



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF RICHARDSON**

Editor: Diana Lace

VOTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT Jean Richards

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Eight years ago, I found myself stepping into the role of being the President of the League of Women Voters of Richardson for the first time. It was the summer of 2008, and in my first VOTER article, I said “With a high-profile general election in November, a hotly anticipated session of the Texas Legislature beginning in January, and elections for both the RISD Board of Trustees and Richardson City Council in May, we are going to have our hands full.”

Well, here we are again, with a similarly exciting year of elections and legislative action. We have an opportunity to provide important service to our community over the coming year if our members step up and get involved. We hope to register voters prior to both the November and May election seasons, hold candidate forums, produce Voters Guides on www.VOTE411.com, present informational public programs, assist with CHIP registration, follow important issues throughout the Texas legislative session, and have a great time doing all that.

Thanks to my predecessor, Brenda Boston, for her leadership this last year and her continued presence on the board as the Membership Chair. Thanks also to those members who have stepped up to fill positions on the 2016-17 board. I hope that together we can accomplish great things in the coming year.

Calendar Planning Meeting –Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, June 14th at 7:00 p.m.** to attend our annual Calendar Planning Meeting. It will be held in the Promenade Tower Floor “B” Conference Room, one floor above our office at 300 N. Coit Road. This is an important meeting at which our members decide which programs, forums, projects, and parties we will schedule during the year. If you know of someone who might be interested in joining the League, please bring him or her along.

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

May 4, 2016
Casa Milagro Restaurant

Members present at the League of Women Voters of Richardson Annual Meeting:

- voted to retain all current local Program positions.
- voted not to undertake any new studies. The recommendation followed discussion of the possibility of studying various environmental issues, such as clean air, water quality, and the possible need for a tree ordinance. It was decided that there were state and national positions adequate for local advocacy.
- recommended continuing to advocate for CHIP and advocating on water quality, especially if old pipes or lead contamination prove to be problems in Richardson.
- adopted the 2016-17 budget.
- elected new officers and directors to the board.
- thanked outgoing President Brenda Boston for her service this past year;
- bid a fond, though reluctant, farewell to longtime member Jane Daboub, who will be joining LWV-Dallas.
- in keeping with tradition, expressed their hopes for activities the League might continue or undertake during the coming year, in the segment entitled "I Wish the League Would..."

Excerpted from minutes submitted by Susan Majors, Secretary.

2016 Finance Drive



To date we have received \$2,121.00 in contributions for the general fund and \$2,110.00 in contributions for the Texas Education Fund, for a total of \$4,231.

Donors who have supported the Richardson League since the last VOTER are:

Christopher Barnes, D.D.S.
Jean Richards and Keith Burgess
Diana and Chuck Lace
Belinda Vrielink

Thank you for your support!



It's never too late to donate to the League of Women Voters of Richardson:

- Checks written to **LWV-Texas Education Fund-Richardson** are tax-deductible. The League may only use these funds for educational activities.
- Checks written to **LWV-Richardson** are not tax deductible. The League may use these funds for any League activity.



Then mail your donation to:

League of Women Voters of Richardson
300 N. Coit Road, Suite 125
Richardson, TX 75080

2015-2016 Year in Review

The League of Women Voters of Richardson put in a full year in service to its community – the citizens of the City of Richardson and the Richardson ISD.

Voter Service

- We hosted a public informational program and published a pro/con Voters Guide on the 83 proposed amendments to the City Charter.
- In each of the four high school attendance areas, we manned voter registration tables at RISD informational meetings concerning the bond election.
- We published a pro/con Voters Guide on the RISD bond proposal.
- We planned a candidate forum for the RISD Board of Trustees election, but it was cancelled, according to LWV policy, due to the refusal of a candidate to participate.
- We published both written and online Voters Guides for the RISD Board of Trustees election.
- We published our online Voters Guides on LWV's www.VOTE411.com website.
- We worked with other local Leagues to produce the region's portion of the LWV Voters Guide for the Primary Elections.

Program of Education and Advocacy

- Members attended a public meeting sponsored by LWV-Collin County on Payday and Auto Loans in Texas, the topic of a statewide LWV study this year. We then held a lively consensus meeting at which our members provided grassroots input that will help form the basis for a state position on the issue.
- As part of our ongoing Periodic Program Review, members met to participate in an in-depth review our local positions on Child Care and Public Health Care Services.
- We hosted a public informational program on "Emergencies in the Richardson Area," focusing on the government's role in emergency response, personal preparedness, and ways to volunteer to help your community during disasters and emergencies.

Community

- In the name of the League, a member generously sponsored the Government table at the Friends of the Library book sale.
- LWV-R members participated with volunteers from partner organizations in registration drives for CHIP (the Children's Health Insurance Program).

