



VOTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT Jean Richards

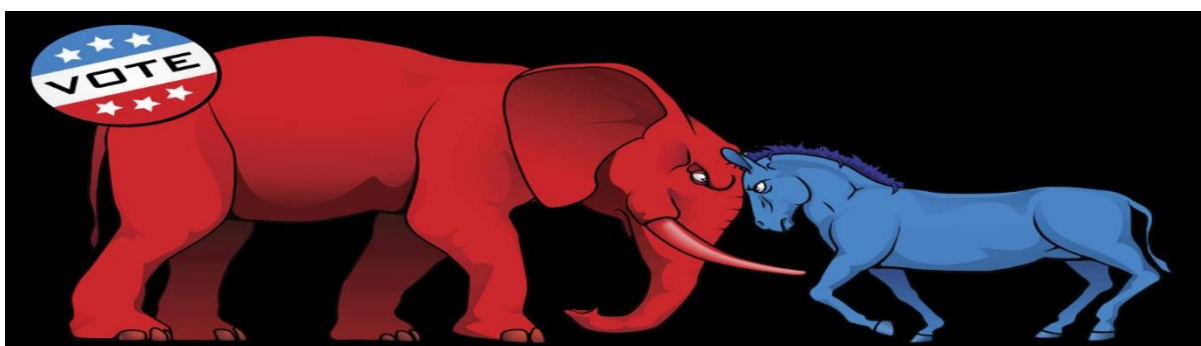
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We have just witnessed two national political party conventions, each filled with insistent voices telling us whom to vote for. At times like these, we recognize the value of an organization that gives us access to unbiased, reliable, nonpartisan information.

The League of Women Voters has always been nonpartisan. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

When the League holds candidate forums and publishes Voters Guides for elections, we give candidates the opportunity to use their own words to tell voters where they stand on a variety of issues. We provide this service equally to all candidates at no cost to them, to their political parties, or to the voters they are trying to reach.

During this highly-charged election season, I especially appreciate the work of our members and the support of our local community. Whether candidates are running for local office or for President of the United States, **the League of Women Voters is there to help voters find the information they need in order to vote responsibly.**



The League of Women Voters of Richardson

*Invites you to join us for
an afternoon of ice cream
and fun*

Come cool off and
enjoy ice cream with
your favorite
toppings. Visit with
LWV members and
learn more about the
organization and what
it does in the
community.

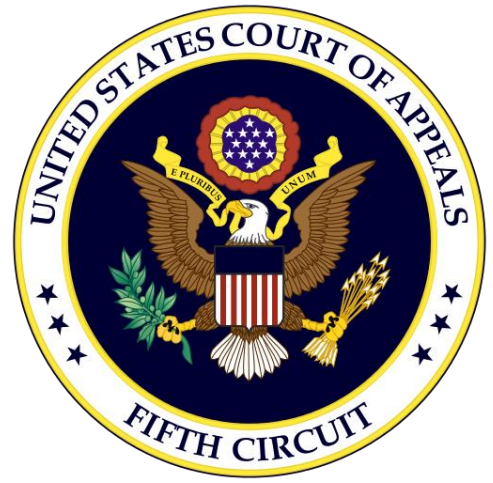


Sunday, August 28
3:00-5:00 p.m.
at
the home of
Jean Richards

For more information, please contact Brenda Boston at
membership@lwvrichardson.org

Appeals Court Strikes Down Texas Voter ID Law

On July 20, 2016, the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit ruled 9-6 that the Texas Voter ID Law discriminates against minorities and must be revised before Election Day. However, the ruling did not immediately halt the voter ID law. The judges have instructed a lower court to draw up a remedy in time for the November 8, 2016, election that disrupts existing voter procedures as little as possible.



The Texas Voter ID Law was Senate Bill 14, passed in 2011. It stated that all Texas voters who voted in person were required to present one of several specified forms of photo identification. Opponents argued that many minority, low-income, and elderly voters had difficulty obtaining the required identification, and thus were prohibited from exercising their right to vote. Proponents of the Texas Voter ID Law argued that the law is needed to prevent in-person voter fraud at the polls. Citing evidence provided in 2013 by then-Attorney General Greg Abbott, opponents argued that very little in-person voter fraud exists in Texas. (The chart provided by AG Abbott in 2013 showed 18 convictions, no-contest pleas, or guilty pleas on voter fraud charges from 2002 through 2012.)

Experts have testified that more than 600,000 Texans lack valid photo ID to vote. However, not all of them have necessarily tried to vote.

What ID do I need to vote in November?

The current Texas Voter ID Law will not be in effect for the November election. Until the District Court rules, it is not known what kind of identification, if any, voters will need in November, 2016.

The League of Women Voters will monitor this situation carefully, and will make every effort to keep voters informed about changes in the law.

Elsewhere:

- On July 29, 2016, a 3-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit struck down provisions in the current Voter ID Law in North Carolina, saying that they “target African Americans with almost surgical precision” and “impose cures for problems that did not exist”.
- Parts of Wisconsin’s 2011 voter ID law were ruled unconstitutional by a Federal District Court judge. The judge ordered the state to make photo IDs more easily available to voters and to broaden the range of student IDs that are allowed when voting in person.

Membership Minute...

