

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF RICHARDSON

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This *Voters Guide* is a community service to voters of the City of Richardson and the Richardson ISD. Candidate responses published in this guide were typed into www.Vote411.org by the candidates. Responses are printed exactly as received and must meet character limits. Excess characters in a candidate's response have been replaced with an ellipsis (...). www.VOTE411.org has more questions answered by the candidates. Four of the questions are reproduced in this printed guide.

This guide is published by the League of Women Voters of Richardson and funded by donations from Richardson area residents and businesses. The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan, grassroots civic organization, encourages informed and active participation in government. The League works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

When voting in person, either early or on Election Day, you may take written materials (including this Voter Guide) into the voting booth to assist you in casting your ballot. You may **not** use electronic devices like cell phones. [Photo ID](#) is required to vote.

EARLY VOTING - in person..... April 19 – April 27, 2021



		Dallas County	Collin County
Monday through Friday	April 19 – 23	8:00am – 5:00pm	8:00am – 5:00pm
Saturday	April 24	8:00am – 5:00pm	8:00am – 5:00pm
Sunday	April 25	1:00pm – 6:00pm	Closed
Monday through Tuesday	April 26 - 27	7:00am – 7:00pm	7:00am – 7:00pm

Dallas County

During Early Voting, registered voters in the City of Richardson, **Dallas County**, may vote at any Early Voting location within Dallas County.

Dallas County Elections: www.dallascountyvotes.org

Collin County

During Early Voting, registered voters in the City of Richardson, **Collin County**, may vote their entire ballot at any [Early Voting location](#) within Collin County.

Collin County Elections: www.collincountytx.gov/elections

The Richardson Civic Center is an Early Voting location for both Dallas and Collin Counties.

ELECTION DAY VOTING Saturday, May 1, 2021 7am-7pm



Dallas County

On Election Day, voters in the City of Richardson (**Dallas County**) may vote in any Voting location in Dallas County.

Dallas County Elections: www.dallascountyvotes.org

Collin County

On Election Day, voters in the City of Richardson (**Collin County**) may vote in any [Vote Center](#) in Collin County for their entire ballot.

Collin County Elections: www.collincountytx.gov/elections

The Richardson Civic Center is an Election Day voting location for both Dallas and Collin Counties.

What ID do I need to vote?

Voters may use one of seven (7) forms of photo ID, listed below. Note: IDs may be expired up to four years. Persons 70 years of age or older may use an expired ID. ID address does not have to match the voter registration address.

- Texas Driver license
- Texas Election Identification Certificate (EIC)
- Texas Personal Identification Card issued by DPS
- Texas license to carry a handgun issued by DPS
- US military identification card with the person's photograph
- US citizenship certificate containing the person's photograph
- US passport (book or card)



Do not possess and cannot reasonably obtain one of these IDs? Fill out a Reasonable Impediment Declaration form at the polls and show a copy or original of one of the following supporting documents:

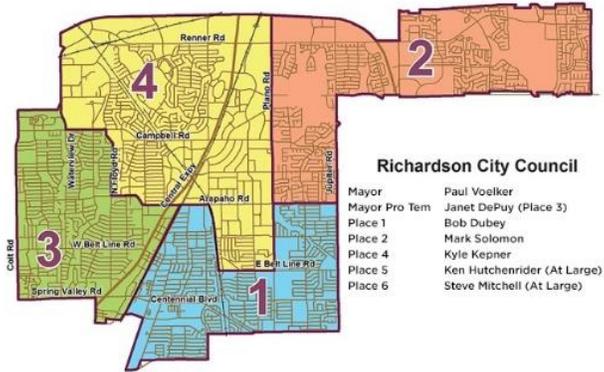
- Certified Domestic Birth Certificate or Court Admissible Birth Document
- Current Utility Bill
- Bank Statement
- Government Check
- Paycheck
- Government document with your name and an address including your Voter Registration Certificate

Exemptions might apply. Find out more online at www.votetexas.gov or call 1-800-252-VOTE (8683).

What's on the May 1, 2021 ballot?

All registered voters who live in the City of Richardson (Dallas County and Collin County) will vote on:

- Richardson Mayor and City Council (All 7 Places are on the ballot; 2 places are contested)



Richardson City Council

Mayor	Paul Voelker
Mayor Pro Tem	Janet DePuy (Place 3)
Place 1	Bob Dubey
Place 2	Mark Solomon
Place 4	Kyle Kepner
Place 5	Ken Hutchenrider (At Large)
Place 6	Steve Mitchell (At Large)



Richardson ISD

All registered voters who live in the Richardson ISD will vote on:

- At-Large Place 7 (contested)
- RISD Bond (Proposition A and Proposition B)

All registered voters who live in Single-Member District 1 of the Richardson ISD will vote on:

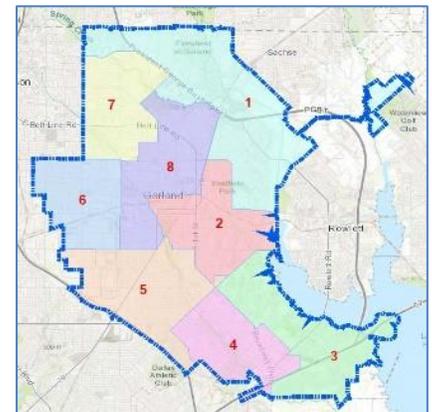
- Single-member District 1 (contested)

All registered voters who live in the Collin County portion of Richardson will vote on:

- Plano ISD Board of Trustees (Places 1, 2, 3, and 6 are on the ballot; all places are contested)
- Collin College Board of Trustees (Places 7, 8, and 9 are on the ballot; all places are contested)

All registered voters who live in the City of Garland will vote on:

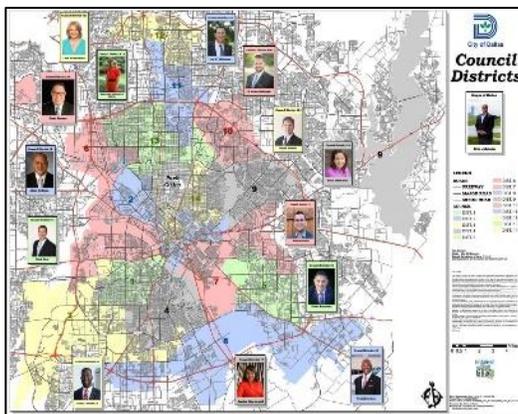
- Garland City Council (Mayor and Districts 1 (unfinished term), 3, 6, 7, and 8; 3 districts are contested; You must live in the district to vote in that district.)



