

VOTERS GUIDE



May 6, 2017 Election
City of Richardson (COR) Mayor and City Council
Richardson ISD (RISD) Board of Trustees

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF RICHARDSON

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972-470-0584 • Website www.lwvrichardson.org , online *VOTERS GUIDE* with more questions: www.Vote411.org



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This *Voters Guide* is a community service to voters of the City of Richardson and the Richardson Independent School District. Candidate responses published in this guide were typed into www.Vote411.org by the candidates. Four of the questions from the online *Voters Guide* are reproduced in this guide. Responses are printed exactly as received and must meet character limits. Excess characters in a candidate's response have been replaced with an ellipsis (...).

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ELECTION INFORMATION

Important Election Dates		
Last day to apply for ballot by mail	April 25 (<i>RECEIVED</i> date)	
Election Day	May 6 (<i>Saturday</i>)	7:00am – 7:00pm
Runoff Election, <i>if necessary</i>	June 15 (<i>Saturday</i>)	

Early Voting in Dallas County: Early voting by personal appearance is conducted by your County Elections Department. **Dallas County** registered voters may vote at any early voting location in the county. Early voting will be held at Richardson Civic Center, as well as other locations throughout the county. For a complete list of early voting times and locations, go to your County Elections Department website, listed on page 2.

Early Voting Dates & Times – Dallas County		
In-person early voting period Dallas County	April 24 – April 29 (<i>Monday through Saturday</i>)	8:00am - 5:00pm
	April 30 (<i>Sunday</i>)	1:00pm - 6:00pm
	May 1 - 2 (<i>Monday through Tuesday</i>)	7:00am - 7:00pm

Early Voting in Collin County: Richardson residents who live in Collin County and wish to vote early must vote in a Dallas County early voting location for the Richardson Mayoral and City Council election and in a Collin County early voting location for Collin County races. Renner Frankford Library is an early voting location for both counties. For a complete list of early voting times and locations, go to your County Elections Department website, listed on page 2.

Early Voting Dates & Times – Collin County		
In-person early voting period Collin County	April 24 – April 26 (<i>Monday through Wednesday</i>)	8:00am - 5:00pm
	April 27 (<i>Thursday</i>)	8:00am – 7:00pm
	April 28 – April 29 (<i>Friday through Saturday</i>)	8:00am – 5:00pm
	May 1 - 2 (<i>Monday through Tuesday</i>)	7:00am - 7:00pm

Election Day: Polls are open Saturday, May 6, 2017, at your local precinct polling place from 7am to 7pm. For a complete list of polling places, go to your County Elections Department website, listed on page 2.

Richardson residents who live in Collin County and wish to vote in the Richardson Mayoral and City Council election and in the Collin County races can vote at their local precinct polling place. There will be a different ballot for the City of Richardson election and for the Collin County elections, but both elections will take place at the local precinct.

What's on my ballot?

Richardson residents who live in Dallas County will vote for Richardson Mayor and City Council (all 7 places)

Residents of Richardson ISD will vote for Richardson ISD Trustees Places 3, 6, and 7.

Richardson residents who live in Collin County will vote for Richardson City Council (all 7 places), Collin County Community College District Board of Trustees Places 1, 2, 3, and 5, Collin County Community College District Bond, and Plano ISD Board of Trustees Places 1, 2, 3, and 6. Information about the Collin County races can be found on the League of Women Voters of Plano/Collin County website at www.lwvcollin.org.

To see a sample ballot and other election information, go to your County Elections Department website:

Dallas County Elections Department (214) 637-7937 www.dallascountyvotes.org	Collin County Elections Department 972-424-1460, extension 1990 (Metro) www.co.collin.tx.us/elections
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Richardson City Council www.cor.net

Richardson residents vote for all members of the City Council, who are elected for two-year terms on a nonpartisan basis. The Council is made up of Places 1-4 (one member elected from each of the City's four quadrants), Places 5-6 (two members elected with no geographical restrictions), and Place 7, Mayor (with no geographical restrictions)..

Council members are responsible for hiring the City Manager, appointing the City Attorney, City Secretary, Municipal Court Judges, City Health Officer and citizens to the City's boards and commissions. The Council is also responsible for passing City ordinances, planning for capital improvements, issuing and selling municipal bonds, purchasing and selling property, establishing City departments, determining City services, approving the annual budget, and setting the City's tax rate. The City Manager is responsible for the City's daily operations, hiring department heads, supervising the City personnel, directing and coordinating all municipal programs, enforcing all municipal laws and ordinances, and recommending an annual budget.

Richardson Independent School District Board of Trustees www.risd.org

Richardson Independent School District voters elect seven (7) board members to serve three-year staggered terms. All seven are elected at-large and serve without compensation. Service on the board is voluntary and members must complete extensive orientation as well as continued training throughout their terms.

