



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup>  
OF RICHARDSON**

Editor: Diana Lace

# VOTER

Calendar	
Date	Event
Oct 10	Last day to register to vote in Nov 7 election
Oct 12	CHIP @ Arapaho Classical Magnet, 6pm
Oct 19	CHIP @ Hamilton Park Pacesetter, 5pm
Oct 19	CHIP @ Mark Twain Elementary, 5pm
Oct 21	CHIP @ St Barnabas Presbyterian Church, 9am
Oct 23	Early voting starts – Nov 7 election
Oct 27	Last day to apply for ballot by mail
Oct 28	CHIP @ Thurgood Marshall Elementary, 9am
Oct 28-29	LWV-R booth @ Huffhines Art Trails
Nov 3	Last day of early voting
Nov 7	Election Day

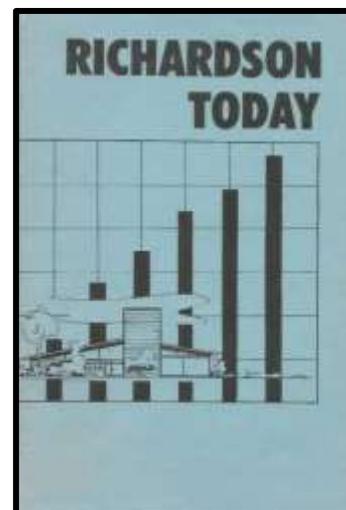
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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Jean Richards

**Know Your Town** – That was the title of the project taken on by a group of Richardson-area women in 1961 as they sought to become a local unit of the League of Women Voters. In the course of the project, these women attended meetings, visited all parts of the city and school district, met with government officials, conducted research, and learned all they could about the workings of the community. They produced a booklet, "Richardson Today," which outlined their findings about the history, character, and government of the area.

This year, the League of Women Voters of Richardson is updating some of that work done 56 years ago by its founding members through our **Know Your Town II** project. We had a very successful kickoff meeting this week at which we learned about changes the city and school district have undergone in recent years.



As we continue to add new members to our local League, we hope that they will join us as we go on "field trips" designed to familiarize us with the changing face of our city and school district. The first is a visit to a Richardson ISD Board of Trustees meeting on October 2nd at 6:00 p.m. The second is a visit to a Richardson City Council work session and meeting on November 13th at 6:00 p.m. Other outings will be planned in future months.

**November 7 Election** – Although the Texas Constitution has been amended 491 times since its adoption in 1876, seven more amendments will be on the ballot next month. Learn more about those amendments and other ballot items below and on our website.

## Membership Minute

By Nita Thomason

A big thank you goes to the whole LWV-R Board for their team effort in our Kick-Off/Membership meeting September 27. In spite of a 7:00 pm downpour of much-needed rain, we had a full house (around 35 people) for our meeting. The presentations from Taylor Lough (Assistant City Manager) and Mia Martin (RISD legal counsel) about our City Government and Richardson Independent School District were both informative and interesting. Plus, we had several new members join the League and others who have expressed interest in possibly joining!



*Richardson Mayor Pro Tem Mark Solomon and  
RISD Trustee Katie Patterson sign in*



*LWV-R Membership Chair Nita  
Thomason welcomes everyone*



*New member Jessica Hook explains the  
restudy of the Richardson City Charter  
position that she is spearheading.*



*Mia Martin, RISD General Counsel (left) and  
Taylor Lough, Assistant to the Richardson City Manager*

A few of our current members have not yet paid their dues. If one of those people is you, the time is now. The dues are \$54 for one member or \$81 for two members in the same household. Make your check to the League of Women Voters and send it to the League office at 300 North Coit Road, Suite 125, Richardson, TX 75080.

It would be great if you can join us October 2 at 6:00 pm for the RISD Board of Trustees meeting at the RISD School Administration Building on Greenville Avenue.

## LWV-R Board Meeting Summary

By Susan Majors

The League of Women Voters of Richardson Board met on Wednesday, September 6, 2017. At that meeting the Board:



- Appointed Jessica Hook to serve on the Board of Directors and to be chair of the committee restudying the local position on the Richardson City Charter.
- Noted that three committees are seeking members - the restudy of the City Charter position, the restudy of the Election Laws and Procedures position, and Periodic Program Review of local positions related to public schools.
- Heard Nita Thomason's plans for a membership/kick-off meeting titled, "Know Your Town II."
- Learned of progress being made on an advocacy effort to close a gap in a portion of the Regional Trail System that lies in an unincorporated area of Dallas County between Richardson and Dallas.
- Considered arrangements for a League table at the Huffhines Art Festival.
- Reviewed voter service activities related to the November election on proposed constitutional amendments.
- Made plans to register voters at RISD high school football games during Rivalry Week.
- Expressed appreciation to Andrea Hamblin for doing voter registration and to Martha Dorris for providing help with CHIP and Children's Medicaid at the St. Barnabas Health Fair.
- Chose dates for field trips to a RISD School Board meeting and a Richardson City Council meeting as part of "Know Your Town" activities.
- Discussed finance drive letters to be mailed to potential donors in October.