City of Garland

All registered voters who live in the City of Dallas will vote on:

- Dallas City Council (Districts 1-14; All districts are contested. You must live in the district to vote in that district.)
- 2 special charter amendments



City of Dallas



Place 4, Ballot Position 1 (1 st of 2 candidates)	Place 4, Ballot Position 2 (2 nd of 2 candidates)
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Richardson is a racially diverse city, yet the city council doesn't reflect this. What do you think needs to be done to create diversity on the city council? (500 character limit)



Kyle Kepner

I think our biggest strength in Richardson is that we are an extremely diverse city. This isn't by chance. Richardson has a long-standing history of welcoming and celebrating our neighbors from other cultures, and strive to keep our city safe and ensure the protection all of its citizens. We make a concerted effort to find underrepresented people to serve on boards and commissions or to enroll in programs like Leadership Richardson, CPA, or CFA. These are often stepping stones to council.



Joe Corcoran

I am committed to engaging with leaders and individuals within every community here in Richardson so that we can move forward together. Whether I win or lose, I will be happy to mentor and educate anyone who wants to run for City Council or is curious about the process, especially individuals of color. It's important that capable people who are willing to put in the work are not held back from breaking barriers due to fear of rejection or lack of confidence.

The Dallas City Council recently approved moving forward with a project for 'affordable housing' apartments. (Dallas Morning News, February 26, 2021) That is, in Dallas, a number of units will be reserved for people making 80% or less of the area median income. Do you approve of a similar measure for Richardson? Why or why not? (700-character limit)

Richardson is a landlocked city, which means that we must be very creative and intentional in working within our existing space, with our first priority being to serve the citizens currently living here. By law, people can use government housing vouchers at any rental property they wish to. The challenges many families face in securing stable and affordable housing is a widespread issue throughout many communities, and involves factors more complex than simply the cost and availability of housing stock. As a City, I believe we are doing what we can to promote affordable housing where we can. We have areas within the IQ that would allow for much smaller footprint homes (tiny houses) as well

If you work in Richardson, you should be able to live in Richardson. We need a variety of housing that can accommodate everyone from waiters and mechanics, to young professionals starting a family, all the way to millionaires and C-Suite executives. This diversity of incomes and professions within Richardson gives our city a tradition of tolerance.

However, I do not think a system like what Dallas implemented is the right way to do it nor do I think it would work in Richardson due to our size. There are better ways to increase affordability. We can diversify our housing stock by encouraging well-kept duplexes with off-street parking, dense townhomes, and even ADU's ("mother-in-law suites").

The city is looking at a bond package in November. Is there an item that is in the proposed bond that shouldn't be? Is there an item that's not being considered for the bond that should be in the bond? Please explain. (700-character limit)

Currently we are looking at renovating City Hall and the Library, around 120 million in street repairs, and some park improvements. Streets and Alleys must be the top priority, The Library is our most used public building serving over 450000 visits per year. City hall was built for 70 thousand residents and currently workers are on top of each other and even closets have been converted to tiny offices. We have evaluated the civic campus multiple times and have pared down the scope so that we get the infrastructure needs included first.

I am excited about the proposed bond items and voters can be confident that whatever is in the final bond package was put there out of a genuine need.

One item I have reservations on is the plan to expand parking at Keffler Ballfield and pave over a gravel lot at the cost of \$927,000. Of the nearly one hundred residents I spoke to out by Breckinridge Park, this never came up as an issue. I'm concerned that the project would pave over a couple medians and trail sections. Also, pedestrian safety is always a fear when increasing the number of vehicles in a concentrated area.

That said, I want to re-emphasize that the majority of bond projects are necessary to maintain our quality of life.

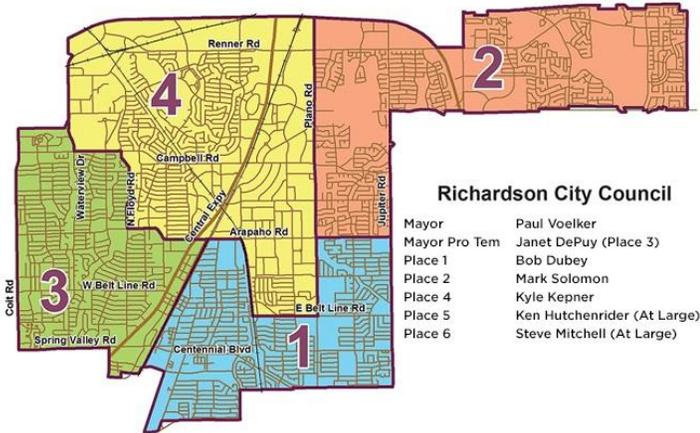
What steps can the Richardson City Council take to reduce carbon emissions? (500-character limit)

Richardson really does not have any industry hear that pollutes. So are best bet is to continue narrowing some roads and adding more Bike lanes. We already when awards for our bike lanes but I say we should include them everywhere possible.

Moving away from our 1960's car-centric model of suburban design. That doesn't just mean "less cars". It means encouraging retail shopping closer to neighborhoods to reduce drive time to places like grocery and hardware stores.

City of Richardson Contested City Council Elections

The two preceding candidates are running against each other in the City of Richardson Place 4 Election.



All places on the City of Richardson City Council are At-Large Places.

All registered voters who live in the City of Richardson (Dallas County and Collin County) may vote on all places.

- Place 7, Mayor, has no geographical requirement.
- Places 1 – 4 have a geographical requirement that the candidate must live within the place.
- Places 5 & 6 have no geographical requirement.

The following three candidates are running against each other in the City of Richardson Place 6 Election.

