


VOTERS GUIDE

May 4, 2019 Election
 City of Richardson Mayor and City Council



300 North Coit Road, Suite 125 • Richardson TX 75080

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

 Follow the League of Women Voters of Richardson on Twitter @LWVRichardson

This *Voters Guide* is a community service to voters of the City of Richardson. 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 (...).

This guide is published by the League of Women Voters of Richardson and funded by the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund (Richardson Account) through donations from area residents and businesses. The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and works to increase understanding of major public policy issues.


In this *VOTERS GUIDE*:

Election Information.....	Page 2
Places 1-7 Richardson City Council and Mayoral candidates' responses to questions	Pages 3-9
DCCCD bond election Pro-con.....	Page 10
Photo ID requirements.....	Page 10

ELECTION INFORMATION

Important Election Dates			
LWV-R Candidate Forum	April 17	Last day of Early Voting	April 30
First day of Early Voting	April 22	Election Day	May 4 (Saturday)
Last day to apply for ballot by mail	April 23	Runoff Election, if necessary	June 8 (Saturday)

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 22 – April 27 (<i>Monday through Saturday</i>)	8:00am - 5:00pm
	April 28 (<i>Sunday</i>)	1:00pm - 6:00pm
	April 29 – 30 (<i>Monday and Tuesday</i>)	7:00am - 7:00pm

Early Voting in Collin County: Richardson residents who live in Collin County and wish to vote early may vote for all races on their ballot at the Richardson Civic Center. Alternatively, they may 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. 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 22 – April 24 (<i>Monday through Wednesday</i>)	8:00am - 5:00pm
	April 25 (<i>Thursday</i>)	8:00am – 7:00pm
	April 26 – April 27 (<i>Friday and Saturday</i>)	8:00am – 5:00pm
	April 29 – 30 (<i>Monday and Tuesday</i>)	7:00am - 7:00pm

Election Day: Polls are open Saturday, May 4, 2019, 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 Dallas County and vote on Election Day must go to their local precinct polling place.

Richardson residents who live in Collin County and vote on Election Day may vote for both the Richardson Mayoral and City Council election and in the Collin County races at any Collin County Vote Center in the City of Richardson. There will be a different ballot for the City of Richardson election and for the Collin County elections, but both ballots will be available at those locations.

What's on my ballot?

Richardson residents who live in **Dallas County** will vote for:

- **Richardson Mayor and City Council (all 7 places)**
- **Dallas County Community College Bond.**

(The election for the Richardson ISD Board of Trustees Places 3, 4, and 5 has been moved to November this year following the settlement of a lawsuit.)

Richardson residents who live in **Collin County** will vote for:

- **Richardson Mayor and City Council (all 7 places)**
- **Collin County Community College District Board of Trustees Places 2, 4, 5 and 6**
- **Plano ISD Board of Trustees Places 4, 5, 6, and 7.**

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.dallascountyvotest.org	Collin County Elections Department 972-424-1460, extension 1990 (Metro) www.collincountytx.gov/elections
--	--

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 (candidates for these Places must live in the geographical quadrant for which they are running), 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 city personnel, directing and coordinating all municipal programs, enforcing all municipal laws and ordinances, and recommending an annual budget.

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*
- Election information
- Links to LWV's VOTE411 and other information sources



Follow the League of Women Voters of Richardson on Twitter @LWVRichardson

To view VOTERS GUIDES for all races on your ballot, go to:

www.VOTE411.org

Funded by the



RICHARDSON CITY COUNCIL – Contested Place 1
 For candidate responses to more questions, go to www.Vote411.org



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

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

Why do you want to be a member of the City Council and what are your qualifications? (600-character limit)



Bob Dubey

I love this city. My children and their children all live in Richardson. Five generations of family living in Richardson for over 50 years shows I have a vested interest in our city. I want the future to be better than the past and I believe as the incumbent I have proven that I can make meaningful and educated decisions that are best for the entire city. I am qualified because I have served a term on the council, Chaired the Charter Review Commission, Chaired the Parks Board, graduated Leadership Richardson class 24, and understand the use of public dollars after working 40 years for RISD.