The Board of Trustees has the executive power and duty to govern and oversee the management of RISD. Acting as a collective body, the Board sets the direction for the school district. Some of the Board's general responsibilities include:

- Setting district policies and supporting administrators and teachers in the execution of those policies.
- Employing and evaluating the superintendent.
- Adopting the annual budget.
- Levying/collecting taxes and issuing bonds.
- Performing specific duties imposed by the state.

The 2017 Richardson ISD Board of Trustees who are not on the ballot this year:

<u>Place 1</u>	<u>Place 2</u>	<u>Place 4</u>	<u>Place 5</u>
Jean Bono	Kim Caston	Katie Patterson	Eron Linn
<i>Lives in LHHS area</i>	<i>Lives in PHS area</i>	<i>Lives in RHS/PHS areas</i>	<i>Lives in BHS area</i>

Visit the webpage of the League of Women Voters of Richardson at:

<http://www.lwvrichardson.org>

for

- City of Richardson Mayoral and City Council Candidate online *VOTERS GUIDE*
- Richardson ISD Board of Trustees Candidate online *VOTERS GUIDE*
- City of Richardson and Richardson ISD election information
- Links to other information sources



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RICHARDSON CITY COUNCIL – Contested Place 4
For candidate responses to more questions, go to www.Vote411.org



Place 4, Ballot Position 1 (2 candidates on the ballot)

Place 4, Ballot Position 2 (2 candidates on the ballot)

What one specific thing would you like to see accomplished during your term? What actions are needed to implement it? (600-character limit)



Cory Montfort

Everything I want to do for this city starts with good communication. The one thing I would like to see accomplished in Richardson, it is to help every resident feel like their voice, their vote, their concerns, and their neighborhoods are important to the city government. Our city government could do a better job communicating through multiple platforms about important pending decisions that affect certain communities. We could work more closely with current community organizations to ensure we are getting the feedback necessary to make thoughtful and smart decisions for our residents.



Mabel Simpson

I think the transportation and mobility of our citizens is critical, in light of the new growth we are experiencing in North Texas and specifically Richardson, we must work closely with the County and TxDOT for solutions to allow everyone a means of accessing all parts of the City.

The City of Richardson has aging infrastructure and housing stock. What is your opinion of the city's current programs to address this issue? (600-character limit)

The recent bond initiatives that the citizens of Richardson voted to approve are clear messages that updating and maintaining our infrastructure is a priority for our city. We need to continue our efforts towards a "take or pay" position through the Water District. Also, the revitalization of our housing stock is directly tied to the attractiveness of our neighborhoods to current and new residents who are motivated to renovate these homes. I support incentivizing unique small businesses like the Richardson Food Truck Park that are attractive and uniquely suited for some local neighborhoods.

With the confidence the citizens had in passing the 2016 Bond Program, many of our infrastructure challenges are being able to be addressed. This bond package was very much needed for the infrastructure; however, we still have more work to do. Certain repairs and replacements were identified and placed in the priority of worst to best, so that we could identify the cost associated with the needed repairs and replacements and begin to make those improvements, thanks to the Citizens of Richardson who voted yes to the bond package funding needed repairs.

What, if anything, should be done by the Richardson City Council to accelerate the completion of the Cotton Belt Rail Line from Richardson to DFW Airport? (600-character limit)

I strongly support improving our public transit system here in the DFW area. However, I think there are more cost effective options for Richardson than investing in a heavy rail line to the airport at this time. We are fortunate to already have a booming development surrounding City Line station and rail access to DFW airport from all four DART rail stations in Richardson. With the current proposals for Dallas to redirect DART contributions to prop up their struggling pension fund, a multi-billion dollar total investment of questionable value to Richardson should not be a council priority.

Richardson has been very active in not only promoting the Cotton Belt Rail but working to educate all necessary stakeholders as to the critical importance of this rail line. Richardson and the neighboring city partners, understand the importance of this rail line, even more importantly now with the explosive growth in North Texas. We are working not only locally, but also at the State and Federal level to continue to move this program forward, and persuade all necessary decision makers as to the importance of this rail line.

Has the city made sufficient investment in its parks and recreation facilities, given the ever-increasing density in population growth? Please explain. (600-character limit)

I will encourage our city to add more trails, more playgrounds, more dog parks, and allocate more acreage to parks before all the available land is repurposed. I will support an increase in the number of 'pocket parks' like Durham Park in the Richardson Heights neighborhood. These parks are a creative solution to ensure all residents have walkable access to a park. I think we can do more to improve the infrastructure to make our city more pedestrian friendly. Simple things like installing more crosswalks and possibly rerouting traffic in some areas to encourage pedestrian usage will help.

Our City now has 39 parks and we continue to make investments in our park system. We recently purchased approximately 55 acres of open space that we have committed to a nature preserve for our citizens, which is a tremendous addition to our park system. Richardson prioritizes the parks as well as the walking trails, making sure they are connected for all citizens to use and enjoy. Our budget for parks is a testament to our commitment and investment in the parks. Our recreation facilities are revisited annually for maintenance and upgrades as well as future planning for additional facilities...