RICHARDSON CITY COUNCIL – Place 6 (3 candidates)



More questions/responses: www.Vote411.org
Video: www.youtube.com; **2021 LWV-R Forums**

Place 6, Ballot Position 1 (1st of 3 candidates)

Richardson is a racially diverse city, yet the city council doesn't reflect this. What do you think needs to be done to create diversity on the city council? (500 character limit)



Daniel Burdette

My preparation to run for city council included participating in Leadership Richardson, applying to serve on city Boards and Commissions, and serving through my church, all of which inspired me to take this next step and run for council. My goals include inspiring friends and neighbors, of all races, to also get involved in the community, and step forward to run as qualified candidates for office. Involvement and Inclusion make the city of Richardson a place we can all be proud to call home.

The Dallas City Council recently approved moving forward with a project for 'affordable housing' apartments. (Dallas Morning News, February 26, 2021) That is, in Dallas, a number of units will be reserved for people making 80% or less of the area median income. Do you approve of a similar measure for Richardson? Why or why not? (700-character limit)

As was demonstrated in Dallas, this type of measure takes careful consideration when determining a viable location. The city of Richardson is land-locked and has few locations that would support this type of new development. I would need to understand more about the need in Richardson, and what, if any, stipulations or requirements are imposed in order to receive the federal funding before deciding if I would support such a project in Richardson.

The city is looking at a bond package in November. Is there an item that is in the proposed bond that shouldn't be? Is there an item that's not being considered for the bond that should be in the bond? Please explain. (700-character limit)

At this point of the proposal process, many potential projects have been brought forward for consideration. All of the proposed projects have merit, but of course not all of them can be funded, so the process of making selections and tabling some of the projects must begin. There are not any additional items that I think should be considered at this time.

What steps can the Richardson City Council take to reduce carbon emissions? (500-character limit)

While environmental programs are driven more at Federal (EPA) and State (TCEQ) levels, Richardson has taken numerous steps to provide its citizens with options for reducing carbon emissions. Bike lanes have been added in recent years, and trail extensions have been added which connect neighborhoods with business districts, all providing options for walking or riding to work. Programs for generating solar power might be worth looking into, but would also require redundant alternative options.

RICHARDSON CITY COUNCIL – Place 6 (3 candidates)

For candidate responses to more questions, go to www.Vote411.org

Place6 Forum: www.youtube.com; Search on: 2021 LWV-R Forums



Place 6, Ballot Position 2 (2nd of 3 candidates)

Place 6, Ballot Position 3 (3rd of 3 candidates)

Richardson is a racially diverse city, yet the city council doesn't reflect this. What do you think needs to be done to create diversity on the city council? (500 character limit)



Marilyn Frederick

We need to be out there recruiting citizens of all nationalities; perhaps becoming more involved than ever with their associations.....and asking them to look at more involvement in Leadership Richardson, possibly sponsorships to LR, the CARES program, and the Police and Fire Citizens Academies. This is important. Diversity is not only race, it is by age and gender too. Are any of us doing all we can? We need to teach by example. All inclusivity. I'm not retired when I could be!



Arefin Shamsul

We need to get everyone to the table listening to each and involving them in the decision making process. I would support diverse, qualified nominees on boards and commissions, and entertain the idea of a Diversity Commission.

The Dallas City Council recently approved moving forward with a project for 'affordable housing' apartments. (Dallas Morning News, February 26, 2021) That is, in Dallas, a number of units will be reserved for people making 80% or less of the area median income. Do you approve of a similar measure for Richardson? Why or why not? (700-character limit)

As a Realtor, we are always looking for the fair housing aspect of our business. What is hard is that we all want it; but where can it happen? When I first talked with a few people about running, I stated I wanted some affordable housing. I was talking about properties that would be a nice option for those generally around retirement, low maintenance so people could downsize and free up the housing stock for those buyers who possibly wanted the big home. I was thinking of housing priced for sale in the price point of about \$250,000. Rather than housing apartments, I would rather see a qualifying program. Lots of determining factors. Land cost makes this a very careful subject to figure out.

I firmly believe there is a need for housing options that are affordable for hardworking Richardson residents. The current economic conditions and housing market make it difficult for many new families and young professionals to purchase a home. I'll identify economic drivers to bring good paying jobs into our city and actively seek out starter home projects that are lower in price.

The city is looking at a bond package in November. Is there an item that is in the proposed bond that shouldn't be? Is there an item that's not being considered for the bond that should be in the bond? Please explain. (700-character limit)

Lots of great needs with Infrastructure at the top, including Bridges; with our streets & alleys being over 50 years old this is critical. Parks & other capital projects are worthy of being included in the bond. The city is trying to get federal funds where available. The city is being mindful of the total of the bond proposals, I believe they will be prudent. Trying to capture Monies from Dallas County also to help with some of the projects. Weighing all of the options when it comes to updating the Library and the Civic Center. They are being conservative; this is what I would also be in favor of: we want to maintain our AAA Bond ratings with S & P and Moody's.

I am support of the upcoming bond election. However, I do think more emphasis needs to be placed on repaving residential streets that are in most need, instead of focusing on newer roads. When new construction is done correctly and followed up with planned maintenance, we save both money and future bond asks.

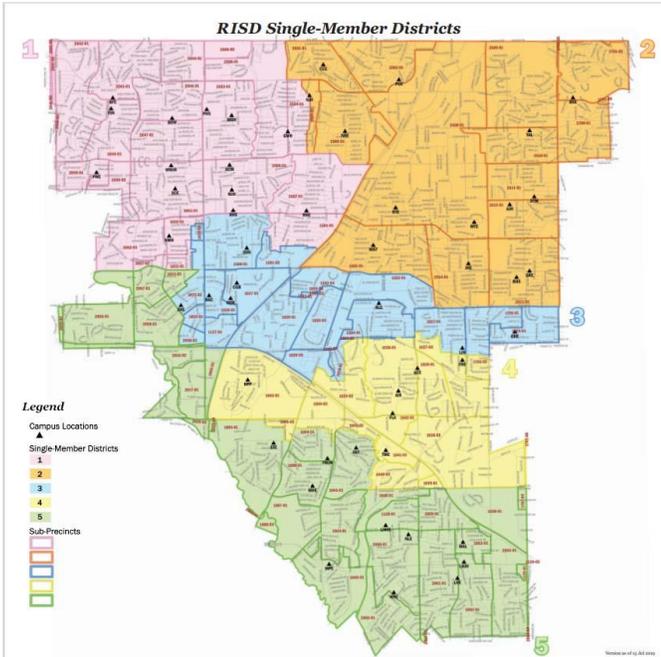
What steps can the Richardson City Council take to reduce carbon emissions? (500-character limit)

Phase out most gasoline vehicles. Time to be electric! I think the City tried CNG...(That might have been federal)..Everything needs to be looked at when it comes to the environment including what type of cement we use. I think Farmers Branch is working on that. We need a tree preservation ordinance. More natural landscaping for our city buildings. That is being phased in I suspect. Water conservation systems, using gray water, etc. The Bush Library does this. I'm impressed.