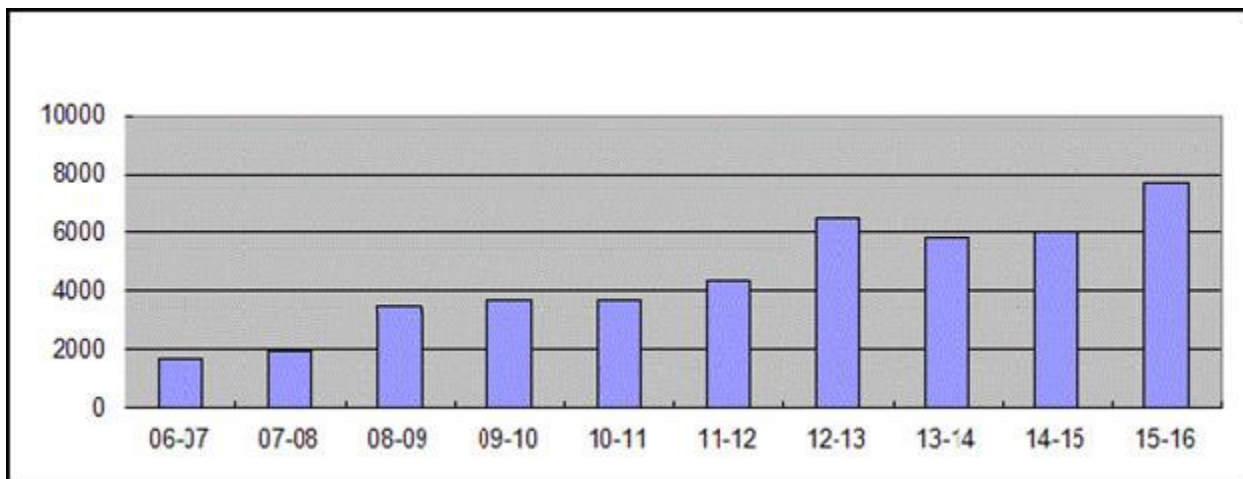
Communications

- We updated and distributed our local *Guide to Elected Officials*.
- We responded to numerous phone calls and emails from the public, especially regarding voter registration and voting mechanics.
- Our monthly VOTER newsletter was emailed to members and contributors, and was available to the public on our website.
- We tweeted important information about elections and LWV events.

2015-2016 Year in Review *(continued)*

Website (www.lwvrichardson.org):

- Our website was maintained with important election information for the:
 - November, 2015 Joint Election;
 - March 1, 2016 Primary Elections;
 - May 7 Joint Election; and
 - May 24 Primary Runoff Elections.
- Election information included:
 - links to dates/times for early voting and election day voting for Richardson residents in both Dallas and Collin Counties;
 - links to sample ballots;
 - a link to www.VOTE411.org for LWV Voters Guides and information on the locations of printed LWV Voters Guides;
 - current information on the mechanics of voting, including information on photo identification; and
 - a page of Frequently Asked Questions about Primary Elections.
- Videos of candidate forums and public programs were embedded on the website for those who were unable to attend in person.
- Although usage tends to peak near elections, the public's use of LWV-R's website continues to increase. The chart below shows average monthly Requests for Pages for each of the 10 fiscal years (June – May) during which LWV-R's website has been active. During the 2015-16 year, the average number of monthly Requests for Pages was 7724.





Congratulations to the New LWV-R Board

The following were elected to the 2016-2017 LWV-R Board at the May 4, 2016, Annual Meeting:

Officers

President..... Jean Richards
1st VP, Citizen Education/Advocacy Coordinator Nancy Wilson
2nd VP, Organization Coordinator Open
3rd VP, Voter Service Coordinator..... Ellen Steger
Secretary Susan Majors
Treasurer Keith Burgess

Directors

(Up to four directors may be elected.)

Up to four additional directors may be appointed by the board.)

Elected

Finance Drive Open
Membership..... Brenda Boston
Newsletter Diana Lace
Publicity Linda Grigsby

May 7, 2016, Election Results

Richardson ISD Board of Trustees Election



Incumbent Kris Oliver ran against George Clayton for Place 3, and won

with 73.09% of the 7,540 votes cast.



Katie Patterson ran unopposed for Place 4, the seat vacated by

Incumbent Lanet Greenhaw.



Incumbent Eron Linn ran unopposed for Place 5.

Richardson ISD Bond Election

Richardson ISD voters approved the \$437 million bond with 66.98% of the 9,509 votes cast.

The bond contains

- \$215.7 million for maintenance,
- \$107.27 million for capacity/construction, and
- \$114.1 million for enrichments.

Sources: Dallas County Elections Department; Richardson ISD

For more election information, see www.dallascountyvotes.org.