RICHARDSON CITY COUNCIL – Contested Place 5
 For candidate responses to more questions, go to www.Vote411.org



Place 5, Ballot Position 1 (2 candidates on the ballot)

Place 5, Ballot Position 2 (2 candidates on the ballot)

What one specific thing would you like to see accomplished during your term? What actions are needed to implement it? (600-character limit)



Marta Gómez Frey

I would like to incorporate collaborative approaches to balance new development opportunities, our redevelopment goals and our continued commitment to infrastructure. Generating this smart growth for Richardson would include supporting: new development along the DART Cotton Belt Rail Line; redevelopment efforts in our Main Street/Central Expressway and Spring Valley corridors; and safe neighborhoods by continuing the repair and/or replacement of aging roadways, by adding miles of dedicated bike lanes, and upgrading screening walls and bridges throughout Richardson.



Kashif Riaz

I am proposing to increase seniors property tax exemption by \$5,000.

I am proposing to transform wasted kinetic energy generated by the city's commuting traffic into electricity, by reducing the carbon footprint. Lisbon, Portugal and Roanoke VA are already working on it. It will increase city revenue.

I am proposing to introduce new zoning code mandating a minimum "permeable surface area" to address drainage issues. It is good for parking lots, low traffic streets, Walkways and driveways.

The City of Richardson has aging infrastructure and housing stock. What is your opinion of the city's current programs to address this issue? (600-character limit)

Richardson aggressively pursues infrastructure improvement opportunities. We have dedicated \$3.1 million to preventative maintenance, arterial and collector street repairs, neighborhood street repairs and street operations. The City continues to assess, wash and paint the 16.6 miles of City maintained screening walls to ensure their appearance. Forty hydrants are replaced each year by the City of Richardson, along with the FY16/17 replacement of 10,000 linear feet of water main line. These programs are examples of how the City keeps up with, and stays ahead of, aging infrastructure issues.

As part of our community revitalization program,

I am proposing to work on public and private partnership where city can insentience aging retail outlets and aging multifamily properties to redevelop. It will increase property tax revenue and sales tax revenue.

What, if anything, should be done by the Richardson City Council to accelerate the completion of the Cotton Belt Rail Line from Richardson to DFW Airport? (600-character limit)

The DART Cotton Belt Rail Line is important to Richardson's growth strategies. The 26-mile rail line will better connect our community to DFW Airport and beyond to Fort Worth, thus enhancing economic development. The Cotton Belt will also provide mobility options to ease traffic congestion in our area. For these reasons, it will be important for the City to continue its commitment of budgetary and grant proposal assistance to DART. The quicker we can help DART implement the Cotton Belt, the better it will be for Richardson stakeholders to live, work and play in our City.

City should do its level best to keep it on the long term mass transit plan.

So many pace public companies are relocating corporate offices in North Dallas and along with that population is increasing as well. Cotton Belt Rail Line will help reduce traffic congestion on the streets in rush hours and it will provide more buy in for residents of North Dallas and public companies to do business here.

Has the city made sufficient investment in its parks and recreation facilities, given the ever-increasing density in population growth? Please explain. (600-character limit)

Through citizen input, staff research and professional advice, in March 2017, the City of Richardson updated the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. It details our many recent accomplishments: the Bush Central Barkway Dog Park, replacement of 5 playgrounds, creation of 5 new parks and the Spring Creek Nature Area land acquisition. It also sets our short-term goals of increasing multi-purpose trail connections, renovating existing parks/facilities and enhancing our park maintenance. These investments ensure many more years of recreation and beauty for our community.

I am proposing to build more benches in our parks.

www.streetseats.org
 New York city is successfully doing it.

RICHARDSON CITY COUNCIL – Contested Place 7, Mayor
For candidate responses to more questions, go to www.Vote411.org



Place 7, Ballot Position 1 (1 candidate on the ballot)

Place 7, Ballot Position 2 (1 candidate on the ballot)

What one specific thing would you like to see accomplished during your term? What actions are needed to implement it? (600-character limit)



Jared Weadon

At the end of my term, I'd like the citizens of Richardson to feel like they know exactly what the city government is doing with their money, and where all of the money is coming from. There are many people in Richardson who do trust what the city says the funds are going to and where they're coming from. I feel that I can help provide the transparency that the citizens desire.



Paul Voelker

Richardson should strive to be the most ethical and transparent local government in the State of Texas. Our citizens demand and deserve no less than full and easy access to all legally open information related to the city. To that end, I pledge to hold myself and the council accountable to the highest levels of ethical behavior and transparency. I would like us to go beyond the Texas Comptroller's new 5 Star Program for transparency. Leveraging our IT systems to expose information to both the public and city management to help us all make better and more timely decisions regarding our city.

