



THE PROENGLISH Advocate

ProEnglish Engages The New 117th Congress



Even with all of the great challenges that have been posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and shutdowns, ProEnglish has gotten off to a rapid start in recent days and weeks as we already have begun to engage the offices of several senators and representatives on Capitol Hill, both those who are new and those who are returning, in an effort to continue to build support for H.R. 997 and S. 678, The English Language Unity Act, in 2021 in the new 117th Congress.

The English Language Unity Act designates English as the nation's official language of governmental operations and establishes a uniform language requirement for the citizen naturalization process.

The passage of official English legislation in H.R. 997 and S. 678 will save Americans billions of dollars in current, government-mandated translation and interpretation costs and will encourage cultural and linguistic assimilation by new arrivals to our nation.

ProEnglish already has been engaging several new members of Congress in order to advocate for their sponsorship of the English Language Unity Act.

ProEnglish is working with Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK) in order to attempt to include the English Language Unity Act as an amendment in a larger budget or immigration bill.

ProEnglish also is urging senators on Capitol Hill to support the RAISE Act, which will establish a point-based system that will help select skilled immigrants who have the most to offer to this nation, and applicants will earn points in part based on their proficiency in English.

ProEnglish also is urging representatives to support the COST Act, which is a very important cost oversight bill, and which likely will show American taxpayers the exorbitant costs that they are paying for multilingual translation services provided by the Federal Government, including the 2020 United States Census, which includes some Census materials available in 59 non-English languages.

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

Rep. Sam Graves Sends Letter To GAO About 2020 Census Translation Costs

Rep. Sam Graves (R-MO) has sent a letter to Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, at the U.S. Government Accountability Office (“GAO”), and Rep. Graves has asked Dodaro and the GAO to “issue a report detailing the costs associated with translation services provided through the census.”

Rep. Graves stated in his letter that the Census Bureau “has provided video and print guides in 59 non-English languages for individuals needing assistance responding online or filling out the English paper questionnaire. While the U.S. enjoys a rich heritage of individuals from all backgrounds, it is questionable and potentially costly to produce census materials in 59 non-English languages. Further, census materials produced in these languages are unlikely to decrease the likelihood of errors and fraud in completing the census.”

Rep. Graves added: “U.S. citizens have a right to know how their tax dollars are spent. Unfortunately, there is very little, if anything, known about the costs associated with translation services provided through the census. Therefore, we request that GAO issue this report in order to bring about greater transparency for taxpayers and greater accountability to the federal government.”

ProEnglish salutes and thanks Rep. Graves for sending this very important letter to the GAO about the potentially whopping costs of 2020 U.S. Census translation services.

Rep. Graves also has introduced H.R. 1728, The Cost of Services and Translations Act (“COST Act”), in the current 116th Congress.

The COST Act is designed to “end speculation on the current cost of multilingual services provided by the Federal Government, and for other purposes.”

The purposes of the COST Act are: (1) to create a new appendix within each agency’s annual performance and accountability report detailing any cost associated with providing multilingual services, such as verbal, written, or other services in languages other than English; (2) to end speculation on the current cost of providing multilingual services; (3) to provide for more transparency in the Federal Government’s accounting practices, and to determine the effectiveness of agency programs, policies, and procedures; and (4) to provide for more accountability with the use of taxpayer money.



Puerto Rico Barely Approves Statehood Referendum

Puerto Rico barely approved its recent statehood referendum by a vote of just 52%-48%.

The non-binding referendum showed that only a very slim majority of Puerto Ricans support statehood at this time. This was the 6th time that Puerto Ricans had a choice to make on statehood.

The vote will be presented to the 117th United States Congress in 2021 by pro-statehood supporters.

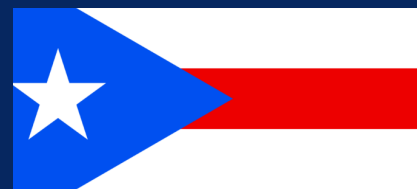
This recent referendum about statehood for Puerto Rico, as well as prior bills regarding statehood for Puerto Rico, all fail to address the vital question about official English on the island.

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. Statehood would grant Puerto Rico two senators and five representatives.

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.”





ProEnglish Continues To Investigate Costs Of Multilingual Ballots

ProEnglish is continuing to investigate the costs of multilingual ballots in the 2020 elections.

Foreign-language ballots were available in at least 29 different states in November.

The spread of foreign language voting materials and ballots potentially opened the door to voter manipulation and election fraud, and also served as an invitation to even greater fraud by potentially encouraging non-citizens to vote illegally in our elections.

