



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF RICHARDSON

Editor: Diana Lace

VOTER

Calendar	
Date	Event
Sept 6	LWV-R Board Meeting, 7pm
Sept 27	LWV-R Membership Kickoff, Civic Center
Sept 27	National Voter Registration Day
Oct 10	Last day to register to vote in Nov 7 election
Oct 23	Early voting starts – Nov 7 election

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Jean Richards

As summer starts to wind down, it's time to turn our thoughts to Voter Service for the next election cycle. We're thrilled that our Voter Service Vice President, Ellen Steger, is making a remarkable recovery from her recent health concerns. She has an interesting election year ahead.

The next election involves seven amendments to the Texas Constitution. Unlike the U.S. Constitution, the Texas Constitution has had hundreds of amendments added over the years. Be sure to check our website over the coming month for more information and analysis on the proposed amendments.

March 2018 will bring us the Primary Elections that will determine who will be on the ballot for the Midterm Election in November. Given the current level of interest in state and national politics, the lead up to the Primaries could be very interesting. We will continue voter registration efforts, as well as providing unbiased information about the election and the candidates.

The League of Women Voters of Richardson is also embarking on studies to potentially update two of our local positions – on the Richardson City Charter and on Election Laws and Procedures. I encourage members to get involved in one or both of these studies as the committees begin their work.

On September 27th, we will be holding a public meeting called **Know Your Town II** (based on the original Know Your Town project undertaken by our brand-new League over 50 years ago). See page 2 for more information, and be sure to bring potential members with you to this meeting.

Members, please be sure to pay your dues if you have not already done so

Let's be sure to keep our neighbors along the Gulf Coast in our thoughts throughout the coming months.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF RICHARDSON

Do you know how...

- ★ *the City of Richardson is addressing our changing community?*
- ★ *the Richardson ISD is serving all students?*
- ★ *the League of Women Voters of Richardson is impacting **both** communities?*

Find out at the League of Women Voters of Richardson's

Know Your Town II

Membership / Kick-off Meeting

Wednesday, September 27, 2017

7:00 pm

Richardson Civic Center

Heights Room

411 West Arapaho Road

Richardson, TX 75080

Speakers:

- ➔ **Taylor Lough** *Assistant to the Richardson City Manager*
- ➔ **Mia Martin** *General Counsel for Richardson ISD*
- ➔ **Jean Richards** *President of LWV-Richardson*

 Visit www.lwvrichardson.org
Follow the League on Twitter @LWVRichardson

State Constitutional Amendment Election in Texas November 7, 2017



Sample Ballot

Tuesday, November 7, 2017, Texans will go to the polls to vote on seven proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution. Click here to view a [sample ballot](#).

To read a *Texas Tribune* article on the proposed amendments, click [here](#).

The **League of Women Voters of Texas** will publish a *VOTERS GUIDE* for this election. When the *VOTERS GUIDE* is available, LWV-Richardson will

- link to that publication on our website (www.lwvrichardson.org), and
- distribute paper copies at locations in Richardson and Richardson ISD.

More information and analysis will be posted as it becomes available.

Texas Voter ID Law

According to an [August 23, 2017, article in the Texas Tribune](#),

U.S. District Judge Nelva Gonzales Ramos on Wednesday ruled that Senate Bill 5, signed by Gov. [Greg Abbott](#) in June, doesn't absolve Texas lawmakers from responsibility for discriminating against Latino and black voters when they crafted one of the nation's strictest voter ID laws in 2011. The judge also ruled that the state failed to prove that the new law would accommodate such voters going forward.

Unless appeals courts step in, Ramos' sweeping ruling could mean Texans wouldn't have to show a photo ID at the polls in future elections.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton quickly promised to appeal Ramos' decision.

It is not clear at this point, what the Texas voter ID requirements will be for the November 7, 2017, election. LWV-Richardson will keep you updated.

Tuesday, October 10, 2017,
is the last day to register to vote in the November 7, 2017, election.



The 12th Annual Health Fair was held at St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church on Saturday, August 19, 2017. LWV-Richardson Board Secretary Susan Majors is a member of the St. Barnabas Health Fair Committee that sponsored the fair. At this year's fair,

- Network of Community Ministries gave away approximately 1000 backpacks filled with grade-appropriate school supplies.
- A beauty school gave lots of free haircuts.
- Richardson ISD nurses performed hearing and vision screening for adults.
- Free glucose and cholesterol screenings were provided.
- Dentists were on-hand to answer questions.
- CareVan provided hundreds of inoculations that children need prior to the beginning of school.
- Children were measured and given free bike helmets.
- St. Barnabas youth conducted games and activities for the children.
- Hourly drawings were held to give away bicycles.

