



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

Editor: Diana Lace

VOTER

Calendar	
Date	Event
Sept 5, 12, 17, 25	TRE Public Meetings; See page 4
Sept 13	CHIP help session; 5-7pm; Forest Lane Academy
Sept 13	LWV-CC Electoral College presentation; 6:30pm; Schimelpfenig Library
Sept 14	LWV-R Social; 9am; Promenade
Sept 14	LWV-R City Charter Review; 10am; Promenade
Sept 15	CHIP Help Session; 9am-noon; St Barnabas
Sept 25	National Voter Registration Day
Sept 25	TRE Public Mtg; PHS Black Box Theatre
Sept 25-26	Voter registration at Richland College
Sept 29	10:30am; Meet the LWV-R Board
Oct 3, 13	TRE Public Meetings; See page 4
Oct 4	Voter registration at RISD PTAs' Meet & Greet
Oct 9	Last day to register to vote in November Election

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Ellen Steger

September is Voter Registration Month. Voter Service Vice President Jean Richards has been busy scheduling voter registration events. If you would like to schedule a voter registration event at your office, church, etc. or know of someone who needs to register, in either Dallas or Collin County, email Jean at voterservice@lwvrichardson.org. **You must be registered by October 9, 2018, in order to vote in the November 6, 2018, elections.**

The Richardson League had planned to hold forums for the candidates of House District 102 and 112. So far, the incumbents have declined to participate. Unless they change their minds, the forums must be canceled. See page 2 for details.

We'd like to meet each of you, our members and contributors. LWV-R has scheduled a Meet and Greet on 2 different occasions. Just a fun time to get to know each other. See pages 6-7 for details.

Martha Dorris would love some help at the CHIP help sessions. See pages 9-10 for details.

Hope to see you soon at an LWV-Richardson event!

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Richardson, TX 75080
(972) 470-0584

website: www.lwvrichardson.org
Facebook: League of Women Voters of Richardson
Twitter: @LWVRichardson
email: league@lwvrichardson.org

Candidate Forums

The League of Women Voters of Richardson and the Richardson ISD Council of PTAs planned to co-sponsor forums for candidates running for Texas House District seats in the November 6, 2018, election:

- Texas House District 102 (Republican incumbent Representative Linda Koop and Democratic challenger Ana-Maria Ramos)
- Texas House District 112 (Republican Incumbent Representative Angie Chen Button and Democratic challenger Brandy Chambers)

Both incumbents declined to participate, even after a second attempt was made to reschedule at their convenience.

At least two candidates for any office must participate for the League to proceed with a forum. If the incumbent does not participate, that leaves only one candidate to participate in the forum—a direct violation of League policy. Without the participation of the incumbent in their forum, the League will be forced to cancel the forum.

We strongly urge the incumbents to reconsider and agree to participate in their forum. The public should have the opportunity to question the candidates in a nonpartisan public forum.

The League plans to submit the following to the Dallas Morning News as a Letter to the Editor. The statement will also be publicized on the Richardson League's web page (www.lwvrichardson.org), Facebook Page (League of Women Voters of Richardson), and on Twitter (@LWVRRichardson).

Incumbents decline to participate in LWV-Richardson's forums for Texas House Districts 102 and 112

The League of Women Voters of Richardson (LWV-R) and the Richardson ISD Council of PTAs planned to co-sponsor forums for candidates running for Texas House Districts (HD) 102 and 112 in the November election.

The Republican incumbents (Linda Koop in HD 102; Angie Chen Button in HD 112) declined to participate. Both Democratic challengers (Ana-Maria Ramos in HD 102; Brandy Chambers in HD112) accepted.

A follow-up email was sent August 17, 2018, to both incumbents offering to reschedule at their convenience. LWV-R has not received a reply from Representative Koop. Representative Button again declined.

The League's long-standing policy states that at least two candidates for an office must be present to proceed with a forum. Without participation from the incumbents, there would only be one candidate participating in each forum and the League would be required to cancel the forums.

The League expects candidates to participate in nonpartisan public forums so voters have an opportunity to question the candidates. We strongly urge the incumbents to reconsider.

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Voter Service Report

By Jean Richards

Voter Registration Opportunities

At the events listed below, we will need both Volunteer Deputy Registrars (VDRs) and non-VDR volunteers to distribute items and answer questions about registration and voting. Don't worry – we'll supply volunteers with the information they need! If you would like to volunteer at one or more of these events, email voterservice@lwvrichardson.org.