Here are just a few recent examples of the whopping costs paid by U.S. taxpayers to provide multilingual ballots in recent elections:

Osceola County, Florida, near Walt Disney World, paid approximately \$108,000 for multilingual ballots in 2016, and spent \$111,225 for multilingual ballots in 2020.

Hall County, Georgia, paid an estimated amount of more than \$150,000 for multilingual ballots in 2016.

Gwinnett County, Georgia, paid \$700,000 for Spanish language ballots for state and local elections.

And in Los Angeles County, California, more than \$3.3 million in taxpayer dollars was spent to provide multilingual ballots in a recent general election, and \$17 million was spent on a program called “Voting Solutions For All People.”

These are just 4 counties of different sizes in this nation. There are 3,141 counties or county equivalents in the entire USA. It is easy to see that there was the potential for hundreds of millions of dollars to be spent on multilingual ballots in the 2020 elections, with the entire cost likely being shouldered by already over-burdened American taxpayers.

In an era of massive government deficits at all levels, it is outrageous and highly irresponsible for states and counties to break the backs of American taxpayers by forcing them to pay for costly multilingual ballots. It also is important to remember that voters who do not speak or understand English always have the option to bring interpreters with them into the voting booth.

As former President Theodore Roosevelt said: “We have but one flag; we must also learn one language, and that language is English.”

The English Language Unity Act And COVID-19

During times when COVID-19 spikes, it is very important to remember that the English Language Unity Act, also known as S. 678 in the United States Senate and H.R. 997 in the United States House of Representatives, was constructed precisely to deal with national crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic.



The text of the English Language Unity Act states that, in terms of its practical effect, it shall not apply to “actions or documents that protect the public health and safety.”

This exception was specifically carved into the English Language Unity Act for situations like the COVID-19 pandemic, so that all Americans can understand and can enjoy the full benefits of public health and safety communications from the government during periods of national crisis, such as we are experiencing during the current pandemic.



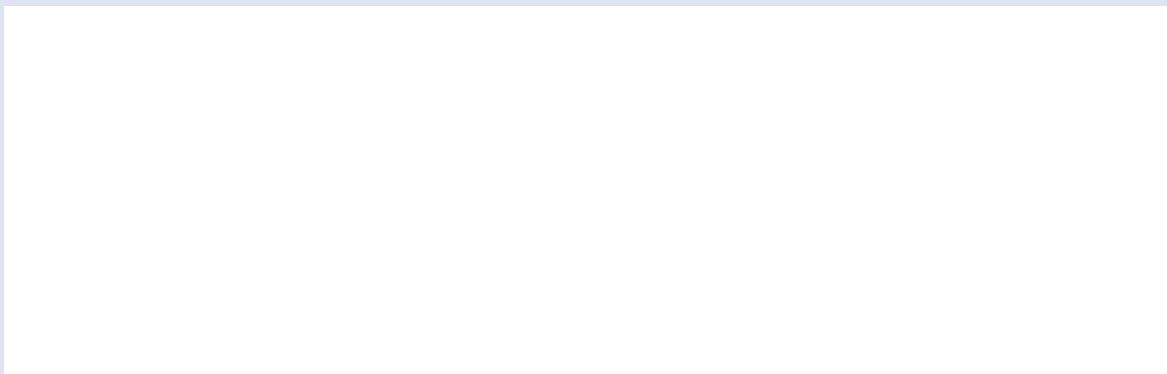
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

USCIS Will Not Change English Portion Of Civics Test

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (“USCIS”) has announced that it will not be changing the English portion of the naturalization civics test.

The USCIS stated: “There are no changes to the English portion of the naturalization civics test. You must demonstrate an understanding of the English language, including the ability to read, write, and speak basic English.”

ProEnglish
P.O. Box 98117
Washington, DC 20090-8117



“We have but one flag; we must also learn one language, and that language is English.”

- President Theodore Roosevelt

The ProEnglish Advocate

Board

Rosalie Porter, Chairwoman
Asgar Asgarov
Cliff Colwell
Phil Kent
K.C. McAlpin
Richard Munro

Executive Director

Stephen 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) 507-6283
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 U.S., Inc.
20 F Street NW 7th Floor
Washington, DC 20001

Please remember ProEnglish in your estate planning and please contact ProEnglish directly at 202-507-6283 to discuss all of your planned giving options, including wills and trusts. You also may contribute safely and securely online at www.ProEnglish.org. All contributions are tax-deductible.