LWV-R member Martha Dorris and the Community Council of Greater Dallas helped at least 86 people with registrations for CHIP and Children's Medicaid. She gave out information about the insurance programs to at least 86 families.

LWV-R President Jean Richards and brand-new LWV-R member Andrea Hamblin staffed the League's voter registration table. Andrea registered new Dallas County voters.

"I couldn't think of a more honorable way to have celebrated the 97th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment granting women the right to vote." - Andrea



(For more information on the 19th amendment, see page 7.)

Jean and Andrea also handed out mail-in registration applications for people living in other counties as well as handing out flyers with dates of upcoming elections.



Thank you for your help and support during the 2016-2017 academic school year for the Children's Health Insurance Program **(CHIP)/Medicaid for Children**. We anticipate continued interest from families asking for assistance.

For at least 14 years, the Richardson ISD area **CHIP** Coalition, including LWV-Richardson, has supported efforts that encourage families to obtain health insurance for their children and the economic security that coverage provides. The Richardson ISD Council of PTAs is our essential link to publicize events to our families. The RISD nursing staff enthusiastically encourages these efforts and invites families to participate. Events are hosted at St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church (St. B) which provides space free of charge and at the individual campuses of RISD when we are invited to participate in health fairs, parent forums, PTA meetings and other events.

Last school year (2016-2017):

- At 8 application help sessions held at St. B helped 27 families.
- At 7 RISD on-site events, such as Health Fairs, about 48 families received direct help with the application and many more obtained information about the programs.
- At a health fair at St. B on August 19, at least 86 families received information about the insurance programs, with half of those being encouraged to follow up with more assistance from the outreach specialists. Two families completed paper applications during the event.

Some families have great difficulty understanding what information is requested and need encouragement to complete the form. We routinely invite bilingual outreach specialists from the Community Council of Greater Dallas and Network to assist us with our Spanish speaking families and advise families on many of the details of the application process.

YOU can help at one of these CHIP Help Sessions:

St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church 1220 W. Belt Line Road Richardson, TX 75080 9:00am – noon	Sept. 16, 2017	Feb. 17, 2018
	Oct. 21, 2017	March 24, 2018
	Nov. 18, 2017	April 21, 2018
	Jan. 27, 2018	May 19, 2018

Please share this information with anyone who might be interested, especially families with children who may need health insurance. Application forms in English and Spanish are available. If you need paper forms, please contact Martha Dorris at [972-690-4908](tel:972-690-4908) or CHIP@lwvrichardson.org. An on-line version is available at YourTexasBenefits.com.

Children must be U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents to qualify. Applying does not affect the family's immigration status or chances of becoming a permanent resident or citizen. All information provided is kept private and secure, as required by law.

The 19th Amendment to the US Constitution

Wikipedia provides a summary of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution:

The **Nineteenth Amendment (Amendment XIX)** to the [United States Constitution](#) prohibits the states and the federal government from denying the [right to vote](#) to citizens of the United States on the basis of sex. It was [adopted](#) on August 18, 1920. Until the 1910s, most states did not give women the right to vote. The amendment was the culmination of the [women's suffrage movement in the United States](#), which fought at both state and national levels to achieve the vote. It effectively overruled [Minor v. Happersett](#), in which a unanimous [Supreme Court](#) ruled that the [Fourteenth Amendment](#) did not give women the right to vote.



The Nineteenth Amendment was originally introduced in Congress in 1878 by Senator [Aaron A. Sargent](#). Forty-one years later, in 1919, Congress submitted it to the states for ratification. It was ratified by three-fourths of the states a year later, with [Tennessee's](#) ratification being the last needed to add the amendment to the Constitution. In [Leser v. Garnett](#) (1922), the Supreme Court rejected claims that the amendment was unconstitutionally adopted.

The Nineteenth Amendment is identical to the [Fifteenth Amendment](#), except that the Nineteenth prohibits the denial of suffrage because of sex and the Fifteenth because of "race, color, or previous condition of servitude".

View the entire Wikipedia article [here](#).

The wording of the 15th and 19th Amendments:

Amendment XV

(Ratified February 3, 1870)

Section 1

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Amendment XIX

(Ratified August 18, 1920)

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.