The City of Richardson has aging infrastructure and housing stock. What is your opinion of the city's current programs to address this issue? (600-character limit)

The city has an incentive for homeowners to improve their houses. There isn't really anything I would change with that program. As for commercial redevelopment, we need to enforce code regulations, but I would not offer a redevelopment incentive.

Since joining council in 2013, we have had an overall increase to our general fund for street preventative maintenance, arterial and collector street repair, neighborhood street repair, street operations and the addition of a new alley repair program that has taken the funding from \$1.2M to \$4.5M per year. I continue to promote the Neighborhood Vitality Program, Home Improvement Incentive Program, a one-time incentive equal to 10 times the amount of the increase in city taxes will be paid to the homeowner based on the property's pre-construction and post-construction appraised value.

What, if anything, should be done by the Richardson City Council to accelerate the completion of the Cotton Belt Rail Line from Richardson to DFW Airport? (600-character limit)

We shouldn't do anything to accelerate the completion of the Cotton Belt Rail Line. We've provided land and sales tax funds. Anything above that is up to DART to resolve. I'm not even sure that the economic impact of the new line has been properly evaluated. If the rail line can economically support itself, I'm fine with its construction. If it can't be proven to have a positive economic impact, then there is no reason to continue to support it.

The council has instructed city staff to work closely with DART staff and other regional agencies to complete planning and engineering work so that the Cotton Belt can be completed as fast as possible. Current plans will have service in Richardson by 2022. As Mayor and working with council we will continue to advocate at the city, region and state levels to make sure no additional obstacles slow down the completion of this project.

Has the city made sufficient investment in its parks and recreation facilities, given the ever-increasing density in population growth? Please explain. (600-character limit)

Richardson has beautiful parks. Growing up, I spent a lot of time at Huffhines and Brekinridge Parks. As an adult, in addition to those two parks, my family and I spend a lot of time at Mimosa and Heights Parks. We also have other parks and trails that make our city wonderful and full of variety. One thing I've noticed is that these parks are mostly underutilized. We need more events (official and unofficial) that will attract citizens to these gems. Our current parks have the capacity to serve the people of Richardson and do not need anything other than regular maintenance.

As we grow, council has balanced increased density and amenities, like parks and recreation. When possible we ask developers and stakeholders to contribute. We just opened our 39th park and with the acquisition (\$22M) of the entire Spring Creek Nature Area have significant green space throughout the city. We continue to get input from citizens on our master plans and will use that input to prioritize future investments in recreation programs and facilities.

RICHARDSON CITY COUNCIL – Uncontested Places 1 & 2
 For candidate responses to more questions, go to www.Vote411.org



Place 1, Ballot Position 1 (1 candidate on the ballot)	Place 2, Ballot Position 1 (1 candidate on the ballot)
<p>What one specific thing would you like to see accomplished during your term? What actions are needed to implement it? (600-character limit)</p>	
<div data-bbox="138 352 256 499" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="159 499 227 529" data-label="Caption"> <p>Dubey</p> </div> <p data-bbox="272 352 812 529">I hope to see the current city infrastructure projects completed with the continued emphasis on street repairs and updates. This is important so we can continue to grow economically and safely with functional streets that will meet all of our future needs.</p>	<div data-bbox="841 352 933 499" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="844 499 933 556" data-label="Caption"> <p>Mark Solomon</p> </div> <p data-bbox="954 352 1494 382">More attention paid to the neighborhood streets</p>
<p>The City of Richardson has aging infrastructure and housing stock. What is your opinion of the city's current programs to address this issue? (600-character limit)</p>	
<p data-bbox="149 766 812 1081">I believe the city has a good plan with \$3.26 million allocated for street repairs. They have assessed the repair needs and are addressing them from worst to least on the repair schedule. If we run short in this area, I would be in favor of increasing the budget to address the needs. The city has an incentive program that rewards citizens financially who spend \$20k or greater on home improvements, This has been received very well by many citizens who have taken advantage of the program. The current trend of revitalizing our neighborhoods is very positive for the city.</p>	<p data-bbox="836 766 1502 913">I think we are doing a great deal to encourage our residents to re-invest in their homes and the Council is committed to assisting in this effort by re-investing in the public facilities, streets, sidewalks and alleys. Since I have been on Council the commitment to these items has increased significantly.</p>
<p>What, if anything, should be done by the Richardson City Council to accelerate the completion of the Cotton Belt Rail Line from Richardson to DFW Airport? (600-character limit)</p>	
<p data-bbox="138 1165 812 1386">I believe the ground work has been laid. The addition of the new rail station is scheduled and will be a huge benefit to the city. The economic implications are huge. I believe the city council can help by finding ways to welcome future businesses and assist the chamber with their mission of growth to the city. Continued positive relationships with DART and our surrounding cities will be important in pushing forward with the project.</p>	<p data-bbox="836 1165 1502 1249">We have done about as much as we can, it is now up DART, we have dedicated the right away, we have planned the CityLine development to receive it. We are ready!</p>
<p>Has the city made sufficient investment in its parks and recreation facilities, given the ever-increasing density in population growth? Please explain. (600-character limit)</p>	
<p data-bbox="138 1474 812 1785">I believe the Parks Department has done very well in taking citizen input and creating their Master Plan. The trails and connectivity through and out of the city is an ongoing project that has reached all portions of the city. A dog park and neighborhood parks have been added and many others have been renovated with new safer interactive playground equipment. The parks department has several recommendations for the future with the possibility of a new rec center, central park, and an indoor pool complex . These possibilities are exciting and could help with the new population increase.</p>	<p data-bbox="836 1474 1502 1621">Yes look at the addition of the acreage we have done over the past several years and the continuing upgrade of neighborhood parks and trails. We have added 2 new parks to the CityLine area this year and will continue to look for opportunities to do more.</p>

