



THE PROENGLISH Advocate

Official English at a Crossroads: Congress, the States and the 2026 Elections

Across the country the movement for Official English is advancing on several fronts. From legislation before Congress to action in the states and new federal policies, English-language issues are receiving renewed attention in government, citizenship, education and public safety.

At the center of this effort are H.R. 1772, the Designation of English as the Official Language of the United States Act of 2025, introduced by Representative Robert Aderholt, and S. 542, the English Language Unity Act, introduced by Senator Bernie Moreno. Both seek to establish English as the official language of federal government operations. H.R. 1772 continues to be supported in the House and proponents feel they may have a shot at attaching it to future legislation in 2027.

Congressional action would build upon President Trump's Executive Order 14224, which designated English as the official language of the United States. Because an executive order can be changed by a future administration, legislation would provide greater permanence by codifying Official English into federal law.

Other legislation before Congress is also addressing the importance of English proficiency in specific areas of national policy. Several measures focus on commercial driver licensing, testing and enforcement, reflecting growing concern over the role English proficiency plays in highway safety and the integrity of the commercial driver licensing system. Together, these proposals demonstrate that English-language policy is becoming increasingly relevant across a wide range of federal responsibilities.

The administration is carrying Official English policy into federal programs as well. Proposed reforms to Head Start would require classroom instruction in English and eliminate federal requirements for bilingual support. The changes are intended to emphasize English fluency from an early age and align the program more closely with Executive Order 14224.

Momentum is also growing at the state level. This November, Idaho voters will consider House Joint Resolution 6, a proposed constitutional amendment that would place English as the state's official language directly into the Idaho Constitution. Idaho already recognizes English as its official language by statute, but voter approval would give that policy constitutional status.

All of this makes the 2026 midterm elections particularly significant. On November 3, every seat in the U.S. House of Representatives and approximately one-third of the Senate will be decided. The Congress elected this year will help determine which legislation receives hearings, committee consideration and votes. State elections will likewise influence future Official English measures.

Voting gives Americans a direct voice in choosing those who will make these decisions. Before Election Day, learn where the candidates in your state and congressional district stand on Official English and other issues important to you.

Be informed. Participate. Make your voice heard.

Vote on November 3!

Let's make it the goal to have Congress codify the Trump Executive Order into law.



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ProEnglish on the Move!

From Enforcement to Accountability: New Action on English Proficiency and Trucking Safety



Photo by Magnific

Recent developments have strengthened the national focus on English proficiency and commercial driver safety.

In August, Operation Highway Shield uncovered 36 English-language proficiency violations among commercial drivers in just three days. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration also moved to formally codify existing English Language Proficiency requirements, reinforcing the rule that commercial drivers must be able to read road signs, understand instructions and communicate sufficiently in English.

Attention has now turned to the institutions responsible for training and certifying commercial drivers.

In September, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced action against 270 driving schools across the country accused of improper practices. Of those, 100 had graduated at least ten drivers who were later cited for inadequate English proficiency.

Florida followed with its own enforcement action. The Florida Department of Education ordered ten trucking schools to cease operations after determining that they had certified drivers who were subsequently cited for failing federal English-proficiency standards. The action followed a nationwide federal investigation in which 110 Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training schools were removed from the Training Provider Registry.

These developments represent an important shift. The issue is no longer simply whether commercial drivers should understand English. Regulators are increasingly examining whether the training, testing and licensing systems themselves are ensuring that existing standards are met.

Congress is also considering several measures addressing commercial-driver safety and English proficiency. These include Connor's Law, H.R. 3608 and S. 2991; the Safer Truckers Act, S. 2690; the Non-Domiciled CDL Integrity Act, H.R. 5688; and other proposals addressing uniform English testing, CDL eligibility and enforcement.

Adding to this effort, Congressman Brandon Gill introduced Barron's Law on September 28. The legislation would require English-language proficiency testing for commercial truck drivers, strengthen safeguards against licensing fraud, require lawful status or proper work authorization, and increase penalties for carriers that knowingly use ineligible drivers.

ProEnglish will continue advocating for strong, enforceable English proficiency requirements and for legislation that strengthens the integrity of the commercial driver licensing system.

English proficiency behind the wheel is not merely a language issue. It is a matter of public safety.

ProEnglish Spotlight

Champions of Official English in Congress



Rep. Robert Aderholt



Rep. Brandon Gill



Sen. Bernie Moreno

Support for Official English continues to grow in Congress, with lawmakers recognizing the role a common language plays in citizenship, assimilation and national unity.

Representative Robert Aderholt of Alabama leads the House effort with H.R. 1772, the Designation of English as the Official Language of the United States Act of 2025. He has called English “the common thread uniting us as one nation.”

In the Senate, Senator Bernie Moreno (OH) along with cosponsor Senator Kevin Cramer (ND), continue to advance S. 542, the English Language Unity Act. Moreno came to the United States as a child and later became a naturalized citizen, giving him a personal perspective on the importance of English to citizenship and American civic life.

Representative Brandon Gill of Texas is another voice for English and citizenship. In addition to cosponsoring H.R. 1772, he introduced H.R. 9742, the English Language Proficiency Act, strengthening English and civics requirements for naturalization. Gill has called English “the common tongue that holds American communities together.” He also introduced Barron’s Law, extending that work into commercial-driver English proficiency and public safety.

And they are not alone. Other H.R. 1772 cosponsors have backed related English-language measures involving immigration, naturalization and commercial-driver safety. Their support includes the Commercial Motor Vehicle English Proficiency Act, the SAFE Drivers Act, additional Official English legislation, and proposals incorporating English proficiency into immigration policy.

Congressman Brian Jack (GA) said upon entering the 119th Congress, “Our district, and our country, gave President Trump and the 119th Congress a clear mandate to enact our America First agenda. Let’s get to work!”

Congress has an opportunity to turn long-standing priorities into lasting law. For ProEnglish, that includes finally codifying English as the official language of the United States.

WE THANK AND SALUTE THE COSPONSORS OF H.R. 1772

Robert Aderholt (AL); Ralph Norman (SC); Diana Harshbarger (TN); Sam Graves (MO); Abraham Hamadeh (AZ); Paul Gosar (AZ); Dale Strong (AL); Barry Moore (AL); Mike Rogers (AL); Gary Palmer (AL); Mary Miller (IL); Neal Dunn (FL); Brian Jack (GA); Adrian Smith (NE); Greg Steube (FL); Rich McCormick (GA); Barry Loudermilk (GA); Brandon Gill (TX); Clay Fuller (GA); Mike Collins (GA); Rick Allen (GA); Andrew Clyde (GA).

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

- President Theodore Roosevelt

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