



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF RICHARDSON**

Editor: Nancy Wilson

VOTER

CALENDAR

Mar. 4, Tues. Primary Election. (Additional information in this VOTER.)

Mar. 26, Wed. LWV-R Board meeting. 300 N. Coit, PM Realty Board Room
7:00 p.m. Members are welcome at all Board meetings.

Looking ahead:

April 24, Thurs. RISD Trustees Candidates Forum sponsored by LWV-R & RISD Council of PTAs
April 25-27 LWV-Texas Convention – Austin, TX
May 10, Sat. RISD trustee election
May 14, Wed. LWV-R Annual Meeting
June 6-10 LWVUS Convention – Dallas, TX



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Wow! There are lots of exciting things going on and your Richardson League of Women Voters is active!

Early voting in person for the Republican and Democratic Party Primary Elections is in full swing. Early voting continues until Friday, February 28, 2014. Election day is Tuesday, March 4, 2014. See pages 4-7 for more information on the primary.

Low Voter Turn-out: The Dallas League of Women Voters conducted a survey in 2005 on voting patterns among Texas women. They found that 33.4% of Texas women don't vote **because they are not informed of the issues**. The 2013 Texas Civic Health Index Report by the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life at UT Austin **found that Texas ranks 44th in the number of people who discuss politics a few times a week or more.**



Did you know that there are propositions at the bottom of the March 4th ballots? (See page 7) These propositions are non-binding, meaning that they will not become law based on this election. However, it is an opportunity for you to make your voice heard in the party.

*Learn the issues. Be informed.
Talk with your family, friends and neighbors.
Be one of the few Texans who
“discusses politics more than a few times in a week”.
Get excited!
YOU have a voice in who will be on the ballot in November.
YOU have a voice in setting policy.*

Get involved: The Richardson League is starting to turn its attention to next year. At the recent Local Program Planning Meeting, several issues were brought up that the League would like to pursue next year. However, it takes people to put on a public meeting. It takes people to sponsor a forum. It takes people to produce a *VOTERS GUIDE*.

Are you willing to help? Contact me at president@lwvrichardson.org and let me know what you would like to do next year for the League. You don't have to be on the board to help the League.



Or...if the Nominating Committee calls and asks you to take a position on the board, please consider saying “YES!”.

Better yet, notify the Nominating Committee of your interest:
Nominating@lwvrichardson.org.

Members are: Terri Chepregi, Chairman; Susan Majors, and Brenda Boston.

Finance Drive: It takes more than people to keep the Richardson League active. Letters for our finance drive were mailed last week. Please consider giving a donation.

Unlike membership dues, which go to support the Texas League and the National League, **100% of donations to LWV-R go to support the Richardson League's local activities.**



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LWV-Richardson News

The next LWV-R board meeting is **Wednesday, March 26, 7:00 p.m.** in the PM Realty Board Room. All members are always welcome at every board meetings. For further information, contact Ellen Steger at president@lwvrichardson.org.

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Board Notes: January 8, 2014 LWV-R Board Meeting

Liz Harling, secretary

- Local Programming Meeting will be held February 12th after the finance drive “signing party.”
- LWV-Richardson has signed a new 5-year lease for the offices on Coit Rd. but will discontinue internet service and not replace the computer in an effort to operate more efficiently.
- LWV-Richardson will purchase and distribute 500 copies of the Voter Guide for the upcoming primaries.
- LWV-Richardson will hold a candidate forum for any contested Richardson ISD trustee position and will co-sponsor with the RISD Council of PTAs. Dates for such a forum are currently under consideration.
- Finance drive materials were finalized by the board and will be ready for the signing party.
- A budget committee was formed and it was recommended to the committee to keep current dues through the annual meeting rather than anticipating increase from national convention.
- All are urged to contact Nominating Committee chair, Terri Chepregi, regarding positions for the coming year.

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Local Program Planning Meeting

LWV-R February 13, 2014



Meetings are held annually by each local League to evaluate the current positions and discuss possible topics for new studies or action. The report from this meeting goes to the board and then to the members at Annual Meeting for final decisions. No topic may be considered for a new study unless it has been discussed at this meeting. No changes were proposed in the current positions; no topics for a new study were proposed, although several topics of interest were mentioned for possible educational activity. A process for periodic program review was discussed and will be proposed to the board.

