

# VOTERS GUIDE



November 5, 2019 Election

Richardson ISD Board of Trustees Districts 2, 4, & 5

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF RICHARDSON

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972-470-0584 • Website [www.lwvrichardson.org](http://www.lwvrichardson.org), online *VOTERS GUIDE* with more questions: [www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org)



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This *Voters Guide* is a community service to voters of the City of Richardson and the Richardson ISD. Candidate responses published in this guide were typed into [www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org) by the candidates. Responses are printed exactly as received and must meet character limits. Excess characters in a candidate's response have been replaced with an ellipsis (...). Four of the 18 questions from the online *Voters Guide* are reproduced in this printed guide.

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 is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public. Our mission is *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*

### In this *VOTERS GUIDE*:

What's on the ballot? .....	Page 1
RISD District 2 Board of Trustees Information .....	Pages 2-3
RISD District 4 Board of Trustees Information .....	Pages 4-6
RISD District 5 Board of Trustees Information .....	Page 7
Election Information .....	Page 8

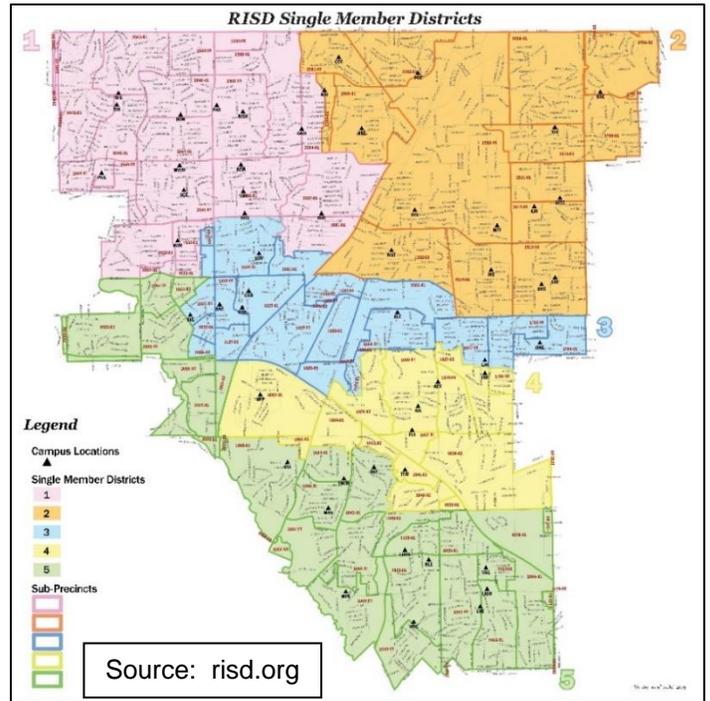
## What's on the ballot?

**All voters in the state** will vote on ten proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution this November. The ballot wording, as well as an explanation and pros/cons for each proposition can be found at <https://my.lwv.org/texas/voting-elections> and at [www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org).

**Voters who live in the Richardson ISD (RISD)** will vote in an election for RISD Board of Trustees **ONLY IF** they live in District 2, 4, or 5.

On May 20, 2019, the RISD Board of Trustees voted to transition to a new system: dividing the RISD into 5 single-member districts and keeping 2 at-large districts. Having single-member districts means that only voters who live in that district may vote for the trustee who will represent them. Only 3 of the 7 districts are on the ballot this November, and they are all single-member districts.

Districts 2 and 4 are contested. District 5 is not. The League of Women Voters of Richardson will have a forum for the District 2 candidates on Thursday, October 17, 2019, and a forum for the District 4 candidates on Wednesday, October 16, 2019. See pages 2-7 for information on the candidates and the forums.



**RICHARDSON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT– Contested District 2**  
*For candidate responses to more questions, go to [www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org)*

<b>District 2, Ballot Position 1</b> <i>(2 candidates on the ballot)</i>	<b>District 2, Ballot Position 2</b> <i>(2 candidates on the ballot)</i>
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**What strengths do you bring to board service?** *(500 character limit)*

