



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF RICHARDSON**  
Editor: Diana Lace

VOTER

Calendar	
Date	Event
Feb 1	Social; 9-10am; La Madeleine (Coit & Campbell)
Feb 4-5	LWV-TX Lobby Days
Feb 9	LWV-R Orientation, 11am-1pm
Feb 12	CHIP presentation at Hamilton Park Pacesetter Magnet
Feb 13	LWV-R Consensus Meeting on Richardson City Charter Position, 6:30pm
Feb 14	LWV's 99 <sup>th</sup> birthday
Feb 16	CHIP Help Session, 9am @ St. B
Feb 20	LWV-R member mtg to develop questions for COR and RISD Voter Guides, 7-9pm

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**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

**By Ellen Steger**

This VOTER is chock-full of exciting events and news. Make sure you read it all!

First up, February 9<sup>th</sup> is an orientation for new LWV-R members and anyone who is interested in learning more about the League. Lunch will be served. See page 2 for details.

A Charter Review Committee has been studying LWV-R's position on the Richardson City Charter. It is crucial to get your input as we decide what our new position on the City Charter will be. But, you must attend the February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting to participate. See page 3.

May 4, 2019 is Election Day for the City of Richardson and the Richardson ISD. As of now, eight people have filed to run for Richardson City

Council and nobody has filed to run for Richardson ISD School Board. The RISD election MAY be moved to November 2019. See page 5. If there is a contested race for either the City of Richardson or the Richardson ISD, your League will produce a nonpartisan Voters Guide (VG) and sponsor a nonpartisan forum. We are looking for help in formulating well thought-out questions for the VG. If you are interested in helping, please see page 4.

See page 6 for information on how effective our Fall, 2018, voter registration efforts were. That's also where you can get information on how to become a Deputy Voter Registrar (DVR). Then you, too can register people to vote!

I'm sure you've heard the news that 58,000 people may have voted illegally in Texas. See page 7. Use the "[one click](#)" button to tell your State Senator and State Representative that you want to see the Texas election process modernized.

And don't forget about the great work Martha Dorris is doing for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Help her if you can! (page 8)



The League of Women Voters is pleased to have new members who have expressed a desire in learning more about the League in general, and the Richardson League in particular. To that end, we have set up a New Member Orientation.

***Who is invited?*** All LWV-Richardson members  
Anyone interested in joining the League

***When?*** Saturday, February 9, 2019  
11am – noon: Orientation  
Noon – 1pm: Lunch provided by LWV-Richardson

***Where?*** Please RSVP

RSVP to Nita at [membership@lwvrichardson.org](mailto:membership@lwvrichardson.org)  
for details on where the meeting will be held

-and so we'll know how many people we need to feed!



## League PROGRAM

By Nancy Wilson, 1<sup>st</sup> VP: Program of Study and Action

The League is a dual-mission organization – one mission is VOTER SERVICE and the other is PROGRAM. Everyone knows, almost intuitively, that Voter Service provides voter registration, Voters Guides, forums, and other services to voters. But, how can PROGRAM be defined? It is definitely NOT, as is sometimes intuitively assumed, the agenda for an event.

In League, PROGRAM refers to the program of study, education, and advocacy on public policy. When League members study and agree on a specific issue, the League then adopts a position on that topic and can advocate in support of the position.

Yes, **League is a grassroots, nonpartisan think tank on public policy issues.**

Two major opportunities for input on LWV-R Program are coming soon:

- (1) At the study level, Consensus is a vital part of the PROGRAM process. For example, LWV-R is currently in the process of updating its long-held position on the Richardson City Charter. The study committee has put extensive effort in researching and presenting information to the members for study and consideration. A consensus meeting will be held Wednesday, February 13, 6:30pm, in the Promenade Tower Conference Room:

300 N Coit Road in Richardson 75080.

The Conference Room is on Floor 'B' (or 2<sup>nd</sup> floor).



**MEMBERS:** Mark your calendars for February 13<sup>th</sup> and participate in this vital function of the League. Contribute to the discussion that will shape the League's new position on the City Charter. Your League President cannot speak out on issues in the name of the League unless the League holds a position.

You must be present to participate in the consensus.

When consensus is reached, the new position on the City Charter will be one of 8 positions held by the Richardson League. (The other 7 positions were not studied this year.) The 8 positions will be reviewed at the Local Program Planning Meeting.

