



2017 Richardson Mayor (Place 7) and Places 1-6 City Council Candidates – Biographies of Candidates

The biographies were supplied by the candidates and not edited by the League of Women Voters. Limit: 1,050 characters. Excess characters were replaced with an ellipsis (...).

Mayor, Place 7: Jared Weadon

I was born and raised in Richardson Texas. I'm the youngest of six children. I have two wonderful parents. My father dedicated his life to education and raising a family. My mother has always been kind and loving as well as always willing to sacrifice anything for her children. It is from them that I learned the importance of honesty and responsibility. I attended elementary school at Jess Harben Elementary in the Richardson Independent School District. I attended St Mark's School of Texas in grades 4 through 12. I am currently an IT professional working for the Dallas Central Appraisal District.

In 2008, I met my lovely wife Karri. She has been the sweetest and most caring person in my life. Ever since the day we met, I cannot picture my life without her. In 2010, we were blessed with our sweet little Darcy. She loves to read, dance ballet, and play. In 2013 our son Grant came into our lives. He is energetic and playful.

I believe that local government has the opportunity to have the greatest impact on our daily lives.



Mayor, Place 7: Paul Voelker

Born, Ottumwa Iowa 1958. Graduated from Washington High School, Washington, Iowa. I met my wife, Kris, at William Penn University. We moved to the Dallas area where I began my career at the Hewlett-Packard Co. in Richardson in 1983. We have owned homes in Richardson for nearly thirty years in both the Northwest and Northeast sides of town. Kris and I have one son, Ryan.



An accomplished sales and marketing executive with over 30 years' experience in alliance management, portfolio management, organizational change management, marketing and sales management, delivering technical and business solutions to large enterprises and communications service and equipment companies around the world. Creative professional who leads and works effectively with teams, develops executive relationships and strategic business initiatives to achieve sustainable business growth. I have worked for Hewlett-Packard Co., Ericsson Inc. and G2G3 Inc.

Place 4: Corey Montfort

I am the mom of four beautiful children, wife to Joel, former teacher, Licensed Professional Counselor, and successful business owner.



I earned my Bachelor's degree in Education with a minor in English and Psychology from Liberty University in 1999. At that time, I also obtained my license to teach. Certified in Texas, I taught in both elementary and middle school settings and then completed my Masters in Counseling from Southern Methodist University where I specialized in working with individuals, couples, and families. I hold an active License in Professional Counseling and am also a board-approved Counselor Supervisor for the State of Texas. Additionally, I have received training in Collaborative Law and am an active member of Collaborative Divorce Texas. My other active memberships include Texas Counseling Association, Texas Association of Marriage and Family Counselors, Texas Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development, Texas Counselors for Social Justice, and Dallas Metro Counseling Association.

Place 4: Mabel Simpson

I moved to Richardson in 1962. I attended elementary, junior high school and high school in Richardson. I have been married for 27 years and we have two children. I left Richardson to attend college and law school, and returned in 1987, when I moved home to practice law. I have a law practice located in Richardson for 26 years.



Place 5: Marta Gómez Frey

Marta Gómez Frey moved to Richardson in 1976. Since 2005, she and her two sons have lived in Owens Park; while her parents still live in the Duck Creek home she grew up in.



From her beginnings in a Richardson-based engineering design firm in 1992, to her work with the Collin Small Business Development Center, she has advocated for local companies. Marta has helped increase local economic impact through controlling tight budgets, connecting resources and implementing strategic plans.

Marta was appointed to the Richardson City Council in June 2015, to the Richardson's City Plan Commission in 2015 and to the City Charter Review Commission in 2014. She serves on the board of directors for the Leadership Richardson Alumni Association and on committees at Network of Community Ministries, Junior League of Richardson and the Richardson Symphony Orchestra. She is a graduate of Leadership Richardson Class XXVI and has twice been named a finalist for Outstanding Women of Today by Altrusa International of Richardson.

Place 5: Kashif Riaz

I've been living in Richardson for 10 years with my wife Saleha Riaz and 2 great children.



I am first generation immigrant from Pakistan. I came to USA with bag of clothes and I tirelessly worked hard in USA to built my career, my future. I graduated with bachelors degree with business major.



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Place 1: Bob Dubey

Moved to Richardson with my parents in 1962. Attended RISD K-12
Married to Tammy 42 years. Two children, Allen and Jaime who both reside in Richardson. Three grandchildren ages 9,3,18 months.
Graduated from Southern Arkansas University where I played football on scholarship. Just completed 40 years of employment with RISD with the last 17 as the director of athletics. Professional Honors: RISD Health teacher of the year, Meadows Foundation Award, Life Time PTA membership award, NIAAA State Award of Merit, Dallas Times Herald Metroplex Coach of The Year, Dallas Cowboys/NFL Coach of the Week, NFF Gridiron Club of Dallas AD of The Year. THSADA Athletic of the Year, Induction to the THSADA Hall of Honor. Leadership Positions: District UIL Chairman, THSADA Regional Director, THSADA President. COR Parks Commission Chairman, COR Charter Review Commission Chairman, and Leadership Richardson class of XXIV.