 <p><b>Eron Linn</b></p> <p>I have used my business experience to create fiscally sound budgets that reflect our values in RISD. I am focused on our students' reading and writing on grade level and Dr. Jeannie Stone has directed resources to meet that goal. I am a uniter. We must work together to accomplish our shared vision and goals. While I have a deep passion for public education, I am not an expert. Not only do I look to the Administration for advice, but I seek out input from parents and advocates on issues.</p>	 <p><b>Vanessa Pacheco</b></p> <p>My strengths include financial analysis, strategic planning, business process improvement, project management, strategic data analysis, and collaborative problem-solving. I've implemented national level improvements of processes for efficiency and cost savings with success. I'm committed to deliver high quality results and am capable of leading teams through projects and tight deadlines to meet on-time. I consider the long-term horizon of cost &amp; debt implications for projects and their success.</p>
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**What impact do the state's school funding formulas have on Richardson ISD's budget? What changes would you advocate in future budgets?** *(700-character limit)*

<p>The Board of Trustees adopted a \$467.9 million budget with a property tax rate of \$1.06, a reduction of approximately 10 cents. I'm very proud of this budget. RISD has prioritized teacher pay by rewarding our most experienced teachers with an up-to five percent raise. I can think of no better way to increase teacher retention than paying teachers what they are worth. Changes: more money for both Special Education/Gifted and Talented programs and to resolve salary compression issues for our teachers and professional staff.</p>	<p>Prior to the last legislation change – we had an increase on taxes for RISD. With the new formulas, our district has lowered the amount by \$0.10. There should be no impact, as the state has provided additional funding to cover the costs. I would want to reduce debt interest cost, reduce inefficient expenditures, and invest the savings to educational/special education programs, support academic extracurriculars, and mental health. Planning for standard inflation, taxes should increase to stay ahead and maintain constant support to our students and educators.</p>
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**How will you balance your representation of a single district with your responsibility to represent Richardson ISD as a whole?** *(500-character limit)*

<p>As a father of 3 RISD students, I am invested in providing all students with the knowledge and skills needed to compete on a global stage. The District 2 representative must understand the relationship between excellent schools and vibrant neighborhoods. Building on relationships with community leaders and parents, I will help these schools realize maximum potential. I am the candidate with the skills and experience needed to work with the Administration and fellow Trustees to get results.</p>	<p>By carefully analyzing the score cards of the various schools in District 2 &amp; making a comparison to the rest of the district, I will be able to identify the differences &amp; correlations. If we take the best of the higher achieving schools &amp; support similar initiatives to lower achieving schools, improving Richardson ISD schools. I would remove or combine programs and plans that are not adding value to our students and educators while also providing solutions to mitigate a negative impact.</p>
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**What specific changes would you support in Richardson ISD to improve individual schools' TEA state accountability ratings?** *(700-character limit)*

<p>RISD's 2018-2019 school year was the first in implementing a new, more rigorous curriculum that more closely matches with the state's accountability exam, also known as the STAAR test. I'd like everyone to keep in mind that a major change like this is difficult and will take time; however, make no mistake, I am deeply concerned with last year's individual school scores across RISD, especially for schools in District 2 where we saw some significant decreases at elementary campuses. Dr. Stone is aware of my concerns and has made raising scores at our schools a priority, which matches the new goals that the Board of Trustees will soon adopt.</p>	<p>By taking the best programs and initiatives from high performing schools and implementing the similar strategies with thorough planning, understanding the demographics, and support. Improve relationships with our educators, supporting their initiatives that work. Removing programs or sessions that only take time away from our educators should be re-evaluated. Harnessing the creative ideas of our educators, the needs of each school community, and implementing changes based on their concerns can improve ratings. With constant improvement strategies, collaboration, and adequate financial support, I am confident all our schools at RISD will improve.</p>
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# Richardson ISD District 2

## Board of Trustees Candidates Forum

Thursday, October 17, 2019

7:00 pm

L. V. Berkner High School

Lecture Hall

1600 East Spring Valley Road

Richardson, TX 75081

*Candidates are listed in ballot order.*

**Eron Linn**  
**Vanessa Pacheco**

Do you have a question you want the candidates to answer at the forum?

Email it to [voterservice@lwvrichardson.org](mailto: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](http://www.lwvrichardson.org) for election information.**

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**RICHARDSON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT– Contested District 4**  
*For candidate responses to more questions, go to [www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org)*

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

**What strengths do you bring to board service?** (500 character limit)



**Taler BK Jefferson**  
 I bring the millennial view to the table. Because I am a teacher, I bring the teacher's voice to the board. I am not that far removed from being a student myself so I bring the student voice as well. Also I know my voice has power and I am not afraid to speak up for the voiceless.



