



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

Editor: Diana Lace

VOTER

Calendar	
Date	Event
Jan 4	Social; 9-10am; La Madeleine's; Coit & Campbell; Location change from last month!
Jan 11	LWV-R Board Meeting; 9am; Promenade Tower Conference Room
Jan 19	CHIP Help Session; 9am @ St. B
Feb 1	Social; 9-10am;
Feb 4-5	LWV-TX Lobby Days
Feb 14	LWV's 99 th birthday
Feb 16	CHIP Help Session/ 9am @ St. B

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Ellen Steger

2018 is history. Before 2018 ended, the Richardson League's CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) Coordinator Martha Dorris was busy working with the Community Council of Greater Dallas (CCGD) to try to get more Texas children on health insurance.

- Texas has the most uninsured children for two years in a row, according to the [Dallas Morning News \(Brianna Stone, 11-29-20\)](#).
- 21% of the nation's uninsured children – 835,000 kids – are in Texas. (from a report on an analysis of children's health insurance coverage released by Georgetown University's Center for Children and Families)

The League of Women Voters of Richardson has partnered with CCGD for many years. See pages 6-8 for more information on the grant that CCGD is applying for and the letter of support that I wrote, with the board's approval.

May 2019 be a wonderful year for everyone!

I'm excited as I look ahead at what the Richardson League has planned for Spring, 2019! Keep watching this monthly newsletter and our social media for the latest updates:

- Website: www.lwvrichardson.org
- Facebook: League of Women Voters of Richardson
- Twitter: @LWVRichardson



Voter Service Report

By Jean Richards

November 6, 2018, election report

Voter Participation

As you have no doubt heard, voter participation throughout the country was pretty high for the November 2018 Midterm Election, and our area was no exception. This election generated almost as much interest as the 2016 Presidential Election, and much more than the 2014 Midterm Election.

2018 Midterm:

Dallas County – 731,576 representing 54.64 % of registered voters
Collin County – 357,034 representing 61.38 % of registered voters

2016 Presidential:

Dallas County – 770,590 representing 59.42 % of registered voters
Collin County – 366,483 representing 67.86 % of registered voters

2014 Midterm:

Dallas County – 410,529 representing 34.02 % of registered voters
Collin County – 177,821 representing 36.36 % of registered voters

RISD Tax Ratification Election

The proposition on the November ballot to increase the property tax rate in the RISD passed.

For	39,722 (53.51 %)
Against	34,506 (46.49 %)
Total	74,228

VOTE411 numbers

In doing research prior to the Midterm Elections, voters throughout the state looked to www.VOTE411.org for League-produced Voters Guides. The League of Women Voters of Texas analyzed use of VOTE411 in 749 Texas cities during the weeks leading up to the November 2018 election. Richardson ranked 9th in the state, after Dallas, Houston, Fort Worth, San Antonio, Austin, Plano, Arlington, and Round Rock.

According to the LWVTX analysis, there were 4204 users of VOTE411 in Richardson, of whom 4066 were new users. More than 10% of Richardson users viewed their complete ballot during their VOTE411 usage. The state average was 6.26%.

Many thanks to our League members and contributors who helped publicize VOTE411 as a source of reliable, nonpartisan election information.

May 2019 local elections

The next election the Richardson League is gearing up for will be held on May 4, 2019. At the present time, we know that the following things will be on the ballot:

- City of Richardson, Mayor
- City of Richardson, all six City Council seats
- Richardson ISD Board of Trustees, Places 3, 4, and 5
- Plano ISD Board of Trustees, Places 4, 5, 6 (unexpired term) and 7
- Collin County Community College District, Places 2, 4, 5 and 6 (LWV-Collin County will be covering both of these last two elections)

The League of Women Voters of Richardson plays an important role in the community during the months leading up to local elections (assuming there are contested races on the ballot). We produce a local **Voters Guide**, in which candidates respond to questions about a variety of issues in their own words. A four-question Voters Guide will be available in print at various locations around town, while a version with more questions will be available both on our website and on VOTE411.org.

We also plan to conduct two **Candidate Forums** for this election: one for the Mayoral and City Council Election, and a separate one for the Richardson ISD Board of Trustees Election. All candidates whose names will appear on the ballot are invited to attend. Candidates in contested races will respond to questions, while unopposed candidates will be given time to make a brief statement. We record our forums on video and make them available to all voters on our website.

In addition to the Voters Guides and Candidate Forums, the League will also continue with **voter registration** efforts in the community prior to the April 4th deadline for the May election.

Local Voter Service has traditionally been an area of strength for LWV-Richardson. Our Voters Guides and Candidate Forums are valued by voters as a source of nonpartisan information. They are also valued by the candidates as a means of letting the public know about their positions on the issue without regard to how much money is spent on their campaigns. We never charge candidates or their campaigns for access to our Voters Guides or Candidate Forums, and we never support or oppose candidates or political parties. All of our activities are supported solely through contributions from the community.

We will begin work on Voters Guide questions for the May election in January.

An email will be going out to our members in the next few weeks asking them to participate in this process. As the Voter Service Vice President, I will be asking members for lots of help with developing questions for the candidates, registering new voters, and preparing for the Candidate Forums. If you are interested in learning more about Voter Service, or if you want to take a leadership role in one of these areas, please contact me at voterservice@lwvrichardson.org.

Voter Service

Pledge Drive

Our annual Finance Drive this year was a great success! We more than met our goal for the year.

Many thanks to our contributors for helping us continue our work on behalf of voters in Richardson and the RISD.