League of Women Voters of Richardson members Ellen Steger and Andrea Hamblin join Elizabeth Afriyie, Yale Elementary School PTA's Legislative Chairman, at a table to register voters at a school-wide picnic at Yale Elementary School on September 14, 2017.



# HOUSE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

*focus report*

*Texas House of Representatives*

*September 7, 2017*

The following is an excerpt from the September 7, 2017, House Research Organization focus report.

## **A** mending the Constitution

Texas voters have approved 491 amendments to the state Constitution since its adoption in 1876, according to the Legislative Reference Library. Seven more proposed amendments will be submitted for voter approval at the general election on Tuesday, November 7, 2017.

## Ballot wording

The ballot wording of a proposition is specified in the joint resolution adopted by the Legislature, which has broad discretion concerning the wording. In rejecting challenges to the ballot language for proposed amendments, the courts generally have ruled that ballot language is sufficient if it describes the proposed amendment with such definiteness and certainty that voters will not be misled and if it allows a voter of average intelligence to distinguish one proposition from another on the ballot. The courts have assumed that voters become familiar with the proposed amendments before reaching the polls and that they do not decide how to vote solely on the basis of the ballot language.



## Do **YOUR** part! Be informed!

The focus report states:

The courts have assumed that voters become familiar with the proposed amendments before reaching the polls....

## Texas Constitutional Amendment Election November 7, 2017

### WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT?

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#### **Texas Constitution**

In 2017, the Texas Legislature approved seven proposals to go to all voters in the State of Texas to be considered for inclusion as amendments to the Texas Constitution. These seven proposals cover a wide variety of issues.

- A sample ballot with the text of the proposed amendments can be found [here](#).

#### **Dallas County School Board Special Election**

Voters who reside in Dallas County will vote on whether the governmental entity that provides bus transportation to some school districts in Dallas County will be continued or disbanded.

- The text of the proposition can be found on page 7 of the sample ballot found [here](#).

#### **City of Dallas Bond Election**

Voters who reside in the City of Dallas will vote on several bond items.

- The text of the City of Dallas Bond propositions can be found on pages 3-5 of the sample ballot found [here](#).

### INFORMATION SOURCES

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A **VOTERS GUIDE** prepared by the League of Women Voters of Texas is now available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). It contains the wording of the seven proposed Constitutional Amendments, along with an analysis of each, including arguments for and against each amendment.

Printed copies of this **VOTERS GUIDE** will be available at locations around town. We will post those locations on our website when the printed guides are available.

- *An Analysis of Proposed Constitutional Amendments* published by the Texas Legislative Council is available on their website ([click here](#)).
- A *Focus Report* on the proposed Constitutional Amendments, prepared by the House Research Organization, can be found on their website ([click here](#)).

### WHERE AND WHEN TO VOTE

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#### **Dallas County**

If you are a registered voter in Dallas County, you may vote in this election. Complete information, including early voting locations, Election Day polling places, and sample ballots will be available on the [Dallas County Elections Department website](#).

#### **Collin County**

If you are a registered voter in Collin County, you may vote in this election. Complete information, including early voting locations, Election Day polling places, and sample ballots will be available on the [Collin County Elections Department website](#).

## Required Identification for Voting in Person

From the Texas Secretary of State's website: ..... [www.votetexas.gov](http://www.votetexas.gov)



On August 10, 2016, a federal district court entered an order changing the voter identification requirements for all elections held in Texas after August 10, 2016 until further notice. As a result, voters who possess an acceptable form of photo identification for voting listed below are still required to present it in order to vote in person in all Texas elections. The acceptable form of photo identification may be expired up to four years. Voters who do not possess an acceptable form of photo identification and cannot obtain one of the forms of acceptable photo identification listed below due to a reasonable impediment, may present a supporting form of identification and execute a Reasonable Impediment Declaration, noting the voter's reasonable impediment to obtaining an acceptable form of photo identification, and stating that the voter is the same person on the presented supporting form of identification.

**This requirement is effective immediately.**

**Here is a list of the acceptable forms of photo ID:**

- Texas driver license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS
- Texas personal identification card issued by DPS
- Texas license to carry a handgun issued by DPS
- United States military identification card containing the person's photograph
- United States citizenship certificate containing the person's photograph
- United States passport

With the exception of the U.S. citizenship certificate, the identification must be current or have expired no more than 4 years before being presented for voter qualification at the polling place.

