



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

Editor: Brenda Boston

VOTER

Calendar		
Oct 28-31	7am-7pm	Early voting in person
Nov. 4		Uniform Election; Last day to receive ballot by mail
Nov. 8	11:30am – 3pm	Richardson ISD Fifth Annual Parent Involvement Fair; Richardson High School, 1250 W Belt Line, R75080
Nov. 15	9am - noon	CHIP Help Session @ St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church; 1220 W. Belt Line, R75080



Ellen Steger, *President*

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

If you haven't done so already, **don't forget to vote!** Early voting in person continues until Friday, October 31, 2014, 7am-7pm each day. Actual Election Day is Tuesday, November 4, 2014.

LWV-Richardson co-sponsored the Texas House District 102 Candidate Forum with the Richardson ISD Council of PTAs as well as co-sponsoring the State Board of Education District 12 Candidate Forum with LWV-Collin County and the Richardson ISD Council of PTAs. Both forums were recorded and are available our website.

Your League of Women Voters passed out *VOTERS GUIDES* at the City of Richardson's Huffhines Art Trails on October 25 and 26. The weather couldn't have been more beautiful!

There are two volunteer opportunities with CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program):

- Richardson ISD Fifth Annual Parent Involvement Fair on November 8, 2014
- CHIP application help session at St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church

LWV-Dallas sponsored a very interesting meeting as part of their Low Voter Turnout Study. Included later in this newsletter are statistics on voting trends of Texas 18-24 year olds.

Why are elections on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November?

Find out more about all these activities later in this newsletter.

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Early voting in person continues until **Friday, October 31, 2014, 7am-7pm** each day.

- ☞ For **early voting in Dallas County**, you may vote at the Richardson Civic Center (411 W. Arapaho, R 75080), Bethany Lutheran Church (10101 Walnut Hill Lane, D75238), or any early voting polling location in Dallas County.
- ☞ For **early voting in Collin County**, you may vote at the Renner Frankford Library (6400 Frankford Road, D75252), the Plano ISD Administration Center (2700 W. 15th Street, P75075), or any early voting polling location in Collin County.

Election Day is **Tuesday, November 4, 2014, 7am-7pm.**

- ☞ On **Election Day in Dallas County**, you must vote in your precinct polling location. You find your precinct number on your Voter Registration Card.
- ☞ On **Election Day in Collin County**, you may vote at any of the Election Day Vote Centers in Collin County.

A sample of a Texas Voter Registration Certificate for Collin County. The form includes fields for VUID (Voter ID), Gender, Valid thru, Year of Birth, Prec No., and Prec Name. It also has checkboxes for Party Preference and a section for Name and Mailing Address. The form is marked as a "Sample" and includes a barcode and return service requested information.

For lots more information, including *VOTERS GUIDES*, links to our candidate forums, sample ballots, and polling locations, go to:

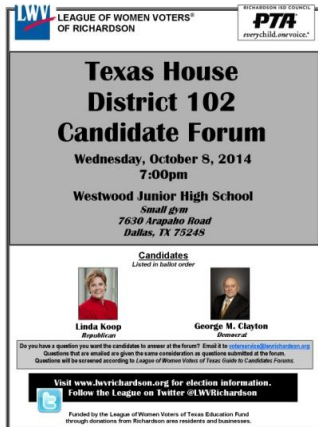
[LWV-R website for Nov 4 General Election](http://www.lwv-r.org)



You must have a valid government-issued photo ID to vote in person. Valid forms of ID are:

- ✓ Texas drivers license
- ✓ Texas Election Identification Certificate
- ✓ Texas Personal Identification Card
- ✓ Texas Concealed Handgun License
- ✓ U.S. Military Identification Card
- ✓ U.S. Citizenship or Naturalization Certificate
- ✓ U.S. Passport

Texas House District 102 Candidate Forum



LWV-Richardson co-sponsored with the Richardson ISD Council of PTAs a Texas House District 102 Candidate Forum on Wednesday, October 8, 2014.

In ballot order, Linda Koop (Republican) and George M. Clayton (Democrat) participated. You may view the forum at: [2014 Texas House District 102 Candidate Forum](#)

The following are links to each specific question asked at the House District 102 Candidate Forum:

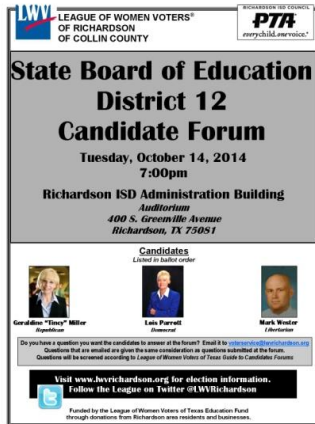
Link	Description
Opening slides	Information regarding the candidates and the forum
Question 1:	Why do you want to represent District 102 in the state legislature? Specifically, since neither of you has served previously in the Texas legislature, where you will be asked to vote on a wide range of issues affecting your constituents, how does your past experience prepare you for this position?
Question 2:	Texas's refusal to expand Medicaid means that thousands of low-income people from around the Metroplex still seek out basic medical care in the Parkland Emergency Room. Dallas County taxpayers are footing the bill for this inappropriate, expensive care. Do you support this situation?
Question 3:	Do you think the state is doing enough to regulate the oil and gas industry, especially with regard to the practice of fracking?
Question 4:	What is your position on connecting the Richardson/Plano area with DFW/Ft. Worth via the DART station located at 190 and 75?
Question 5:	In recent years, there has been a lot of emphasis on keeping state taxes low. How do you think this emphasis has affected the day-to-day lives of low- and moderate-income Texans?
Question 6:	Natural disasters and the current Ebola scare have highlighted the role of state government in emergency response and public health. Do you think the current level of state funding in these areas is sufficient to protect Texas citizens? Why or why not?
Question 7:	Do you support the current method of Redistricting used in Texas? If not, what method would you like to see instead?
Question 8:	The state significantly underfunds transportation spending for repairs and new roads, which has resulted in the use of toll roads. Do you support the use of toll roads? If not, where should the money for expanded transportation needs come from?
Question 9:	Do you support increased state funding for public education? Do you support enforcing the current 22-to-1 ratio of students to teachers in lower grades?

Link	Description
Question 10:	The cities of the North Texas Municipal Water District are experiencing a huge growth in population. What changes in state water policy do you support to help expand the supply of water to these cities? Do you support state-level water conservation mandates?
Question 11:	Do you support continuing the practice of electing judges in Texas? If so, where do you think voters should look to find enough information to vote responsibly in judicial races at all levels?
Question 12:	House Bill 5 reduced the number of state mandated tests. Would you support a further reduction in state-mandated tests for grades 3 through 8? And, if so, how would you propose to continue to hold school districts accountable?
Question 13:	Do you support banning legal abortion for women in Texas?
Question 14:	Many Texans live in rural areas, while the majority live in urban or suburban areas. How will you balance the conflicting needs of Texans from such diverse areas?
Question 15:	Should state troops be protecting the border? How would you balance business needs for labor versus border security?
Question 16:	Texas's population is becoming increasingly diverse and many urban areas are minority-majority. As Anglo Americans, how do you plan to represent the interests of minority populations in Texas?
Question 17:	Do you support guns being allowed on ISD campuses (so, elementary and secondary campuses) and college campuses?
Question 18:	Do you think the State Legislature should have more control over financial incentives to encourage business development in the state?
Question 19:	If elected, how will you balance your personal convictions with party loyalty if there is a conflict between what you believe is best for your constituents and how your party wants you to vote? Do you anticipate any opposition from special interest groups within your party?
Closing statements:	Closing statements by candidates
Closing remarks	Closing remarks by RISD Council of PTAs President
Closing slides:	Information regarding the November 4, 2014, General Election



Candidates Linda Koop (Republican)
and George M. Clayton (Democrat)

State Board of Education District 12 Candidate Forum



LWV-Richardson co-sponsored with the League of Women Voters of Collin County and the Richardson ISD Council of PTAs a State Board of Education District 12 Candidate Forum on Tuesday, October 14, 2014.

In ballot order, Geraldine “Tincy” Miller (Republican), Lois Parrott (Democrat), and Mark Wester (Libertarian) participated. You may view the forum at: [2014 State Board of Education District 12 Candidate Forum](http://www.lwvrichardson.org).

The following are links to each specific question asked at the House District 102 Candidate Forum:

Link to:	Description
Opening slides	Information regarding the candidates and the forum
Question 1:	If elected, what new ideas will you bring to the State Board of Education that haven't been proposed before?
Question 2:	What policies and/or standards would you propose to better incorporate technology in the classrooms?
Question 3:	What is your opinion of Advanced Placement courses? Do you have any reservations about the curriculum or textbooks used in any of these courses?
Question 4:	Should SBOE members be elected in non-partisan elections? Explain your response.
Question 5:	When deciding what will be in our children's curricula, what do you consider the appropriate balance between relying on the knowledge of experts in the field in question versus your own?
Question 6:	Do you support the State of Texas funding and offering full-day pre-K for all eligible children?
Question 7:	What is your position regarding teaching of creationism or intelligent design in science classes?
Question 8:	Do you think that charter schools are helping or hurting public education in Texas?
Question 9:	Do you oppose adoption of the Common Core curriculum in Texas? If so, why?
Question 10:	Do you think that alternative certification programs are doing a good enough job at training Texas public school teachers?
Question 11:	Do you think that different “tracks” should be used in high schools, steering students toward either vocational training or college preparation, or should all students be given the same basic education? Should students in different tracks take the same standardized tests?
Question 12:	Should teacher pay be linked to student performance? Why or why not?