I believe there are two strong options that the city can undertake. First, as we build new facilities, we should make certain they are environmentally green. Additionally, as new vehicle fleets are invested in, the city can consider transitioning to more carbon friendly models.

Secondly, I will support expanding on the homeowners tax credit program, which encourages homeowners to install environmentally friendly measures in exchange for reduced property taxes.

Richardson ISD Board of Trustee Elections



The following three candidates are running against each other in the Richardson ISD District 1 Election.

- **You must live in District 1 in order to vote in the RISD Board of Trustees District 1 Election.**

RICHARDSON ISD – Contested District 1 (3 candidates)



More questions/responses: www.Vote411.org
Video: www.youtube.com; 2021 LWV-R Forums

District 1, Ballot Position 1 (1st of 3 candidates)

>>>You must live in District 1 to vote in District 1.<<<

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge RISD faces and how do you plan to address it? (500 character limit)



Vicky Suárez

I believe our biggest challenge as a school district is to address and meet the needs of our diverse population of students. We are not the RISD of 1980, 1990, or 2000. We need to maintain and continue our tradition of excellence in academics, extra- and co-curriculars, Gifted and Special Education, etc., while bringing in new ways to engage our students and enhance their learning. We must support Dr. Stone's "All means all" charge, and work to address the inequities all across our district.

Do you believe that the Richardson ISD is in compliance with the 1970 court order requiring the district to implement a desegregation plan and to stop discriminating against Black students on the basis of race? Yes or No – and why? (700-character limit)

I believe that Black students still experience systemic racism in our district. The steps taken to address the court order moved the district toward being more equitable in educating Black students, but Black students are still behind their white peers measurable ways like graduation rates in the district (95% of RISD White students graduate, while 88.5% of Black students do) and AP/IB participation (53% of White students, 19.3% of Black students).

Has the “Covid Slide”, or learning regression, affected Richardson ISD students? If so, how should RISD address it? If not, why do you believe RISD has not been affected? (500-character limit)

I am sure we as a district will discover that students have been affected by all the ways COVID changed our schools and the way our teachers delivered content. RISD needs to support teachers as they work to remedy deficiencies. Listen to teachers, provide resources, give support, and continue to have high expectations while also recognizing that it may take awhile to get back on track. Our teachers are dedicated professionals who can meet the needs of students if they are supported.

What is the most important item included in the current bond package? What important need is not addressed in the bond package? Please explain. (700-character limit)

I'm very happy that we will begin the process of moving the sixth graders out of the elementary schools and into junior highs. This is a long overdue change, and I only wish it could happen all at once with this bond. Pre-K for all students is going to be a huge benefit to our community. Again, this will take awhile to implement, but I am excited that the work will begin, with the passage of this bond. Safe and well-maintained buildings are a priority so the best learning can happen.

RICHARDSON ISD – Contested District 1 (3 candidates)

More questions/responses: www.Vote411.org

Video: www.youtube.com; 2021 LWV-R Forums



District 1, Ballot Position 2 (2nd of 3 candidates)

>>>You must live in District 1 to vote in District 1.<<<

District 1, Ballot Position 3 (3rd of 3 candidates)

>>>You must live in District 1 to vote in District 1.<<<

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge RISD faces and how do you plan to address it? (500 character limit)



Tony Mario Casagrande

The bond and paying for the bond without sacrificing student and teacher programs are the biggest issues facing RISD today. The bond could be a generational opportunity if done right, paving the way for education for all for many years to come. I will address this issue by being an informed and skilled member of the board to ask the right questions, get tough answers, and help all parties be responsible to their commitments.



Megan Timme

I believe coming out of the pandemic, RISD (as every other district in the state) will have to address the gaps that have occurred in the last year. Determining how to accelerate instruction for all students and continue to improve upon the gaps that already existed, will be a challenge. Working with the district leadership and board members, we will be able to strategically plan and redesign the curriculum and basic structure. A focus on the most important foundational skills will be a priority

Do you believe that the Richardson ISD is in compliance with the 1970 court order requiring the district to implement a desegregation plan and to stop discriminating against Black students on the basis of race? Yes or No – and why? (700-character limit)

I am going to do my best to answer this question based on the assumption you are referencing either the Civil Rights Act of 1964 or the Swann lawsuit from the 70's. In both legal situations, yes, Richardson ISD is in full compliance with the Civil Rights Act and the later legal ruling in the Swann case. My answer is based on the following truth. Any student of any color or racial background can go to and be bussed to the public school(s) in their feeder pattern within the RISD and receive the same educational services as any other student of a non-minority classification in the district. Students can also transfer or attend magnet schools.

Yes, I do believe the district is in compliance with the court order as the desegregation order was lifted and the district allowed to enter into a monitoring phase in 2013. Do I believe that all systematic racism disappeared with the legal compliance of that court order being lifted? I do not, and I also believe that as a district and community we must continue to monitor ourselves and strive to meet the needs of all students. While I agree that the district does not require federal monitoring at this point in time, it is incumbent on the district and community to strive for better outcomes for all students.

Has the “Covid Slide”, or learning regression, affected Richardson ISD students? If so, how should RISD address it? If not, why do you believe RISD has not been affected? (700-character limit)

The COVID slide is more accurately titled the REMOTE LEARNING slide. RISD, the teachers, and parents did the best they could under the circumstances, but students need to be in school to learn. RISD should do everything they can to end remote learning and get the kids back in school.

Several areas jump out initially but we won't know the full extent until we return to a more normal school environment and we can really see where all of our students stand academically. If you look at the early state wide data, math skills have taken the biggest hit. I would have to assume this will be true in Richardson ISD as well. Our youngest students in Pre-K and Kinder grade levels have had a lower level of enrollment. This will greatly impact learning, especially in our most vulnerable populations where language acquisition and structured learning have not been present. We won't know the full extent for some time but we do have places where we can start planning and preparing.

