



VOTER

CALENDAR		
Date	Time	Event
February, 2016		
1		Last day to register to vote in the March 1 primary election
10	7:00 p.m.	Local Program Planning Meeting, Board Room, PM Realty
10		Kick off for Finance Drive
16-26		Early voting for primary election (see times on page 5)
19		Last day to receive request for ballot by mail for the primary election
March, 2016		
1		"Super Tuesday" Primary Elections for Texas Democratic and Republican Parties
1	7pm	Last day to receive ballot by mail for primary election
11-13		LWV-Texas Convention; Houston Westin, Memorial City



*Brenda Boston,
President*

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Your League continues to be busy with numerous meetings and programs. Check out the articles in this newsletter about the Periodic Program Review presentation and the upcoming voting on the 8 LWV-R Positions. Our Annual Finance Drive is beginning, and we are planning a public meeting on emergency preparedness in our area. There is a great deal of information about the upcoming primary elections. I encourage you to read all these articles and come be a part of all the League activities.

Brenda

Our sympathies go to the family and friends of Carol Holgren, who passed away on November 24, 2015, after a long illness. Carol was a former president and long-time member of LWV-Richardson.



Looking Ahead...

Please mark your calendar now for some LWV-R upcoming events

February 10 7:00 p.m.



At the LWV-R Local Program Planning Meeting on February 10, members will be voting on the 8 Positions we have. See the article on pages 3-4 for detailed information on the Positions. All members are welcome to attend.

March 29 7:00 p.m.

Emergency Preparedness public meeting

In light of the December tornadoes that crossed through cities just to our east, the board of the League of Women Voters of Richardson has decided to present a public informational program on *Emergency Preparedness in the Richardson Area*. This program will include information on a variety of emergency situations—weather related events as well as others.

How prepared are the City of Richardson and surrounding cities, RISD and PISD, volunteer organizations, and YOU? What should you do and what should you NOT do?

Details are being finalized. Look for more information about the program in next month's VOTER, and be sure invite your friends and neighbors to attend.

Program on LWV-R Positions: Childcare and Health Services in Richardson

LWV-R members and guests recently reviewed two LWV-R positions that led to years of study, advocacy and positive results in the areas of CHILDCARE and PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES in Richardson.

LWV-R has a total of eight positions, all of which are discussed each year at Local Program Planning (LPP) and voted on at the Annual Meeting to ensure that positions remain current and ready for action.

Nita Thomason, chair of the 1988 Childcare study, described the conditions in the late eighties that led to the study. Basically, there were few regulations or standards for the facilities that took care of preschool children, not even in areas such as director's training or maximum number of children per adult. Nita reviewed the steps of the intense study research that led to the adoption of the LWV-R position. LWV-R members realized that this problem was not confined to the city limits and promptly plunged into the process of having Childcare adopted as a state study by LWV-TX. From that platform, the League has been a leading voice for quality, affordable childcare available to every Texas child.

Nancy Wilson reviewed the Public Health Care Services in Richardson, first adopted in 1993. After rigorous research involving interviews with city, county, and school district officials, the LWV-R members adopted the position below.



IV. CHILD CARE IN RICHARDSON.

The League of Women Voters of Richardson believes that safe, reliable, affordable, quality child care should be available for every child in Richardson.

We support:

- A. Improvements in child care:
 1. Improve access to quality child care for all families;
 2. Aid low- to moderate-income parents in paying for such care;
 3. Provide for sliding fee scales to help facilitate the socioeconomic mix of children within child care facilities;
 4. Strengthen child care standards and improve their implementation;
 5. Strengthen family day care as well as center care;
 6. Support parental involvement in child care;
 7. Support the development of training programs to ensure qualified staff in child care programs;
 8. Encourage coordination among the various state and local agencies that affect young children and their families;

9. Provide sufficient funds to serve more children, assure quality, and improve the level of compensation for child care workers.
- B.** Utilization of federal and state tax funds to achieve higher quality child care and to subsidize child care for lower-income families.
- C.** Utilization of PISD and RISD physical facilities for activities related to child care, such as:
 1. On-site care of school-age children before and after school;
 2. Developmentally appropriate educational programs for three- to five-year-old children;
 3. Adult education classes for parents and child care workers.