Jason Clarke

The vision of city leaders greatly shapes both the economic prosperity of a city and the overall quality of life for its residents. My desire to join City Council was stirred because I have strong vision for the people and City of Richardson. Having been the founder and executive director for a non-profit organization for the last decade I understand how leadership and vision can shape outcomes. I want to help lead Richardson into the future while also working to ensure our City is afforded the opportunity to make the choices we see necessary today.

How would you balance meeting the needs of an aging population with encouraging young people to move to Richardson? (600-character limit)

Close to 34% of our citizens are 65 or older. The council has just recently raised the homestead exemption to \$100k from \$85k for seniors. This is one of the reasons we have been named the 6th best city in the nation to retire to. Young people are excited about Richardson and what we have to offer. The council is looking at ways to rezone and repurpose the "Innovation District" This 1200 plus acres has the potential to attract startup businesses and build mixed use family style living. I believe in the next four years we will be a true destination place for all ages.

I believe Richardson has the ability to do both. The needs of the young and old are not mutually exclusive. In other words, meeting the needs of our parents and grandparents is in no way a hindrance to developing our city in such a way that is welcoming and attractive to young families. In fact, we will have a more healthy, attractive and economically sustainable city when both young and old are able – and desire – to call Richardson home.

Of the ten Strategies the current City Council lists in its 2017 – 2019 Statement of Goals (<https://www.cor.net/government/city-council/council-goals>), which would be your top three priorities? Why? (600-character limit)

Being on the council, I helped draft these 10 strategies. I believe together they capture the culture and vision we have for the city. I think they all complement each other and give us a total package. If I was forced to pick only 3, I would pick #1, #3, and #7 because they are people driven. It is important that city goals strive for what is best for all citizens.

The strategies currently listed reflect Richardson as it currently is. I would continue a level of these strategies but only after first developing a vision for Richardson that looks to community inclusion, innovation, prioritizing locally owned business, public space development, and government transparency. Of the 10, these three areas will offer the most innovation and impact for Richardson: 1. Increase the sense of community and citizen engagement; 2. Attract and retain targeted businesses; and 3. Leverage our leadership position to positively impact County, State, and Federal issues.

Richardson provides financial incentives for some businesses to relocate here. Should these incentives continue, and if so, what types of businesses would you favor? (600-character limit)

I am in favor of incentives that do not cost the city or tax payers money up front. Incentives that allow a company to become financially stable before they have to pay 100% of their taxes is a win-win. The city often receives free updated infrastructure and taxes that they would never have received. Once the agreement matures the company pays full taxes. I am open to many types of businesses. The more diverse economy we have, the stronger we are economically. We learned with the telecom crash that diversity within our city is critical for sustained strength in our economy.

Yes I believe these incentives should continue. I would favor locally owned and operated businesses. I would also like to see a larger vision and plan (inclusive of incentives) for developing creative and tech related innovative industries in Richardson.

RICHARDSON CITY COUNCIL – Contested Place 3
 For candidate responses to more questions, go to www.Vote411.org



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

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

Why do you want to be a member of the City Council and what are your qualifications? (600-character limit)



Franklin Byrd

I love Richardson, I have a valuable skill set that can help the City Council and I have the required time and energy to commit to such a significant responsibility. I'm a 40-year Richardson resident and volunteer in our community where I currently serve as the President of my neighborhood association and Board Member at the Richardson YMCA. I'm a highly analytical financial officer with a CPA (Certified Public Accountant) and I'm the only candidate running for City Council with significant financial experience.



Dan Barrios

I'm running because I love Richardson. I know that as great as we are, we could do better, and it's time for fresh voices. Richardson residents have historically had few choices during local elections, often chosen from a small group of elites. It's time we had leaders who reflect our city, someone that reflects you and helps bring a voice to all corners of the city. I believe that my professional career in business development and my record of integral community service has prepared me to jump right in and find the best path forward for Richardson.