What is the most important item included in the current bond package? What important need is not addressed in the bond package? Please explain. (500-character limit)

I believe the two main goals of the bond: Facilities and Technology are equally important. Additionally, the boost the the local economy after the hardships of the shut down are sorely needed to continue to pull the area out of the recession and back to pre-COVID employment levels.

I believe in investing in our facilities. Having safe, up-to- date buildings is a critical component to the learning environment. I was most pleased that the bond committee was able to use the facility study of all of the buildings, factoring in age and overcrowding. The fact there is a long range plan, as well, is something that I can whole heartily support.

To view *Voters Guides* for all races on your ballot, go to:

www.VOTE411.org



For more election information, visit the following websites:

League of Women Voters of Richardson
www.lwvrichardson.org

League of Women Voters of Collin County
www.lwvcollin.org

Collin County Elections
www.collincountytx.gov/elections

Dallas County Elections
www.dallascountyvotes.org

Follow the League of Women Voters of Richardson:

- Website www.lwvrichardson.org
- Twitter @LWVRichardson
- Facebook: League of Women Voters of Richardson



The following seven candidates are running against each other in the Richardson ISD Place 7 Election.

- **All registered voters who live in the Richardson ISD may vote in the Board of Trustees Place 7 Election.**

RICHARDSON ISD – Contested Place 7 (7 candidates)



More questions/responses: www.Vote411.org
 Video: www.youtube.com; 2021 LWV-R Forums

Place 7, Ballot Position 1 (1st of 7 candidates)

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge RISD faces and how do you plan to address it? (500 character limit)



Nicole Foster

I believe a challenge the district currently faces is exactly what Dr. Stone has earnestly addressed, and that is the issue of racism which has somehow seeped into some of its classrooms. I want to make sure to provide support to the superintendent in adjusting hiring practices where needed, in order to find the right educators, and provide competitive compensation that would attract the professionalism Richardson ISD deserves.

Do you believe that the Richardson ISD is in compliance with the 1970 court order requiring the district to implement a desegregation plan and to stop discriminating against Black students on the basis of race? Yes or No – and why? (700-character limit)

Many Black students now and in the past, including myself, have been and continue to be systematically barred from Advanced Placement courses or GT programs, so I will say, no.

Has the “Covid Slide”, or learning regression, affected Richardson ISD students? If so, how should RISD address it? If not, why do you believe RISD has not been affected? (700-character limit)

The “COVID Slide” has indeed affected RISD students. There are students not present both in class and virtually. Some may be present in either in class or virtually yet are not turning in assignments. RISD has implemented many things to help ensure active learning despite the global circumstance. I do believe that RISD should take advantage of all the experiences the pandemic has brought to it and seek out the latest technology for both the educational needs of students and educators.

What is the most important item included in the current bond package? What important need is not addressed in the bond package? Please explain. (500-character limit)

I think the most everything in the bond package is important. What I think is more important is the method in which we implement the bond. For example, If there is a timeline for when campuses will realize the benefit of the bond, I would like to see the bond items immediately instituted in our campuses that house our underserved student population.

RICHARDSON ISD – Place 7 (7 candidates)

For candidate responses to more questions, go to www.Vote411.org

RISD Place 7, Ballot Positions 1-3 Forum: www.youtube.com; Search on: 2021 LWV-R Forums



Place 7, Ballot Position 2 (2nd of 7 candidates)

Place 7, Ballot Position 3 (3rd of 7 candidates)

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge RISD faces and how do you plan to address it? (500 character limit)



Amanda Clair

There are disparities, across student groups, that indicate performance measures aren't being met. We must support instructional practice to ensure we are fulfilling our promises to all students. We do this by engaging in challenging conversations that are grounded in research and understanding of the impacts of our decisions around policy and budget that provide equity for students, ensure positive outcomes and support teacher and district success.



Blake Sawyer

This past year, Richardson ISD has done a lot to help mitigate the educational gap caused by schools closing in the Spring of 2020. Even still, there are a lot of students that will need help to get back on track after a chaotic year. As a district, we need to direct our focus to make sure teachers can help students academically and developmentally. Making sure all students are reading on grade level, are progressing in math and sciences, and are developing relationally are my priorities.

Do you believe that the Richardson ISD is in compliance with the 1970 court order requiring the district to implement a desegregation plan and to stop discriminating against Black students on the basis of race? Yes or No – and why? (700-character limit)

The district has worked to ensure schools are desegregated but desegregation wasn't the only intent in this order. It's meant to cover equitably distribution of funds and resources, recruitment of teachers of color and to ensure equity in instruction of students of color. Currently, 68% of our white students are meeting grade level performance on reading and 31% of our black. Our data does not indicate we are meeting compliance for all components of the order. Our focus on equity and commitment to looking at each student group's performance brings transparency to the table and allows for us to identify policies we need to ensure we are in compliance.

RISD has been working hard over the past 50 years to make sure every student is cared for, given equal opportunity and education, and make clear that the neighborhood you live in or the color of your skin has no bearing on the school you go to or the classes you attend. When my mother was in school in the '70s, she talks about her father making sure they welcomed students from all over the district as they went to school together. Today, I am proud of the magnet schools and the wider net our schools cast to make sure everyone gets a great education in a diverse environment. As a member of the school board, I want to make sure every school in RISD is known for its excellence in all areas.

Has the "Covid Slide", or learning regression, affected Richardson ISD students? If so, how should RISD address it? If not, why do you believe RISD has not been affected? (700-character limit)

Yes, RISD students have been impacted by the COVID slide. As board trustees we support this by ensuring that we approve the resources and supports needed by the district to make this a reality in our classrooms. We address this slide by focusing on an acceleration approach not remediation. By approving the needed resources it ensures that our students continue receiving grade level instruction and are provided "just right scaffolds." Meaning the supports that we know a child needs to access the rigor of the material, not a "just in case." With this approach, we ensure teachers have what they need and maintain grade level expectations while supporting gaps in instruction.