Many companies will match donations. For instance, the Texas Instruments Foundation now matches donations (made by employees and retirees) to 501(c)(3) organizations such as the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund – Richardson Account. If you have donated, please check to see whether your company will match your donation.



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Friday, January 4, 2019

La Madeleine

NE corner of Campbell and Coit
Richardson, TX 75080

9am

No Host.

Visit <https://lamadeleine.com/blog/locations/coit-campbell/> for menu, pricing, and location.



Over the holidays the League's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Coordinator Martha Dorris stayed in touch with the Community Council of Greater Dallas (CCGD). CCGD is applying for a grant through a HEALTHY KIDS Funding Opportunity.

The Connecting Kids to Coverage HEALTHY KIDS 2019 Outreach and Enrollment Cooperative Agreements program provides funding opportunities to reduce the number of children who are eligible for, but not enrolled in, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and to improve retention of eligible children who are enrolled in the programs. This program is authorized under Section 2113 of the Social Security Act, as amended by Section 3004(a) of the Helping Ensure Access for Little Ones, Toddlers and Hopeful Youth by Keeping Insurance Delivery Stable Act (referred to as the HEALTHY KIDS Act and included in Pub. L. 115-120) and by Section 50103 of the Advancing Chronic Care, Extenders, and Social Services Act (referred to as the ACCESS Act and included in Pub. L. 115-123)



The League of Women Voters of Texas has a blog on Child Health: <https://my.lwv.org/texas/child-health>

Two articles from that blog:

12-28-2018

Texas leads nation in citizens without health insurance:

According to Sharon Jayson of the Kaiser Health News, the Texas economy at \$1.8 trillion rivals many countries and puts our state at the top of numerous rankings for fast-growing cities, low unemployment and job growth. Unfortunately, Texas has nothing to brag about when it comes to health care.

Texas has the largest number (4.7 million) and the highest percentage (19 percent) of uninsured residents under age 65 in the country. Two-thirds of the uninsured are in families with one or more workers. Meanwhile, the Texas maternal mortality rate has increased 10 percent since 2016 and is one of the worst in the country. According to Jayson, "Texas has more uninsured residents than any other state, in part because its...state politicians elected not to expand Medicaid."

Our Texas state legislature will be in session starting in January, and health care will be on the agenda. There have been numerous studies analyzing Texas Medicaid, maternal mortality, and other important issues, and these should lead to legislative proposals. I will be tracking legislation related to Medicaid and other child health issues. I plan to keep you informed so that you and I can contact our legislators about their support for changes that will benefit children and their families.

11-30-18

Texas Children are Most Likely to Lack Health Insurance:

The state of Texas has achieved the unfortunate distinction of being the state with the most uninsured children for two years in a row, according to the [Dallas Morning News \(Brianna Stone, 11-29-20\)](#). Reporting on an analysis of children's health insurance coverage released by Georgetown University's Center for Children and Families, Ms. Stone noted that 21% of the nation's uninsured children – 835,000 kids – are in Texas. The percent of children in Texas who are uninsured is more than double the national average. Joan Alker, co-author of the report, noted, "Having health insurance is important for children because they are more likely to miss less school and have better outcomes in the future."

How to Address this Problem:

Adriana Kohler, senior health policy associate at the nonprofit Texans Care for Children, said that the first step toward improving child health coverage is for state lawmakers to acknowledge Texas has a problem and work on a plan to address it. "Texas should expand Medicaid or develop an alternative plan that assures affordable health coverage for families."

What Can We Do?

I agree with Ms. Kohler. Our legislators, working in the next legislative session beginning in January, can and should address this problem, and they need to hear from us to make this a priority. Children deserve to be healthy and ready to play and learn. Also important, these children are the future workers and tax-payers in our state, and it is in everyone's best interest that they be healthy and well-educated.

The League of Women Voters of Richardson has partnered with CCGD for many years. With the board's approval, President Ellen Steger sent a letter of support to help CCGD be awarded this grant. The letter is on the next page.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF RICHARDSON**

Dec. 27, 2018

Ken Goodgames
Chief Executive Officer
Community Council of Greater Dallas
1341 W Mockingbird Lane, Suite 1000W
Dallas, Texas 75247

RE: Connecting Kids to Coverage (CKC) Healthy Kids 2019 Outreach and Enrollment Agreements Funding Opportunity Number: CMS-1Y1-19-001; CDFA: 93.767

Dear Mr. Goodgames:

The League of Women Voters of Richardson is pleased to support the outreach and enrollment project submitted by Community Council of Greater Dallas to provide outreach, education, and health insurance enrollment for the children that are seeking health insurance in Texas.

We will work in alignment with the other regional entities and the Community Council to leverage our combined experience and expertise in a five-county area: Collin, Dallas, Denton, Rockwall, and Tarrant.

The Community Council of Greater Dallas is expert in managing large federal grants and already has extensive experience with outreach and enrollment for CHIP/Children's Medicaid and other initiatives such as Medicare Benefits Counseling and the Marketplace Navigator program. Their staff is dedicated and knowledgeable and has been unfailingly helpful and supportive in all efforts the League has initiated in this area for at least 14 years.

The League of Women Voters of Richardson will support the Community Council of Greater Dallas and work with them in assisting children and their families in accessing health insurance and other benefits to improve the overall health of Texas citizens. We also will collaborate with the Community Council in supporting, developing, and maintaining a supportive community which supports enrolling our children in health insurance through the CHIP and Children's Medicaid programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Ellen Steger'.

Ellen Steger
President

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