



THE PROENGLISH Advocate

English Proficiency Featured In Trump Immigration Proposal



President Donald Trump unveiled a new proposal for a major overhaul of the legal immigration system, and English language proficiency is a key component of his administration's plan.

The White House directly sent ProEnglish a copy of the President's plan as a result of ProEnglish having had several meetings with aides to President Trump and Vice President Pence to discuss official English legislation and to advocate for a new Executive Order to repeal and replace former President Clinton's onerous Executive Order 13166 that requires foreign language translations and interpretations for all federally-funded agencies and contractors.

President Trump's new immigration proposal is similar to those used by Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and other countries, and features a points-based selection system. Immigrant candidates may receive points based on a wide variety of assets, including a person's age, skill set, education, employment offers, and ability to create other jobs.

President Trump also specifically stated that "to promote integration, assimilation, and national unity, future immigrants will be required to learn English and to pass a civics exam prior to admission."

Trump further observed: "Through these steps, we will deliver an immigration system that respects, and even strengthens, our culture, our traditions, and our values."

ProEnglish is greatly appreciative of the fact that learning English and English language proficiency are part of the President's new immigration proposal, and we will continue to work closely with the White House to advocate for this commitment to English language proficiency along with other official English legislation and new Executive Orders.

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More Members Of Congress Co-Sponsor English Language Unity Act

In recent days and weeks a dozen more members of the 116th Congress have become the newest co-sponsors of the English Language Unity Act in the United States House of Representatives.



The bill, also known as H.R. 997 in the House, had 5 original co-sponsors and several other early supporters in the first few months of this year, and recently has added a dozen more members of Congress as new co-sponsors, including the following representatives:

Bradley Byrne (Alabama); Bob Gibbs (Ohio); Louie Gohmert (Texas); Glenn Grothman (Wisconsin); Buddy Carter (Georgia); Scott DesJarlais (Tennessee); Steve Chabot (Ohio); James Baird (Indiana); James Comer (Kentucky); Sam Graves (Missouri); Steven Palazzo (Mississippi); and Jody Hice (Georgia).

H.R. 997 designates English as the nation's official language of governmental operations and establishes a uniform language requirement for the citizen naturalization process.



New Puerto Rico Statehood Bill Is Introduced In 116th Congress



A Florida congressman and Puerto Rico's non-voting representative have introduced a new bill in the 116th Congress that seeks to make Puerto Rico the 51st state.

The Puerto Rico Admission Act of 2019 was sponsored by Rep. Darren Soto of Florida and Puerto Rico Resident Commissioner Jennifer Gonzalez-Colon. The bill seeks to grant Puerto Rico statehood within 90 days of passage.

Puerto Rico Governor Ricardo Rossello also supports the statehood bill. In the past Gov. Rossello declared: "No longer do we want ambiguity. No longer do we want this kicked down the road. In Congress you're either with us or you're against the people of Puerto Rico."

Puerto Rico is mired in a deep financial crisis after the island declared a type of bankruptcy, and currently it is under the supervision of an oversight board.

Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens but cannot vote for President. Gonzalez-Colon is a non-voting member of Congress.

ProEnglish Board of Directors Chair Dr. Rosalie Porter has stated that "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."

Dr. Porter added: "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. At a minimum, we believe a large majority must become fluent in English for statehood to be even considered."

Arizona Fails To Repeal English Immersion Programs



The Arizona legislature failed to repeal the state's English immersion teaching programs, also known as Structured English Immersion.

The attempted repeal, House Concurrent Resolution 2026

("HCR 2026"), stalled in the Arizona Senate and never received a formal vote by the entire Senate before the annual legislative session ended. HCR 2026 attempted to repeal Arizona's Structured English Immersion programs. The programs were mainly established after the passage of Proposition 203 in 2000.

ProEnglish long has advocated for English language immersion programs as far superior to bilingual education programs for students for whom English is not the native language, in order not to relegate such students to a linguistic ghetto in which they are destined for a poorer-quality educational experience and a stronger likelihood of lower-paying job opportunities upon graduation.

Judge Orders Florida To Provide Voting Ballots In Spanish

A federal judge has ordered the State of Florida to provide all election ballots in Spanish starting with the 2020 election cycle. ProEnglish agrees with the late John Silber, former President of Boston University, who stated during his 1996 testimony to Congress that bilingual ballots "impose an unacceptable cost by degrading the very concept of the citizen to that of someone lost in a country whose public discourse is incomprehensible to him."