Just a friendly reminder to all those members who plan to renew your membership, time slipped by us. Please send your renewal as soon as possible to

Brenda Boston
2016-2017 Membership Director
League of Women Voters of Richardson
300 North Coit Road, Suite 125
Richardson, Texas 75080

\$54 one member \$81 two members in same household \$27 one-year student membership



Long-time LWV-R member, Ann Graeber, has moved to a senior living facility and misses League activities. Her birthday is Saturday, August 6. She would love to get a surprise note or card from her friends.

Atria Richardson
Ms. Ann Graeber
1493 Richardson Drive #132
Richardson, TX 75080

***Make Plans to Celebrate the 96th Anniversary
of the Women's Right to Vote***



Sojourner Truth



Margaret Sanger

WOMEN'S ISSUES NETWORK invites you to join us for
Women's Equality Day
Commemorating the passage of the 19th Amendment
Wednesday, August 24th, 2016 @ 12:00 Noon
Dallas City Hall 6th Floor Flag Room

Mayor Rawlings and Members of the Dallas City Council will join us for a proclamation recognizing the anniversary.

Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins and Members of the County Commissioner's Court proclamation

This year's event will feature Debbie Branson
Former Chairwoman of Parkland's Board of Managers
Recipient of the 87th Linz Award

*You, your friends, and all members of your organization are invited.
We ask that you wear white in honor of the suffragists.*



1920's Suffragettes



Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Sponsors for this event are:

- Brighter Tomorrows
- Dallas Women's Foundation
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Dallas Alumnae Chapter
- Junior League of Dallas
- League of Women Voters of Dallas
- National Organization of Women N. Dallas Chapter

- League of Women Voters of Collin County
- Peacemakers, Inc.
- Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas
- S.E. Dallas Business & Professional Women's Club
- Texas Muslim Women's Foundation, Inc.
- Women's Issues Network



Gloria Steinem

Women's Issues Network wishes to thank the Sponsors of this event and recognizes their efforts to improve the lives of women.

Co-Chair Betty Richie at brichie711@sbcglobal.net
Co-Chair JoAnn Jenkins at jfwezy@gmail.com

To Become an Official Supporter of Women's Equality Day
Contact Connie Hearn @ chearn01@gmail.com for more information.



Betty Friedan

Sarah Weddington



Ellie Smeal

Voter Registration Drives

July 6 at Fair Park

The League of Women Voters was asked to sponsor a voter registration drive at the Eid Prayer and Celebrations on July 6, 2016. Elizabeth Walley and Nia MacKay from LWV-Dallas joined Susan Majors and Ellen Steger from LWV-Richardson to staff the booth at Fair Park.

Approximately 130 voter registration cards were passed out and lots of questions were answered.

The event was sponsored by

- ✓ Dallas Asian American Bar Association
- ✓ American Muslim Bar Association of North Texas
- ✓ The American Muslim Professionals of Dallas
- ✓ Islamic Association of North Texas



Aisha U-Kiu (an event organizer), Susan Majors, and Ellen Steger

Volunteer Opportunities

Your League of Women Voters of Richardson is planning a dozen or so voter registration events in August and September. Event places, dates, and times are still being planned. If you have an interest in helping with a voter registration event, contact

Ellen Steger

voterservice@lwvrichardson.org

972-470-0584



History of the League of Women Voters: *1920s and 1930s*

The League of Women Voters is America's premier grassroots citizen organization. It was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt in Chicago. The League was formed within the National American Women Suffrage Association, and composed of organizations in the states where women's suffrage had already been attained. The League was formally organized in February 1920, six months before the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified. The 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote, following a 57-year struggle.



Founder Carrie Chapman Catt, a feminist and effective leader in the suffragist movement, envisioned the “union of intelligent forces within the state” to break down “illiteracy, social evils, and industrial ills”. Since its inception, the League has helped millions of American citizens become informed participants in government.



The League first strove for legislation to improve the quality of life for Americans, including child labor laws, a minimum wage, and equal opportunity for women in government and industry. One of the first bills the League supported was the Sheppard-Towner Act (1921) which provided federal aid for maternal and child care programs. That was the first federally-funded social welfare measure in the United States. The act was designed to reduce high maternal and infant death rates in the United States during the 1920s. Lawmakers opposed the use of federal funds for social welfare programs and felt threatened by such reforms. Nevertheless, the successful campaign to pass the Sheppard-Towner Act was the League's first use of grassroots organization and citizen education to galvanize citizens into action.

Not long after its founding, the League expanded into the areas of world peace, as well as civil and human rights. The League labored for U.S. membership in the League of Nations and the World Court.

During the 1930s, the League fought to solve a government corruption issue in which hundreds of federal employees were politically supported in their government jobs. The League was the only national organization to consistently advocate the merit system, which eliminated the practice of awarding federal jobs under the “spoils system” and, instead, held that federal job selection and promotion should be based on individual merit, or virtue. Due in no small measure to the League's campaign, legislation passed in 1938 and 1940 to place these jobs under civil service.

The League of Women Voters continues to encourage and support women as well as men in their quest for full participation in American democracy. The League's impact is felt at all levels of government—local, state, and national—and the organization's work is based on the belief that citizens with well-researched and unbiased information will make wise choices for their communities and their nation.