Link to:	Description
Question 13:	As the population of Texas becomes increasingly diverse in terms of ethnicity, language, and religion, do you think the curriculum and textbooks the SBOE adopts should do more to reflect that diversity? Do we spend too much time teaching about males of European descent?
Question 14:	What changes, if any, would you make to current investment policies for the Permanent School Fund and to distributions for public schools? Please explain.
Question 15:	Do you think that high school classes should put more emphasis on critical thinking than in lower grades? Should adolescents be encouraged to challenge commonly held ideas in order to become more critical thinkers?
Question 16:	What do you think the top priorities of the State board of Education should be? Do you think the current Board has the same priorities you would have?
Question 17:	With regard to the College Board’s Advanced Placement U.S. History framework for the 2014-2015 school year: What is your view of the framework, and what State Board action should be taken as a result of your view?
Question 18:	Do current curriculum and testing standards adequately address the needs of students who come from families in which English is not spoken in the home? Do you think there will need to be changes made in the future to adjust curriculum and testing to those needs?
Question 19:	What is the importance of the Arts in Education?
Question 20:	How do you feel about “American Exceptionalism” and the idea that we should not question and grow from errors made in the past?
Closing statements:	Closing statements by candidates
Closing remarks	Closing remarks by RISD Council of PTAs President
Closing slides:	Information regarding the November 4, 2014, General Election



Candidates Geraldine “Tincy” Miller (Republican), Lois Parrott (Democrat) and Mark Wester (Libertarian)



Your League of Women Voters had a table at the City of Richardson's Huffhines Art Trails on October 25 and 26. The weather couldn't have been more beautiful!

Many thanks to those LWV-Richardson members who worked a shift:

- ✓ Brenda Boston
- ✓ Keith Burgess
- ✓ Jane Daboub
- ✓ Linda Grigsby
- ✓ Diana Lace
- ✓ Susan Majors
- ✓ Joan Pask
- ✓ Barbara Presnall
- ✓ Jean Richards
- ✓ Ellen Steger

A special thanks to Joan Pask for telephoning LWV-Richardson members to see who could be available for a shift.

Even though many people told us that they had already voted, we handed out more than 300 *VOTERS GUIDES*. Several people took voter registration applications—for both Dallas County and Collin County.

All in all, a very good weekend!



Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)/Medicaid for Children

Martha Dorris

CHIP@lwvrichardson.org



What is CHIP?

CHIP and Medicaid for Children are cost-effective programs essential to the well-being of Texas children. They help families and are a way to assist in controlling the cost associated with the use of emergency room visits when preventative care is the more effective way to take care of a health problem.

CHIP Activities by LWV-Richardson

The following is a summary of LWV-Richardson's latest activities with CHIP:

- September 25: About 24 parents attended an application help session at Hamilton Park Elementary School. They heard a summary of CHIP/Medicaid for Children information by Brenda Santacruz from the Community Council of Greater Dallas (CCGD). Susan Majors represented the League (LWV-R) and distributed information to several families.
- September 25: Six families picked up information and application forms at a picnic at O. Henry Elementary School. They received advice on how to get assistance in completing the forms and what documentation would be needed. Sylvia Bernal from the CCGD and Martha Dorris from LWV-Richardson were there.
- September 26: Martha Dorris attended a training session at the CCGD that featured guest speaker Martha Rodriguez from the Texas Health and Human Services Department. The forms are more complicated than they first appear and there were many questions and suggestions from the audience. A revised form is expected to be published by the end of the year.
- October 9: Brenda Santacruz from the CCGD visited with parents and offered help with applications at a Health Fair at Spring Valley elementary School. Martha Dorris was the guest of CCGD at a Molina Health care dinner. Martha and LWV-Richardson were recognized for advocating for health care for children.
- October 18: Seven families attended a help session at St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church. Rubi Rosales Salazar from the CCGD assisted with our Spanish-speaking families. Mary Lou Hoffman and Martha Dorris from



LWV-Richardson and GeorgeAnn Dukes from St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church covered the event.

Volunteer opportunities

LWV-Richardson has been invited to help families at:

- ✓ Richardson ISD Fifth Annual Parent Involvement Fair
November 8, 2014
Richardson High School
1250 West Belt Line Road
Richardson 75080
11:30am to 3pm

- ✓ Application help session:
November 15, 2014
St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church
1220 West Belt Line Road
Richardson 75080
9 am until noon.

