

VOTER

Calendar	
Date	Event
Dec 4	LWV-R Social, 6pm - CANCELED
Feb 3	Last day to register to vote in March 3 Primary
Feb 14	100 th Anniversary of LWVUS
Feb 15	LWV-R New Member Orientation

Inside This Issue	
Article	Page
From the President	1
Election Results	2
2020 Census Timeline	4
Home Safety Update	5
Teach Me To Texas	6
Fundraising Appeal	7

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Jean Richards

This past summer, I was interviewed by Victoria Morales of the University of Texas at Dallas's School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences about our local League. That interview has been uploaded as a podcast episode for "PEP Talks" (Policy, Economics, and Politics). Here are links to three different ways to access the episode:

Apple Podcasts: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/civic-engagement/id1470955716?i=1000456654513>

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/episode/6wMlqvuTfElosXe3Xx8Ngn?si=c851V5dyRYygU0WmyJ-5-A>

Stitcher: <https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/pep-talk-4/e/65243013?autoplay=true>

I hope that you all had a good Thanksgiving weekend. We have only a few short weeks until Christmas, and then the year 2020 will be upon us. There will be lots of work to do to get ready for the Primary Elections in March.

Members – be sure to mark your calendars for our New Member Orientation on Saturday, February 15, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. All members (and potential members) are welcome to attend. More information will be coming next month.

Happy Holidays

Voter Service Report

By Ellen Steger, Voter Service Vice President

**November 5, 2019, Election
Results**

State of Texas Proposition 1: *The constitutional amendment permitting a person to hold more than one office as a municipal judge at the same time. Failed, 35% to 65%*

State of Texas Proposition 2: *The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of additional general obligation bonds by the Texas Water Development Board in an amount not to exceed \$200 million to provide financial assistance for the development of certain projects in economically distressed areas. Passed, 66% to 34%*

State of Texas Proposition 3: *The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for a temporary exemption from ad valorem taxation of a portion of the appraised value of certain property damaged by a disaster. Passed, 85% to 15%*

State of Texas Proposition 4: *The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual income tax, including a tax on an individual’s share of partnership and unincorporated association income. Passed, 74% to 26%*

State of Texas Proposition 5: *The constitutional amendment dedicating the revenue received from the existing state sales and use taxes that are imposed on sporting goods to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Historical Commission to protect Texas’ natural areas, water quality, and history by acquiring, managing, and improving state and local parks and historic sites while not increasing the rate of the state sales and use taxes. Passed 88% to 12%*

State of Texas Proposition 6: *The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to increase by \$3 billion the maximum bond amount authorized for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas. Passed 64% to 36%*

State of Texas Proposition 7: *The constitutional amendment allowing increased distributions to the available school fund. Passed 74% to 22%*

State of Texas Proposition 8: *The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the flood infrastructure fund to assist in the financing of drainage, flood mitigation, and flood control projects. Passed 8% to 19%*

State of Texas Proposition 9: *The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation precious metal held in a precious metal depository located in this state.***Passed, 52% to 48%**

State of Texas Proposition 10: *The constitutional amendment to allow the transfer of a law enforcement animal to a qualified caretaker in certain circumstances.***Passed, 94% to 6%**

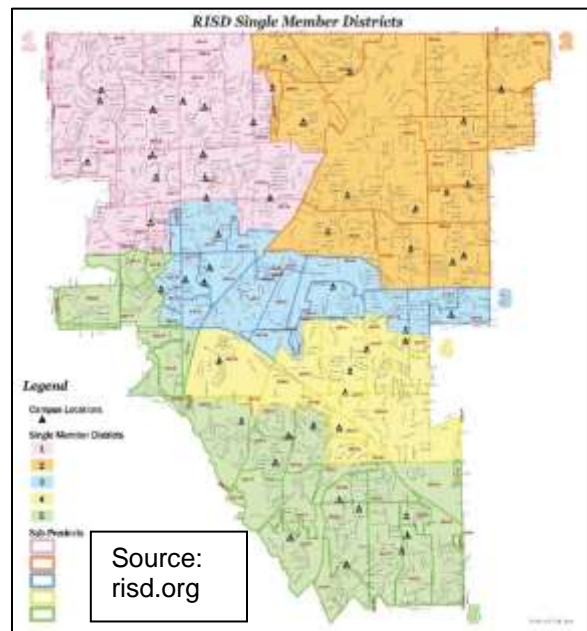


Three RISD Board of Trustee seats were on the November 5, 2019, ballot. These were, for the first time, Single-Member District seats, meaning that **only voters who live in the district may vote for their Trustee.**

Single-member District 2 (4,061 total votes cast):
Eron Linn, incumbent, won with 55% of the vote.

