

VOTER

Calendar	
Date	Event
Jan 3	LWV-R Social, La Madeleine, 9 am
Jan 14	CHIP at Wallace Elementary
Jan 15	LWV-R Party; 7pm; Tuscany Italian Bistro (743 Brick Row #400 in Richardson)
Jan 15	First day to file for place on May 2 ballot
Jan 18	CHIP Help Session, St Barnabas, 9 am-noon
Jan 21	TX House Redistricting Field Interviews – Collin County
Jan 29	LWV-R board meeting; Promenade conference room, floor B, 9 am
Feb 3	Last day to register to vote in Mar 3 Primaries
Feb 5	LWV-R Social, 6 pm, Location TBD
Feb 14	100 th Anniversary of LWVUS
Feb 14	Last day to file for place on May 2 ballot
Feb 15	LWV-R New Member Orientation; 10 am-noon

Inside This Issue	
Article	Page
From the President	1
Monthly Social Gathering	2
LWV-R Midyear Party!	2
TX House Redistricting Committee Hearings	3
LWVTX and LWVUS Conventions	4
Voter Service Report	5
Census Information	6
CHIP	8

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Jean Richards

I hope that you all had a wonderful holiday season with friends and family, and that you're ready to begin the exciting election year of 2020.

Every two years, the major political parties hold Primary Elections in the spring, and I'm always surprised by how quickly those elections are upon us in the new year. The Primaries this year will be held on March 3rd, with Early Voting from February 18-28. There are many contested races in our area, so this will be an important election for local voters. We'll have more information about the Primaries in next month's VOTER.

You will note on the calendar above that we have an LWV-R board meeting coming up on January 29th. All LWV-R members are welcome to attend board meetings. The board is responsible for conducting the business of the League between our May Annual Meetings. Our local Nominating Committee will soon begin its work to find members who will be elected at the May 2020 Annual Meeting to lead the League next year. Please be thinking about what role you might like to take to keep our local League strong and vital to the community we serve.

Happy New Year to all!

League of Women Voters of Richardson members and guests,
please join us!

Our monthly social gathering
Friday, January 3, 2020
9:00am

La Madeleine French Bakery and Café
1320 W Campbell Road in Richardson
(northeast corner of Campbell Road and Coit Road)

<https://lamadeleine.com/>



2019 has come and gone.
The first half of LWV-R's fiscal year was a success!

Let's celebrate!



Wednesday, January 15, 2020
7:00pm

Tuscany Italian Bistro
743 Brick Row #400 in Richardson
(northwest corner of E Spring Valley Road
and Greenville Ave)

<http://www.tuscanyitalianrichardson.com/>

So we know how many to make the reservation for, please RSVP to
Nita Thomason

membership@lwvrichardson.org



Texas House Redistricting Committee to hold Public Input Hearings in Collin County and the Mid-Cities *January 21 and 22.*

The Texas House Redistricting Committee is charged with conducting public input hearings as a first step to the redistricting process that will finish in 2021. Hearings will be held in Collin County and the Mid-Cities on January 21, and 22, and citizens are invited to participate.

The hearings serve an opportunity for citizens to influence the future state legislative and federal election maps. Speaking up about your community is critical to ensuring district lines are drawn to keep your community whole and grouped with similar communities that have shared interests. This ensures that your voice, and the voice of your community, is heard by your elected leaders in such decisions as the quality of the air you breathe, the quality of your child's school, and how much you pay in taxes. The hearings are also an opportunity for the public to encourage the committee to conduct a fair process open to public view and comment. Despite representations made, the public input hearings have not been well publicized – so it's critical to get the word out. These public input hearings may be one of the only opportunities ordinary citizens have to provide in-person, direct comments to the Committee about how districts should be drawn.



The League of Women Voters held a Citizen Training Event on Saturday November 9, 2019, at the Richardson Civic Center. Featured guests included

- Elisabeth MacNamara, former National President of the League of Women Voters,
- Dr. Robert Lowry, Professor in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences at UT Dallas.
- David Jones, President of Clean Elections Texas

To see the training, [click here](#).



