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***English First***

ILLEGAL immigration is a key issue that affects all legal US citizens, and legal immigrants (more on that in the future), and there seems to be no reasonable resolution in sight. Certainly, we will all have to work together to solve the problem and it seems logical that a good starting point would be to all speak the same language; the language of the United States of America...English. Here is how the majority of Americans polled by American Solutions feels about the importance of the English language:

- Approximately 87% of the American people support English as the official language of government.
- America is a nation of immigrants. Historically, Americans have spoken many different languages in their homes, but the English language has always been paramount to the national identity of Americans.
- However, for the past 30 years, the federal government has required state and local governments to provide election ballots in a variety of foreign languages for American citizens with insufficient knowledge of English. Foreign-language ballots were not part of the original Voting Rights Act of 1965, which aimed to address the historic wrongs that prevented African Americans from voting.
- Foreign language ballots send an entirely negative message to immigrants. They discourage, rather than encourage, the mastery of English; therefore, no matter how well meaning the intent, they harm the common good. Unfortunately, they ensure that some remain isolated from the larger American political conversation.
- Foreign language ballots also don't make sense for a much simpler reason: if U.S. citizenship is a precondition for voting, and knowing English is a precondition for citizenship, then why would any citizen exercising his or her right to vote need a foreign-language ballot?
- We can promote English in ways that are empowering for new immigrants. For example, 83% of the American people support providing new immigrants with stipends to help them pay for English language instruction.

There appears to be a great disparity between what the majority of Americans want and what they get from our Government. However, this is a National poll and we would like to know how Chambers County citizens feel. Please let us know your thoughts. Send us an email, or visit our website @ [www.chamberscountygop.net](http://www.chamberscountygop.net) to sign our guest book and let us know if you agree with the poll.

Sincerely,

Tony Sims  
Chairman  
Chambers County Republican Party