



VOTER

CALENDAR

July 20, Saturday

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

PLAN THE LWV-R YEAR

Casa Milagro

(More info in the *President's Pen* below)

This is a BIG DEAL. Do mark your calendar and plan to be there!

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Ellen Steger

From the President's Pen



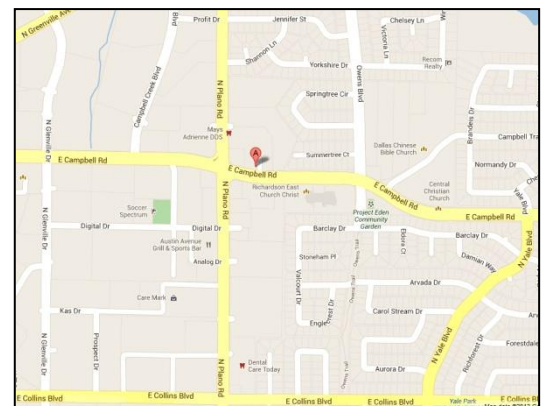
I hope you are having a wonderful start to summer.

League of Women Voters of Richardson members will be meeting on Saturday, July 20, 2013, 10:30am, at Casa Milagro for a Calendar Planning Meeting. Casa Milagro is a Mexican restaurant at 1403 E. Campbell Road #110, (northeast corner of Campbell and Plano Roads). Not a member? We'd love for you to join the League...and then join us as we plan what the League should do in the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Look elsewhere in this VOTER for interesting statistics regarding the Joint Election and the Runoff Election.

"L"

Ellen Steger



Casa Milagro
1403 E. Campbell Road #110
<http://www.casamilagrorestaurant.com/>

WHAT WILL WE DO AT CALENDAR PLANNING?

In a nutshell, at Calendar Planning the members discuss and determine what LWV-R will do in the upcoming League year. However, this involves much more than just putting dates on a calendar. The Calendar is the outline of the work plan for the activities LWV-R intends to implement in order to carry out the League's mission.

LWV-R's 2013-14 planning cycle began long before this upcoming meeting. Steps where members made decisions and gave guidance for the coming year, such as Local Program Planning, were done well before the May 8th Annual Meeting. Obviously, no League has the budget or membership to tackle every opportunity, so we will be discussing options and making choices. Even though the Election Calendar is out of our control, there are choices to be made about which activities are most important. The State and National League Calendars are out of our control, but there are options about the extent of our participation. There are choices about training, about League events, and about other organizational options. It is up to us, the League members, to decide where to put our resources.

UNDERSTANDING THE LEAGUE AND ITS MISSION*

Mission: *The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active involvement in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

Because of our belief in the power of the individual in a democracy, the League structure is grassroots-based. Through the League planning process, members have the power to impact the direction and goals of the League. Members exercise this power locally at the annual meeting, statewide at biennial LWV-TX conventions, nationally at biennial Conventions and Councils, and in the various steps leading to those decisions. The most important thing to remember about League structure is that the member IS the League.

Nonpartisan means that the League does not take positions in support of or in opposition to candidates or political parties. The League, a good government organization, takes political action (advocacy) only on those issues which members have chosen for study and on which they have reached member agreement. The League is multi-issued, with positions in the general areas of government, social policy, natural resources, and international relations. Few League members agree personally on every League position; however, all members hold in common the League Principles which serve as the basis for the adoption of League program. The Principles are stated in *your LWV-R handbook*.

The League undertakes a variety of voter services and citizen education activities that inform citizens about voting and governmental issues in a nonpartisan, educational fashion. The League has a reputation with government officials for "doing its homework" because we study an issue, and examine its pros and cons before we attempt to reach member agreement on needed governmental changes. Although local Leagues may take action based on local, state, or national positions, they do so only at their own local government level.

**This article is excerpted from the publication "President's Corner", found at http://www.lwvtexas.org/pdf_files/PRESIDENT%27S%20COUNSELOR%202012.pdf. Other publications may be found at <http://www.lwvtexas.org/publications.php>, under "Resources for Local Leagues".*

STATE NEWS FROM LWV-TEXAS ... July 2013
Voter ID, Redistricting, Human Trafficking, Training.

Voter ID: The Supreme Court's June 25 decision on the Voting Rights Act effectively eliminates the requirement for Texas to obtain federal approval prior to implementing the 2011 voter photo ID requirement. The Texas Secretary of State moved immediately to implement the law, and the Department of Public Safety has started processing applications for the Election Identification Certificate from voters who do not have one of the other acceptable photo IDs.

A challenge to the photo ID under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, which remains in effect, has been filed. Voting rights advocates including LWV-TX are considering what options might be available given the Supreme Court decision.