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LWV-R members Ellen Steger and Mark Solomon are participating on a LWV-Dallas study committee to evaluate methods of increasing voter turnout. Low voter turnout is the result of many factors, some generic and some unique to a specific area. LWV-R is interested in all areas of voter service and will continue to search for ways to increase citizen participation in government. Our representative government relies on the ideas and efforts of all citizens.

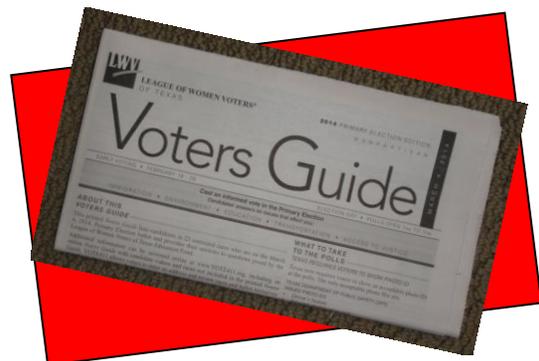
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VOTERS GUIDE for March 4, 2014 Primary Election

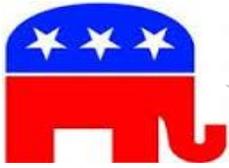
The League of Women Voters of Texas produced a *VOTERS GUIDE* that lists candidates in 25 contested races that are on the March 4, 2014, Primary Election ballot. The Richardson League mailed printed copies of the *VOTERS GUIDE* to all members and contributors for whom we do not have an email address.

LWV-Richardson has put print copies in:

- the Richardson Library
- Richardson Senior Center
- Heights Recreation Center
- Huffhines Recreation Center
- Chinese Community Center
- Audelia Road Branch Library (Dallas)
- Forest Green Branch Library (Dallas)



To view the LWV Texas **VOTERS GUIDE** in English, click [here](#)
To view the LWV Texas **VOTERS GUIDE** in Spanish, click [here](#).



Texas Primary

March 4, 2014



What is a Primary Election? The Republican and Democratic parties in Texas will each hold a primary election on Tuesday, March 4, 2014. The chosen candidate will represent the party in the upcoming general election, to be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2014.

Minor political parties (parties whose gubernatorial candidate received less than 20% of the vote in the previous general election) do not hold primary elections. Instead, minor political parties select their candidates at a convention. Independent and write-in candidates can get on the general election ballot by collecting signatures on a nominating petition.

May I vote in both primaries (Republican and Democratic)? No. You may vote in either primary, but not in both primary elections. Once you've voted in one party's primary, you may not vote in the other party's run-off, if there is one.

Why would there be a runoff election? In a primary election, a runoff is held when no candidate for a particular race gets more than 50% (*50% plus one vote*) of the votes cast. When there is no clear winner, there is a runoff between the top 2 vote-getters.

If a runoff election is necessary, it will be held May 27, 2014.

If I vote in the primary election, do I have to vote for the same party in the general election in November? No. Who you vote for in the March primaries has no bearing on who you may vote for in November. You are free to vote for either party, or a mixture of all parties, in the November election, whether you voted in the primary election or not.

Can anyone tell who I vote for in the primary? No. When you vote in the primary election, your voter registration card will be stamped to show that you voted. There is no record to indicate for whom you voted.

What is on my ballot?

Dallas County	Collin County
Sample ballots for Dallas County are: Dallas County Sample Ballot – Democratic Party Dallas County Sample Ballot – Republican Party	Sample ballots for Collin County are listed by precinct. (<i>Your precinct number is on your voter registration card, next to your year of birth.</i>) Collin County Sample Ballots

Take photo ID to vote in person!

Early voting

Where and when can I vote during early voting in person? You may vote at any early voting location in your county of residence:

Monday, February 24, 2014 thru Friday, February 28, 2014: 7am - 7pm

[Dallas County Early Voting Locations](#)

[Collin County Early Voting Locations](#)

Election Day voting

Where and when can I vote on election day, March 4, 2014?