Richland College

September 25th is National Voter Registration Day.

LWV-Richardson volunteers will be registering voters at Richland College on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 25th and 26th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Richardson ISD Council of PTAs Candidate Meet & Greet

LWV-Richardson volunteers will be registering voters on October 4th at the RISD's Professional Development Center Auditorium at 6:00 p.m.

Do you know someone who needs to register?

Our League has members who are Volunteer Deputy Registrars (VDRs) for both Dallas and Collin Counties. A VDR uses a special application form. Once it's filled out and signed, the applicant is registered to vote and has a receipt he or she can show at the polls to prove that fact. To contact a VDR or to get one of the applications listed below, email voterservice@lwvrichardson.org.

In our office, we have mail-in applications for Dallas and Collin Counties, as well as generic mail-in applications that can be used for other Texas counties, or you can [print an application](#).

We have a limited number of applications to vote by mail, or you can [print one](#). To be eligible to vote by mail in Texas, you must be 65 years or older; be disabled; be out of the county on election day and during the period for early voting by personal appearance; or be confined in jail, but otherwise eligible.

Although you cannot register to vote online in Texas, you can use a new website to print off an application. The website will then mail you the application to sign, and you can mail it in, postage paid. The website is Register2Vote.org. **The deadline to register to vote in the November 6 election is October 9.**



November 6, 2018, Election

The November election is fast approaching.

- Early Voting begins on October 22nd and ends on November 2nd.
- Sample ballots should be available by late September. We will link to them on our website.
- Voters Guides should be available on the www.VOTE411.org website early in October.

What's on the ballot?

In addition to the federal, state, and county races that were on the Primary Election ballot in March, there will also be a couple of other items to vote on in November.

COLLIN COUNTY BOND ELECTION

Voters who live in Collin County will vote on a \$750 million bond election. The bonds will be allocated: \$600 million for high-speed roadways; \$140 million for arterial roadways that feed into the highway system; and, \$10 million for open space and parks projects.

According to the Collin County website, if voters approve the bond election, the tax rate will not increase.

RISD TAX RATIFICATION ELECTION

Voters who live in the Richardson Independent School District will vote in a Tax Ratification Election. The RISD Board of Trustees has voted to raise the tax rate for the Maintenance and Operations (M&O) portion of its budget from \$1.04 per \$100 valuation to \$1.17.

According to the RISD's website, the average market value of a house in the district is \$288,794. Due to market conditions, taxes on the average house are expected to increase over last year by \$492.85 per year. If the TRE passes, taxes are expected to increase by an additional \$305.39, for a total increase of \$798.24 per year for the average house.

The League of Women Voters plans to publish a Pro-Con Voters Guide on the RISD Tax Ratification Election (TRE). It will be available on www.lwvrichardson.org and on www.VOTE411.org.

The RISD will hold a number of public meetings at which members of the public may submit questions:

- Sept. 5, 7 p.m. - Richardson YMCA
- Sept. 12, 7 p.m. - Lake Highlands HS - "H" Auditorium
- Sept. 17, 7 p.m. - Richardson HS - Library
- Sept. 25, 7 p.m. - Pearce HS - Black Box Theater
- Oct. 3, 7 p.m. - Berkner HS - Lecture Hall
- Oct. 13, 9 a.m. - RISD Administration Building

Recent Voter Registration Events

St. Barnabas Health Fair



On Saturday, August 18th, LWV-Richardson conducted voter registration at the St. Barnabas Health Fair.

Pictured are LWV-R members Jessica Hook (with her able assistant) and Keith Burgess. Also volunteering were Jean Richards and two local Volunteer Deputy Registrars, Pam Wren and Michael Clarke.

At the Health Fair, we registered seven voters and distributed three mail-in applications for Collin County.

Participants in the Health Fair were able to find a wide variety of services, supplies, and information. We applaud the volunteers who provide this important service each year, including LWV-R members Susan and Tom Majors and Martha Dorris.

Associa, Inc.

On Wednesday, August 29th, LWV-R members Ellen Steger, Keith Burgess, and Jean Richards conducted a voter registration drive at Associa, Inc. Associa is a Richardson company that deals with homeowners associations and property management.

Pictured are Jean and Ellen with two enthusiastic Associa employees. We registered eight voters, provided a Denton County resident with a mail-in application, and confirmed the registration status of a number of employees.



If you know of a company, organization, or event that would like us to conduct voter registration, email voterservice@lwvrichardson.org. The deadline to register in the November 6 election is October 9.



