



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF RICHARDSON**

Editor: Diana Lace

VOTER

Calendar	
Date	Event
Feb 2	Water Quality in Collin County, 6:30 pm
Feb 10-15	Gendercide Art Exhibit
Feb 15	Local Program Planning email meeting
Feb 25	Over-the-Hump Party
Feb 28	Lunch – writing VG questions
Mar 7	Lunch – finalizing VG questions
Mar 22	LWV-R Board Meeting

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FROM THE PRESIDENT Jean Richards

Elections matter. This is a phrase we repeat so often that it sometimes seems to lose its meaning, until we are reminded that an election can change so many things.

The November Election was important, in that it brought us a new president, a Congress with the president's party in the majority in both houses, and a state Legislature with the same majority in both houses. We can expect many changes going forward due to the results of this election.

But local elections are important, too. In May we will have elections for every single seat on the Richardson City Council, for three seats on the RISD Board of Trustees, and for several other local races. Right now, candidates are picking up packets and filing for office, and we will soon be faced with the task of trying to learn what we can about those candidates.

The League of Women Voters of Richardson will be working hard to help voters find the information they need to vote responsibly. We will keep our website updated, produce Voters Guides, and put on candidate forums. We will also, along with LWV-US and LWV-TX, continue to advocate for issues on which we hold positions.

If you are a member, help out with our Voter Service work during this election season, and contact your elected officials when asked to do so in an Action Alert. If you are not a member but would like to join, fill out and mail in a [membership form](#). If you wish to [donate](#) to support the work of the League, please do so.

Because elections matter.

Local Program Planning Meeting – We're trying something new!

Each year, our organization conducts a Local Program Planning meeting. The purposes of this meeting are to: 1) review our existing local positions to see if the membership wants to keep them, tweak them, or get rid of them, and 2) suggest topics that might be worthy of local study in the coming year(s).

Over the last couple of years and under the leadership of longtime member and current Program Vice President Nancy Wilson, our League has also been going through a Periodic Program Review process. The purpose is to do an in-depth historical review of one or two of our existing positions each year, so that our members will better understand how the studies behind the positions were conducted and what they mean today. Through this process we have gained a much better understanding of our positions.

Our annual Local Program Planning meetings, on the other hand, have become pretty formulaic and have not been well-attended. It seems that most of our members are comfortable with our existing positions, and for several years now, there has not been any kind of clamor for conducting new studies.



Given that fact, our board decided to try something different this year. Rather than having an in-person Local Program Planning meeting, the board has authorized an email meeting. Our bylaws only require that, on the topic of League Program “[v]oting members may make recommendations to the Board of Directors at least two months prior to the Annual Meeting.” Soliciting those recommendations by email is different, but we hope that it will give our members as much of an opportunity for input as in-person meetings have done.

Our Local Program Planning Email Meeting is scheduled for February 15th. Members should look for an email with instructions on how to participate.

If you have comments or concerns about this change, email Jean Richards at president@lwvrichardson.org.



Save the Date

Members and guests:
*Come join the celebration
at our annual
Over the Hump Party!*

When: Saturday, February 25 at 6:30 p.m.
Watch for details soon!

Members – Here's a volunteer opportunity that's both educational and fun!

One of the most important and valued aspect of what we accomplish as an organization falls under the category of **local Voter Service**. When local elections are held, our members work together to make sure that voters can find the information they need to make responsible decisions about candidates. We normally do this through our candidate forums and our Voters Guides.

Both our candidate forums and Voters Guides give candidates an equal opportunity to use their own words to address issues of concern to the local community. At candidate forums, we normally use questions written by the public. In our Voters Guides, we have to come up with the questions ourselves. However, our Voters Guides are only a good tool for evaluating and comparing candidates if the questions we come up with are good ones.

Please join Voter Service Vice President Ellen Steger to learn what makes a good Voters Guide question, to look through questions used in past years, and to choose the questions for this year's **Richardson City Council** and **RISD Board of Trustees** races. The more members' ideas and experiences we can draw on, the better our Voters Guides will be.

When:

- Tuesday, Feb. 27 at lunch to discuss questions and topics
- Tuesday, Mar. 7 at lunch to finalize questions

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. An email with details will be sent to members at a later date.



LWV-Dallas holds public meeting on Education Funding in Texas



On Wednesday, January 25th, the League of Women Voters of Dallas presented a panel discussion on Education Funding in Texas, with particular emphasis on proposals that may come up during the 2017 session of the Texas Legislature. The moderator was The Honorable Mavis Knight, retired State Board of Education member.

Speakers included:

- Ms. Janet Imhoff of LWV-Collin County, who served during the last two legislative sessions as the Public Education Issue Chair for LWV-TX;
- Ms. Patti Everett, a Public Policy Consultant with local, state, and national organizations;
- The Honorable Thomas Ratliff, retired State Board of Education member;
- Ms. Chandra Villanueva, Policy Analyst on School Finance and Education Policy from the Center for Public Policy Priorities
- Dr. Michael Hinojosa, Superintendent of the Dallas Independent School District

Topics addressed by the speakers included the LWV-TX positions on Public Education funding; things to watch for in the legislative session; six serious problems with charter school policies; problems with accounting for how money is spent under some proposals; the history and effects of Robin Hood; two types of voucher proposals; some good things about school finance laws in Texas; how to fix recapture so it does what it's supposed to, and; how vouchers, charters, and similar proposals affect public school districts.