Polls are open 7am – 7pm.

Dallas County

On election day in Dallas County, you must vote in your precinct. *(Your precinct number is on your voter registration card, next to your year of birth.)*

Polling places for the Republican Primary Election may be in a different place than for the Democratic Primary Election for the same precinct. For example, if you live in Precinct 2509, you will vote at Richardson East Church of Christ for the Republican Primary or Yale Elementary for the Democratic Primary.

Dallas County precinct election day polling places:

[Dallas County Republican Primary polling places](#)
[Dallas County Democratic Primary polling places](#)

Collin County

On election day in Collin County, you may vote in any polling location in the county.

Collin County precinct election day polling places:

[Collin County election day polling places](#)

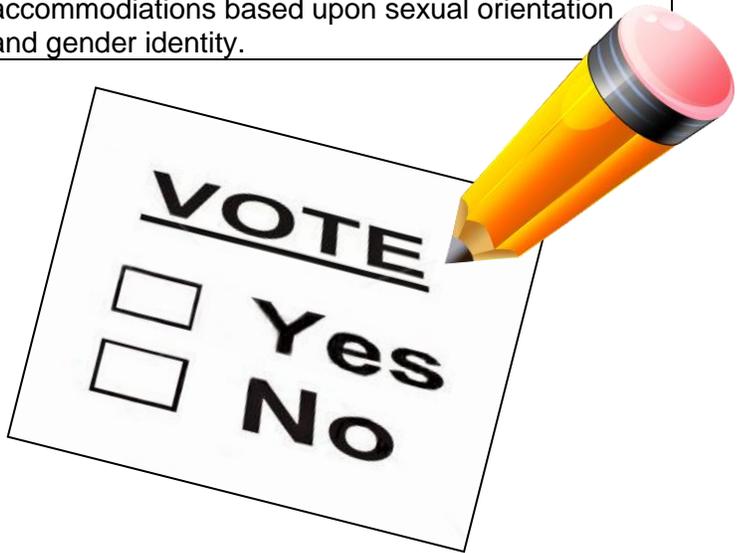


Statements on the March 4, 2014 Ballot

The following statements will be on your ballot at the March 4, 2014, Primary Election. The statements presented by the Republican Party will not be the same as those presented by the Democratic Party. The Republican Party ballot poses 6 statements, while the Democratic Party ballot poses 4 statements. Depending upon whether you vote in Dallas or Collin County, the response to each question will be to vote:

Yes (Si)	or	For (A Favor)		No (No)	or	Against (En Contra)
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The election results on these statements are not binding. These are statements being posed by the political parties.

Republican Party	Democratic Party
<p>Religious Freedom Texans should be free to express their religious beliefs, including prayer in public places.</p>	<p>On Immigration Reform The United States Congress must pass immigration reform; including an earned path to citizenship for those individuals contributing to the economy and the dependents of those individuals.</p>
<p>Second Amendment Texas should support Second Amendment liberties by expanding locations where concealed handgun license-holders may legally carry.</p>	<p>A Living Wage For All Texans Congress should pass legislation raising the federal minimum wage to at least 110% of the federal poverty level for a family of four without exception.</p>
<p>Franchise Tax Texas should abolish the state franchise tax, also known as the margins tax, to encourage business growth.</p>	<p>Medicaid Expansion The Governor and the Texas Legislature should accept federal funds; as provided in the Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act of 2010; for the expansion of Medicaid to provide coverage to millions of uninsured and underinsured Texans.</p>
<p>Welfare Reform Texas recipients of taxpayer-funded public assistance should be subject to random drug testing as a condition of receiving benefits.</p>	<p>On Non-Discrimination Legislation The Congress and the Texas Legislature should adopt legislation that expands protections against discriminations in employment; housing; and public accommodations based upon sexual orientation and gender identity.</p>
<p>No Lawmaker Exceptions All elected officials and their staff should be subject to the same laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances as their constituents.</p>	
<p>Obamacare The Affordable Care Act, also known as "Obamacare," should be repealed.</p>	

