



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF RICHARDSON**

Editor: Diana Lace

VOTER

Calendar	
Date	Event
Jan 4	LWV-R Board meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Jan 14	Over-the-Hump Party (TBA)
Jan 19	CHIP at Dover Elementary, 5:30 p.m.
Jan 21	CHIP at St. Barnabas, 9:00 a.m.
Jan 25	Meeting on School Finance 11:30 a.m.
Jan 30-31	Lobby Days in Austin
Feb 10-15	Gendercide Art Exhibit

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jean Richards

As we begin 2017, many changes are taking place in our government. January brings a new President and a new Congress to Washington, as well as a new Legislature to Austin. In early May, there will be an election for two seats on the RISD Board of Trustees, and an election for all seven seats on the Richardson City Council.

Members of the League of Women Voters of Richardson will have a number of opportunities to take action early in the year:

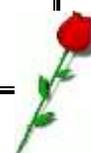
- On January 25th, we are co-sponsoring with LWV-Dallas a program on **Public Funding of Education in Texas**, including the proposition for vouchers. See page 3 of this VOTER for details.
- On January 30th and 31st, League members will have the opportunity to go to Austin for **Lobby Days**. During Lobby Days, members from all over the state come together to learn more about issues that have been designated as legislative priorities by LWV-TX, then meet with legislators to discuss the League's positions on those issues. For more information and to register, go to the LWV-TX [website](#).
- Locally, we want to get as much **input** as possible from our members on important issues that should be addressed by the candidates in the RISD Board of Trustees and Richardson City Council elections. If you are interested in helping to write questions for our local Voters Guides, please contact Voter Service VP Ellen Steger at voterservice@lwvrichardson.org.
- Two important LWV-R **committees**, Budget and Nominating, need members to step up early in the year. Members of our Budget Committee help review our donations and spending, and

set the proposed budget that will be voted on at our Annual Meeting in May. Members of our Nominating Committee reach out to fellow members to match their interests and abilities with open positions on the LWV-R board for the coming year. If you are interested in serving on either of these committees, please contact me at president@lwvrichardson.org.

- Finally, members should **SAVE THE DATE** for our annual Over-the-Hump party, to be held on Saturday, January 14th. We will send an email to members very soon with details as to time and place.

In this season of changes, our members can step up and make a difference by being active with the League at the local, regional, and state level. Whether we are engaged in Voter Service, Advocacy, or in doing the business that keeps our organization going, by joining together we can help Make Democracy Work.

Our sympathies go to the family and friends of Ann Graeber, who passed away on December 18, 2016, after a long illness. Ann was a long-time member of LWV-Richardson.

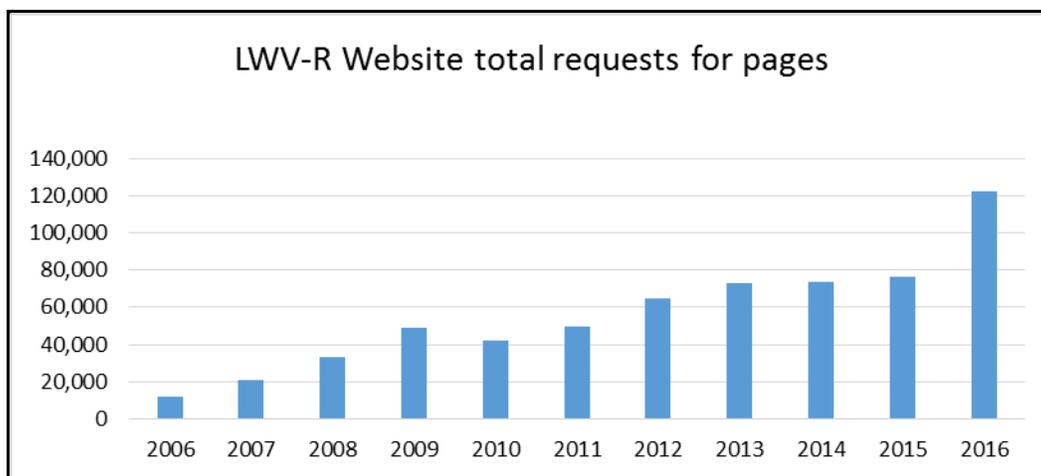


Website usage during 2016

The website of the League of Women Voters of Richardson (www.lwvrichardson.org) has now been in existence for more than ten years. During that time, the public increasingly has come to rely on our website for information, particularly around the time of elections.

Over the years, the website has seen increasing traffic, with 2016 being the busiest year yet. We averaged over 10,000 successful requests for pages each month this year, which works out to close to 350 requests on average per day.

The LWV-Richardson website continues to be the place to look, whether you are seeking information about where to vote, the status of voter identification laws in the courts, Voters Guides in the candidates' own words, or links to other reliable sources of information.