How would you balance meeting the needs of an aging population with encouraging young people to move to Richardson? (600-character limit)

A commitment to enhancing our parks, trails and recreation facilities will provide our aging population a place to be active and healthy while providing our young families a place to spend quality time with their children. A dedication to becoming a mobile city, through projects such as the new Cotton Belt Project, will provide people of all ages, with access to restaurants, entertainment and recreation not only in Richardson but throughout the greater metroplex. Mobility is critical to meeting the needs of the elderly and attracting younger people.

Our senior and disabled population often feel an increasing tax bill the most and face the risk of being taxed out. We need to continue to reevaluate our approach to tax relief for this growing population. To attract younger families, we need to consider walkability and bikeability in new developments. Secondly, we need to invest in our neighborhoods and make housing costs reasonable. Currently, the city incentivizes those who can afford \$20,000 in home upgrades. I would add a second category with a lower minimum threshold to encourage investment in a wider range of neighborhoods.

Of the ten Strategies the current City Council lists in its 2017 – 2019 Statement of Goals (<https://www.cor.net/government/city-council/council-goals>), which would be your top three priorities? Why? (600-character limit)

1. Attracting and retaining targeted businesses provides important economic benefits to our city such as: higher tax revenues, new job opportunities and increased sales tax revenues in restaurants and hotels. 2. Enhancing the quality of life of our stakeholders by increasing mobility, enhancing our parks and trails system and growing our entertainment options are highly desirable by our stakeholders. 3. Maintaining an effective and efficient management of City finances is smart fiscal policy. It helps us keep our AAA Bond rating which in turn allows us access to lower financing costs.

First, we need a strong economy. I'll work to continue attracting companies to Telecom Corridor, but also maximize our small businesses. I'll work with the surrounding community to fill the empty buildings around Main Street, Spring Valley, 190, and Richardson Square with businesses they want and need. Secondly, we must improve the quality of life for our stakeholders. That means everything from spending your dollars wisely and fixing potholes to improving walkability across Richardson. Lastly, I believe it's time for a city council that prioritizes listening to your ideas and your concerns.

Richardson provides financial incentives for some businesses to relocate here. Should these incentives continue, and if so, what types of businesses would you favor? (600-character limit)

I support the use of economic development agreements, such as tax abatements, general economic development agreements and tax increment finance districts, to attract good quality businesses who bring new jobs to our community and increase the property tax base. Attracting new businesses using financial incentives provides important economic benefits to our residents. New businesses increase the City's property tax base which will reduce the portion of City property taxes that come from our residents. Currently, local businesses account for almost 60% of the City's property tax revenues.

Cities commonly use tax incentives as a tool to attract new businesses, and I completely support their strategic use. Like anything, it's about balance. We must use these tax incentives strategically and intelligently to bolster our economic growth. While it's important we attract larger companies, and we also need to ensure they're hiring locally. I will also evaluate what we are doing to attract small businesses. Currently, some residents have opened shop in other cities because Richardson wasn't financially sensible. I will champion bringing those investment dollars back home to Richardson.

RICHARDSON CITY COUNCIL – Contested Places 3 and 4
 For candidate responses to more questions, go to www.Vote411.org



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

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

Why do you want to be a member of the City Council and what are your qualifications? (600-character limit)



Janet DePuy

I'm running for City Council because keeping an older suburb like ours vibrant and desirable takes vigilance. I have a long history of civic involvement. I'm a founding member of the Heights Park Neighborhood Association, serving for 10 years as President. I served on the City Plan Commission for over 10 years, ending my service as the Vice Chair. I'm a graduate of Leadership Richardson. I was named a Real Hero in 2018 in recognition of my community volunteerism. I serve on the board of the Arts Incubator of Richardson (A.I.R.), and I'm currently participating in the Citizens Police Academy.



Raymond DeGuzman, Sr.

I want to be a member of the city council because I want to be the voice of the citizens of Richardson. I believe Richardson is a great place to work, live, and play. I have been involved with the community for over 10 years when I started my own pet care business. I started volunteering for Richardson Animaluv, a non-profit organization that helps raise funds for the Richardson Animal Shelter. My volunteerism for this organization led to my leadership position as the Vice President. Through my involvement with the community, it led to my interest in wanting to run for city council.

