Congress that makes English the official language of the United States.

The Senator has been married to his wife, Kay, for 54 years. They have 20 kids and grandkids.

In Congress

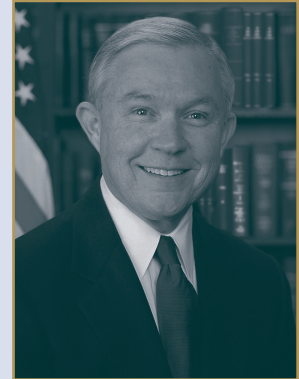
Sen. Sessions Promotes Immigrants Learning English as Pathway to U. S. Citizenship

"America should be acting in its own interests when deciding who should be allowed to enter the country,"

- Sen. Sessions

Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL), in a recent speech to the Heritage Foundation, outlined his response to President Obama's executive order on immigration. "I believe there is a better way," Sessions said.

The Senator believes the Canadian system is one America should look to. In Canada, immigrants are selected based on their skills, merit and language abilities. "America should be acting in its own interests when deciding who should be allowed to enter the country," Sessions said.



Sen. Jeff Sessions

In the Courts

Defense of Nursing Student Suspended for Wanting English Continues



Nursing student Terri Bennett with ProEnglish board member Phil Kent and attorney John Munger

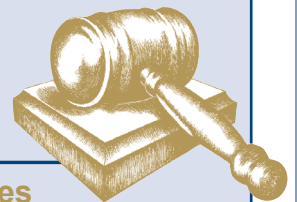
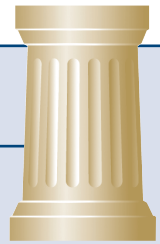
In July 2013, ProEnglish came to the aid of nursing student Terri Bennett in Tucson, AZ. Ms. Bennett had just received a nine-month suspension from her school, Pima Community College (PCC), because she wanted her fellow classmates to speak in English.

The school violated the Arizona state constitution by suspending Ms. Bennett, because it requires official English for public institutions (which PCC is). With the help of ProEnglish, a lawsuit was filed on her behalf.

A hearing was scheduled for December 15 on a motion filed for Ms. Bennett. The motion asked the court to decide in her favor without the need for a trial. Just two weeks before that scheduled hearing, the school responded with its own motion asking the court to rule in its favor.

As a result, the court decided to move the hearing to February 23, 2015 so it could review both of the competing motions. The judge has also indicated he wants 60 days to rule on the motions after he hears the oral arguments from both sides. This will put a decision well into the spring of this year.

ProEnglish will keep you informed as the case continues. To help Ms. Bennett, please visit our webpage, which has more information, at www.proenglish.org



In the Courts



NYC Public Transit Sued by Non-English Speakers



In December 2014, disabled plaintiffs with limited English skills filed a class action lawsuit against the New York City transit agency. The plaintiffs claim the city's public transportation system for the disabled discriminates against non-English speakers. This is all the more reason why New York needs to pass a strong official English law (see Cover Story).

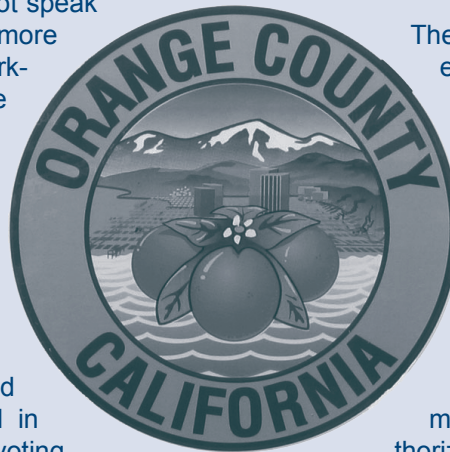
Around the Nation



Bilingual Ballots Cost Orange County, CA over \$300,000

Orange County, California discovered the expense of following federal and state law on election requirements for those that do not speak English. This past November more than 1,000 bilingual poll workers were dispatched across the county to comply with state and federal mandates on elections. The method of determining which counties need bilingual ballots is based on a formula under the federal Voting Rights Act.

where supplemental language assistance might be needed.”

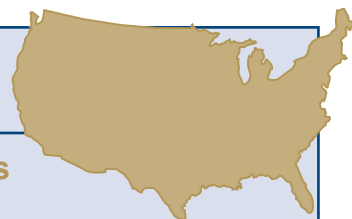


Under the act, translators and multilingual ballots are required in districts where 5 percent of the voting-age public doesn't speak English “very well” based on the most recent Census Bureau data. According to the *Orange County Register*, California hires demographers who “sift through population data to pinpoint precincts throughout the state

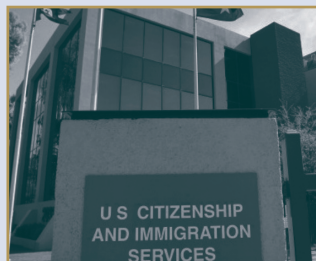
The Orange County Registrar of Voters spends \$225,000 per year to meet state and federal requirements. The money goes to five full time staff who handle bilingual voting issues for the county. The cost to translate and print materials for the 2014 elections in the county was an additional \$105,000.