If you talk to any teacher, including my mom who has taught for over 20 years, they will tell you that anytime a student is out of school for an extended period of time, such as over summer break, there is always some slide that needs to be caught up at the beginning of the year. While many students, including my own, have been back in the classroom since September, there are absolutely many students struggling to receive a high-quality education in-person or online. Many more have special learning needs that are harder to identify over online meeting rooms. In the coming years, RISD needs to make sure they are equipped to help students from wherever they are developmentally to succeed.

What is the most important item included in the current bond package? What important need is not addressed in the bond package? Please explain. (500-character limit)

The support of building upgrades that pave the way for our commitment to pre-k for all is a key item. If passed, this will continue progress to our promise of ensuring each and every student has access to quality pre-k and establishes the foundation to literacy. I believe we should address more building upgrades, we've made a promise of pre-k for all but our current timeline is lengthy. Pre-k for all is key for success of students, we need to ensure our priorities and spending match.

Much of the bond goes to being a good steward of the resources the school system utilizes. Aging buildings, some 60 years old, need to be renovated or repaired to make sure they are great environments for our students. While no one likes replacing aging roofs and HVACs, sometimes maintenance needs to be done. Even still, the amount of money being spent needs to be done responsibly, and where is potential excess, we will need fiscally conservative members of the board to help monitor.

RICHARDSON ISD – Place 7 (7 candidates)

For candidate responses to more questions, go to www.Vote411.org

RISD Place 7, Ballot Positions 4-7 Forum: www.youtube.com; Search on: 2021 LWV-R Forums



Place 7, Ballot Position 4 (4th of 7 candidates)

Place 7, Ballot Position 5 (5th of 7 candidates)

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge RISD faces and how do you plan to address it? (500 character limit)



Eric Stengel

The biggest challenge RISD faces is addressing a more urbanized population and group of students as well as an influx of students and families wishing to move to our great District. How do we keep up with the growth, hire a diverse workforce and maintain the high caliber of our district are the greatest challenges.



Christopher J. Poteet

I believe the greatest challenge will be the exit from the COVID environment. From technology to staffing to logistics and of course teaching, the district has learned how to react and eventually be proactive to situations like COVID. Capturing lessons learned. We owe our students and staff our utmost attention to any impacts on the education levels of our students. Any achievement gaps will need to be corrected soon. I will work with Dr. Stone, while leaning on the strategic plan, to solve.

Do you believe that the Richardson ISD is in compliance with the 1970 court order requiring the district to implement a desegregation plan and to stop discriminating against Black students on the basis of race? Yes or No – and why? (700-character limit)

Former BOT member David Tyson was instrumental in helping the District do more in regard to court decision for a 5-2 BOT representation. I like neighboring Garland ISD's optional ability to continue their choice of school program in their district as one example. The RISD Equity, Diversity and Inclusion department has a great group of staff members with broad goals and a great group of people serving on their committee that can help ensure that bias and discrimination are no longer present in our campuses. Dr. Stone's recent award from the Dallas Business Journal for being a leader in diversity is awesome! "Brick by brick" will we remove bias. "All means all." ¡Vamos a RISD!

Yes. I believe that was the court's opinion in 2013 and the required actions and data collecting were lifted. The racial make-up of the district has changed to a much more diverse body. Since the lifting of the court ordered actions, RISD has continued to make changes to foster a more diverse student body both within the district and at individual schools. The magnet school program is a tool and opportunity to achieve this goal among academic goals. The ACE program is as well. The completion of the transition of the board of trustees is another move that continues to speak to diversity, even at the highest levels of the district. That said, RISD has further work to do.

Has the "Covid Slide", or learning regression, affected Richardson ISD students? If so, how should RISD address it? If not, why do you believe RISD has not been affected? (700-character limit)

The COVID consequences have impacted all facets of our life from parents and caregivers having to not only work from home (or be a single wage earner) in helping teach their child and monitor a virtual learning classroom; to those students who had to adjust to the rigors of setting up a virtual schedule. Richardson ISD and students nationally have been impacted. Various systems such as Georgetown University Initiative on Innovation, Development and Evaluation to think tanks like the Economic Policy Institute are examining these impacts with devastating preliminary and post data reports. Most troubling are reports from agencies with astounding drops in domestic violence cases.

My gut says that it has. But, I'll rely on Dr. Stone and the administration to evaluate that and present the board their findings. Standardized testing results should provide insight into the impact across the district. I believe that the best method of learning is when the teacher and the student are both present and engaged. Due to impacts outside the control of the district, this year has included barriers to that student / teacher presence. And even when together, there were challenges in the classroom. As these barriers are reduced and removed, I believe we will have some catch up to do.

What is the most important item included in the current bond package? What important need is not addressed in the bond package? Please explain. (500-character limit)

The most important item in the 2021 bond package is the updated infrastructure upgrades for our aged campuses and expansion of middle school with the influx of pre-k students coming onboard. Proposition A needs to pass. The other item in proposition B addresses updated IT systems and security, which while important is not crucial and does not contain enough funds to make much of an impact. I would have been in favor of expanding all Junior High campuses renovations with one proposition.

As a member of the RISD Bond Steering Committee I am very familiar with the current bond composition. I believe that the construction and renovation of LHJH and FMJH are the top items in the bond. This is due to their construction addressing not only a limited life-cycle of a building (LHJH) but also they support the strategic plan to accommodate 6th grade at the junior highs and allow space for Pre-K at the elementary schools. That initiative is critical and with it these projects.

RICHARDSON ISD – Place 7 (7 candidates)

For candidate responses to more questions, go to www.Vote411.org

RISD Place 7, Ballot Positions 4-7 Forum: www.youtube.com; Search on: 2021 LWV-R Forums



Place 7, Ballot Position 6 (6th of 7 candidates)

Place 7, Ballot Position 7 (7th of 7 candidates)

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge RISD faces and how do you plan to address it? (500 character limit)



No response received.

Gavin Haynes



Nicholas Frank LaGrassa

Attracting the best possible talent. Raising salaries above those of comparable local districts, increase non-monetary benefit packages.

Do you believe that the Richardson ISD is in compliance with the 1970 court order requiring the district to implement a desegregation plan and to stop discriminating against Black students on the basis of race? Yes or No – and why? (700-character limit)

No response received.

Yes, presently there is no evidence to suggest an active attempt at segregating minorities from white students. However, there's always more work to be done to ensure each student feels safe and welcome in their school, regardless of race.