V. PUBLIC HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN RICHARDSON:

The League of Women Voters of Richardson believes that the City of Richardson and school districts serving Richardson residents should be involved in addressing local needs for health care services. We believe that mandated public health care services should be provided equitably, effectively, and efficiently. We support:

A. The City of Richardson

1. Providing those environmental and consumer health services necessary to maintain a safe and healthy community.
2. Providing resources to identify public health care services needed in the community and to seek support for programs that address these needs (e.g., apply for public or private grant support).
3. Working with others (e.g., volunteer groups, local school districts, medical centers, and state and county agencies) to identify needs for health care services and information in the community, and to promote public awareness of services that are available.
4. Participating in programs that address unmet needs in the community for immunization programs, preventive care, primary care, and transportation for eligible Richardson residents to and from facilities that provide public health care.
5. Actively working to ensure that public and private health care services, including a Dallas County Hospital District Community Outreach Primary Care (COPC) clinic, are available to Richardson residents at convenient locations in or near the city.

B. Local School Districts Serving Richardson

1. Working with others (e.g., parents, volunteer groups, medical centers, city staff and elected officials, and state and county agencies) to identify needs for medical services and information in the student population, and to maintain a referral system for those who do not have access to necessary services.
2. Supporting the location within the community of public and private facilities that address the health care needs of students and their families.

Finance Drive Begins



Kick off for the annual LWV-R Finance Drive is this month. Your donations help the League continue its work in the community.

Donations made directly to the LWV-R are used for the administration of the organization—like helping pay the office rent, the LWV-R phone, printing, etc. These donations are not tax deductible.

TEF donations go to an LWV-Texas Education Fund, in an account for Richardson. These funds are used to produce our Voters Guides, to present forums for local elections, and to provide educational programs on topics important to the community. Donations to the LWV-TEF Fund are tax deductible.

Your donations have enabled the Richardson League to present candidates' forums for RISD Board of Trustees, the City of Richardson elections, District elections, the program Water Wise, the panel discussion on the City Charter Amendments, Voters Guides, and much more.

Be looking for your letter in the mail soon and please give generously to support your local League.

Primary Election - FAQs



What is a Primary Election?

- It is an election held by one of the major political parties to determine which candidate will represent them for each race on the ballot at the next General Election.

What is the difference between a major party and a minor party?

- A minor party is either a new party that did not exist during the last General Election or one that received less than 20% of the vote in the last General Election.

Do the minor parties hold Primary Elections?

- No. They choose their candidates through party conventions.

Who is in charge of the Primaries?

- The major political parties (Democrats and Republicans) are in charge of their respective Primary Elections.

Which party's Primary Election am I allowed to vote in?

- In Texas, if you are already registered to vote, you may choose to vote in either the Republican Primary or the Democratic Primary. You may NOT vote in both Primary elections in the same election cycle.

Do I have to register with a party beforehand in order to vote in their Primary Election?

- No. You may vote in either party's Primary, no matter how you intend to vote in the general election.

May I vote in a party's Primary if I voted in the other party's Primary two years ago?

- Yes.

Who may vote in the Primary Runoff Election?

- You can only vote in one primary, and if you vote in that primary, you are entitled to vote in that party's runoff election in the that same election cycle. If you don't vote in either primary, you can still vote in the Primary Runoff election for whichever party you choose.

	...can I vote in the Democratic Party Primary Runoff on May 24?	...can I vote in the Republican Party Primary Runoff on May 24?
If I don't vote in the March 1 st Primary,...	Yes	Yes
If I vote in the Democratic Party Primary on March 1,...	Yes	No
If I vote in the Republican Party Primary on March 1,...	No	Yes

Where can I find out more information about the political parties in Collin or Dallas Counties?

Collin County

Democratic Party	www.collindemocrats.org	972-578-1483
Republican Party	www.collincountygop.org	972-540-5985
Libertarian Party	www.collinlp.org	

Dallas County

Democratic Party	www.dallasdemocrats.org	214-821-8331
Republican Party	www.dallasgop.org	214-369-9555
Libertarian Party	www.lpdallas.org	

Super Tuesday

“Super Tuesday” refers to the Tuesday in February or March of a presidential election year in the United States when the greatest number of states hold primary elections to select delegates to national conventions. Each party’s presidential candidates are officially nominated at the party’s national convention.