Place 2: Mark Solomon

I was re-elected in May 2015 to represent the City's Place 2 seat, and serve as the Mayor Pro Tem of the City Council. I have served on the Council since 2009. Prior to being elected, I was vice chairman and member of the City Parks and Recreation Commission for six years. Served as president of the L. V. Berkner High School booster club and PTA, where I was awarded the honorary lifetime membership in the Texas PTA.
Received my bachelor's degree from Southeastern Louisiana University and my master's degree in education from the University of Southern Mississippi. Married to my wife, Lynn, for 50years. Lynn is retired from Region10 Service Center in Richardson, we have two children and six grandchildren.
Professionally, I the owner of Assurnet Insurance Agency, an independent insurance agency located in Richardson. I have served on the board of directors of the Professional Insurance Agents of Texas and the board of directors of the Texas Association of Business and I am currently on the Governing Committee of the Texas Fair Plan.



Place 3: Scott Dunn

Scott was first elected to City Council in 2011 and was re-elected in 2013 and in 2015. While on council he has served on the Audit Finance Committee, the Education Committee and currently serves on the Retail Committee. He has served as the liaison to Animal Services Advisory Board and is currently as the liaison to Cultural Arts Commission.
Scott and his wife, Lisa, have been married for 32 years and are proud parents of their three young adult children.
Scott has a Bachelor of Science degree from Amber University in Information Technology. He is a graduate of Leadership North Texas Class VII, Leadership Richardson Class XXVII and the Richardson Citizens Police Academy Class XXXII.
Scott is employed by Atos (formerly Xerox) as a Service Delivery Manager.
He currently serves as President of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church Men's Club. He is an active member of Richardson East Rotary Club where he has held several positions.



Place 6: Steve Mitchell

Steve Mitchell was elected to the City Council in May 2005, and served as Mayor from 2007 - 2009. Prior to that, he served on the Sign Control Board and the City Plan Commission. Steve has been a member of Richardson Rotary Club, and is a graduate of Leadership Richardson, Citizens Police Academy, and Citizen Fire Academy Class. He has served as vice president of the Greenwood Hills Neighborhood Association. Steve represents Richardson on the Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition, and has been a member of the Metroplex Mayors Association. He was appointed by Governor Rick Perry to serve on the Commission on State Emergency Communications and the University of North Texas System Board of Regents. Steve is a Senior Tax Project Manager for Thomson Reuters. He graduated from the University of North Texas with bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting. His wife Karen is a labor and delivery nurse at Baylor University Medical Center. They are parents two boys and three girls. The Mitchell family attends Dallas Bible Church



The job of a Richardson City Council Member:

From the City of Richardson's website: www.cor.net
The Richardson City Council consists of the Mayor, two at-large seats and four place, or district, seats. Though members representing Place 1 thru 4 must reside in those areas, all members of the City Council are elected at-large by voters. All City Council seats carry two-year terms, and are up for election during May of every odd year. Term limits for membership on the City Council are limited to 6 terms, or 12 consecutive years.
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.
- 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.

Biography of Karen Ellis, Moderator (no character limit)

Karen has been actively involved in the North Texas community for 30 years. She currently serves as the Chair of the Curriculum Committee of Leadership Richardson. She previously served as a member of the Richardson Independent School District Board of Trustees from 1999-2014. Designated a Master Trustee by the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB), she was elected to that Board of Directors by the over 1,000 school boards of Texas and served from 2006-2014. She served on the executive board of North Texas Association of School Boards for twelve years, ultimately as president 2012-2014. She frequently has been called upon to testify before both the Texas House and Senate on education matters.
She has been recognized for outstanding leadership with PTA's Texas Life Membership and Extended Service Awards, Leadership Richardson's Alumna of the Year, and most recently the esteemed Community Builder Award by the Richardson Masons.
She is a graduate of both Leadership Richardson and Leadership TASB, and has served on many local boards including RISD Excellence in Education Foundation, The Warren Center, RISD Council of PTAs, Richardson East Rotary Club, and North Texas Regional Leadership Day. Retired from the wholesale apparel industry, Karen enjoys performing with her husband, Ted as the musical duo Ellis Island. She and Ted have three very amazing grown children and three adorable little dogs.