2 Opportunities

Bring a friend!

The LWV-Richardson board would like to meet YOU, our members and contributors!

#1

Friday, September 14, 2018
9:00am – 10:00am
Promenade Tower
Conference Room on Floor 'B'
300 N Coit Road
Richardson, TX 75080
Refreshments will be provided

Come join us for a fun, social hour. Stay at 10am as the Charter Review Committee has its first meeting of the year. The committee will meet monthly to restudy the Richardson League's positions on the Richardson City Charter (Position I) and Election Laws and Procedures (Positions II). See page 7 for the actual positions. The agenda of the first meeting of the committee is to set goals and priorities for the year.

#2

Saturday, September 29, 2018
10:30am



All members and contributors will receive an email closer to the time of the event detailing where the event will be held.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF RICHARDSON *POSITIONS I and II*

I. CITY CHARTER: The League of Women Voters of Richardson believes that the Charter should provide a flexible and consistent framework to enable the city to function effectively and respond to the needs of its citizens. We support:

A. Electing City Council Members and Mayor

1. Election of the Mayor by City Council.
2. Seven Council Members all elected at large; those members in elected Places 1, 2, 3, and 4 must reside in the correspondingly numbered districts.
3. District boundaries that are drawn to ensure equal representation on the Council. These boundaries should be reviewed by a Commission after every census (every ten years). The Commission should be made up of citizens appointed by the Council and representatives of all areas of the city;
4. Staggered terms of office for Council Members.
5. Compensation set by the Council by ordinance at least six months before an election.

B. Miscellaneous

1. Adequate and timely input from citizens into the budget-making process: the proposed budget should be published a sufficient time before a public hearing is held, and sufficient time should be allowed after the public hearing before adoption by the City Council.
2. Publication and adequate opportunity for public input on all ordinances before adoption by the City Council.
3. A review of the Charter at least every ten years by a charter commission of citizens.

II. ELECTION LAWS AND PROCEDURES: We support:

- A.** Consolidation of elections where possible;
- B.** Itemized bond elections.

Membership Minute

By Nita Thomason

Report on Women's Equality Day

Wednesday, August 22, 2018

Dallas City Hall 6th Floor Flag Room

When I moved to Texas and became a member of the League of Women Voters-Richardson around 45 years ago, I joined because I wanted to be a better-informed voter. So, when Jessica Hook and I attended the Women's Equality Day 98th Anniversary Celebration of the 19th Amendment at Dallas City Hall, I was reminded that women have not always had the right to vote. Mayor Mike Rawlings and Dallas County Commissioner Dr. Theresa Daniel both reminded the crowd, after we stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag, that perhaps the most important statement in the whole pledge is the last word – all.



*LWV-R Members
Nita Thomason
and Jessica Hook*



A packed room of women and men, primarily dressed in white, honored the first Suffragettes at Seneca Falls, who worked tirelessly for 72 years before achieving their goal of voting rights for women in 1920. The crowd listened to several elected women officials tell stories about challenges and victories they have faced as they serve our community. Jan Sanders told about her first experiences of registering voters and being required

to collect poll taxes before January 31 each year, which of course coincided with people being particularly stretched financially because of Christmas spending. Special recognition was given to former League of Women Voters-Dallas President, 98-year-old Eleanor Sutherland, who was born in the year 1920.



*Past LWV-Dallas Presidents
Eleanor Sutherland and
Pat Vaughan*

The League of Women Voters was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt in 1920, six months before women were given the right to vote. The League has served our country well for these 98 years. Membership in the League still helps our community be better informed. So, if you haven't yet paid your dues, don't wait - join today!

Find information and the [membership form](http://www.lwvrichardson.org) on our website: www.lwvrichardson.org

- An individual membership is \$54 **-or-**
- A membership for two people in the same household is \$81 **-or-**
- Student memberships for LWV-Richardson are free this year!

Mail your membership form and dues check, made payable to League of Women Voters of Richardson, to

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



By Martha Dorris (CHIP@lwvrichardson.org)

We are waiting to submit comments on the proposed change in rules that has the potential to disqualify immigrants from obtaining permanent resident cards if they utilize public benefit programs such as CHIP and Children's Medicaid. This change has made families wary of applying for coverage for their children. For the past several months, the VOTER has published articles on this issue. Trump administration officials in the last few weeks have spoken to the media about the proposed rule, indicating that while publication may still be weeks away, they still expect to move forward with it.