RICHARDSON CITY COUNCIL – Uncontested Places 3 & 6
 For candidate responses to more questions, go to www.Vote411.org



Place 3, Ballot Position 1 (1 candidate on the ballot)

Place 6, Ballot Position 1 (1 candidate on the ballot)

What one specific thing would you like to see accomplished during your term? What actions are needed to implement it? (600-character limit)



**Scott
Dunn**

I would like to see the area of old down town be redeveloped and revitalized. I think we have a good start with the bookends - the public safety campus at Main Street and Greenville Ave. and the new mix-use development at US 75/Central and Main Street.



**Steve
Mitchell**

Determine both the potential short and long term impacts of appraisal/revenue caps and a rollback rate reduction on our city budget and local control, if these bills are passed by our state house and senate, then signed by the governor. We need to have a 'plan of action' in the event that this occurs.

The City of Richardson has aging infrastructure and housing stock. What is your opinion of the city's current programs to address this issue? (600-character limit)

The city has several very good programs in place to address the aging infrastructure. The Home Improvement Incentive Program is one. It is a program for homeowners to reinvest in their homes. Many other municipalities are starting to emulate it. Other initiatives council has done is increased funding for streets, alleys and sidewalks. Over the last couple of years we have increased the amount of money to more than \$3 million just for street repairs. We have also increased the money to repair the drainage system, not pretty but necessary.

We have two levers that have been successfully used. Our voter approved general obligation bond packages have addressed much of our aging infrastructure, but future bond packages are needed to address remaining and future needs. Our Home Improvement Incentive Program has motivated homeowners and investors to reinvest millions of dollars in our aging housing stock. We need to always look for ways to foster neighborhood revitalization and redevelopment.

What, if anything, should be done by the Richardson City Council to accelerate the completion of the Cotton Belt Rail Line from Richardson to DFW Airport? (600-character limit)

I am very excited about this council's willingness and efforts to help DART moving the target completion of Cotton Belt back inline with its original completion date. I would like to make sure we continue to support DART's efforts in making the Cotton Belt line between Richardson and DFW a reality in 2023.

Originally, the rail line was on DART's 2030 plan. However, recently, the DART board voted to include the Cotton Belt in it's 20 year financial plan to complete in the next 6 years. We need to be vigilant in responding to any local, state, or federal efforts to derail or delay it. This line is a critical transportation component and economic engine to not only cities along it, but also for our region.

Has the city made sufficient investment in its parks and recreation facilities, given the ever-increasing density in population growth? Please explain. (600-character limit)

Since being elected to Council in 2011 we have added over 125 acres of dedicated park land. This increase plus the previous 840 acres provides Richardson almost 1000 acres of parks for the residents to enjoy. This does not include the miles of hiking and bike trails throughout the city. I will continue to work with developers to make sure we continue to increase parks in new developments.

We continue to enhance our park system with the Trident land purchase, along with the land purchase adjacent to the Spring Creek Nature Area. Within developments like CityLine, and neighborhoods like Heights, new parks have been developed. Our trail system continues to grow. We have rebuilt both Huffhines and Heights recreation centers, and built a new gymnastic center in the last decade. As our city densifies, we need to continue to find ways to preserve greenspace and provide amenities for our current residents, future residents, and employment base.

RICHARDSON ISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES – Contested Place 3
 For candidate responses to more questions, go to www.Vote411.org



Place 3, Ballot Position 1 (4 candidates on the ballot)

Place 3, Ballot Position 2 (4 candidates on the ballot)

Describe the training and experience that qualify you for this office. (450-character limit)



Joseph Armstrong
Lives in BHS area

I have a history of service, spending 10 years in a formal ministry setting, and currently filling in many community service roles. My current career makes me responsible for running a multi-million dollar company and looking after 50+ folks and their families. I am around education daily, as my wife is a math coach in her 7th year of employment with RISD; additionally, she is a third generation educator, including two superintendents.