Single-Member District 4 (1,255 total votes cast):
Regina Harris won with 51% of the vote.

Single-Member District 5 (1,255 total votes cast):
Karen Clardy, unopposed incumbent, won with 100% of the vote.



The 2020 Census at a Glance

Counting everyone once, only once, and in the right place.

The U.S. Census Bureau is the federal government's largest statistical agency. We are dedicated to providing current facts and figures about America's people, places, and economy. Federal law protects the confidentiality of all individual responses the Census Bureau collects.

The U.S. Constitution requires that each decade we take a count—or a census—of America's population.



The census provides vital information for you and your community.

- It determines how many representatives each state gets in Congress and is used to redraw district boundaries. Redistricting counts are sent to the states by March 31, 2021.
- Communities rely on census statistics to plan for a variety of resident needs including new roads, schools, and emergency services.
- Businesses use census data to determine where to open places to shop.

Each year, the federal government distributes more than \$675 billion to states and communities based on Census Bureau data.

In 2020, we will implement new technology to make it easier than ever to respond to the census. For the first time, you will be able to respond online, by phone, as well as by mail. We will use data that the public has already provided to reduce followup visits. And, we are building an accurate address list and automating our field operations—all while keeping your information confidential and safe.



KEY MILESTONES

- 2018**
 - 2018 End-to-End Census Test
 - 2020 Census questions sent to Congress by March 31, 2018
 - Six regional 2020 Census offices and 40 area census offices open
- 2019**
 - Partnership activities launch
 - Complete Count Committees establish
 - Census takers update address list in person
 - Remaining 248 area census offices open
- 2020**
 - Advertising begins in January 2020
 - Public response (online, phone, or mail) begins
 - Census Day—** April 1, 2020
 - Census takers visit households that haven't responded
 - Apportionment counts sent to the President by December 31, 2020
- 2021**
 - Redistricting counts sent to the states by March 31, 2021

Connect with us
[@uscensusbureau](https://twitter.com/uscensusbureau)

Update on Home Safety Advocacy

By Jean Richards, President

As reported in previous months' newsletters, members of LWV-Richardson have been speaking with city staff about the need for a program to assist low- and moderate-income homeowners with emergency home repairs that affect the health and safety of residents. Representing the League, I spoke before the City Council at their November 4 meeting:

Statement to Richardson City Council 2020-2021 Goals Meeting, 11/4/19

Good evening. My name is Jean Richards I am here on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Richardson, of which I am president.

The League of Women Voters is best known in this community for what we call Voter Service – producing candidate forums and Voters Guides for local elections, registering voters, and providing nonpartisan information about voting and elections.

There is another aspect to what our local League does, and has done over the last 57 years, and that is our Public Policy and Advocacy work. Over the years, our local League has advocated for such issues as unified polling places, the city's inclusion in the DART Rail System, implementation of citywide recycling, expansion of public parks, and videotaping ALL city council meetings.

I am here tonight to speak to you about a need that we are concerned our city is not meeting, and to encourage you to include a program to meet this need in your goals process. The need of which I speak is a program to provide emergency financial assistance to low- and moderate-income homeowners whose houses require health or safety-related repairs to remain habitable.

As I'm sure you are well aware, the City of Richardson has many neighborhoods that were built in the 1960s and 70s. Most of these homes were well-built, and have been well-maintained and updated over the decades by generations of owners. All, however, are subject to the problems inherent in any aging dwelling, and many of these problems can crop up unexpectedly despite good maintenance practices.