ProEnglish believes that there are five key reasons to oppose multilingual ballots: (1) there is no justification for multilingual ballots and election materials; (2) multilingual ballot requirements are arbitrary and wasteful; (3) multilingual ballots are an unfunded mandate on local governments; (4) multilingual ballots increase the likelihood of errors and vote fraud; and (5) multilingual ballots are a growing burden.



Bilingual Education Returns To California



In 1998, California voters approved Proposition 227, a statute that required schools to teach non-English speaking children the English language as rapidly as possible. Bilingual education, a program that required teaching in Spanish most of the school day, with short English lessons, had proven a failure. In 2016 voters endorsed a return to bilingual education, and the state now is seeking to hire more bilingual teachers.

The new call in California is for “dual immersion” classes where half the students are learning English and half are learning Spanish or some other language. California is working hard to find trained bilingual teachers for these classes.

Dr. Rosalie Porter, Chair of the ProEnglish Board of Directors, worked with Ron Unz to pass “English for the Children” measures in California, Arizona, and Massachusetts. She calls such bilingual, dual immersion programs a risky choice for immigrant students.

ProEnglish long has advocated for English language immersion programs as far superior to bilingual education programs for students for whom English is not the native language. Assigning these students to separate native language classrooms for many years ensures them a poorer-quality educational experience.

Newsmax Features ProEnglish In Article

Newsmax featured ProEnglish in a recent article about eliminating former President Bill Clinton’s onerous Executive Order 13166 that mandates foreign language translations and interpretations for all federally-funded agencies and contractors.



The Newsmax article quoted ProEnglish Executive Director Stephen Guschov: “The government must stop placing this onerous and costly translation and interpretation burden on Americans, and President [Donald] Trump has the ability to do so on a speedy basis via a new Executive Order.”

The Newsmax article also noted that a government study during the George W. Bush administration set the cost of the translation and interpretation services at \$2 billion a year, a number that certainly has increased since the time of the Bush 43 study, and to perhaps as much as \$30 billion in total paid by U.S. taxpayers to date.

The article added that President Trump has said often that speaking English is important for immigrants, and that Vice President Pence, while in Congress from Indiana, was a 5-time co-sponsor of the English Language Unity Act.

RAISE Act Reintroduced In U.S. Senate



Senators Tom Cotton (Arkansas), David Perdue (Georgia), and Josh Hawley (Missouri) have reintroduced the Reforming American Immigration for a Strong Economy (RAISE) Act in the U.S. Senate.

Representative Francis Rooney (Florida) will introduce companion legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The RAISE Act is supported by President Trump, and it has been described by the White House as a bill that “will create a merit-based immigration system that protects our workers, our taxpayers, and our economy.”

Section 5 of the RAISE Act replaces the current permanent employment-based immigration system with a skills-based immigration point system, akin to the systems used in Canada and Australia. The various point categories are based on predictors of immigrant success and economic contribution in this nation. Applicants will earn points based on education, high-paying job offers, age, record of extraordinary achievement, entrepreneurial initiative, and, of particular note here, English-language ability.

Sen. Cotton stated: “Immigrants who come here on skills-based visas will be better educated, more skilled, more fluent in English, more likely to become entrepreneurs, and have more working-age years ahead of them. Their success will work to the benefit of all Americans as we build a more prosperous nation together.”

Heritage Foundation Promotes Assimilation



The Heritage Foundation has prepared a Special Report entitled “An Agenda For American Immigration Reform.” In the report, the Heritage Foundation boldly promotes assimilation in a way that is very similar to that embraced by ProEnglish.

In the “Culture and Society” section of the report, Heritage observed: “Over the past few decades... America has drifted away from assimilating immigrants... Previous immigrants assimilated to American life and succeeded, but indoctrinating people into the victimization narrative has not produced successful immigrants....”

The Heritage report noted: “At the 1976 Democratic Convention, Congresswoman Barbara Jordan warned that “the great danger America faces [is] that we will cease to be one nation and become instead a collection of interest groups.” Regrettably, her fears have been partially realized.”

In a report section entitled “Preserve patriotic assimilation” the Heritage Foundation stated: “The United States has always welcomed immigrants who come to this country honestly, with their work ethic and appreciation of freedom, seeking the promises and opportunities of the American Dream. This is because the founding principles of this nation imply that an individual of any ethnic heritage or racial background can become an American.”

Heritage added: “However, those same principles also call for... a deliberate and self-confident policy to assimilate immigrants and educate them about this country’s political principles, history, institutions, and civic culture.”

It hardly needs to be stated that such a policy and education for assimilating immigrants must include learning the English language, and the Heritage Foundation report reiterated this point: “Candidates for citizenship should demonstrate a strong understanding of America’s language (English), history, and civic life.”