Has the “Covid Slide”, or learning regression, affected Richardson ISD students? If so, how should RISD address it? If not, why do you believe RISD has not been affected? (700-character limit)

No response received.

100% affected. Teachers should be given special incentives to receive the COVID vaccine as quickly as possible. Teachers who receive the vaccine and feel comfortable working in classrooms should be incentivized to do so.

What is the most important item included in the current bond package? What important need is not addressed in the bond package? Please explain. (500-character limit)

No response received.

Most important: technology. So long as we accept living in the Post-COVID world, we should be investing more and more into remote learning technology and giving students the tools to learn as much as possible while outside the classroom. Important need not being addressed: additional funding for magnet schools

For more election information, visit the following websites:

League of Women Voters of Richardson
www.lwvrichardson.org

League of Women Voters of Collin County
www.lwvcollin.org

Collin County Elections
www.collincountytx.gov/elections

Dallas County Elections
www.dallascountyvotes.org

Follow the League of Women Voters of Richardson:

- Website www.lwvrichardson.org
- Twitter @LWVRichardson
- Facebook: League of Women Voters of Richardson



What is a bond?

“Texas independent school districts issue bonds to pay for capital expenditures. Districts repay the bonds through revenue generated from property taxes collected by the district. School district bonds are similar to a home mortgage in that the borrower repays the lender — in this case, investors — over time and in accordance to the terms of the bond sale.



- Capital items have a useful life of more than one year, and by law, only capital items can be paid for with the proceeds of bond sales. Examples include, but are not limited to, facility construction or renovation, land acquisition, computers and technology infrastructure, library books, curriculum materials, buses, musical instruments, and uniforms”.

Source: <https://web.risd.org/bond2021>

Proceeds from a bond issue can be used for (but not limited to) items such as the construction and renovation of facilities, the acquisition of land, technology, musical instruments, uniforms and equipment, library books, curriculum, and calculators. Bond money may NOT be used for recurring expenses such as payroll or utilities.

Will taxes go up if the bond passes?

“Under Texas law, any independent school district's governing board may levy, pledge, assess, and collect any taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds as the principal and interest become due subject to voter approval.”

In 2019, the 86th Texas Legislature passed House Bill 3, which stated all ballot language for school bond elections MUST include the statement, “THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.”

Currently, Richardson ISD taxpayers are paying a total tax **rate** of \$1.4047 per \$100 of taxable value. This is broken into \$1.0547 (for M&O, or Maintenance and Operations) and \$0.3500 (for I&S, or Interest and Sinking).

Source: <https://web.risd.org/bond2021>

- If Propositions A and/or B do **not pass**, Richardson ISD taxpayers will still pay the same tax **rate** of \$1.4047 per \$100 taxable value to retire the existing debt. However, **few, if any** of the items named in the proposition(s) would be provided.
- If Propositions A and/or B **do pass**, Richardson ISD taxpayers will continue to pay the same tax **rate** of \$1.4047 per \$100 evaluation that they are paying now. **All** items in the passed proposition(s) would be provided.

Even though the tax **rate** stays the same, however, your taxes may increase or decrease based on the valuation of your taxable assets.

How is taxable value determined?

“The Dallas Central Appraisal District (DCAD) is the only entity that determines the market value of homes in RISD for taxing purposes. In 2020, the average market value of residential homes across all of RISD's boundaries per DCAD is \$288,794.”

- RISD boundaries include portions of Richardson, Dallas and Garland. The portion of the city of Richardson north of the Dallas/Collin county line is **not** part of RISD.”

• Source: <https://web.risd.org/bond2021>

The DCAD market value of a home is the starting point of determining taxable value. Homeowners can reduce their taxable value through a series of exemptions, including application of a standard homestead exemption

and also RISD's local optional homestead exemption. Homeowners who are 65 years of age or older can apply to have their tax levy frozen.

- In 2000, the DCAD total market value for 55,816 residences in Richardson ISD was \$7,230,159,450, for an average of \$129,535 per residence.
- In 2020, the DCAD total market value for 54,537 residences in Richardson ISD was \$17,109,157,621, for an average of \$313.716 per residence.

- Source: [Dallas Central Appraisal District's Certified Estimated Values Report Summaries](#)

Are property taxes frozen for RISD residents over age 65?

"Yes, homeowners 65 or older qualify to have their property tax levy frozen by the Dallas Central Appraisal District at the level it is when they turn 65. From that point forward, the tax levy on their property cannot exceed the frozen levy amount, even if the home value rises or the tax rate increases."

- Source: [Dallas Central Appraisal District's Certified Estimated Values Report Summaries](#)

How often does Richardson ISD submit a bond to the voters?

Richardson ISD has a 5-year cycle for its bond projects.

What is in the Richardson ISD Bond 2021?

At its meeting on Monday, February 8, 2021, the Richardson Independent School District Board of Trustees voted 7-0 to approve the Bond Election Order. The two bond propositions were recommended by a 50-member community bond steering committee. Proposition A and Proposition B total \$750 million.

Richardson Independent School District Proposition A *(Infrastructure & Safety, Construction & Renovation, Teaching & Student Support)* <https://web.risd.org/bond2021>

Ballot Language: "The issuance of \$694,000,000 of school building bonds for acquiring, constructing, renovating, improving and equipping school buildings, for the purchase of necessary sites for school buildings, the retrofitting of school buses with emergency, safety, or security equipment, and for the purchase or retrofitting of vehicles to be used for emergency, safety, or security purposes and for the purchase of new school buses, and the levying of a tax sufficient, without limit as to rate or amount, to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and to pay the costs of any credit agreements executed or authorized in anticipation of, in relation to or in connection with the bonds. **THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.**

(La emisión de \$694,000,000 en bonos para edificios escolares para adquirir, construir, renovar, mejorar y equipar edificios escolares, para la compra de los predios necesarios para los edificios escolares, la actualización de autobuses escolares con equipamiento de emergencia, protección y seguridad y para la compra o actualización de vehículos a utilizarse para propósitos de emergencia, seguridad o protección y la compra de nuevos autobuses escolares, y la imposición de un impuesto suficiente, sin límite de tasa o cantidad, para pagar el capital e interés de los bonos y para pagar los costos de cualquier acuerdo de crédito firmado o autorizado en anticipo, relación o conexión con los bonos. **ESTO ES UN AUMENTO AL IMPUESTO PREDIAL.**)"