How would you balance meeting the needs of an aging population with encouraging young people to move to Richardson? (600-character limit)

In my work as a Realtor, I've found that young and old often like many of the same activities, neighborhoods, dining experiences. I live in an older neighborhood with many long-time owners but have sold homes to many young professionals and families who choose to live in these older areas. The balance of young and old is embraced and makes for a dynamic environment. Our corporate partners bring younger workers who need housing; but our city has housing for older, retired people as well. I would encourage developers to bring more creative housing to Richardson to accommodate both groups.

I feel as though Richardson already has the amenities for the younger generation. We have parks and businesses that draw both the younger and the aging populations. With the festivals (Wildflower and Cottonwood) from the local community events sponsored through various organizations, Richardson meets the needs of all citizens. In meeting the financial burdens of Richardson's seniors, the council voted to increase \$15,000 to seniors' tax property exemption. Also, the city is making improvements to remodel the senior center.

Of the ten Strategies the current City Council lists in its 2017 – 2019 Statement of Goals (<https://www.cor.net/government/city-council/council-goals>), which would be your top three priorities? Why? (600-character limit)

(5) City finances are always a concern and with possible State mandates dictating tax caps, etc., our budget may require adjustments. Maintaining transparency here is critical. (9) Underperforming retail centers/vacant office space are a concern. Providing assistance/coaching to owners, developers or small businesses could be the enhancement these centers need to become catalysts for more opportunities. (10) Continuing involvement with regional entities is of importance whether on boards and committees or with partner counties, as well as working with State legislators to stress local control.

1) Increase the sense of community and citizen engagement
 2) Attract and retain targeted businesses; increase the number, quality and variety of job opportunities throughout the City
 3) Effective and efficient management of City finances
 It is my belief that when citizens are actively involved, it helps form a sense of pride for their city. I want to encourage everyone to find out what you're passionate about and volunteer your time in serving for the city of Richardson. All it takes is a community that is willing to share of their time and talents, just think what we could accomplish.

Richardson provides financial incentives for some businesses to relocate here. Should these incentives continue, and if so, what types of businesses would you favor? (600-character limit)

Yes, absolutely. They're designed to promote redevelopment, encourage economic growth, generate sales tax and enhance the surrounding area. These incentives have helped bring us several large corporations. The City also provides other incentives specific to housing stock (HIIP), tax abatements through the appraisal districts, and other general economic development incentives. I would want to continue these incentives wherever possible with both large and small businesses. We need both types of businesses to sustain a balanced economy.

I believe that one of the reasons that Richardson has been so successful is because of the business deals they have made. Every business decision has been carefully thought out by the members of the council as well as the mayor. I believe when it comes to big businesses, we have to think of the quality and quantity of the jobs it will provide for the city. If it makes a positive economical effect then incentives should be made. One of the most successful business deals that was made was State Farm/City Line. This was a great deal and the city has positively impacted from it.

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



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

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

Why do you want to be a member of the City Council and what are your qualifications? (600-character limit)



Johnny Lanzillo

I've always felt a call to serve my community. It is why I ran for judge. I want to make a difference in people's lives. Being on City Council gives me the opportunity to serve the community where I am raising my family. As far as qualifications, I am a licensed attorney, and I am the managing partner of my law firm. Previously, I was a candidate for judge in Dallas County, where I was considered to be a qualified judicial candidate by the Committee for a Qualified Judiciary. I have been a resident of Richardson since 2011, and other members of my family have been residents since the 1950s.



Kyle Kepner

I grew up in Richardson, started a family here, and own a business here. I have volunteered with various Richardson community programs from childhood to now, and most recently was the foreman of the 2018 Collin County Grand Jury with is a 6-month commitment for those who serve. In my experience most people see jury duty as a burden, however I have always looked at it as an essential part of being an American. Upon selection, I was honored to be chosen as foreman. As foreman I oversaw over 1500 felony cases. This position filled me with more desire to serve my fellow citizens.