**Patricia Price Hicks**  
 I possess knowledge of the Texas Education Agency, school superintendent, and Board of Trustees. As principal for a day, I encountered a student with a weapon. I have experienced search and seizures. I have confronted non-custodial parent fleeing with a student. I have told parents to exit fieldtrips for a lack of proper background protocol. I was appointed a fiduciary to oversee ordering of resources. I am aware of how federal funds are distributed to the local school district.

**What impact do the state's school funding formulas have on Richardson ISD's budget? What changes would you advocate in future budgets?** (700-character limit)

The culture today pits teacher against student amid a shrinking budget. I will move both sides to the middle. Traditionally, I have been at the end of the spectrum, so I feel the students' pain and the community's pain; however, now, in my role as an educator, I feel the educator's pain as well. Let's be honest: teachers are underpaid. As a board member, I would like to advocate for educators on increasing their pay and/or incentives.

After the 86th Legislative Session ended, the historic educational finance bill will increase total funding for Richardson ISD by over \$16.4 million, or \$447 per student (a 5% increase) and will reduce recapture payments back to the state by 97%, or over \$7.2 million. The session dealt with funding for Prek and mental health. Lawmakers voted to stop the "robin hood" bill. I advocate up to 5% raise for more experienced classroom teachers, counselors, librarians, and nurses and 3.5% for paraprofessionals and all staff. Currently, the changes are in progress and teachers can expect to see a raise in their September checks.

**How will you balance your representation of a single district with your responsibility to represent Richardson ISD as a whole?** (500-character limit)

I would balance the two by ensuring that I stretch myself across the district as a whole. I would represent district 4 however district 4 would not be my only responsibility, as all of Richardson ISD would need to be the focus. I would make sure that I am visible and available wherever I am needed most.

As a visionary I focus on the big picture, holistically and not isolated pieces. The big picture provides a greater awareness and cultivates a better view. The district has many departments, committees, teams, employees, stakeholders, students, and parents. Every entity is important and a part of Richardson Independent School District. I will state the objective is to listen to all students and parents. My goal is to work harmoniously within District 4 and transfer information into the whole.

**What specific changes would you support in Richardson ISD to improve individual schools' TEA state accountability ratings?** (700-character limit)

I would advocate to hire more teachers, specifically bilingual teachers. I would also like to see the schools that need the most help receive outside help from non-profit organizations that focus on educating. I would also support alternative ways of learning for those schools. Every student does not learn effectively the exact same way as the next, so I would definitely advocate for alternative learning.

The four elementary schools performing below 70% disaggregate the data, and revisit with reading, writing, and math specialist. First, concentrate on the students strengths instead of weaknesses. This will build their confidence, self-esteem, and create an environment for learning. Integrate a simplistic objective and a challenging objective into the daily or weekly calendar. Learning should be made fun and not a drudgery. Train paraprofessionals to accompany teachers by assisting small learning groups. I advocate the ACE Accelerated Education curriculum is working based upon prior test scores of Forest Lane Academy. They have (earned distinction) for 2019 from the Texas Education Agency.

**RICHARDSON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT– Contested District 4**  
*For candidate responses to more questions, go to [www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org)*

<b>District 4, Ballot Position 3</b> <i>(4 candidates on the ballot)</i>	<b>District 4, Ballot Position 4</b> <i>(4 candidates on the ballot)</i>
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**What strengths do you bring to board service?** *(500 character limit)*

 <p><b>Regina Harris</b></p> <p>The strengths that I would bring to the Board are results-oriented, resourceful, highly organized with proven ability to build strong relationships with Administration and Teaching Staff. I'm detail-oriented with the ability to manage multiple projects and tasks at any given moment. I am self-motivated with highlighted leadership qualities and the ability to work with people from varying backgrounds while implementing team values.</p>	 <p><b>Sakennia Reed</b></p> <p>I know first-hand the barriers that prevent excellence in our schools. I know we have incredibly talented educators and administrators, but policies and budgets are not always aligned for success. I have also gone above and beyond my role in the classroom to better understand how these policies are made. Through the Teach Plus and Leadership ISD fellowships, I have specifically learned how to shape state and local policies, and what it takes for those policies to be successful for all students.</p>
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**What impact do the state's school funding formulas have on Richardson ISD's budget? What changes would you advocate in future budgets?** *(700-character limit)*