Plano ISD Bond Election

Plano ISD voters approved the \$481 million bond with 78.56%% of the 10,244 votes cast.

For more election information, see co.collin.tx.us/elections.

Ellen Steger, Voter Service VP
voterservice@lwvrichardson.org

May 24, 2016 Primary Runoff Elections Statistics



© Can Stock Photo - csp31370556

On May 24, 2016, the Texas Republican Party and the Texas Democratic Party had a runoff election for their Primary Elections (which were held on Super Tuesday, March 1, 2016).

Dallas County

In Dallas County

- the Republican Party Runoff Election was for Railroad Commissioner; Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 2; Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 5; and Sheriff.
- the Democratic Party Runoff Election was for Railroad Commissioner, Criminal District Judge, Court No. 2; County Tax Assessor-Collector, and Constable, Precinct No. 1.

Dallas County has a population of 2.48 million people. There are 1,233,701 registered voters. That means that 49.75% of people in Dallas County are registered to vote.

Of those registered voters:

- 0.08% cast ballots in the Republican Party Primary Runoff Election.
- 2.34% cast ballots in the Democratic Party Primary Runoff Election for Constable, Precinct 1 (160 precincts)
- 1.25% cast ballots in the Democratic Party Primary Runoff Election for the other races. (797 precincts)

Collin County

In Collin County

- the Republican Party Runoff Election was for Railroad Commissioner; Criminal Appeals Judge, Place 2; Criminal Appeals Judge, Place 5; District 416 Judge; Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3, Place 1.
- the Democratic Party Runoff Election was for Railroad Commissioner.

Collin County has a population of 854,778 people. There are 512,696 registered voters. That means that 60% of people in Collin County are registered to vote.

Of those registered voters:

- 2.39% cast ballots in either the Republican Party or Democratic Party Runoff Election

Important Women in History

Carrie Chapman Catt



Carrie Clinton Lane was born in Ripon, Wisconsin on January 9, 1859. She was the second of three children of Lucius and Maria Lane. Her family moved to rural Charles City Iowa when she was seven years old. She graduated from high school there in 1877 and in 1880 graduated from the Iowa Agricultural College and Model Farm in Ames (now Iowa State University). She graduated at the top of her class, having worked her way through school by washing dishes, working in the school library, and teaching. She was the only woman in her graduating class. After college, she returned to Charles City to work as a law clerk and in nearby Mason City, as a school teacher and a principal. In 1883, she became one of the first women in the nation appointed superintendent of schools.

In February 1885, Carrie married Leo Chapman, editor and publisher of the Mason City Republican. Mr. Chapman died of typhoid fever the following year in San Francisco, California, where he had gone to seek new employment. Arriving a few days after her husband's death, the young widow decided to remain in San Francisco where she was employed by a newspaper during part of that time. In 1887, Carrie returned to Charles City and joined the Iowa Woman Suffrage Association for whom she worked as a professional writer and lecturer. After a short period of time, she became the group's recording secretary. From 1890 to 1892, she served as the Iowa association's state organizer.

At the time of Carrie Chapman's rise to her state organization's highest office, she married George Catt in June 1890. Mr. Catt was a fellow Iowa Ag. College alum whom she had met during her stay in San Francisco, and who encouraged her suffrage activity. As Mrs. Catt established her reputation as a leading suffragist, she was asked by Susan B. Anthony, president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA), to address Congress on the proposed suffrage amendment. In 1900, she succeeded Anthony as the NAWSA president. From then on, her time was primarily spent in speechmaking, planning campaigns, organizing women, and gaining political experience.

In 1902, Catt helped organize the International Women Suffrage Alliance (IWSA), which eventually incorporated sympathetic associations in 32 nations. In 1904, she resigned her NAWSA presidency in order to care for her ailing husband. His death in October 1905, followed by the deaths of Susan B. Anthony (February 1906), Catt's younger brother William (September 1907) and her mother (December 1907) left Catt grief-stricken. At the encouragement of many, she spent much of the next eight years traveling worldwide and promoting equal-suffrage rights.

Catt returned to the States in 1915 to resume leadership of the NAWSA and unveiled her "Winning Plan" to campaign simultaneously for suffrage on both state and federal levels, and to compromise for partial suffrage in the states resisting change. Under her dynamic leadership, backing was won in the U.S. House and Senate and the states' support for the amendment's ratification. On August 26, 1920 the Nineteenth Amendment officially became part of the U.S. Constitution and all women were granted the right to vote.

After this victory, Catt stepped down from her NAWSA presidency and continued her work for equal suffrage, promoting education of the newly-franchised by founding the new League of Women Voters and serving as its honorary president until her death in on March 9, 1947 in New Rochelle, New York.