



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF RICHARDSON**

Editor: Diana Lace



VOTER

CALENDAR		
Date	Time	Event
December, 2015		
2	7:00 p.m.	Consensus Meeting on Pay Day and Auto Title Loans
21		Winter Begins
January 2016		
13	7:00 p.m.	LWV-R Board Meeting, PM Realty Board Room
16	9:00 a.m.-noon	CHIP Help Session at St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church, 1220 W. Belt Line Rd., R 75080
20	6:45-8:30 p.m.	Periodic Program Review meeting, social time and refreshments 6:45 p.m., program 7:00-8:30 p.m.



*Brenda Boston,
President*

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Winter weather has arrived, and your League is still busy at work for you. Recently, several members attended an informational meeting on Pay Day and Auto Title Loans in Texas that was presented by the LWV-Collin County. I hope to see many of you at our December 2 Consensus Meeting on this topic. Check out page 2 for more information.

2016 promises to be another busy year for LWV-R. We get started in January with our Periodic Program Review meeting. Positions being reviewed this year are Position IV (Childcare in Richardson) and Position V (Public HealthCare Services in Richardson). Join us to hear about these two important topics.

Brenda

Consensus Meeting: Pay Day and Auto Title Loans

December 2
7:00 p.m.
PM Realty Board Room
300 Coit Rd., Richardson



Join us to review the LWV-TX study findings on Pay Day and Auto Title Loans and consider questions posed by the study committee. LWV-R responses, along with those of other local Leagues, will be used to develop a position on the issue. This meeting offers LWV-R the opportunity to influence public policy on this important issue.

Liz Erkel will be the facilitator and discussion leader for the evening. Ms. Erkel served as a member of the LWV-TX study committee.

Under existing Texas laws, payday and auto title loans are almost unregulated, resulting in extreme hardship for residents who seek out these loans. LWV-TX cannot support or oppose bills on this topic that come before the Legislature unless the issue has been studied and they have a consensus for a position from local Leagues. Currently there is no such position for LWV-TX.

What is a consensus?

According to the LWV-TX, "Consensus in the League is defined as agreement among a substantial number of members, representative of the membership as a whole, reached after sustained study and group discussion. Consensus is not a vote." It is a *group* opinion.

For more information on Pay Day and Auto Title Loans go to <http://www.lwvtexas.org/files/StudyPayDayLoansFactsIssues.pdf> .

The Richardson Bond and Charter Amendment Election November 3, 2015 State Constitutional Amendments & Richardson's Bond Proposals

By the Numbers

In Richardson, the November 3, 2015, ballot had the following items on the ballot:

- **7** State of Texas Constitutional amendment propositions
 - **4** City of Richardson bond propositions
 - **83** City of Richardson city charter amendment propositions
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- Number of Richardson citizens who voted: **8,089** (**13%** of registered voters)
 - All **7** Texas Constitutional amendment propositions passed.
 - The city's bond proposals were approved by an average of **76%**.
 - The city's charter amendments were approved by an average of **82%**.

There was a line on the last day of early voting – November 3, 2015 – at the Richardson Civic Center



The following is from the Progress Texas 2015 Constitutional Ballot Guide. It was printed before the November 3, 2015 election:

Since the Texas Constitution was adopted in 1876, voters have authorized **484** separate constitutional amendments. The last **10** amendments, in the 2013 and 2014 elections, passed with an average support of **77%**; however, that support only came from the **8-9%** of registered voters that actually showed up to the polls. That's (sadly) about what you'd expect from a state that ranks so poorly in voter turnout.

From Progress Texas 2015 Constitutional Ballot Guide:

The Richardson Bond and Charter Amendment Election

November 3, 2015

*Richardson's Charter Amendment
Propositions*



Votes cast – City Charter Amendment Propositions

- Average number of votes cast on all city charter propositions: **6,880**
- Proposition 1 (that provided a definition of terms) received the most number of votes (total) : **7423**
- Proposition 41 (that the city council may set aside an unallocated fund balance in the budget to meet unexpected contingencies) received the least number of votes (total): **6509**
- More people voted on the first several propositions.
 - Propositions 1-5 averaged **7,281** votes each
 - Propositions 78-82 averaged **6,915** votes each

Did the League of Women Voters of Richardson's VOTERS GUIDE help voters?

The LWV-Richardson VOTERS GUIDE explained (as interpreted by LWV-R) what would change if each of the propositions passed. In addition, it ranked each of the propositions as follows:

- ★★★ Passage of items with 3 stars may have major impact on city government.
 - ★★ Passage of items with 2 stars may have some impact on city government.
 - ★ Passage of items with 1 star may have little impact on city government.
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- **400** printed VOTERS GUIDEs were distributed.
 - More people voted (both for and against) the propositions that were rated as three-star or two-star than on those we rated as one-star.
 - Average number of total votes cast for 3-star items: **6,954** (71% of 3-star items are above the median of total votes cast.)
 - Average number of total votes cast for 2-star items: **6,951** (70% of 2-star items are above the median of total votes cast.)
 - Average number of votes cast for 1-star items: **6,845**.