How would you balance meeting the needs of an aging population with encouraging young people to move to Richardson? (600-character limit)

Governments can't stop populations from aging nor can they ignore the future economic impact of changing demographics. With the right information, however, they can increase the benefits and offset the risks. What I would do is listen to the needs of both demographics and try and work to achieve a balance in both their needs. Whether it be cost of living and affordable housing, or availability of jobs, or the types of businesses or restaurants we try to bring in. Listening to needs and learning is the best way to try and create a balance.

I think we are doing a good job already with balancing demographics. Richardson tends to draw in a lot of companies in the technology field which is dominated by a younger generation. Continuing this trend will ensure that we always have young singles and families moving to our great city. Also our close relationship with UTD also helps us encourage young people to live, work and play here.

Of the ten Strategies the current City Council lists in its 2017 – 2019 Statement of Goals (<https://www.cor.net/government/city-council/council-goals>), which would be your top three priorities? Why? (600-character limit)

1) Enhance the quality of life: If you are making the lives of the people who vote you into office better, then you aren't doing your job. 2) Increase the sense of community: There are many things a city can do that builds a stronger community. One idea I have would be more education in an attempt to increase our recycling programs. 3) Attract and retain targeted businesses; increase the number, quality and variety of job opportunities throughout the City: I want to work on not only attracting business, but helping homegrown and local businesses succeed.

Enhancing the quality of life. I'll make sure future developments adhere to the wishes of the surrounding neighbors and are not varianced to the point that they look nothing like the original plan. Attracting/retaining business. As a Richardson small business owner I want to foster more small and medium sized businesses in our city, by being the contact person for people looking to start or grow a business. Increase citizen involvement. That starts with the people of Richardson knowing that their voices are heard. I will listen and hear all input from my constiuents.

Richardson provides financial incentives for some businesses to relocate here. Should these incentives continue, and if so, what types of businesses would you favor? (600-character limit)

Yes, I think they should continue to use these incentives. These corporations are the majority of our city's tax base, alleviating the tax burden on homeowners. I would want to attract businesses who want to immerse themselves in the community. I want businesses who don't discriminate, and bring a healthy supply of quality jobs, and that take care of their workers.

We have to compete with the surrounding cities to entice businesses to operate here. The math just needs to work. I would want to make sure that the businesses that we incentivize are good stewards and that they employee enough workers that will either live, work, or play in Richardson to make sense.

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)

Why do you want to be a member of the City Council and what are your qualifications? (600-character limit)



Mauri Long

I have lived in Richardson for 17 years with my 4 wonderful children. My dedication to our city and its citizens drives my desire to create a positive environment for all--especially those that have previously not had a voice on the council. I have been a small business owner, and a civic lobbyist in Washington, Austin and DFW for the Brady Campaign. As a crime watch chairperson, I worked closely with the Dallas Police Dept. to garner grant funds to start the first child molestation unit in the country. I am an independent voice for our community.



Ken Hutchenrider

I have a strong sense of pride for Richardson and want to ensure that our legacy of a great city continues. Richardson has a strong legacy of economic development and continued work on infrastructure, and I am a strong proponent of these features of our city and want them to continue. I believe we have one of the finest cities in the DFW area and feel if we do not continue to work collaboratively within our city then we will introduce the strife seen in other cities who are failing. Additionally, I believe we need to focus on diversity, collaboration and transparency in all aspects of our City

How would you balance meeting the needs of an aging population with encouraging young people to move to Richardson? (600-character limit)

Millennials prefer suburbs long-term as their ideal place to live and a key indicator of success. Home ownership is stronger for Millennials than in previous generations. Citizens over 60 are leaning towards non-metropolitan areas. The demographic picture is complex, but I feel the best way for Richardson to lure or keep people, and companies, is to encourage builders and developers to create housing lifestyle options. Retirement villages, co-housing, cottages and maintaining a reasonable housing market will benefit our aging population and new residents.