In 2006, when the law requiring multilingual ballots was being reauthorized, Orange County Supervisor Chris Norby traveled to Washington, D.C. to testify against these ballots. He said that they “run counter to American principles of assimilation” and create added costs to the counties.

Around the Nation



Obama Executive Amnesty Fliers to be Issued in Five Languages



The Obama administration will release fliers in five different languages, highlighting the desire to raise awareness of President Obama's executive amnesty. The news site Breitbart.com

reports that the fliers will explain how the immigration amnesty will work and are now available in English, Spanish, Korean, and Vietnamese. The administration hopes to have a flier available in Chinese "soon." One flyer warns immigrants of scams, and the second explains the eligibility details for amnesty under President Obama's executive action.

Jeb Bush in Full Bilingual Mode as He Moves Towards 2016 Run for President

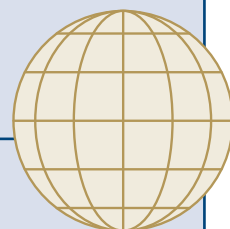


Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush

In Early January, former Florida Governor Jeb Bush launched a new political action committee, which he is calling the Right to Rise PAC. This move further signals that he is strong-

ly considering a 2016 run for U.S. President. Bush announced the launch in both English and Spanish, devoting equal time to each language. Bush speaks fluent Spanish, and is married to a woman from Mexico. As the 2016 campaign season continues to heat up, expect Mr. Bush to continue with his overt appeals to Hispanics, while making frequent use of his Spanish skills in doing so.

Around the World



Mayor of London Says Everyone in Britain Should Speak English



London Mayor Boris Johnson

Boris Johnson, the mayor of the largest city in the United Kingdom, recently proclaimed that everyone living in Britain should be able to speak English. "I think we should have a culture in this country

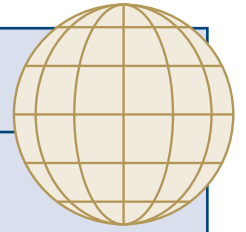
where you do what the Romans do and speak English," Johnson was quoted as saying. He also called for British councils to put an end to the practice of translating information into multiple languages.

Mayor Johnson agreed "passionately" with the sentiments expressed by UK Independence Party leader Nigel Farage, who stated that doctors and nurses who couldn't speak proper English should be "winnowed out" of the British National Health Service.

"I think we should have a culture in this country where you do what the Romans do and speak English"

- Boris Johnson

Around the World



Price Tag for Official Bilingualism in Canada: \$2.4 Billion per Year



A recent study by the Fraser Institute has shown that Canada's federal and provincial governments are spending upwards of \$2.4 billion annually on official bilingualism. The ten provinces spend a combined \$900 million per year on minority language services. Ontario leads this group by a wide margin, spending \$623 million, or \$1,275 per each language minority member, each year.

Should English be the ONLY Official Language of the EU?



this fact, there are actually 24 languages that share equal official status in the European Union (EU).

Studies suggest that 53% of Europeans speak English, either as a foreign language or as a mother tongue. In spite of

The dominance of English on the European continent has led many to suggest that authorities move to make English the only official language of the EU. Doing so would confer upon Europe many economic benefits, and it would also boost the EU's sense of unity, proponents argue. Some are also arguing that teaching English should be mandatory at all schools in the EU.

Four States Introduce Official English Legislation

Continued from page 1

We should also expect to see a welcomed debate during the current state legislative session of the Lone Star State after the introduction of official English legislation by state Sen. Bob Hall (R-2). Political observers believe the bill could have a good chance for Texas Senate passage, as the senator reports he is getting good feedback from colleagues. Hall expects there will also be a House companion measure.

ProEnglish is coordinating with the senator's office and he welcomes our organization as a resource for the Texas effort. As it has in the past with other state legislative initiatives, Executive Director Robert Vandervoort says: "ProEnglish is prepared to testify on behalf of the Hall bill and will participate in media outreach to educate Texas legislators and the general public on the many benefits of enacting an official-English-in-government bill into law."

Senator Hall stated, "The English language has long been a unifying aspect of different ethnicities in the United States; we are working to bring this unity back to our state, which will subsequently save our state significant time and resources. Now is the time for English to be the official language of Texas."

In West Virginia, State Delegate Lynwood "Woody" Ireland (R-7) filed a bill to designate English as the official language of that state. The bill was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary for review.

"These bills will send an important message on the need for greater assimilation in our states," said Pro-English Executive Director Robert Vandervoort. "As the state legislatures begin their work, we hope others will follow Oregon, New York, Texas, and West Virginia's example."

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. 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:

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