No picture submitted

Ben Prado
Lives in RHS area

No response received prior to deadline.

What do you believe is the role of a school board member in ensuring RISD students receive appropriate special education services? (600-character limit)

The role of a school board member is to set vision and goals and measure the success of the superintendent's progress in meeting those goals. That being said, special education would be an area to do the same. The goals I would like to see aimed at and worked towards in this area would include, but not be limited to, appropriate staffing at the student interaction level, proper training on how to best serve the students that fit this criteria, and a good plan for communication for all parties involved in a special needs student's success (parents, teachers, and administrators)

No response.

Do you support using technology in classrooms as a platform to enhance education in RISD? Please elaborate. (600-character limit)

I do support technology in classrooms as a way to enhance education. I think the key is enhance. We must be careful in today's world to find balance; Balance between a lack of technology, which can lead to not taking advantage of the full repertoire of educational tools at our disposal, and over-reliance on technology, which can lead to many other issues, like further reduction in social interaction, hampering of critical thinking dialogue, and increased "screen-time" in a world that already has this as a major issue.

No response.

Should the RISD be doing more to retain good teachers? If so, what? If not, why not? (750-character limit)

Actually, I would contend that RISD should be doing LESS to retain teachers. Let me explain. As the spouse of an RISD educator, I hear about teacher retention a lot, from many teachers and administrators around the district. Although I think that competitive salary package are important and must be continually addressed in the budget, this is not the issue I hear about. Not once. It is the burden of teaching in RISD on a day in, day out basis. My action as a Board member to combat this would be to continue efforts that have been begun by the current administration to set clear visions and goals, many times with those goals requiring less quantity, and more quality.

No response.

RICHARDSON ISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES – Contested Place 3 - continued

For candidate responses to more questions, go to www.Vote411.org



Place 3, Ballot Position 3 (4 candidates on the ballot)

Place 3, Ballot Position 4 (4 candidates on the ballot)

Describe the training and experience that qualify you for this office. (450-character limit)



Karen Clardy
Lives in LHHS area

I have interacted directly with parents, students, teachers, administrators and paraprofessionals. In that capacity, I served as a liaison between the school administration and employees. I helped facilitate the implementation of three bond renovations at LHHS. I have a perspective on how policies, procedures and budgets actually play out in the school. I would come to the board as a seasoned advocate.



Eric Eager
Lives in RHS area

I understand the demands our students will face in the global job market. As a leader of a global software company, I understand what will be necessary for our kids to compete for the jobs of the future.

What do you believe is the role of a school board member in ensuring RISD students receive appropriate special education services? (600-character limit)

I have personally witnessed a serious need for additional campus special education teachers and qualified support staff. I think it is the board's responsibility to ensure that our special education classrooms have the teachers and staff, equipment and resources needed to care and teach these students. Our special needs students deserve nothing but the best that we can give them. It is imperative that we make sure that allocations are increased dramatically and quickly to help ease this long-standing problem.

I believe that the board should make sure that the district has proper resources to meet the needs of our special needs students. The Board should listen and get feedback from the parents of special needs students to insure that we are doing our best to provide a quality education to all students. RISD has over 4,300 students who receive special education services and we need to make sure that we have adequate teachers to meet the needs of the growing demand.

Do you support using technology in classrooms as a platform to enhance education in RISD? Please elaborate. (600-character limit)

The global movement towards technology makes it necessary for us to incorporate technology into the curriculum for our students so they are prepared for college and competitive in their chosen profession. Teachers should be actively involved in teaching our students how to use these tools to optimize student learning experiences at school and home. RISD has begun to address the needs of our 21st Century learners by planning a 1 to 1 Chromebook rollout to high school students next year. This is a good start to bring our district up to speed and competitive with the other districts.

Yes. I would be an advocate of integrating new innovative teaching technologies into the classroom. Traditional teaching methods struggle to engage students. We need to make education appealing, interactive, and more beneficial for the modern breed of tech-driven students.

While technology is exciting, we also need to make sure we make effective use of taxpayer dollars spent on technology. We need to make sure our teachers are properly supported and trained on how to effectively utilize these new technologies tools into their daily lesson plans.

Should the RISD be doing more to retain good teachers? If so, what? If not, why not? (750-character limit)

The most important resources we have in our schools are our teachers, staff and district. One of those problems we have is the loss of great teachers with experience and retaining new teachers who have promising careers in the teaching profession. RISD is competitive with new teacher salaries, however we do not adequately compensate experienced teachers. For example, an experienced AP teacher with 11 years of experience and a Master's Degree makes only \$4,000 more than a first-year teacher. administrators. Salary inequities, stipends and overall compensation packages need to be re-evaluated. A benefit of being on the school campus for so many years has enabled me to be a barometer for problems that are issues through the district.