Super Tuesday in the 2016 election cycle is scheduled to be held on March 1, 2016. The participating states include: Alabama, Alaska (GOP only), Arkansas, Colorado caucuses, Georgia, Massachusetts, Minnesota caucuses, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, and Virginia.

March 2016						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

In Texas, both the Democratic and Republican parties will be holding primaries on March 1, 2016. Voters will elect candidates to be on the November ballot for positions including President of the United States, US Representatives, Texas Representatives, Appeals District Judges, District Judges, Criminal District Judges, Sheriff, County Tax Assessor-Collector, County Commissioners, Justices of the Peace, Precinct Chairs, as well as non-binding referenda.

March 1, 2016 Primary Election Important Dates – Collin and Dallas Counties		
January 1, 2016		First day to apply for ballot by mail
February 1, 2016		Last day to register to vote
February 16-19, 2016 (Tues – Fri)	8:00am – 5:00pm	Early voting
February 20, 2016 (Sat)	7:00am – 7:00pm	Early voting
February 21, 2016 (Sun)	1:00pm – 6:00pm	Early voting
February 22-26, 2016 (Mon-Fri)	7:00am – 7:00pm	Early voting
February 19, 2016		Last day to apply for ballot by mail (received , not postmarked)
February 26, 2016		Last day to receive ballot by mail
March 1, 2016		Primary Election Day

Texas Primary Election – Early Voting

February 16 – February 26

Collin County Early Voting Locations

In Collin County, early voting for both the Democratic Party and the Republican Party will be held at the same locations. Locations in and closest to Richardson include:

Renner Frankford Library
6400 Frankford Road
Dallas, TX 75252

Methodist Richardson Medical Center
2831 E. President George Bush Freeway
Richardson, TX 75082

For a complete list of early voting locations in Collin County, go to [Collin County Early Voting Locations](#)

Dallas County Early Voting Locations

In Dallas County, early voting for both the Democratic Party and the Republican Party will be held at the same locations. Locations in Richardson and the Richardson ISD include:

Richardson Civic Center
411W. Arapaho Road
Richardson, TX 75081

Fretz Park Library
6990 Belt Line road
Dallas, TX 75254

Bethany Lutheran Church
10101 Walnut Hill Lane
Dallas, TX 75238

For a complete list of early voting location in Dallas County, go to [Dallas County Early Voting Locations](#)

Texas Primary Election – Election Day Voting “Super Tuesday” March 1, 2016

Collin County Election Day Voting Locations

In Collin County, election day voting for both the Democratic Party and the Republican Party will be held at the same locations. Locations in and close to Richardson include:

Renner Frankford Library 6400 Frankford Road Dallas, TX 75252	Aldridge Elementary School 720 Pleasant Valley Richardson, TX 75080	Woodcreek Church 3400 E Renner Road Richardson, TX 75082
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For a complete list of election day voting locations in Collin County, go to [Collin County Election Day Voting Locations](#)

Dallas County Election Day Voting Locations

The Democratic Party chooses the primary election polling places for voters voting in the Democratic Party Primary on March 1st. As of publication of this VOTER, those election day polling places had not been finalized.

The Republican Party chooses the primary election polling places for voters voting in the Republican Party Primary on March 1st. As of publication of this VOTER, those election day polling places had not been finalized.

For a complete list of election day voting locations in Dallas County, go to the League website at

www.lwvrichardson.org

Texas Primary Election – Referenda Items on the Democratic Party Ballot

If you vote in the Democratic Party Primary Election in Dallas County, there will be 6 non-binding referenda items on the ballot. For each of these items, you may vote ‘For’ or ‘Against’ the item.

Referenda Item #1 On Economic Security & Prosperity

Should the Texas Legislature and the United States Congress pass an economic security and prosperity plan for families that includes higher incomes by raising the state minimum wage to a livable wage, passing the Paycheck Fairness Act to ensure equal pay for equal work, guaranteeing paid family leave to care for a child or ill loved one, fully funding public neighborhood schools, and making a debt-free community college education a reality for hardworking students?