The types of problems we refer to are those that affect the health or safety of residents. These might include major plumbing leaks, collapsed sewer lines, corroded gas lines that develop leaks, major problems with breaker boxes or electrical wiring, or failures of water heaters or HVAC systems during extreme weather. These types of repairs can develop suddenly, are not able to be corrected by volunteer handyman groups, and can strain the resources of families who are struggling to make ends meet.

Many Richardson residents are retirees on fixed incomes, but there are lots of other low- and moderate-income homeowners here as well, some of whom are public employees. All are valued members of our community. Over the decades, we have heard countless candidates for the City Council talk about their desire not only to attract new businesses to Richardson, but also to attract young families to move here. Many of the young families who do move here will take on the responsibility for houses that are 50 or 60 years old, despite moderate incomes, and in many cases,

student loan debt. I'm sure that we all want the stability of neighborhoods with a majority of owner-occupied houses, but unless we can assist some of our struggling homeowners with emergency repairs, they may not be able to remain in their homes.

Many nearby cities, as well as cities across the entire country, have programs in place to provide grants or loans to eligible homeowners who face sudden repairs such as those I listed earlier. Some of these programs are funded through federal grants administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, but we have been informed by Deputy City Manager Don Wagner that Richardson does not favor participating in HUD programs. If that is indeed the case, we would urge you to fund a home safety program from existing revenues.

In a meeting with Mr. Wagner and Council member Mark Solomon in July, League board member Marcia Grau and I understood that the city might favor a "multi-faceted approach" to this problem, and that it might include involving the Network of Community Ministries in the implementation of a city-funded home safety program. We met with Network CEO Cindy Shafer, and came away with the impression that Network would be willing to work with the city to develop and implement such a program.

Therefore, the League of Women Voters of Richardson urges the Richardson City Council to consider in its goals the development and implementation of a program to provide emergency financial assistance to low- and moderate-income homeowners whose houses require health- or safety-related repairs to remain habitable. We suggest that the city not limit such a program based on the age of the homeowner, but that requirements based on income and owner occupation would be appropriate.

Members of the League of Women Voters are available to work with the city in the development of a home safety program and its eligibility requirements. Please let us know if we can be of assistance. Thank you.



Teach Me to Texas – LWVTX Partners with Texas Tribune

Learn everything you need to know about Texas elections in The Texas Tribune's free five-week crash course, Teach Me How to Texas. You'll learn interesting facts about Texas' past and culture, how different communities and regions in Texas vote, how candidates raise and spend money, how to spot a good poll from a bad one, and how to decode your November ballot. To sign up for this 5-week email course, [click here](#).



There's still time to donate to the League of Women Voters of Richardson's 2019 Finance Drive if you have not already done so.

Over the coming year, we will celebrate two very important milestones: the 100th anniversary of the founding of League of Women Voters and the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, recognizing the right of women to vote in the United States. As we look back over the last 100 years, we can find many reasons to celebrate the role of the League of Women Voters in educating voters and working for positive change in this country.

The League of Women Voters of Richardson operates solely on contributions made by local community residents and businesses.

Please consider a donation to LWV-R. With your support, we can continue to:

- Assist new voters and those who have moved with voter registration;
- Publish and distribute both printed and online *Voters Guides* for all Richardson City Council and Richardson ISD Board of Trustees elections, and coordinate with area Leagues in producing *Voters Guides* for other elections;
- Host and videotape nonpartisan candidate forums for local elections;
- Advocate with governmental bodies to keep our community strong;
- Conduct informative public meetings on topics of local interest; and
- Keep the public informed through our website, Facebook page, and Twitter account.

Checks written to **LWV-Texas Education Fund-Richardson** are tax-deductible.
The League may only use these funds for educational activities.

Checks written to **LWV-Richardson** are **not** tax-deductible.
The League may use these funds for any League activity.

Fill out the form below to mail with your donation.

Thank you for your support.



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

To make a donation to The League of Women Voters of Richardson:

Checks written to **LWV-Texas Education Fund-Richardson** are tax-deductible.

The League may only use these funds for educational activities, including VOTERS GUIDES and forums.

Checks written to **LWV-Richardson** are not tax-deductible.

The League may use these funds for any League activity.

From:

Name: _____

Email*: _____

*Email will be used to send donors the Richardson League's newsletter and will not be shared.