

## Letter from the Chairman

Dear Friends,

The U.S.ENGLISH Foundation has continued to be on the forefront of defending English in our courts, conducting research about our common language and striving to educate people about how important a common language is for our country.

To remain the best organization promoting our common language, we believe it is important to hear from our members. We also believe it is important for our members to hear from us. That's why this newsletter is in your hands. We want to keep you up to date on the Foundation's activities and goals we are working toward. By doing this we will continue to champion the cause we both believe in so strongly.

So, please read through our current update. Then take a moment to email, write us a note or donate to support our public awareness campaigns. Let us know what research you would like us to conduct and what features you would like to see on [www.usefoundation.org](http://www.usefoundation.org). Our work is possible because of you and we believe it is important to hear what you think.

In the meantime, we will continue to promote a common, unifying language that binds our diverse nation together.



Sincerely,



Mauro E. Mujica

## Introducing our New Director of Special Programs

The U.S.ENGLISH Foundation is pleased to announce its new Director of Special Programs, Victoria Renard. Victoria recently joined the Foundation and is excited to be a new member of the team. She leads the Foundation's research division, fundraising efforts and education initiatives.

She hails from Wisconsin where she lived and worked until moving out to Virginia last summer. Her background is in political fundraising where she worked as the Finance Director for a Member of Congress' campaign for nearly ten years. She also has statewide fundraising experience from gubernatorial and Supreme Court races in her home state.

When she's not telling us how hot it is here in DC compared to Wisconsin, Victoria likes to talk football. Specifically, Packers football and how proud she is to be number 40,044 on their season ticket waiting list.

Please give Victoria a call at 202-833-0100, send her an email at [vrenard@usenglish.org](mailto:vrenard@usenglish.org) or write a note welcoming her to the team. She wants to hear what Members are thinking, what's happening on the frontlines in the states and on which projects you'd like the Foundation to work.

## Victory in Iowa!

As you may already know, U.S.ENGLISH, along with U.S. Representative Steve King (R-IA) and eight Iowa citizens, won a critical victory in a lawsuit brought against Iowa's Secretary of State Chet Culver for violating the state's Official English law when he refused to stop issuing voter registration materials in multiple foreign languages.

This precedent-setting victory represents the first legal test of Official English legislation this decade — and decisively rejects claims that the Iowa state's Official English law is "unconstitutional." Make no mistake, the outcome of our legal battle in Iowa will have a tremendous impact on how the 29 other states with Official English laws proceed with enforcement.

Yet, despite this victory in the courts, this battle is by no means over. Right now, our staff is on high alert for any action that could jeopardize or challenge Iowa's District Court decision — for we



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anticipate that this will not be the final test for Official English in Iowa. Our greatest concern is that Iowa is not the only state where Official English laws are being undermined by officials with a radical, pro-multilingual agenda. And with your continued strong backing, we'll investigate, expose and hold accountable state officials who refuse to enforce Official English laws.

## Current Research & "English Within Reach"

The U.S.ENGLISH Foundation is working on a new research project examining English language learning and immigration in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The research not only looks at rates and rankings of overall language proficiency, but within age groups and native languages of the speakers. When this research is completed, Members will have a clear picture of what is going on within their state.

This summer, U.S.ENGLISH will be heading to the recording studio. *English Within Reach* is an audio program to help new English language learners with the basics of conversation. From what time is it to how do you find the bus stop, we will have a language learning tool that can be distributed to English as a Second Language programs across the country. We plan to put it on our website, so it can be downloaded by English language learners anywhere at anytime.

## Education

As we are all aware, the campaign season is well upon us. Every time we turn the television on, check our favorite websites or listen to a radio program, we are inundated with ads, slogans and reminders of the upcoming Presidential election.

All of those reminders, as annoying as they are, are a blessing. We have the right and the privilege in a democracy to vote. Many people across the globe don't share that with us. So, at the U.S.ENGLISH Foundation we believe it is essential that we educate all individuals on the importance of a common, unifying language, especially those seeking to gain our vote.

This summer we will be sending information out to candidates for Congress. We'll let them know about our current research, polls showing support for a common language and how important our unifying language is to the success and vitality of our country and her citizens. This material will be available for all Members as well as part of our continuing public awareness campaign.

## Email

Please take a moment to email our Director of Special Programs, Victoria, at [vrenard@usenglish.org](mailto:vrenard@usenglish.org). We can also send this newsletter out via email to make it more cost effective.



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## Thank You

All of these programs, research projects and education initiatives take financial resources. We are able to be on the forefront of Official English because of your support. So, plain and simple, thank you. Thanks for being there and thanks for keeping the faith in our unifying cause.