**Election Identification Certificates are available from DPS driver license offices during regular business hours. Find mobile station locations here.**

**Here is a list of the supporting forms of ID that can be presented if the voter does not possess one of the forms of acceptable photo ID and cannot obtain one due to a reasonable impediment:**

- Valid voter registration certificate
- Certified birth certificate (must be an original)
- Copy of or original current utility bill
- Copy of or original bank statement
- Copy of or original government check
- Copy of or original paycheck
- Copy of or original government document with your name and an address (original required if it contains a photograph)

After presenting a supporting form of ID, the voter must execute a Reasonable Impediment Declaration.

## Registering Voters

### What are the requirements to be registered?

In order to register to vote, you must be

- a U.S. citizen.
- a resident of the Texas county in which application for registration is made.
- at least 18 years old on Election Day
- not finally convicted of a felony, or, if so convicted, must have
  - (1) fully discharged the sentence, including any term of incarceration, parole, or supervision, or completed a period of probation ordered by any court; or
  - (2) been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disability to vote; and
- **and** not determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be
  - (1) totally mentally incapacitated; or
  - (2) (2) partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.

Contact LWV-Richardson at  
[voterservice@lwvrichardson.org](mailto:voterservice@lwvrichardson.org)  
if you want to register to vote.



## **CHIP | Children's Medicaid**

By Marth Dorris

During the Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> application help session at St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church, eight families received information about the insurance programs and most arranged to meet with a specialist later in the week to fill out the forms on-line. The Council of PTAs publicized the event and paper forms were made available to each student at Thurgood Marshall Elementary and Lake Highlands Elementary. Susan Majors and I assisted Fidel Garcia from the Community Council of Greater Dallas who answered many questions and was invaluable help for our Spanish speaking parents.

We have been invited to participate in several upcoming events, including the following:

- October 12, 6:00 to 7:30 pm Arapaho Classical Magnet Elementary Fitness Night (including requesting paper flyers to be placed in student packets).
- October 19, 5:00 to 6:15 pm Hamilton Park Pacesetter
- October 19, 5:00 to 7:30 pm Mark Twain Elementary family picnic
- October 21, 9:00 am to noon St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church help session
- October 28, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Thurgood Marshall Elementary Parent Forum
- November 16, 6:00 to 7:00 pm Springridge Elementary School Health Fair



We are off to a great start this school year for this advocacy.

If your schedule permits, please consider volunteering to help with one or more of these events. I am happy to provide more information. Thank you for your continued support for these programs.

Martha Dorris

[CHIP@lwvrichardson.org](mailto:CHIP@lwvrichardson.org)

Home phone: [972-690-4908](tel:972-690-4908)

League of Women Voters of Collin County



hosts a nonpartisan public information forum



**Leaders from the Democratic, Green, Libertarian, and Republican parties will each describe their party, including platforms, structure, and how to get involved.**

Thursday, October 12, 6:30-8:00 pm

Davis Library, 7501 Independence Pkwy, Plano, TX 75025

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*Events at Plano libraries are not sponsored by the Plano Public Library System or the City of Plano.*

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization. We encourage informed and active participation of all citizens in government, and we influence public policy through education and advocacy. LWV does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

**Visit us at [lwvcollin.org](http://lwvcollin.org)**

# Collin County

# Candidate School

**Saturday, October 7, 2017**  
**9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

*Whether you are considering running for public office or helping current and future candidates, learn what it takes to make a difference.*

- ☆ Starting a Campaign & Deciding to Run
- ☆ Developing a Communications Strategy
- ☆ The Campaign Trail
- ☆ Fundraising to Win
- ☆ Lessons Learned

**Presented by:**

 ALLEN FAIRVIEW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  FRISCO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  MCKINNEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  PLANO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  RICHARDSON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**LOCATION: Plano Chamber of Commerce**  
5400 Independence Pkwy., Ste. 200  
Plano, TX 75023

**Tuition: \$50**  
Includes lunch & materials

**Register online at [planochamber.org](http://planochamber.org).**

Note: This event is not sponsored by the League of Women Voters



The **GEN**DERCIDE AWARENESS PROJECT  
invites you to

***Educate a Girl - Be Part of her Tomorrow!***  
**Girls' Education Fundraising Luncheon**

*Remarks from*

**Metra Mehran, Graduate Student, Texas A&M**  
*– Educating Girls in Afghanistan*

and

**The Honorable Victoria Neave**  
**Representative, Texas State Legislature**  
**Founder, Dallas Women's March**  
*– TBA*

**Wednesday, October 11, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm**

**The Clubs of Prestonwood**

**15909 Preston Road**

**Dallas, TX 75248**

**Tickets \$50 at [gendap.org](http://gendap.org)**

**Donations send at-risk girls in developing countries to school.**

**Learn more – [gendap.org](http://gendap.org)**

Sponsored by



Note: This event is not sponsored by the League of Women Voters.