Retaining quality teachers is important. I believe we need to continue making improvements to attract and keep the best teachers. We need to stay competitive in the market by providing our teachers with good compensation, the tools to do their jobs and a clear focused direction. We need strong leadership on all campuses, and we need to listen to teachers and administrators input and take the necessary actions so they can do the best job for our kids.

For many teachers to make more money, they have to get promoted to administrative positions within the district. We need to create an alternative incentive program to reward good teachers that allow them to progress in their careers and still stay in the classroom.

RICHARDSON ISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES – Contested Place 7
For candidate responses to more questions, go to www.Vote411.org



Place 7, Ballot Position 1 (2 candidates on the ballot)

Place 7, Ballot Position 2 (2 candidates on the ballot)

Describe the training and experience that qualify you for this office. (450-character limit)



Lynn Davenport
Lives in LHHS area

First and foremost, I'm a parent, so I have a vested interest in the education of the children of Richardson ISD. I've served on the PTA of every school my children have attended, and I've been an advocate for parents and public education at the state level, testifying before the State Senate and speaking with nearly every significant Texas legislator about bills like SB3. I'm ready to represent parents as a member of the RISD Board



Kristin Kuhne
Lives in PHS area

My Board experience for the last three years gives me perspective and vision to lead positive change in RISD. I fought to give students a jump-start on their future by expanding dual credit at all 4 high schools and launching a health science program. I've been an active parent volunteer for a decade, serving as a PTA President, band and football mom. My personal and professional experiences uniquely qualify me to lead RISD.

What do you believe is the role of a school board member in ensuring RISD students receive appropriate special education services? (600-character limit)

RISD enrollment has grown and so has the number of students receiving special education services. 11.03% of RISD students receive special education services. The job of public schools is to educate, regardless of ability. That means any student who enters our school must be provided with the best education possible, commensurate with their needs. The Board represents the parents of the district, and therefore has a responsibility to hold the Superintendent accountable to provide for the unique needs of each child entrusted to the public school system.

An effective trustee ensures student success, for special education and all students, by setting goals for student growth, providing appropriate resources and holding the superintendent responsible through management oversight. Based on Board requested audits of special education and dyslexia, additional resources have been deployed to increase staffing in those areas and expand teacher professional development. These changes have resulted in double digit gains in special education student growth. As our identified student population continues to increase, I remain focused on student success.

Do you support using technology in classrooms as a platform to enhance education in RISD? Please elaborate. (600-character limit)

Absolutely! Just as the question said, the role of technology is to enhance education, not replace it. Technology is not an end in itself, and must not be prioritized over learning. We sometimes forget that children have been educated for thousands of years without iPads or Chromebooks. We must empower our teachers to educate first, and use technology as needed or when it presents the opportunity to enhance learning.

The use of technology in classrooms holds real promise to enhance learning. Teachers are using Chromebooks to create amazing lessons that go above and beyond "sit and get" instruction. Today's students are "digital natives". Research shows they often learn best through the use of technology. I supported significant investments as part of Bond 2016 to expand instructional technology for teachers and students. RISD plans to roll out a device to every high school student next fall and many teachers already have new laptops. Computer literacy is not optional in today's workplace.

Should the RISD be doing more to retain good teachers? If so, what? If not, why not? (750-character limit)

My children have had some phenomenal teachers and I want to keep them. RISD has the highest teacher turnover in Dallas County—nearly 20% over the last few years. As long as that is true, we must be doing more. Our Superintendent has made an effort to curb attrition. However, our efforts must go deeper to change the culture of our schools for the better. We must first listen to the teachers, then work to provide an environment where they can flourish and use their gifts to educate. It doesn't happen overnight, but it's one of our district's most pressing needs.

Teacher turnover rates have been higher than average over the last several years. While on the Board, I've focused on keeping salaries competitive and launched an effective new teacher mentoring program. In 2015, the Board convened a Retention Task Force to gather teacher feedback and recommendations. I am pushing forward proposals creating career pathways with financial recognition for teacher leaders and providing stipends for teachers at high-need campuses. To be an employer of choice, we must explore new ways to provide meaningful professional development and analyze the impact of insurance contributions on teachers' take home pay. Teaching is a demanding job. I support strategies that incentivize our best teachers to stay.

**RICHARDSON ISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES –
Uncontested Place 6**

*For candidate responses to more questions,
go to www.Vote411.org*



Place 6, Ballot Position 1 (1 candidate on the ballot)

**Describe the training and experience that qualify you
for this office.** (450-character limit)



Justin Bono
Lives in
LHHS area

In my first term on the Board of Trustees, I have been part of several significant initiatives. The District passed the largest Bond election in history and have undertaken numerous construction projects to help provide space for a growing student population just to name a couple. I have had the opportunity to serve in significant Board subcommittee roles - Bond, Budget, and Legislative. All these experiences will be of benefit in a 2nd term.