Online numbers

- The LWV-R video of the public meeting that discussed many of the 83 City Charter Amendment propositions was accessed **105** times.
- www.lwvrichardson.org averaged about **400** requests per day over the last week before the election. Since its inception in 2005, the website has averaged just under **150** requests per day.

Sources:

Raw data: Collin County Elections Department, Dallas County Elections Department

Analysis: Keith Burgess



Mark your calendars now!

Periodic Program Review

Wednesday, January 20

6:45 p.m. Refreshments and Social Time

7:00-8:30 p.m. Program and Discussion

Join us to learn about the LWV-R positions on Childcare and on Public Health Care Services in Richardson. A brief history of childcare and public health care will be presented as well as the positions LWV-R has on each of these topics.

For details, contact Brenda Boston
president@lwvrichardson.org

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

Nov. 25, 2015

Martha Dorris

On Oct. 17 at St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church (St. B.), John Stack, Ginette Wooldridge, Susan Majors, Claudia Prieto from The Community Council of Greater Dallas (ccgd) and I distributed information to four families, none of whom had all of the documentation needed to complete the application form. They were encouraged to arrange an appointment to follow up with J. Stack at Network. J. Stack volunteered to take flyers for the Nov. 21 help session at St. B. with him to a RISD meeting with the RISD Counselors.

On Oct. 27 Susan Majors, Geovana Prieto from the ccgd and I provided information and help to 6 families at O. Henry Elementary School during their "picnic in the park" from 5 to 7 pm. All were provided a flyer inviting them to attend the Nov. 21 help session at St. B. and the principal took a flyer to include in his newsletter to all of the O. Henry families.

On Nov. 7 at a Parent Education Expo at Richardson Terrace Elementary School from 10 am until noon I visited with many parents, 15 of whom received information about insurance programs. At a separate table Abel Serna from the ccgd also talked to many families. We had intended to join forces, but missed connecting. We are invited to return next year for a presentation in addition to an information table.

On Nov. 14 at the annual RISD Parents' Day event at Richardson High School from noon to 3 pm, I visited with many parents who had insurance for their children in addition to 10 families that received information about CHIP and Children's Medicaid. Two other presenters received the list of the remaining application help sessions at St. B. to be able to refer patients to us if they need insurance. We were invited to return next year and present in addition to having an information table.

On Nov. 21 at St. B. application help session two families filled out paper application forms for insurance. They both made appointments to complete the process on-line with John Stack on Monday, Nov. 22. Another parent received information about the Affordable Care Act. Rae Hoover and I visited with the children while J. Stack assisted the parents.

On Jan. 16 we will help parents with the applications at St. B. from 9 am until noon. If you know anyone who might be interested in attending, please share this information. St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church, 1220 W. Belt Line Road, Richardson 75080 is adjacent to Richardson High School about 1/2 mile east of Coit Road.

On Jan. 21 we are invited to participate at Dover Elementary School Health and Fitness Night from 6 to 7:30 pm. All of our efforts are supported and publicized by the RISD Council of PTAs. The RISD nursing staff routinely invites us to many of their events in addition to referring families to the help sessions at St. B. St. B. has provided space for these events for 13 years.

If your schedule permits, please consider helping or visiting to meet our families at any of these events. Thank you for our continued support for this advocacy. For any questions or further information, please email me at mikedorris1@tx.rr.com.

Famous Firsts by American Women

Alexandra "Alex" Morgan Carrasco is an American [soccer](#) player, [Olympic gold medalist](#), and [FIFA Women's World Cup](#) champion. She is a [forward](#) for the [Orlando Pride](#) and the [United States women's national soccer team](#).



- ✓ Alex was drafted number one overall in the [2011 WPS Draft](#) by the [Western New York Flash](#).
- ✓ At age 22, she was the youngest player on the national team at the [2011 FIFA Women's World Cup](#).
- ✓ In the [2012 London Olympics](#) she scored the game-winning goal in the 123rd minute of the semifinal game against [Canada](#).
- ✓ She finished 2012 with 28 goals and 21 assists, joining [Mia Hamm](#) as the only American women to score 20 goals and collect 20 assists in the same calendar year, and making her the sixth and youngest U.S. player to score 20 goals in a single year.
- ✓ She was subsequently named [U.S. Soccer Female Athlete of the Year](#) and was a [FIFA World Player of the Year](#) finalist.



- ✓ In 2015, Morgan, along with Canada's [Christine Sinclair](#) and Australia's [Steph Catley](#), became the first female players to make the cover of [FIFA](#) video games. Morgan appeared alongside [Lionel Messi](#) on covers of [FIFA 16](#) sold in the United States.

Source: Wikipedia