Referenda Item #2 On A Fair Criminal Justice System

Should the Texas Legislature and the United States Congress pass criminal justice reform legislation that ensures equal justice throughout our society without respect to race, socioeconomic status, geographic location, or other factors unrelated to behavior, ensuring as well common sense policies to protect the rights of law enforcement officers, the community, and defendants in the criminal justice system?

Referenda Item #3 On Climate

Should the Texas Legislature and the United States Congress encourage the transition to renewable, non-polluting energy as a means to slow down climate change and its impact on the planet?

Referenda Item #4 On The Voting Rights Act

Should the United States Congress pass the new Voting Rights Advancement Act to protect all American voters?

Referenda Item #5 On Campus Carry

Should the Texas Legislature allow each public institution of higher education (not only private universities) to opt out of the ability to carry guns on campus?

Referenda Item #6 On Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Should the United States Congress pass a just and fair comprehensive immigration reform solution that includes an earned path to citizenship for law-abiding immigrants and their children, keeps families together, protects DREAMers, and provides workforce solutions for businesses?

Texas Primary Election – Propositions

On the Republican Party Ballot

If you vote in the Republican Party Primary Election in Dallas County, there will be 4 non-binding propositions on the ballot. For each of these items, you may vote 'For' or 'Against' the item.

Proposition No. 1

Texas should replace the property tax system with an alternative other than an income tax and require voter approval to increase the overall tax burden.

Proposition No. 2

Texas cities and counties should be required to comply with federal immigration laws or be penalized by loss of state funds.

Proposition No. 3

Texas should prohibit governmental entities from collecting dues for labor unions through deductions from public employee paychecks.

Proposition No. 4

Texas and its citizens should strongly assert 10th Amendment Rights guaranteed by the U. S. Constitution which states “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”



Candidates Forums for March 1 Primaries Collin County

All Collin County candidates in contested races have been invited to participate in LWV-CC candidates forums. During this time, voters decide which party, if any, they want to participate in and help choose that party's candidates. Republican and Democratic candidates are chosen through a primary election for each party, to be held on March 1, 2016. Libertarian and Green candidates are chosen through party conventions, not primary elections. So that you can make an informed choice, our candidates forums and Voters Guides include candidates in all parties.

Plan to attend the LWV-Collin County forums to meet the candidates on Tuesday, February 2 (listed below) and on Saturday, February 6 (next page) and ask about the issues most important to you. Included here are the sessions that may be of interest to residents of Richardson, Collin County.

The parties are identified as Republican (R), Democratic (D), Libertarian (L), and Green (G).

Tuesday, Feb. 2, 6:00 – 7:15 p.m. Smith Public Library 300 Country Club Rd., Bldg. 300 Wylie, TX 75098	
<u>U.S. Representative District 32</u>	
Participants:	Paul Brown (R), Russ Ramsland (R) Ed Rankin (L), Cherie Roughneen (R)
Unable to attend:	Pete Sessions (R)

Candidates Forums for March 1 Primaries Collin County *(continued)*

Saturday, Feb. 6, 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Christopher A. Parr Library 6200 Windhaven Pkwy. Plano, TX 75093	
<p>Session 1, 10:30-11:30</p> <p><u>U.S. Representative District 3</u> Participants: Adam Bell (D), Paul Blair (G), Christopher Claytor (L), David Cornette (R), Michael Filak (D), Scott Jameson (L), John Slavens (R), Keith Thurgood (R) Unable to attend: Sam Johnson (R)</p>	<p>Session 2, 11:45-12:45</p> <p><u>Texas Representative District 67</u> Participants: Ray Brewer (L), Scott Coleman (D) Unable to attend: Jeff Leach (R)</p>
<p><u>Session 3, 1:00-2:00</u></p> <p><u>Collin County District Clerk</u> Participants: Lynne Chupp Finley (R), Yoon Kim (R)</p> <p><u>Collin County District Judge 401st</u> Participants: Jim Piki (R), Mark Rusch (R)</p> <p><u>Collin County District Judge 416th</u> Participants: Andrea Bouressa (R), Daniel Correa (L), Lon Garner (R), Michael Puhl (R), Andrea Thompson (R)</p> <p><u>Collin County Court at Law Judge 7</u> Participants: James Angelino (R), Melvin Thathiah (R), David Waddill (R)</p>	<p><u>Session 4, 2:15-3:15</u></p> <p><u>Collin County Justice of the Peace Precinct 3 Place 1</u> Participants: Ramona Brumfield (D), Michael Messer (D), Chuck Ruckel (R) Unable to attend: Thomas Hayden (R), Andrew White (R)</p> <p><u>Collin County Commissioner Precinct 3</u> Participants: John Cocks (R) Unable to attend: Chris Hill (R)</p> <p><u>Collin County Constable Precinct 1</u> Participants: Mike Vance (R), Shane Williams (R) Unable to attend: Mark Wester (L)</p> <p><u>Collin County Sheriff</u> Participants: Jim Skinner (R) Unable to attend: Daniel St. Clair (L)</p>

