



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup>  
OF RICHARDSON**

Editor: Nancy Wilson

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# VOTER

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## CALENDAR

- Oct. 7 Last day to register to vote in Texas Nov.5 election.
- Oct. 21 First day of early voting in person.
- Oct. 25 Last day for receipt of Ballot by Mail application.
- Oct. 26-27 Huffhines Art Trails  
**Volunteers needed** to staff League booth. (See below)
- Nov. 1 Last day of early voting in person.
- Nov. 5 Election Day. Last day for receipt of Ballot by Mail.



### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Ellen Steger

It's Fall. Your Richardson League has been busy urging all citizens to get registered to vote.

League displays at each of the city's public buildings—Civic Center, Library, Huffhines and Heights Recreation Centers, and the Senior Center – as well as the Chinese Community Center have provided VOTER ID information handouts and voter registration cards for both Collin and Dallas Counties.



In the last US Census, six million Americans indicated that they did not vote in the 2008 election because they did not know how to register or they missed their state's voter registration deadline.

**OCT. 7 IS THE TEXAS DEADLINE.** Make sure you are registered to vote. Make sure all your friends are registered to vote.

**CLICK** to see if you are registered to vote:

[Collin County](#)

[Dallas County](#)

October 7, 2013, is the last day to register to vote for the upcoming November 5, 2013, Constitutional Amendment/Joint Election. However, there's always another election around the corner, so even if you aren't registered in time for this election, get registered now and be ready for the next election.



**The new PHOTO ID law** is expected to take many voters by surprise.

Beginning with the November 5, 2013, election, Texas voters must present an approved government-issued photo ID when voting in person. Note: your voter registration card does **not** contain your photo; your student ID is **not** an approved photo ID for voting. See flyers later in this VOTER for more information. See the list later in this newsletter

The U.S. Justice Department has filed a lawsuit against Texas over its current voter ID law. Depending upon the outcome of this lawsuit, requirements for the Voter ID law may change. As of this writing the requirement of an approved photo ID is the law.

One final item, in the next few weeks, The Texas League of Women Voters will have a *VOTERS GUIDE* with pro and con statements for each of the 9 constitutional amendments that will be on the November ballot. Watch for copies at the library and other locations, and also on the Richardson League's website: [www.lwvrichardson.org](http://www.lwvrichardson.org) .

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**HUFFHINES ART TRAILS - Oct. 26-27 ..... VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Enjoy one of Richardson's fantastic fall festivals while you spend a couple of hours staffing the League's display. You'll be handing out voting information material while having fun visiting with one and all. Contact [President@lwvrichardson.org](mailto:President@lwvrichardson.org) to set up your time slot.

# Photo ID required for Texas Voters



You must now present one of the following forms of photo ID when voting in person:

- ★ Texas driver license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- ★ Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS 
- ★ Texas personal identification card issued by DPS
- ★ Texas concealed handgun license issued by DPS
- ★ United States military identification card containing your photograph
- ★ United States citizenship certificate containing your photograph
- ★ United States passport



With the exception of the U.S. citizenship certificate, the identification must be current or have expired no more than 60 days before being presented for voter qualification at the polling place.

**Exemptions** - Voters with a disability may apply with the county voter registrar for a **permanent exemption**. The application must contain written documentation from either the U.S. Social Security Administration evidencing he or she has been determined to have a disability, or from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs evidencing a disability rating of at least 50 percent. In addition, the applicant must state that he or she has no valid form of photo identification. Those who obtain a disability exemption will be allowed to vote by presenting a voter registration certificate reflecting the exemption. Please contact your voter registrar for more details.

Voters who have a consistent **religious objection** to being photographed and voters who do not have any valid form of photo identification as a result of certain natural disasters as declared by the President of the United States or the Texas Governor, may vote a provisional ballot, appear at the voter registrar's office within six (6) calendar days after election day, and sign an affidavit swearing to the religious objection or natural disaster, in order for your ballot to be counted. Please contact your county voter registrar for more details.

**VOTETEXAS.GOV**



## CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Plan)/Medicaid for Children

The LWV has a long history of advocacy for affordable health care, especially for children. The Richardson League has supported efforts that encourage families to obtain health insurance for their children and the economic security that coverage provides for at least 10 years.

Locally the LWV-Richardson has been working with the RISD Council of PTAs to assist families in obtaining health insurance for their children by hosting events at St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church which donates the use of their facility and at the individual campuses of RISD when we are invited to participate in health fairs, parent forums, PTA meetings, "town hall" meetings, and other events.

CHIP is an HMO type of insurance for working families who have low to moderate income but who do not have private insurance through their work. The children must be citizens or legal residents to qualify and must have social security numbers. The insurance covers doctor visits, hospitalization, prescription drugs, immunizations, lab tests, X-rays, eye exams and glasses, dental work (modest-not braces), and other needs.



In July we held a review/training session for 8 volunteers and in August and September sessions were held to assist families interested in enrolling. We are invited to Hamilton Park's Health Fair in the spring. We have help from the Council of PTAs in publicizing another session on Oct. 26 at St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church and the assurance that they will assist us with publicity during the rest of the year.

Soon the Affordable Health Care Act will be fully implemented and it appears to me that some of our families are waiting to apply for insurance for their children until this happens. I anticipate an increase in activity after it is apparent that CHIP and Medicaid for Children are still excellent programs that help our families keep their children healthy.

Thanks to all of you for the continued support for this advocacy. League members Joan Pask, Susan Majors, Evan Thomas, and Janice Schieffer (LWV-Plano) have been working diligently with the events reported here, in addition to 12 other volunteers that have been trained by our efforts. We welcome anyone who is interested to join us.

By Martha Dorris