- (2) At the local League level, the grassroots process begins with the annual Local Program Planning Meeting (LPP), during which members review and give input on management of current positions. They also give input on public policy issues of interest that might be considered for League study. The recommendations from this meeting go forward to the Annual Meeting where the membership decides on the PROGRAM items for the upcoming year. The process is rigorous and ensures that League positions represent the members' views when the League president gives statements in the name of the League on public policy issues. LPP begins March 21 when LWV-Richardson will send a survey to all members. The Local Program Planning Meeting will be April 3, 2019.

## For LWV-Richardson members only!

By Jean Richards ([voterservice@lwvrichardson.org](mailto:voterservice@lwvrichardson.org))



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The Richardson and Richardson ISD communities look to the League for unbiased information about candidates' positions on the issues, and at no time is this more important than during local elections. May 4, 2019, is the date on which we will be voting for Mayor and all six members of the Richardson City Council, as well as for three places on the Richardson ISD Board of Trustees (unless the RISD election is moved to November – see page 5).



Writing questions for our Voters Guides (and “starter questions” for our candidate forums) is an important part of what the League does. Our questions need to be well-thought-out, timely, and well-crafted in order to give voters enough information to make informed choices among candidates. We'd like to get input on topics and possible questions from as many League members as possible this year, and help new members learn about writing good questions.

If you are interested in helping us develop questions for the May election, please email [voterservice@lwvrichardson.org](mailto:voterservice@lwvrichardson.org) so that you can receive more detailed information. We will have an in-person meeting to finalize questions on Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

I look forward to hearing from you.

**NOTE: If you are a candidate running for Mayor of Richardson, Richardson City Council, or Richardson ISD Board of Trustees, or if you are (or are planning to be) working on a candidate's campaign, we cannot involve you in this process.**

## VOTER SERVICE

By Jean Richards

### RISD Election Date

The Richardson ISD Board of Trustees has reached a settlement agreement with former Trustee David Tyson in his lawsuit. As a result of the settlement, the RISD plans to adopt a new map of voting districts for the Board of Trustees, with 5 single-member districts (only voters who live in that district voting for that trustee) and two at-large places (all RISD voters voting for those trustees).

The school district has asked for court approval to move the 2019 election for Places 3, 4, and 5 from May to November. Unless the court grants that approval by February 15th, the election is still scheduled for May. Future RISD Elections will remain in May.

For more information or to submit comments on the proposed district map, go to the [RISD Board Member Districts Update](#) webpage.

### May 4, 2019, Local Elections

This is the date on which voters will vote in the following local elections:

#### Dallas County:

- **The Richardson Mayor and City Council election (all seats)**
- **The Richardson ISD Board of Trustees election (Places 3, 4, and 5) - unless the election is moved to November**

#### Collin County:

- **The Plano ISD Board of Trustees election (Places 4, 5, 6 [unexpired term] and 7)**
- **Collin County Community College District Board of Trustees, Places 2, 4, 5 and 6**

The filing deadline for candidates is February 15<sup>th</sup> (February 19<sup>th</sup> for write-in candidates).

The League of Women Voters of Richardson plans to produce both printed and online Voters Guides for the City of Richardson and Richardson ISD Board of Trustees elections. We are also planning two candidate forums for those elections.

The League of Women Voters of Collin County will be covering the Plano ISD Board of Trustees and Collin County Community College District Board of Trustees elections.

Dates and times of forums will be available in the VOTER as they are confirmed.

## Fall 2018 Community College registration results

In the months leading up to the voter registration deadline for the November 2018 election, the League of Women Voters of Dallas worked with a national nonpartisan voter registration organization, Inspire US, to register students on the campuses of the Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD).

Volunteers from LWV-Richardson participated in this effort, registering students at Richland College.

LWV-Dallas's Director of Voter Registration Karen Basset reports that the League of Women Voters conducted over 150 events on all of the DCCCD campuses. League members conducted table registrations, spoke to over 100 classrooms, and registered over 2100 students.

As part of this effort, LWV-Dallas asked the Dallas County Elections Department to track LWV Community College registrations to see how many of the registered students actually voted. Registration forms were coded so that the Elections Department could track them.

Voter turnout for all of Dallas County was 54% of registered voters. For the 18-25-year-old age group in Dallas County, turnout was 37%.

**For the voters registered this fall on DCCCD campuses by LWV and tracked – and confirmed – by the Dallas County Elections Department, turnout was 74%.**

We'd like to express our appreciation to the volunteers who helped in this effort, and to the DCCCD administrators and staff who worked with LWV in this effort.

Please consider becoming a Volunteer Deputy Registrar (VDR) and helping with future efforts to register voters in the community. It really does make a difference!