The meeting was well attended, the panel was knowledgeable and well-prepared, and there was a good question-and-answer period at the end of the program.

The meeting was filmed by an LWV-Dallas member, who hoped to post the video and handouts on the LWV-Dallas [website](#). As of this printing, they are not yet available.

Attending from LWV-Richardson were Susan Majors, Nancy Wilson, and Jean Richards. Also there were former members (now with LWV-Dallas) Jane Daboub and LWV-Dallas President Eileen Rosenblum.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF COLLIN COUNTY

Water Quality in Collin County

Thursday, February 2, 2017, 6:30 p.m.

Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Road, Plano, TX 75075*

- * How safe is the water in Collin County?
- * Where does the water come from?
- * How is it treated and delivered to consumers?
- * What is done to prevent corrosion or contamination?



Panelists:



Billy George

Assistant Deputy Director – Water
North Texas Municipal Water District
B.S. Civil Engineering, M.B.A.



Gerald Cosgrove

Director of Public Works
City of Plano
B.S. Civil Engineering, M.B.A.



David Brown

Director of Public Works
City of McKinney
B.S. Civil Engineering



Moderator: Katie McCain

Director of Business Development
Wachs Water Services
Past President of American Water
Works Association

For more information, go to: www.LWVCollin.org

Or contact program@LWVCollin.org

* This event is not sponsored by the Plano Public Library System or the City of Plano.



Election May 6, 2017

On May 6, 2017, **non-partisan** elections will be held for those entities listed below. If ALL races in an entity are uncontested, the election for that entity will be cancelled.

Dallas County School Board

The Board of Trustees establishes the policies by which Dallas County Schools operates. Trustees are elected to 2-year terms. Precinct 1 represents portions of the city of Richardson and portions of Lake Highlands. Only registered voters who reside in that precinct may vote for that office. See the [map](#) to determine if you can vote in the Precinct 1 election.



**Dallas County
Schools**
Strengthening Education Through Service

- Precinct 1, currently held by Dr. Paul A. Freeman

City of Richardson (Collin and Dallas Counties)

The City of Richardson will hold an election for City Council. The Richardson City Council consists of the Mayor (Place 7), two at-large seats (Places 5 & 6) and four place, or district, seats (Places 1 through 4). Council Members representing Places 1 - 4 must reside in those areas. [See the city's quadrant map and current Council members.](#) All members of Richardson City Council (Places 1-7) are elected at-large by all registered voters living in the City of Richardson. Council members serve two-year terms.

- Place 1, currently held by Bob Townsend
- Place 2, currently held by Mark Solomon, Mayor Pro Tem
- Place 3, currently held by Scott Dunn
- Place 4, currently held by Mabel Simpson
- Place 5, currently held by Marta Gomez-Frey
- Place 6, currently held by Steve Mitchell
- Place 7, currently held by Paul Voelker, Mayor

Richardson Independent School District

The Richardson ISD will hold an election for Board of Trustees. Trustees serve staggered 3-year terms. This year, the election is for Places 6 & 7. All members of the Richardson ISD Board of Trustees are elected at-large by all registered voters living in the Richardson ISD. A special election to fill the remaining 2 years of the term of Place 3 will also be held. Voters will see no difference between the regular election for Places 6 & 7 and the special election for Place 3.



- Place 6, currently held by Justin Bono
- Place 7, currently held by Kristin Kuhne
- Place 3, currently held by Kris Oliver. Mr. Oliver has tendered, and the board has accepted, his resignation from the board, effective May, 2017.



Collin County Community College District Board of Trustees

The Collin County Community College District will hold an election for Board of Trustees. Trustees serve staggered 6-year terms. All members of the Collin County Community College District (CCCCD) Board of Trustees are elected at-large by all registered voters living in the CCCCCD. This year, the election is for Places 1, 2, and 3. An appointment was made to fill a vacancy in Place 5 until the May 6, 2017, election, when a candidate will be elected to

fill the final 2 years of the term in Place 5

- Place 1, currently held by Nancy Wurzman
- Place 2, currently held by Jenny McCall
- Place 3, currently held by Larry Wainwright
- Place 5, currently held by Dr. Raj Menon (Place 5 will appear on the ballot again in 2019.)

Plano Independent School District

The Plano ISD will hold an election for Board of Trustees. Trustees serve staggered 4-year terms. This year, the election is for Places 1, 2, 3, and 6. All members of the Plano ISD Board of Trustees are elected at-large by all registered voters living in the Plano ISD.



Plano Independent School District

- Place 1, currently held by Tammy Richards
- Place 2, currently held by Carrolyn Moebius
- Place 3, currently held by Nancy Humphrey
- Place 6, currently held by Marilyn Hinton

General Information

Are you interested in running for elected office? Or do you know somebody who is interested?

- The last day for a candidate to file an application for a place on the ballot for the May 6, 2017, general election is Friday, February 17, 2017.
- The last day for a candidate to file application for a place on the ballot for the May 6, 2017, special election is Monday, March 6, 2017.





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