Texas House Redistricting Committee to hold Public Input Hearings *-continued-*

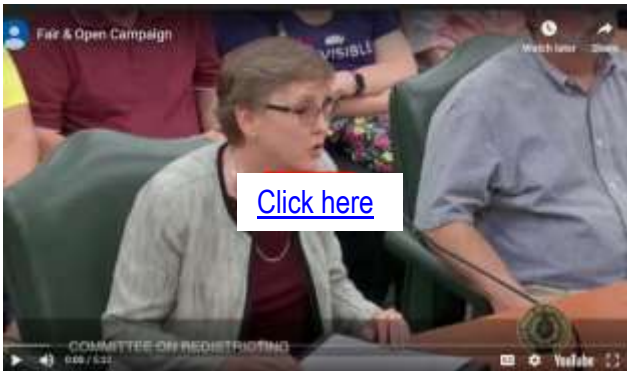
Grace Chimene, President of the League of Women Voters of Texas:

“During the redistricting process, new district lines are drawn that impact the power of your vote and how you are represented in the Texas Legislature and in the US Congress. We need people to watch when these new maps are drawn to guard against gerrymandering. Our very democracy depends on a fair and open redistricting process, which can only be achieved with full and active participation by the general public.”

The League of Women Voters' mission is empowering voters and defending democracy.

We are nonpartisan.

We never support or oppose political parties or candidates.



[See video of people who have already testified before the Texas House Committee on Redistricting.](#)

LW-R Members:

Every two years, LWTX holds its state convention in April, and LWUS holds its national convention in June. LW-R sets aside some money in the budget to help defray the cost of attending these conventions. If you are interested in representing LW-R as a delegate to one or both, please contact president@lwvrichardson.org.

LWTX Convention: April 17-19, in Austin, Texas

LWUS Convention: June 25-28, in Washington, D.C.

Voter Service Report

By Ellen Steger, Voter Service Vice President

Voting is important. But you can't vote in Texas unless you are registered to vote at least 30 days prior to the election. There will be 3 elections this year: the March Primaries, the May local elections, and the November General Election. There may also be run-off elections for the March and May elections.

- Have you moved? If so, you must register to vote at your new address.
- Know someone who needs to register?
- Want to have a voter registration drive at your office or place of work?

Then contact Ellen Steger, Voter Service Vice President

Voterservice@lwvrichardson.org

972-470-0584



Become a Volunteer Deputy Registrar (VDR) and you can register other people to vote. In both Collin and Dallas Counties, VDR certification expires on December 31 of even-numbered years. Then you have to retest to be re-certified.

For information about becoming a VDR, click on the following links:

- [Become a VDR for Collin County](#)
- [Become a VDR for Dallas County](#)

You do NOT have to live in the county to be a VDR for that county.

Dallas County Elections office is moving. We received the following email:

If you haven't already heard, Dallas County Elections is moving to new facility on 1520 Round Table Drive, Dallas, Texas 75247. Within our new building, we have a new dedicated training facility to host all of our training classes throughout the year. As most of you know, we have had to borrow space to conduct our training classes over the last several years. We are excited to announce that we will finally be conducting our training classes at one central location in our new building.

Along with this transition, we now have a new, simple, electronic pre-registration form for each VDR training class. This form can be accessed on our website and at the follow link:

<https://www.dallascountyvotes.org/volunteer-deputy-registrar-sign-up-form/> - Sign up to attend a VDR Class

<https://www.dallascountyvotes.org/training-and-education/volunteer-deputy-registrar-program/> - VDR Program and information

We ask that you help spread the word to others in your organization who would like to become a volunteer deputy registrar.

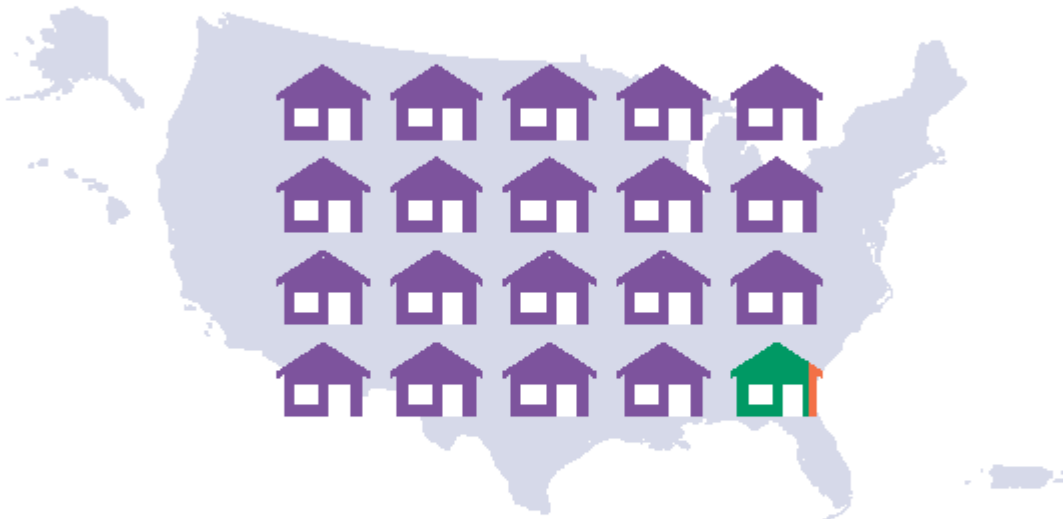
How the 2020 Census will invite everyone to respond





Every household will have the option of responding online, by mail, or by phone.