CHIP UPDATE

Children's Health Insurance/Children's Medicaid Program by Martha Dorris

- **Jan. 16** At St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church, two families visited and received information about insurance programs from John Stark from Network and made appointments to complete application forms on-line with him. GeorgeAnn Dukes and Susan Majors were on hand to assist and Sandy Gillette, a new CHIP volunteer, was trained on the application process.
- **Jan. 21** At a Health Fair at Dover Elementary School, Carlos Gutierrez-Castillo from the Community Council of Greater Dallas and I visited with many families and discussed insurance programs. Two families received packets that included the paper application form for CHIP/Children's Medicaid with detailed advice on how to proceed. We also suggested that, if their schedule permitted, they contact John Stack at Network for an appointment to assist them with the on-line process. Several families were advised about the process for renewal of CHIP.
- **Feb. 18** We are invited to attend a Health Fair at Big Springs Elementary School to share information about children's insurance programs.
- **Feb. 20** We will help parents with applications at St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church, 1220 W. Belt Line Road, Richardson from 9 am to noon. Please encourage any family who might be interested to attend. We are always happy to have you visit any of the planned events to assist or to meet our families.

The Center for Public Policy Priorities has summarized the HHSC proposed new and amended rules for Medicaid Managed Care, as a result of laws passed during the 84th Texas Legislative Session. They would be effective in September 2016. For the application to be complete, the family must select a health care managed care organization (MCO) and a dental MCO, select a primary care provider and a dental home and fill those in on the enrollment form. Any applicable enrollment fee must be paid on or before the date due. If the applicant does not choose all of these within the time period established by HHSC, HHSC or its designee will assign all of these. The method for assignment is described. This is a major change, and there are others. For more information, please visit the cPPP web site (look for Texas HHSC , State Children's Health Insurance program enrollment, renewal, disenrollment and cost sharing, Title 1, Part 15, Chapter 370, Subchapter C, Division 1) I can forward what I received from Anne Dunkelberg , associate director of CPPP if anyone would like to have the files.

Thank you for your continued support for these programs. Without this advocacy many families would not know what is available or how to access these insurances for their children.

Vernice “FlyGirl” Armour



Vernice Armour was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1972. She was raised in Memphis, Tennessee where she graduated from Overton High School. While in high school, she was class vice-president, a member of the mathematics honor society and the National Honor Society.

Her college years were spent at Middle Tennessee State University. While in college, she enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve and later joined the U.S. Army ROTC. In 1996, she took time off from college and fulfilled a childhood dream of becoming a Nashville police officer where she became the first African American female motorcycle officer. She returned to college and graduated from MTSU in 1997.

In 1998 she became the first African American female police officer to serve in the Tempe, Arizona police force before joining the Marine Corps as an Officer Candidate in October. She followed the footsteps of her grandfather, father and stepfather in military service.

Vernice was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and sent to flight school at the Naval Air Station in Corpus Christi, Texas and later to the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida. In July, 2001, Armour earned her wings as the number one graduate over the previous 200 graduates and became the First African American Female Pilot in the Marine Corps.

In March, 2003 Vernice Armour flew with HMLA-169 during the invasion of Iraq at which time she became the first African American female combat pilot. She went on to complete two tours of duty in the Gulf War. She has since earned the nick-name “FlyGirl”.