I believe we have a very good start in meeting both groups needs. Our Senior Center Facility should continue to be a focus for our community. Attention to housing needs for both our senior citizens as well as entertainment areas for our youth should be encouraged and balanced to ensure a good mix. Continued focus on public transportation will help all in managing movement throughout our City. I believe a solid review of our City's budget would be a great start to ensure both groups are represented in the funding of focus to both groups.

Of the ten Strategies the current City Council lists in its 2017 – 2019 Statement of Goals (<https://www.cor.net/government/city-council/council-goals>), which would be your top three priorities? Why? (600-character limit)

1. Increase the sense of community and citizen engagement: The strategy for the city seems to be focused on cultivating philanthropy and sponsorship, but I believe more focus needs to be in bringing all the different communities together. 2. Enhance the quality of life for our stakeholders: If stakeholders applies to citizens in Richardson, then I completely support this strategy. 3. Attract and retain targeted businesses, increase the number, quality and variety of job opportunities throughout the City: I support economic development; yet small business growth requires more focus.

1) Enhance the quality of life for our stakeholders- I believe we need to continue to invest significant parts of our resources to infrastructure improvement and to enhance areas of recreation for our community. 2) Increase the sense of community and citizen engagement.- A transparent and culturally diverse community will allow strong engagement by our community. 3) Attract and retain targeted businesses, increase the number, quality and variety of job opportunities throughout the City- A strong economic base in our City will decrease the tax burden on individuals while creating new jobs

Richardson provides financial incentives for some businesses to relocate here. Should these incentives continue, and if so, what types of businesses would you favor? (600-character limit)

Given that we have become a hub for many headquarters, we need to be more selective on how we use the incentives. I believe that Richardson has empty space that could be a haven for small business owners. I'll immediately take inventory of what we have and what we need across the city. From there, I'll create a small business coalition with the city, business leaders, property owners, and potential business owners to create an environment for small businesses to prosper all over Richardson.

I would utilize all opportunities to use all economic incentives and tax grants to continue the strong economic base we have in our community to attract future companies. I believe this is the lifeblood of a strong city, and these efforts need to continue. Additionally, I believe we need to work from a regional perspective to ensure we maximize our ability to attract economic-development opportunities.

RICHARDSON CITY COUNCIL – Uncontested Places 2 & 6
 For candidate responses to more questions, go to www.Vote411.org



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

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

Why do you want to be a member of the City Council and what are your qualifications? (600-character limit)



I am currently serving my 5th term and will conclude my service with this term having served my 6 terms as allowed by city Charter.

Mark Solomon



Having lived in this city for 38 years and been civically involved for the last 27 years, I have the vision, ability, and experience to lead our city as it continues to transition our from suburban to suburban-urban and to ensure that it continues to appeal to corporate citizens, young professionals, families, and seniors.

Steve Mitchell

How would you balance meeting the needs of an aging population with encouraging young people to move to Richardson? (600-character limit)

The City continues to work with all age groups within the City to address their needs. We are currently reviewing plans for the re-model of the Senior Center that was approved by the voters in the 2015 Bond., We have recently upgraded all the recreation centers making them some of the most used facilities in the city by all ages. We have added to our park acreage and continue to improve the existing parks with new equipment that young families enjoy. All ages are now able to use the many miles of trails and avail themselves of the many new dining throughout the city.

We need housing stock and amenities which appeal to both demographic. Older residents need housing options that enable downsizing; younger (future) residents need housing options that align with lifestyles and career, i.e. work here, start by living in an apartment, they purchase their first home, then purchase their second home. Both of these groups value amenities like rail, trails, parks, recreation centers, dog parks, open spaces, shopping, and dining.