Clearly there will be important work for Leagues in Texas to make sure voters know what will be required at the polls and how to obtain ID if they don't have one of the photo IDs that can be accepted at the polls. **To make sure all Texas Leagues "speak with one voice" on the photo ID requirement, LWV-TX will develop common language for all Leagues to use--look for it soon.** In the meantime, the following links give information from the Secretary of State and Department of Public Safety:

The Secretary of State's press release:	http://sos.state.tx.us/about/newsreleases/2013/062513.shtml
Secretary of State FAQs on photo ID:	http://votetexas.gov/register-to-vote/need-id/
Requirements for the Election Identification Certificate:	http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/electionID.htm
LWVUS press statement on the Supreme Court ruling:	http://www.lwv.org/press-releases/lwv-reacts-supreme-court-decision-voting-rights-act

Redistricting: The Legislature's 2011 redistricting plans have been under review in two courts: the DC District Court denied preclearance; other legal challenges have been under the jurisdiction of the San Antonio court, which established interim maps so that the 2012 elections could proceed. The first 2013 special legislative session adopted the San Antonio court's interim maps as permanent, with a few minor changes to the map for the state House. Gov. Perry signed the bills adopting those maps into law on June 26. On Friday, June 28, the State of Texas moved for dismissal of the remaining challenges in the San Antonio court because the interim maps have been adopted as permanent by the state. Plaintiffs in the case object to the dismissal. What the San Antonio court will do remains to be seen.

What seems clear is that the 2011 redistricting plans drawn by the Legislature are now history. What is not known is whether the 2012 interim maps with minor legislative changes will become permanent or additional changes will be made by the court.

Human Trafficking in Texas Study: The *Facts & Issues* document for the state study is being prepared for printing and will be distributed to all LWV-TX members early in August. A preview of the *Facts & Issues* and consensus questions will be presented at the LWV-TX regional training sessions Sat., June 29, in Arlington, and Sat., July 13, in Kerrville. The training will also address how to hold a consensus meeting. Remember, consensus reports from local Leagues will be due Dec. 30, 2013.

DID YOU KNOW? DID YOU KNOW?



...that the League of Women Voters of Richardson has a website? It's www.lwvrichardson.org The website was started in September, 2005.

The busiest month for accessing a page from the LWV-R website was May, 2013. That month, the website was accessed a record 11,893 times!

<u>Month:</u>	<u>#requests</u>	<u>#pages</u>	
June, 2012	4087	4038	████████████████████
July, 2012	5304	5139	████████████████████████
August, 2012	4949	4861	████████████████████
September, 2012	5092	4983	████████████████████
October, 2012	11025	9388	██
November, 2012	12740	9414	██
December, 2012	5068	4806	████████████████████
January, 2013	4788	4535	████████████████████
February, 2013	5257	5041	████████████████████
March, 2013	5921	5579	████████████████████████
April, 2013	9325	7815	████████████████████████████
May, 2013	15232	11893	██

Keep us in mind during the next election.
LWV-Richardson has LOTS of good information on the website.

Voting in Dallas County

- ✓ Dallas County has 1,029 precincts.
- ✓ Dallas County has 1,191,557 registered voters
- ✓ 89,746 votes were cast in Dallas County (**7.53%**) during the May 11th Joint Election



Did you know? *(continued)*

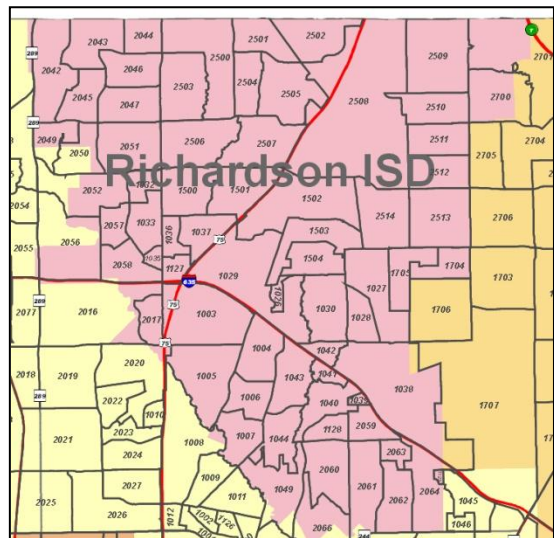


City of Richardson (COR) Mayoral and City Council Joint Election May 11, 2013

- COR has 28 precincts, 6 of the precincts are in Collin County.
- According to the Richardson City Secretary, there were 59,023 registered voters in Richardson eligible to vote in the May 11th Joint Election.
 - ✓ 14,348 votes were cast for Richardson Mayor. That means **24.31%** of registered voters voted.

Richardson ISD Board of Trustees Joint Election May 11, 2013 June 15, 2013 Place 4 Runoff

- RISD has 74 precincts, 20 are in the city of Richardson.
- According to the office of the Richardson ISD Deputy Superintendent for Finance and Support Services, there were 119,614 registered voters in the RISD eligible to vote in both the May 11th Joint Election and also in the June 14th Runoff Election.
 - ✓ 11,659 votes were cast for RISD Board of Trustees Place 4 in the May 11th Joint Election. That means **9.75%** of registered voters voted in the Joint Election.
 - ✓ 4,563 votes were cast for RISD Board of Trustees Place 4 in the June 15th Runoff Election. That means **3.81%** of registered voters voted in the Runoff Election for RISD Trustee Place 4.
 - Of those who voted in the Runoff Election, **57.75%** of the votes were cast by voters living in the City of Richardson.



For more information,

- ✓ visit our website at www.lwvrichardson.org
- ✓ Follow us on Twitter @LWVRichardson