Explanation: The Richardson ISD proposed bond Proposition A includes:

- **\$286 million for Infrastructure & Safety**
 - \$237 million for Roofing, HVAC, floor repair & replacement
 - \$8 million for Safety & Security upgrades (including cameras, vape detection, & health services);
 - \$11 million for school buses (including maintenance & security vehicles); and
 - \$30 million for school, classroom, cafeteria, office & maintenance equipment.
- **\$269 million for Construction & Renovation**
 - \$110 million for middle school transformation (Rebuild Lake Highlands Junior High and renovate Forest Meadow Junior High;
 - This is Phase 1 of the transformation of the junior high schools to middle schools (i.e., moving the 6th graders to the junior highs).
 - Phase II will be implemented with Bond 2026. At that time, Liberty JH, Parkhill JH, and Westwood JH will be rebuilt; Apollo JH, North JH, and West JH will be renovated.
 - \$114 million for additions for growth (Pearce High School (the last of the four high schools to be renovated), Mohawk Elementary School, and Brentfield Elementary School);
 - \$25 million for renovations for student safety (Brentfield Elementary School and Hamilton Park Pacesetter Magnet); and
 - \$20 million for renovations due to facility condition (Northrich Elementary School and Stults Road Elementary School).
 - A 2020 facilities condition audit was used to determine which schools were in most need of renovation. The next 3 bonds (2026, 2031, and 2036) will also address these needs.
- **\$139 million for Teaching and Student Support**
 - \$59 million for instructional materials, digital teaching applications, textbooks, and library books;
 - \$43 million for digital network equipment, enterprise applications, and digital teaching applications;
 - \$14 million for Career & Technology Education (instructional and curriculum materials);
 - \$12 million for Fine Arts (instruments, equipment, uniforms, and instructional materials); and
 - \$11 million for Athletics (baseball/softball turf, locker room renovations, uniforms, and equipment)

The pro/con statements for Proposition A are printed below Richardson ISD's Proposition B.

Richardson Independent School District Proposition B (*Technology Devices*)

<https://web.risd.org/bond2021>

Ballot Language: "The issuance of \$56,000,000 of school building bonds for acquiring and equipping technology infrastructure, including computers, tablets and other technology devices, and the levying of a tax sufficient, without limit as to rate or amount, to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and to pay the costs of any credit agreements executed or authorized in anticipation of, in relation to or in connection with the bonds. THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

(La emisión de \$56,000,000 en bonos de edificios escolares para adquirir y equipar infraestructura tecnológica, incluidas computadoras, tabletas y otros dispositivos tecnológicos y la imposición de un impuesto suficiente, sin límite en cuanto a tasa o cantidad, para pagar el capital e interés de los bonos y para pagar los costos de cualquier acuerdo de crédito firmado o autorizado en anticipo, relación o conexión con los bonos. ESTO ES UN AUMENTO AL IMPUESTO PREDIAL.)"

Explanation: The Richardson ISD proposed bond Proposition B includes:

- **\$56 million for Technology Devices for Students, Teachers, and Staff**

Watch a short Richardson ISD video on Proposition A and Proposition B:

<https://web.risd.org/bond2021>

Based on research of the League of Women Voters of Richardson, some arguments for and against Propositions A and B are:

Supporters of Proposition A and Proposition B say:	Opponents of Proposition A and Proposition B say
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bond 2021 Steering Committee, made up of 50 diverse RISD stakeholders, determined that all these projects are necessary at this time. All projects can be completed with no increase to the RISD tax rate. • If Proposition A fails, these necessary items would not be funded and might not be implemented. The best way to finance these expenditures is through bond issuances since the cost of the items can be spread over the projected lifetime of the item. • Proposition B is needed in order to support RISD's education goals. Most technology currently being used is 5 years old. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richardson ISD collects enough in taxes. They need to be better stewards of our money. If they spent our tax money more efficiently, RISD would not need to keep borrowing and our tax rate could be lowered. • If Proposition A passes, the Richardson ISD debt service (principal and interest) will approximately double from its current \$0.8 billion. • Proposition B proposes a bond that is almost triple the amount of the technology in RISD's Bond 2016. This is an excessively large increase.

2021 May Election Deadlines

- Register to vote: **Apr 1**
- Update registration: **Apr 1**
- In-person early voting starts: **Apr 19**
- Apply to vote-by-mail: **Apr 20**
- In-person early voting ends: **Apr 27**
- Vote by mail ballot in by: **May 1**
- Election day: **May 1**




If a runoff election is needed, it will be Saturday, June 5, 2021



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF RICHARDSON

Forums

The League of Women Voters of Richardson recorded 5 forums the first week of April. All candidates in a contested election for the City of Richardson and the Richardson ISD were invited to participate. All videos of the recorded forums will be available **Monday, April 12, 2021.**



Check our website lwvrichardson.org or [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) (search on 2021 LWV-R Forums).

City of Richardson City Council Place 4

- ★ All registered voters who live in Richardson (Dallas County or Collin County) may vote in this election

*Incumbent Kyle Kepner
Joe Corcoran*

City of Richardson City Council Place 6

- ★ All registered voters who live in Richardson (Dallas County or Collin County) may vote in this election

*Daniel Burdette
Marilyn Frederick
Arefin Shamsul*

Richardson ISD Board of Trustees Single-Member District 1

- ★ Registered voters must live in RISD District 1 to vote in this election.

*Vicky Suárez
Tony Mario Casagrande
Megan Timme*



The following 7 people are running against each other for Place 7 on the Richardson ISD Board of Trustees. The 7 candidates were recorded in 2 different videos.

Richardson ISD Board of Trustees At-Large Place 7, **Ballot Positions 1-3**

- ★ All registered voters who live in Richardson ISD may vote in this election

*Nicole Foster
Amanda Clair
Blake Sawyer*

Richardson ISD Board of Trustees At-Large Place 7, **Ballot Positions 4-7**

- ★ All registered voters who live in Richardson ISD may vote in this election

*Eric Stengel
Christopher J Poteet
Gavin Haynes
Nicholas Frank LaGrassa*