### How to become a Volunteer Deputy Registrar (VDR)

#### Collin County

- Visit the website of the [Collin County Elections Department](#)
- Review the [state training](#) to become a VDR.
- Call 972-547-1900 to make an appointment (Mon-Thurs 1-4pm) to take the required exam based on the state training.

#### Dallas County

- Visit the website of the [Dallas County Election Department](#)
- Review the [state training](#) to become a VDR; OR
- Attend a [training class](#); OR
- Review the state training at the Elections Department at 10am or 1pm daily.
- Take the required exam based on the state training.

If you already have a current VDR certificate from another county, you will not need to take the exam.

## Voting Rights and Election Laws

By Cinde Weatherby, LWV-Texas Voting Rights and election Laws Issues Chair

*We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate. We seek action in the 86<sup>th</sup> Session to improve the safety & security of Texas voter registration, voting equipment and systems.*

### Fake News or Not Quite True News?

January 26, 2019

You've probably seen the headlines: "58,000 noncitizens may have illegally voted in Texas, officials say," "Thousands of Registered Texas Voters May Not Be US Citizens," "Texas officials flag tens of thousands of voters for citizenship checks." On January 25, 2019, the Texas Secretary of State (SOS) issued an [Advisory to County Voter Registrars/Elections](#) Administrators about non-U.S. citizen data obtained from the Department of Public Safety.

Let's clear up some of the misimpressions:

- The SOS office has "flagged" 95,000 registered voters who may not be U.S. citizens because DPS driver license records indicate they may not be. There are plausible reasons some may be citizens such as being naturalized since they got their license. [By the way, there were 179,964 Texans naturalized in just 2015-17.]
- Of the 95,000 on the list, allegedly 58,000 individuals were shown to have cast a ballot in one or more elections between 1996 and 2018. That's 22 years.

### No Removals Based on List

The SOS Election Division will soon send county registrars and election administrators the list of these possible noncitizens who will then send them a "Notice of Examination for Citizenship" (Proof of Citizenship) letter. **Counties may not cancel a voter's registration based on the SOS information** without first sending that letter and following the entire process outlined in the letter.

### Other Information You May See (or Have Seen)

There are high profile individuals and groups jumping to the conclusion that those headlines are 100 percent true (ignoring the word "may"). That is quite unlikely.

My advice: don't be a "troll." League members study issues and wait until the facts are available. We are seeking additional information about the process used in creating this list. But, we suggest "staying our course" and for all Leagues to continue to promote and engage in voter registration, while we all pursue improvements in voter registration processes. We also ask you to assure voters their vote matters and will be counted, and never fear going to the polls.

Each of you have another reason to use the ["one-click"](#) to tell your own State Senator and State Representative you seriously want to see our election process modernized!



By Martha Dorris ([CHIP@lwvrichardson.org](mailto:CHIP@lwvrichardson.org))

In Texas, children without health insurance may be able to get health and medical services through CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Plan) or Children's Medicaid. Both programs offer benefits such as regular check-ups, dental care, eye exams, prescription drugs, and hospital care and cover children with pre-existing conditions. Children must be legal residents or citizens to receive benefits. For at least 14 years, LWV-Richardson has worked with the Richardson ISD Council of PTAs to help families apply for these insurance programs. St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church (St. B) in Richardson provides space for free for application help sessions and the RISD nursing staff also participates with publicity and invitations to various events at their campuses.

During 2018, we hosted 8 application sessions at St. B with an average of 3 families receiving information per event. At 10 RISD on-site events, such as health fairs, at least 101 families received information and/or help with the application. At the St. B health fair in August about 58 families received information with 37 of these being encouraged to follow up with more assistance from outreach specialists. We presented information to a Council of PTAs session. We were informed on a far-reaching change in immigration law which has a negative impact on these insurance programs ("Inadmissibility on Grounds of Public Charge") and advocated for it to be rescinded. Without this outreach and the dedicated volunteers who help with this, many families would not know what is available or how to access the benefits for their children.

On Jan. 19 at St. B two families completed application forms. We will have another session there on Feb. 16. We are invited to Hamilton Park Pacesetter Magnet on Feb. 12 to present to the ESL parents on their Education night. Thurgood Marshall Elementary School will send out our announcement for the Feb. session in the student folders.

I invite you to be active in this advocacy.

Join us at any event to meet these families or to assist in providing information. Thank you for your continued support of CHIP and Children's Medicaid.

## Resources:

[Public Charge Fact Sheet](#): Introduction, Background, and definition

[Proposed Change to Public Charge Ground of Inadmissibility](#)

[Economic Impact of Proposed Rule Change](#)