If you are interested in helping with these events or just coming to see a session and meet some of the families, please contact

Martha Dorris

CHIP@lwvrichardson.org

Advocate

The Center for Public Policy Priorities is a good source of information on legislative advocacy efforts to help our



Texas families access medical care.

Contact your elected representatives in Washington DC Ask them to reauthorize CHIP. All of the states are planning budgets and need to know what funding will be available.

Thank all of you for your continued support for this effort to get our children enrolled in affordable insurance programs.

Low Voter Turnout Study by LWV-Dallas

On October 15, LWV-Richardson board members Susan Majors and Ellen Steger attended a panel discussion as part of the LWV-Dallas study on low voter turnout.

Panelists were:

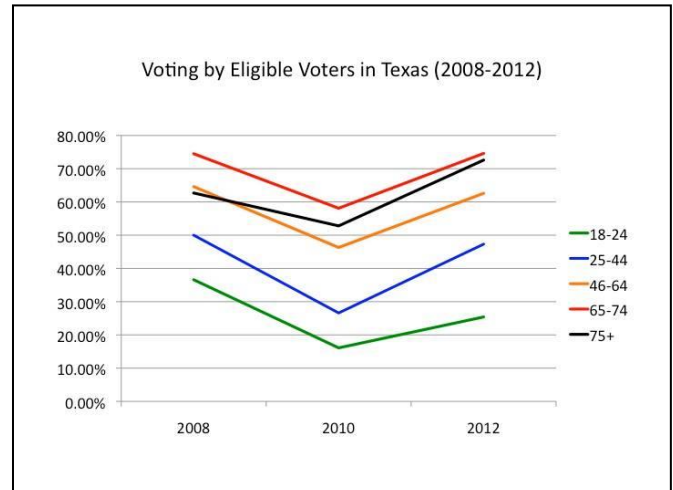
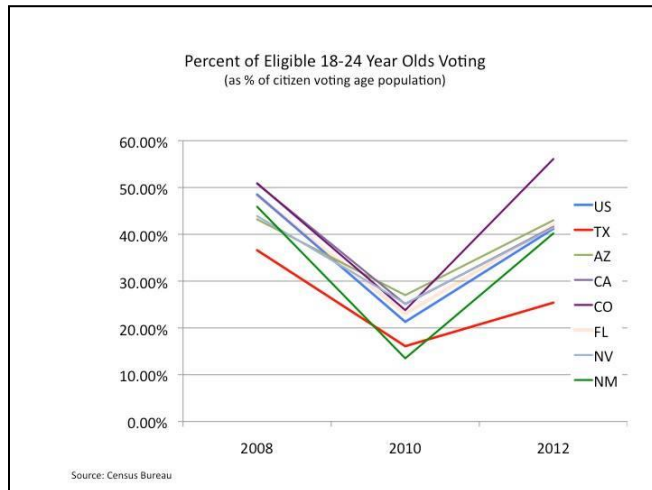
- Toni Pippins-Poole -- *Dallas County Elections Administrator*
- Danny Cendejas – *Texas Organizing Project*
- Eric Cedillo – *SMU Dedman School of Law*
- Robert Morris – *Young American Voters Foundation*



Panelists Toni Pippins-Poole, Danny Cendejas, Eric Cedillo, and Robert Morris

One of the most disturbing statistics presented that day was the fact that not only are Texas young people not voting in large numbers, Texas is one of the lowest states in the nation for percentage of 18-24 year olds who vote.

Some statistics from Michael LI, counsel for the Brennan Center’s Democracy Program:



Election Day on Tuesdays?

Source: Federal Election Commission



Image: Library of Congress.com

Why the Tuesday after the first Monday in November?

For much of our history, America was a predominantly [agrarian](#) society. [Law makers](#) therefore took into account that November was perhaps the most convenient month for farmers and rural workers to be able to travel to the polls.

The fall harvest was over, (remember that spring was planting time and summer was taken up with working the fields and tending the crops) but in the majority of the nation the weather was still mild enough to permit travel over unimproved roads.

Why Tuesday?

Since most residents of rural America had to travel a significant distance to the county seat in order to vote, Monday was not considered reasonable since many people would need to begin travel on Sunday. This would, of course, have conflicted with Church services and Sunday worship.

Why the first Tuesday after the first Monday? Lawmakers wanted to prevent election day from falling on the first of November for two reasons. First, November 1st is [All Saints Day](#), a Holy Day of Obligation for [Roman Catholics](#). Second, most merchants were in the habit of doing their books from the preceding month on the 1st. Apparently, Congress was worried that the economic success or failure of the previous month might prove an undue influence on the vote!