Of the ten Strategies the current City Council lists in its 2017 – 2019 Statement of Goals (<https://www.cor.net/government/city-council/council-goals>), which would be your top three priorities? Why? (600-character limit)

Effective and efficient management of city finances- the MAIN function of the Council to make sure we are managing the assets of the City in the proper manner; 2) Protect and strengthen stakeholder investments in the City. Our duty is make sure our stakeholders, - residential residents, corporate residents and bond holders have their investment in the city increase in value each year. No one wants the value of their home, business or portfolio to decrease in value; 3) Increase the sense of community and citizen engagement we must continue to make sure all citizens are proud to call this HOME

- Enhance the quality of life of our stakeholders - quality of life is a key factor to retaining and attracting new residents and businesses.
- Effective and efficient management of City finances - as stewards, we must continue to account for - and get the most out of - every dollar spent, be transparent, and maintain our AAA bond rating.
- Attract and retain targeted businesses; increase the number, quality and variety of job opportunities throughout the City - if jobs move elsewhere, then so will the employees. Our business portfolio must be diverse enough to weather economic downturns.

Richardson provides financial incentives for some businesses to relocate here. Should these incentives continue, and if so, what types of businesses would you favor? (600-character limit)

Since the telecom turn down in the 2002 the City has made a decision to try an avoid a repeat of that event by working to diversify our employment base. We are by size not suited for all types of business but we are well suited for many. We now have a large presence of insurance companies, electronic, telecommunications and a variety of high technology companies that are now thriving in Richardson. Some of those have benefited from some highly selective and targeted incentives that have are provided by the City and I am strongly support our continued use of this program

Competition to maintain and attract businesses is intense within our region, so economic incentives are necessary. Reimbursement tools like [Chapter] 380 agreements, TIF zone funding, and the eight-tenths of a cent dedicated to economic development can be effective provided that they are based on defined outcomes, completed work, and a net positive financial impact for the city; no upfront dollars should be utilized.

**RICHARDSON CITY COUNCIL –
Uncontested Place 7, Mayor**



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

Why do you want to be a member of the City Council and what are your qualifications? (600-character limit)



**Paul
Voelker**

I have chosen to run for reelection as Mayor to continue the work that I believe is important to the ongoing success of the City of Richardson. Stability and continuity in government is important and with several Councilmembers stepping down it is important to provide leadership as we move ahead with new members and the remaining incumbents. Having been elected twice to Place 5 and once to Place 7, Mayor of Richardson, I believe my public service record has qualified me to continue in this role.

How would you balance meeting the needs of an aging population with encouraging young people to move to Richardson? (600-character limit)

We do strive to balance the needs of all residents in the city. One way is to offer the broadest range of housing options to meet every need. Our goal is to make sure throughout your lifetime there are options that meet your need no matter your age. We have been named one of the best places in the U.S. to live during your retirement. One of the encouraging aspects of young professionals is that the housing in Richardson appeals to them because of the size of lots and houses, tree lined streets, walkability and proximity to the neighborhood parks.

Of the ten Strategies the current City Council lists in its 2017 – 2019 Statement of Goals (<https://www.cor.net/government/city-council/council-goals>), which would be your top three priorities? Why? (600-character limit)

It is important to understand that as these Goals and Strategies were put together and adopted by council and there was no rank order as this would signal to staff and citizens that they are all important. As such, I will leave this as the best way to keep this process working.

Richardson provides financial incentives for some businesses to relocate here. Should these incentives continue, and if so, what types of businesses would you favor? (600-character limit)

Attracting new and vibrant business that offer a strong tax base, high paying jobs and contribute to the community in a variety of ways is becoming more and more the job of municipal government. As State and other government bodies back away from this role, it is more important than ever for us to have as many tools at our disposal to accomplish this mission. Economic incentives are intended to be catalytic in nature. We strive to bring a diverse number of employers to our city, employers that can leverage our High-Tech workforce and advanced infrastructure.