**What do you believe is the role of a school board
member in ensuring RISD students receive
appropriate special education services?**
(600-character limit)

As a father of a student receiving special education services, this is a very personal topic for me. First I am proud that our district leads the area in the percentage of special education students served according to a recent DMN article (now over 11% of our population). A board should ensure we have the appropriate policies and resources in place to ensure that students get the services they need. We must also hold the Superintendent accountable for having the right leadership over this department. I am confident that Dr. Lawrence has the department headed in the right direction.

**Do you support using technology in classrooms as a
platform to enhance education in RISD? Please
elaborate.** (600-character limit)

Yes. Virtually every career now revolves around technology and requires an employee to be technologically literate as a base line. As a result, we need to make sure we prepare our students for the world they are going to find once they leave RISD. With this said, the district needs to ensure that technology in the classroom is used to appropriately augment traditional instruction. Because of Bond 2016, each of our students will now have access to technology when they need it. This is an exciting opportunity for our students and teachers, but must be rolled out appropriately.

**Should the RISD be doing more to retain good
teachers? If so, what? If not, why not?** (750-character
limit)

Yes. Retention of our teachers is one of the most important things that a board and administration should be focused on. The current board supported the creation of a Retention Task Force two years ago to keenly focus on this need. As a result of this work, turnover rates have been on the decline the past two years. However, we need to continue to focus on this issue ensuring that each campus has the best leadership possible and teachers are appropriately compensated for the important job they do. Teacher retention strategies should be its own pillar under a district wide strategic planning effort further discussed below.

**For more election information,
visit the following web sites:**

League of Women Voters of Richardson
www.lwvrichardson.org

League of Women Voters of Collin County
www.lwvcollin.org

Collin County Elections
www.co.collin.tx.us/elections

Dallas County Elections
www.dallascountyvotes.org



Follow the
League of Women Voters of Richardson
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Richardson Mayoral and City Council Candidate Forum

**Wednesday, April 19, 2017
7:00 pm**

**Richardson Civic Center
Grand Hall
411 W. Arapaho Road
Richardson, TX 75080**

Candidates are listed in ballot order.

Place 1 Bob Dubey*	Place 2 Mark J. Solomon*	Place 3 Scott Dunn*	Place 4 Cory Montfort Mabel Simpson
Place 5 Marta Gómez Frey Kashif Riaz	Place 6 Steve Mitchell*	Place 7, Mayor Jared Weadon Paul Voelker	

*Unopposed candidates will not participate in the question-and-answer part of the forum, but will be given the opportunity to make a closing statement.

Do you have a question you want the candidates to answer at the forum? Email it to voterservice@lwvrichardson.org. Questions that are emailed are given the same consideration as questions submitted at the forum. Questions will be screened according to League of Women Voters of Texas Guide to Candidates Forums

Visit www.lwvrichardson.org for election information.
Follow the League on Twitter @LWVRichardson

Funded by the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund through donations from Richardson area residents and businesses.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF RICHARDSON

RICHARDSON ISD COUNCIL
PTA
everychild.ourvoice.™

Richardson ISD Board of Trustees Candidate Forum

**Wednesday, April 12, 2017
7:00 pm**

**Richardson ISD Administration Building
Auditorium
400 S. Greenville Avenue
Richardson, TX 75081**

Candidates are listed in ballot order.

Place 3 Joseph Armstrong Ben Prado Karen Clardy Eric Eager	Place 6 Justin Bono*	Place 7 Lynn Davenport Kristin Kuhne
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* Unopposed candidates will not participate in the question-and-answer part of the forum, but will be given the opportunity to make a closing statement.

Do you have a question you want the candidates to answer at the forum? Email it to voterservice@lwvrichardson.org. Questions that are emailed are given the same consideration as questions submitted at the forum. Questions will be screened according to League of Women Voters of Texas Guide to Candidates Forums.

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Follow the League on Twitter @LWVRichardson

Funded by the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund through donations from area residents and businesses.

Required Identification for Voting in Person

Here is a list of the acceptable forms of voter ID:

- Texas driver license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Texas [Election Identification Certificate](#) issued by DPS
- Texas personal identification card issued by DPS
- Texas handgun license issued by DPS
- United States military identification card containing the person's photograph
- United States citizenship certificate containing the person's photograph or
- Passport

With the exception of the U.S. citizenship certificate, the identification must be current or have expired no more than 4 years before being presented for voter qualification at the polling place.

Here is a list of the supporting forms of ID that can be presented if the voter cannot obtain, and has a reasonable impediment or difficulty to obtaining one of the forms of acceptable photo ID:

- Valid voter registration certificate
- Certified birth certificate (must be an original)
- Copy of or original current utility bill
- Copy of or original bank statement
- Copy of or original government check
- Copy of or original paycheck
- Copy of or original government document with your name and an address (original required if it contains a photograph)

After presenting a supporting form of ID, the voter must execute a Reasonable Impediment Declaration.