● ● ● **SAVE THE DATE** ● ● ●



The League of Women Voters of Dallas
Invites You to an Educational Meeting
(Co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Richardson)

**PUBLIC FUNDING OF EDUCATION IN TEXAS
INCLUDING THE PROPOSITION FOR VOUCHERS
(HOW TO SURVIVE ON A STARVATION DIET!)**

Wednesday, January 25, 2017

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Center for Community Cooperation
2900 Live Oak Street || Dallas, TX 75204
214-821-0911

Be an Informed Citizen and Voter!

Facilitator: The Honorable Mavis Knight – State Board of Education 2002 – 2016

Speakers:

Patti Everett – Public Policy Consultant with local, state, and national organizations

Dr. Michael Hinojosa – Superintendent Dallas Independent School District

Janet Imhoff – League of Women Voters of Texas Public Education Issue Chair

The Honorable Thomas Ratliff – Retired State Board of Education Member District 9

Chandra Villanueva – Center for Public Policy Priorities Policy Analyst on School Finance and Education Policy

(The General Meeting and Parking are FREE. Lunch is \$11.)

To make your RESERVATION and order lunch, you may –

Mail a check to LWV Dallas at 2720 N Stemmons Freeway, Suite 812, Dallas, TX 75207,

Pay online at www.lwvdallas.org, or

Pay at the door, but you must make reservations in advance.

RSVP to lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net or call 214-688-4125.

Program of Education and Advocacy

By Nancy Wilson

Over the last few years, the League of Women Voters of Richardson has been engaged in a process of conducting an in-depth review of its local positions, known as Periodic Program Review (PPR).



This year, we undertook the third of four planned reviews, focusing on our local position on **LAND USE & URBAN DESIGN**. The current Position is a compilation of positions reached from several related local studies that had been adopted over time. It covers four areas: Land Use Policy, Parks, Transportation, and Solid Waste.



League members gathered for a review of the years of work behind the current position of Land Use and Urban Design. Leaders for overview and conversation were LWV-R Vice President Nancy Wilson and Carol Wilson, a former member who now lives in Portland, OR. Carol, in addition to tireless leadership activity in LWV-R, served the community in many other ways including service on the COR City Council and the Plan Commission during years of Richardson's rapid growth.

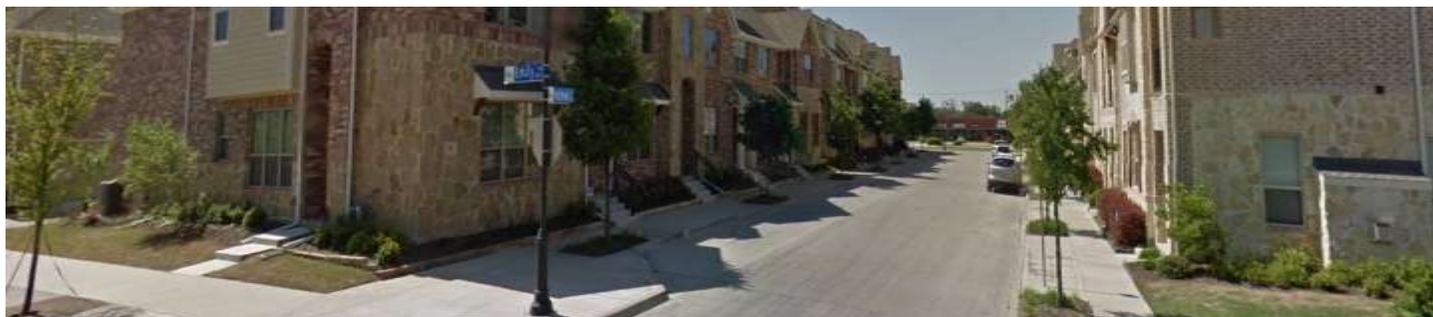
Nancy Wilson was presenter for the section on history. She started with background information on the City of Richardson from its founding to its period of rapid growth, which stretched from the mid 1950's to the present. She reviewed LWV-R's important role in the life of the city, beginning with its initial "Know Your Town" study in 1962. This study, which is required of every prospective local League as part of the process of being recognized by LWV, required Richardson members to learn about all aspects of life and government in the City of Richardson.

Nancy spoke of the group's intensive research and preparation, followed by advocacy. She then pointed to the areas now under the Land Use and Urban Design Position that always figured heavily into its participation in local issues. That interest continued with the Richardson League's first Land Use study in 1967. She commented on how the League's involvement had a strong impact as the city grew. She called attention to the ways in which League members became involved in civic life. Individual members were appointed to



boards and commissions, most often as the only female in those bodies. She spoke of League participation in the founding and ongoing activities of the Richardson Environmental Action League, and also of its advocacy for Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART). She was able to state that the League developed a reputation for being a responsible and extremely well-informed asset to the city.