<p>School finance is a constantly complex moving target. With the recent passage of House Bill 3, RISD actually benefitted financially. RISD will owe less in recapture this year than it has in any other year. During a recent State of the District Luncheon, the need for funding for transportation for Pre-K students was discussed and this is one area that I would advocate for future budgets as well as competitive pay for RISD teachers and staff, including our bus drivers and custodians.</p>	<p>State funding formulas have a massive impact on RISD and what resources our students receive. Historically, that has left some students behind. Thankfully, RISD will now receive an additional \$20M in funding as a result of the recent school finance bill my colleagues and I worked to pass. Now, it is up to us how we spend a majority of those dollars. I will advocate for allocating more dollars to programs proven to help close achievement gaps for students of color. This means investment in proven programs like high quality full day PreK, social emotional learning and mental health, bilingual education, and access to college-level courses in high school.</p>
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**How will you balance your representation of a single district with your responsibility to represent Richardson ISD as a whole?** *(500-character limit)*

<p>I have built a strong relationship across RISD, from the local schools, the PTA, current RISD Board of Trustees and the RISD Administrative Staff. Because I have been able to build and bond with these groups, my plan is to represent District 4 by making sure that I use the knowledge and expertise from everyone in the District to collaborate with District 4, we will work together to continue to build on the growth and success of District 4.</p>	<p>First and foremost, I'm here for ALL kids, not just those inside my board district's boundaries. What's more, D4 schools only go up to 6th grade. This means that our D4 babies go to another RISD board district to finish their educational careers. I know I must work with other Trustees and represent the whole District well in order to represent our D4 families well.</p>
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**What specific changes would you support in Richardson ISD to improve individual schools' TEA state accountability ratings?** *(700-character limit)*

<p>RISD recently implemented the Accelerating Campus Excellence program (ACE) in 4 of the most at-risk campus' in RISD. The first-year results were very positive, which tells us that the structure works. I would like to see at least part of this program implemented across RISD which would surely improve individual schools' TEA state accountability ratings.</p>	<p>While I am well aware the A-F system is definitely imperfect, it does not appear that TEA is going to remove the system any time soon. Therefore, I think the important question is how we use it. I believe it should be used as school health indicator, not as a means to punish schools, and certainly not the kids and teachers in it. Therefore, I would advocate for RISD directing additional resources, support, and funding to campuses that are C-F to help address any potential disparities at those schools. Using the data collected in this process, we can be laser focused on which schools need help and in which areas.</p>
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# Richardson ISD District 4

## Board of Trustees Candidates

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

7:00 pm

Hamilton Park Pacesetter Magnet

Auditorium

8301 Towns Street

Dallas, TX 75243

*Candidates are listed in ballot order.*

**Taler BK Jefferson**  
**Patricia Price Hicks**  
**Regina Harris**  
**Sakennia Reed**

Do you have a question you want the candidates to answer at the forum?

- Email it to [voterservice@lwvrichardson.org](mailto: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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<b>RICHARDSON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT– Uncontested District 5</b> <i>For candidate responses to more questions, go to <a href="http://www.Vote411.org">www.Vote411.org</a></i>	
<b>District 5, Ballot Position 1</b> <i>(1 candidate on the ballot)</i>	
<b>What strengths do you bring to board service?</b> <i>(500 character limit)</i>	
 <p><b>Karen Clardy</b></p>	<p>I bring skills from many different angles because of my many years of experience working in education. I have used my connections with teachers, staff and the community to help guide me with board decisions. My strength is my continuing efforts to listen and learn from the community, to be visible and available to all of my constituents. I am a good communicator.</p>
<b>What impact do the state’s school funding formulas have on Richardson ISD’s budget? What changes would you advocate in future budgets?</b> <i>(700-character limit)</i>	
<p>The new state funding formula has a great impact on our budget. Our budget should focus on early childhood literature and math, Pre K funding and special education funding to address students with the greatest needs. I will continue to advocate for compensatory education funding which addresses the needs of our students of poverty. College, Career and Military funding is extremely important because it addresses graduation rate and ensures that our students are prepared for life after high school. I am especially pleased with the per student allotment as this ensures stability and sustainability of basic funding.</p>	
<b>How will you balance your representation of a single district with your responsibility to represent Richardson ISD as a whole?</b> <i>(500-character limit)</i>	
<p>I was elected to advocate for all students. Trustees have an obligation to ensure that EVERY student succeed at their highest academic performance. Having worked in RISD for 25 years and lived in District 5 for 30 years, I am looking forward to using my community connections and my experience to be an informed advocate for District 5. However, I will always be an advocate for all 39,500 RISD students.</p>	
<b>What specific changes would you support in Richardson ISD to improve individual schools’ TEA state accountability ratings?</b> <i>(700-character limit)</i>	
<p>I would support additional resources to help close the opportunity gap which will in turn bring up our accountability ratings. Resources include additional teaching allocations to reduce class size in K-3, hiring additional reading and Dyslexia specialists and additional teachers for English Language Learners. Students who come to our country not knowing the English language are expected to take the STAAR test after being in RISD for only two years. Our strategic plan states “that every child will achieve at or above grade level”. I support measuring a student’s academic growth as part of the accountability system. This ensures that all students are achieving at their highest potential.</p>	