**Richardson
Mayoral and City Council
Candidate Forum**

Wednesday, April 17, 2019
7:00 pm
Richardson Civic Center
Grand Hall
411 W. Arapaho Road
Richardson, TX 75080

**For more election information,
visit the following websites:**

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
on Twitter @LWVRichardson



League of Women Voters of Richardson

ELECTION PROTECTION HOTLINES

English	866-OUR-VOTE	or 866-687-8683
Spanish/English	888-VE-Y-VOTA	or 888-839-8682
Asian Lang/English	888-API-VOTE	or 888-274-8683
Arabic/English	844-YALLA-US	or 844-925-5287



Dallas County Community College District Special Bond Election (Pro-con analysis provided by the League of Women Voters of Dallas)



Dallas County Community College District Proposition A

Shall the Board of Trustees of Dallas County Community College District (the "District"), be authorized to issue and sell the bonds and notes of the District as authorized by law at the time of issuance thereof, in the aggregate principal amount of \$1,102,000,000, for the purpose of constructing, improving, renovating and equipping school buildings of the District and acquiring real property therefor; with said bonds or notes to be issued in one or more series or issues, to mature serially or otherwise not to exceed 40 years from their date and bear interest at such rate or rates, not to exceed the respective limits prescribed by law at the time of issuance, and to be sold at such price or prices, as the Board of Trustees in its discretion shall determine; and shall there be levied and pledged, assessed and collected annually Ad Valorem taxes on all taxable property in the District in an amount sufficient, within the limits prescribed by law, to pay the annual interest on said bonds and notes and the costs of any credit agreements executed or authorized in anticipation of, in relation to, or in connection with said bonds and notes; with said bonds and notes to be issued and said taxes to be levied, pledged, assessed, and collected under the Constitution and laws of the state of Texas, including the Texas Education Code.

Arguments for the Proposition:

1. Expands the resources of the Dallas County Community colleges to meet the growing student population.
2. Maintains the current property tax rate; no increase in property taxes under current conditions.
3. Increases the instructional innovation to enhance student learning with new instructional tools, technology and modern student learning space.
4. Provides a center for industry aligned education and training programs to enable students to meet the changing needs of the workforce in North Texas.

Arguments against the Proposition:

1. There is no increase in the current tax rate only if current conditions remain the same. If the cost of borrowing under the bond issue increases, either the tax rate might need to increase or the scope of the proposed bond package might need to be curtailed.
2. If the bond issue does not pass, to maintain operations, the District could meet increasing needs by increasing tuition and/or raising taxes without incurring debt
3. The District has been performing well and should continue to do so without the additional debt. There's no pressing need to incur debt to maintain operations.
4. Many feel property taxes are too high. If this item does not pass, the District could potentially reduce its tax rate giving relief to homeowners.

Photo ID must be presented when voting in person

Voters may use one of seven (7) forms of photo ID, listed below. Note: IDs may be expired up to four years. Persons 70 years of age or older may use an expired ID. ID address does not have to match the voter registration address.

- Texas Driver license
- Texas Election Identification Certificate (EIC)
- Texas Personal Identification Card issued by DPS
- Texas license to carry a handgun issued by DPS
- US military identification card containing the person's photograph
- US citizenship certificate containing the person's photograph
- US passport (book or card)

Registered voters without photo ID, who cannot reasonably obtain one, may sign a [form](#) and present the original or a copy of one of the following documents with the voter's name and address to vote a regular ballot:

- Voter registration card
- Certified birth certificate
- Current utility bill
- Bank statement
- Government check
- Paycheck
- Any other government document such as an out of state driver's license or expired Texas driver's license.

The [form](#) is called a "*Voter's Declaration of Reasonable Impediment or Difficulty*." The voter must mark one of the following reasons for not presenting a photo ID:

- Lack of transportation
- Disability or illness
- Lack of birth certificate or other documents needed to obtain an acceptable form of photo ID
- Work schedule
- Family responsibilities
- Lost or stolen identification
- Acceptable form of photo ID applied for but not received

The name on the photo ID should match the voter registration card or be "substantially similar." If the names don't match exactly but are substantially similar, the voter will initial a box for similar name when signing in to vote.

Election officials cannot question a voter about the use of an ID type. Poll watchers may never question a voter about Voter ID issues. Voters who present one of the alternate documents and sign the declaration form "shall be permitted to vote a regular ballot."

Declaration forms must be translated into Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese for use in those counties required to provide voting materials in those languages. A signed declaration form can be rejected "only upon conclusive evidence that the person completing the declaration is not the person in whose name the ballot will be cast."