

Statement on English Only Amendment

The vote against the so-called English Only amendment to the Metro Charter was a moment when Nashville lived up to its reputation as a progressive and inclusive city.

I would like to applaud my friends and neighbors in the 18th District for standing up to those who attempted to close the door of access and opportunity to many of Nashville's residents and visitors. Thanks to the people of this city who volunteered their time, donated their hard-earned money, and voted against the initiative, Nashville remains a welcoming and inclusive city to all.

An incredibly diverse coalition of groups and people joined together to defeat the effort and preserve the reputation of Nashville. The business community worked side-by-side with labor groups. Our diverse faith community joined together with the academic and not-for-profit community. College students and senior citizens volunteered their time and talent. I believe it was an important moment in our civic life.

Mayor Dean and progressive, thoughtful members of the Metro Council are to be commended for leading the effort to defeat the 'English Only' initiative. Also, Mr. Gregg Ramos and Mr. Jim Hester should be thanked for their leadership efforts and ensuring that Nashville remains a city for all of us.

It is now time for our city to move forward and put this issue behind us. We should direct our undivided attention to the many difficult challenges ahead involving our budget, public education system, and many other issues. Our city faces great challenges, but none of the hurdles that lie ahead are insurmountable. With progressive and innovative leadership, our city will continue to move forward and progress.

Once again, it is time for us to lead and show the world why Nashville is truly the "Athens of the South."