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

[www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org)



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

League of Women Voters of Richardson  
[www.lwvrichardson.org](http://www.lwvrichardson.org)

League of Women Voters of Collin County  
[www.lwvcollin.org](http://www.lwvcollin.org)

Collin County Elections  
[www.collincountytexas.gov/elections](http://www.collincountytexas.gov/elections)

Dallas County Elections  
[www.dallascountytexasvotes.org](http://www.dallascountytexasvotes.org)



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**ELECTION INFORMATION**

Important Election Dates			
Last day to register to vote in Nov 5 election	October 7	Last day to apply for ballot by mail	October 25
LWV-R Candidate Forum for District 4	October 16	Last day of Early Voting	November 1
LWV-R Candidate Forum for District 2	October 17	Election Day	November 5
First day of Early Voting	October 21	Runoff Election	If necessary

**Where/When do I vote early by personal appearance?**

Early Voting by personal appearance is conducted by your County Elections Department

**Early Voting in Dallas County.** Dallas County registered voters may vote at any Early Voting location in Dallas 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 the Dallas County Elections Department website, listed below.



Early Voting Dates & Times – Dallas County		
In-person Early Voting period <b>Dallas County</b>	Oct 21 – Oct 26 (Monday through Saturday)	8:00am - 5:00pm
	Oct 27 (Sunday)	1:00pm – 6:00pm
	Oct 28 – Oct 30 (Monday through Wednesday)	8:00am – 5:00pm
	Oct 31 – Nov 1 (Thursday and Friday)	7:00am - 7:00pm



**Early Voting in Collin County:** Richardson residents who live in Collin County may vote at any Early Voting location in Collin County. For a complete list of Early Voting times and locations, go to the Collin County Elections Department website, listed below.

Early Voting Dates & Times – Collin County		
In-person Early Voting period <b>Collin County</b>	Oct 21 – Oct 25 (Monday through Friday)	8:00am - 5:00pm
	Oct 26 (Saturday)	7:00am – 7:00pm
	Oct 27 (Sunday)	1:00pm – 6:00pm
	Oct 28 – Nov 1 (Monday through Friday)	7:00am - 7:00pm

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

Dallas County Elections Department  
(214) 637-7937  
[www.dallascountytexas.gov](http://www.dallascountytexas.gov)

Collin County Elections Department  
972-424-1460, extension 1990 (Metro)  
[www.collincountytx.gov/elections](http://www.collincountytx.gov/elections)

**Where/When do I vote on Election Day (November 5)?**

**Election Day:** Polls are open Tuesday, November 5, 2019, from 7am to 7pm. This year, for the first time, Dallas County voters will be able to vote at any Election Day Vote Center, rather than having to vote on Election Day at their local precinct polling place. Collin County has had Election Day Vote Centers for several years. For a complete list of Election Day Vote Center locations, go to your County Elections Department website, listed above.

**What ID do I need to vote?**

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)

**Do not possess and cannot reasonably obtain one of these IDs?** Fill out a Reasonable Impediment Declaration form at the polls and show a copy or original of one of the following supporting documents:

- Certified Domestic Birth Certificate or Court Admissible Birth Document
- Current Utility Bill
- Bank Statement
- Government Check
- Paycheck
- Government document with your name and an address including your Voter Registration Certificate

Exemptions might apply. Find out more online at [www.votetexas.gov](http://www.votetexas.gov) or call 1-800-252-VOTE (8683)