Nearly every household will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census from either a postal worker or a census worker.

 **95%** of households will receive their census invitation in the mail.



 **Almost 5%** of households will receive their census invitation when a census taker drops it off. In these areas, the majority of households may not receive mail at their home's physical location (like households that use PO boxes or areas recently affected by natural disasters).

 **Less than 1%** of households will be counted in person by a census taker, instead of being invited to respond on their own. We do this in very remote areas like parts of northern Maine, remote Alaska, and in select American Indian areas that ask to be counted in person.

Note: We have special procedures to count people who don't live in households, such as students living in university housing or people experiencing homelessness.

United States
**Census
2020**

How the 2020 Census will invite everyone to respond



What to Expect in the Mail

When it's time to respond, most households will receive an invitation in the mail.

Every household will have the option of responding online, by mail, or by phone.

Depending on how likely your area is to respond online, you'll receive either an invitation encouraging you to respond online or an invitation along with a paper questionnaire.

Letter Invitation

- Most areas of the country are likely to respond online, so most households will receive a letter asking you to go online to complete the census questionnaire.
- We plan on working with the U.S. Postal Service to stagger the delivery of these invitations over several days. This way we can spread out the number of users responding online, and we'll be able to serve you better if you need help over the phone.

Letter Invitation and Paper Questionnaire

- Areas that are less likely to respond online will receive a paper questionnaire along with their invitation. The invitation will also include information about how to respond online or by phone.

WHAT WE WILL SEND IN THE MAIL	
On or between	You'll receive:
March 12-20	An invitation to respond online to the 2020 Census. (Some households will also receive paper questionnaires.)
March 16-24	A reminder letter.
	If you haven't responded yet:
March 26-April 3	A reminder postcard.
April 8-16	A reminder letter and paper questionnaire.
April 20-27	A final reminder postcard before we follow up in person.

We understand you might miss our initial letter in the mail.

- Every household that hasn't already responded will receive reminders and will eventually receive a paper questionnaire.
- It doesn't matter which initial invitation you get or how you get it—we will follow up in person with all households that don't respond.

CHIP | Children's Medicaid

By Martha Dorris (CHIP@lwvrichardson.org)

November was a busy month with the following events:

On Nov. 9 at Lake Highlands Jr. High Health and Safety Fair, 18 families received information. The Community Council of Greater Dallas (CCGD) provided 3 specialists to assist. All families were asked to follow up with several options available for on-line help with forms.

On Nov. 12 at the Summer Glen Apartments (arranged by Wallace Elementary) "town hall meeting," I gave an oral presentation to 75 parents with the help of the assistant principal for translation. Four families were referred to Network or other sites.

On Nov. 16 at our St. B. application help session, 8 families attended and were referred to Network for additional help because the Texas Benefit web site was undergoing maintenance. Susan Majors and Gail Johnson assisted Oscar Mojica, the CCGD specialist.

On. Nov. 21 at Hamilton Park Pacesetter Magnet CHIPS and Salsa Night, their counselor arranged for a translation of an oral presentation to 14 parents. Three families were eligible for insurance and having difficulty getting signed up. I encouraged them to follow up with any of several resources, including Network.

On Nov. 21 at Thurgood Marshall Family Night, 23 parents received information. Three of these were encouraged to follow up with Network or other sources. Many families had insurance, but parents did not, and other information about clinics and Parkland Financial services were available for follow-up. The Dec. 3 event at Wallace Elementary School was cancelled.

Events are scheduled for Jan. 14th at Wallace Elementary and Jan. 18 at St. Barnabas.



Issues:

The "public charge" rule change has a chilling effect on using benefits. The Dallas Morning News feature on Oct. 31 "Texas Kids Lack Coverage" gives a summary and states that **Dallas County is one of the spots with the most uninsured children in the U.S.A.** There has been a steady decrease in funding for outreach for nonprofits. To help mitigate this trend, we are planning a training session at St. B. for on-line application help, probably early 2020 (it may be delayed due to our trainers from Network being busy with tornado victims).

Please consider joining us for this opportunity. For more information, please contact me at CHIP@lwvrichardson.org

We have invited LWV-Collin County, LWV-Dallas County, and the Health Department of RISD (nurses) to train with us. We will invite St. Luke's Lutheran Church to train with us for on-line insurance applications.

Thank you for your continued support.