Protecting Immigrant Families plans a webinar on Sept 5, 2018 entitled "Public Charge 101" to overview this issue (registration form: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/4546360026885966337>).

The Washington Post on August 9, 2018 published an article in the Made by History Perspective "Now the Trump administration is trying to punish legal immigrants for being poor" which has a review of immigration policy and how radical this change would be. Please plan to comment to our elected officials, write to area newspapers, and educate others on the "public charge" rule change. Anne Dunkelberg continues to be a good source of information (dunkelberg@cphp.org).

The July 30 meeting with Victoria Thomas, our Council of PTAs contact, went very well. We agreed on a tentative schedule for application help sessions at St. Barnabas (see page 10).

The Health Fair at St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church on August 18 was very well attended. At least 58 families received information about the insurance programs. Susan Majors and three Community Council of Greater Dallas specialists encouraged 37 families to follow up with more assistance, including information about the Sept. 15 application help session at St. Barnabas.

We delivered flyers for the Sept. 15 application help session and other information packets to high school and junior high school counselors and to 4 elementary schools for the "meet the teacher" night on August 16th from 5 to 7 pm. We attended two of the meetings. On August 25 at Lake Highlands Jr. High I presented information about CHIP/Children's Medicaid to 5 attendees at the PTA Healthy Lifestyles information session and how we are working with the Council of PTAs. I met the PTA clothes closet organizer and will deliver flyers to her regularly.

Prestonwood Elementary School and Dartmouth Elementary School have requested flyers for distribution in the student folders for the Sept. 15 application help session.

We are invited to the Sept. 13 Forest Lane Academy open house and PTA meeting, 5 to 7 pm. The Community Council of Greater Dallas will send one of their Spanish speaking specialists to attend with me.

Thank all of you for your support and dedication to helping our families access affordable health care for their children. **Anyone who is interested is most welcome to visit any of our events to help or to meet our neighbors.** We anticipate a busy and successful year.

CHIP|Children's Medicaid (continued)

The RISD area Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Coalition has supported efforts that encourage families to obtain health insurance for their children and the economic security that coverage provides for at least 15 years. The 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*.

We have the following CHIP/Children's Medicaid application help sessions dates planned from 9am to noon:

- Sept. 15, 2018
 - Oct. 20, 2018
 - Nov. 10, 2018
 - Jan. 19, 2019
 - Feb. 16, 2019
 - March 23, 2019
 - April 13, 2019
 - May 18, 2019
- St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church
1220 W. Belt Line Road
Richardson, TX 75080
(adjacent to Richardson High School)

- ★ We are available for on-site help sessions at the convenience of individual schools.
- ★ Application forms in English and Spanish are available. If you need paper forms, please contact Martha Dorris at 972-690-4908 or mikedorris1@tx.rr.com or Victoria Thomas at healthylifestyles@risdpta.org. An on-line version is available at YourTexasBenefits.com.
- ★ All information provided is kept private and secure, as required by law.

Interested in volunteering at a CHIP Help Session? Contact:
Martha Dorris
CHIP@lwvrichardson.org





For Immediate Release:
August 28, 2018

HOW DOES THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE WORK? **Find out at a League of Women Voters Forum**

The League of Women Voters of Collin County cordially invites the public to a presentation about the Electoral College and the impact it has on selecting the U.S. President. This free event will be Thursday, September 13, 2018, at Schimelpfenig Library, 5024 Custer Road, Plano, TX 75023.

All attendees are invited to socialize at 6:30 p.m., find out about upcoming LWV-CC activities at 6:45, and learn about the Electoral College at 7:00.



For more information, please contact lwvcollin@gmail.com or check the Collin County League of Women Voters website, www.lwvcollin.org.

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 political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy. The LWV never supports or opposes any political party or candidate.

Did you Know?

Did you know that Alamo Drafthouse Cinema had a competition for the best Public Service Announcement (PSA)...for voting?



The 5 finalists (in alphabetical order) are:

- “A corny PSA” by Felicia Jade Rein; Los Angeles, CA
- “America The Beautiful” by Trey Hill & Scott Mayo; Dallas, TX
- “Go Vote!” by Aaron Abrams; San Francisco CA
- “Ouija the People” by Brian Golding, Phillip Chernyak; NY, NY
- “Vote or Explode” by Madalyn Baldanzi’ Brooklyn, NY

View the PSAs at: [Alamo Drafthouse](#)