Carol Wilson took over for the discussion about the current situation and future options. She and Nancy Wilson told of a tour of rediscovery that they took shortly before the meeting. Among the points they were interested in reviewing were parks, trails, and recreation centers. They noted that Richardson is no longer just a car-dependent suburb. It is also a city with a developing high density urban area, which trends toward walking and public transportation, and it is a city with an expanding university.



Some of the topics related to Land Use and Urban Design that were mentioned in a discussion about possible advocacy were:

- Extend the trail system and closing the gap between trails in the City of Dallas and those in Richardson.
- Develop a transit village as a place where people might gather near DART access.
- Support acquisition and development of sufficient park land to achieve and maintain the recommended ratio of acres/resident.
- Preserve open spaces and historic sites.

Some ways to participate in the public process on Land Use and Urban Design that were mentioned were:

- Ask relevant questions to candidates for election.
- Encourage an adequate budget for parks and recreation.
- Watch as the city updates its plan for parks.
- Provide input into the city's next land use plan for 2019.



The meeting of the League of Women Voters of Richardson was held on December 6, 2016, at the home of Nancy Wilson. Members attending were Brenda Boston, Martha Dorris, Diana Lace, Susan Majors, Joan Pask, Jean Richards, and Nancy Wilson. Guests were Carol Wilson, Carolyn Wingo, and LWV-Dallas President Eileen Rosenblum.

Compiled and written from meeting notes taken by Susan Majors

CHIP | Children's Medicaid

By Martha Dorris

On Nov. 10 at the Forest Lane Academy Family Fitness night, six families received information about the insurances and four of them asked for appointments with Diana Lopez from the Community Council of Greater Dallas (ccgd) to complete the application on line later. We distributed flyers about a Nov. 19 session at St. Barnabas (St. B) to everyone, including other families who inquired about the Affordable Care Act.

At the application help session at St. B. on Nov. 19, John Stack (Community Partner Program Client Navigator at Network), Sheila Wilson, Amalia Palmer and I met with two families. The web site was unavailable for on-line applications and both families made appointments with John Stack.

The Health and Human Service Commission has introduced an updated web site for applying for benefits. On Nov. 12 John Stack had intended to train all volunteers in using the new site for CHIP, Children's Medicaid and disability Medicaid. However, the portal was down for maintenance and he substituted a program about the Texas benefits available to our families and other resources such as the medical savings program for Social Security recipients. We had six of the ccgd CHIP Outreach navigators, one RISD nurse, two members of the League of Women Voters of Richardson, one member of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, and six members of St. B. attending. There was a lively question and answer session about access to patients' applications and how to change from "limited" to "full" access. We started brunch at 9 am finished about noon.

Two of the ccgd outreach specialists went directly from the training session to the Parents' Fair at Richardson High School and answered questions about the programs and benefits at a CHIP/Children's Medicaid table.

We have been invited to Dover Elementary School on Jan. 19 from 5:30 to 7 pm and we will have an application help session at St. B. on Jan. 21 from 9 am until noon. Thank all of you for your help and support for these programs. Just give me a call if you would like to become more involved, or email me at CHIP@lwvrichardson.org.



Finance Drive Changes

Earlier this year, the board of directors of the League of Women Voters of Richardson voted to change the timing of our annual Finance Drive. In the past, our fundraising efforts kicked off during the month of February. Beginning this year, the board has decided to move the Finance Drive to the late fall.

The reasoning behind this move was two-fold. First, securing donations prior to setting the budget for the coming fiscal year will make it easier to plan our expected expenditures. Second, donors who are looking to make year-end tax-deductible donations may be more likely to give to our 501(c)(3) Texas Education Fund account in the fall than in the spring.

If you have not yet made your donation to LWV-R, please take the time to do so now, using the donation form below. If you are interested in becoming a member of LWV-R, fill out and return the membership form.



To make a donation 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, including VOTERS GUIDES and forums.
- Checks written to **LWV-Richardson** are not tax-deductible. The League may use these funds for any League activity.

Mail to: League of Women Voters of Richardson
300 North Coit Road, Suite 125
Richardson, TX 75080

From:

Name: _____

Email*: _____

*Email will be used to send donors the Richardson League's newsletter and will not be shared.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Mail this form with your check for membership dues to:
League of Women Voters of Richardson, 300 North Coit Road, Suite 125, Richardson, TX 75080

Name _____ Additional member in household _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (home) _____ Phone (work/day) _____ Cell phone _____

Email address _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

\$54.00 one member. \$81.00 two members same household. \$27.00 for a one-year student membership.

Dues are not tax deductible. Please write your check to: League of Women Voters of Richardson



GENDERCIDE
AWARENESS PROJECT

presents

126 MILLION MISSING!



12,600 pairs made by at-risk women in 30 countries.
Each pair represents 10,000 missing women and girls.

See also

Artists Respond

Professional artists respond in original works of art.

February 10-15, 2017
Fashion Industry Gallery (FIG),
1807 Ross Ave
In the Dallas Arts District

Learn more gendap.org