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# VOTER

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Calendar	
Date	Event
Jun 29 – Jul 19	Primary Runoff Early Voting
July 2	Last day to receive Application for Ballot by Mail for Primary Runoff Election
July 14	Primary Runoff Election Day
July 18	First day to file for place on the November 3 ballot
Aug 17	Last day to file for place on November 3 ballot

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## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

By Ellen Steger

Many thanks to Jean Richards for doing a great job serving as President this past fiscal year and leading the Richardson League through the unforeseen challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic and resulting quarantine. To the entire 2019-2020 board: A lot of work was done this year...and done well! Many thanks to all of you.

To the newly-elected board, who assume their positions June 1<sup>st</sup>: Congratulations! I'm looking forward to working with each of you this fiscal year. The unforeseen challenges will continue, but with the good foundation being laid by this year's board, we should continue to do great work in the name of the League!

Thanks to all our members and friends who supported the League this past year, through volunteering and through donations. It takes a village! We depend on volunteers and donations to accomplish all that we do. If anyone is interested in serving on the board next year (*June 1, 2020-May 31, 2021*), please email me at [President@LWV-Richardson](mailto:President@LWV-Richardson).

As you know, not all races were decided during the Super Tuesday Primaries on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The runoff, originally scheduled in May, was moved by the governor to July 14, 2020. Very few people vote in the political party primaries and even fewer vote in the runoff elections. Make your voice heard! Vote on Tuesday, July 14. See page 2 for more details.

# Texas Democratic and Republican Party Primaries

The Texas Democratic and Republican Parties held primaries on Tuesday, March 3, 2020. Not all races on the tickets were decided, so a runoff is needed for a few races.



## Primary Runoff

~~May 26, 2020~~

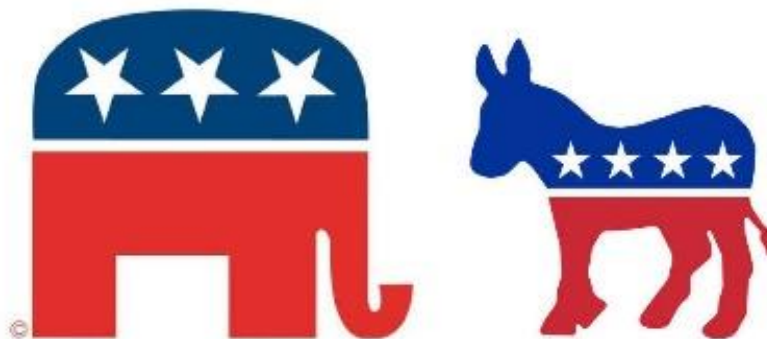
**Tuesday July 14, 2020**

On March 20, 2020, Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued a proclamation postponing the runoff primary election until July 14, 2020. The postponement is aimed at eliminating large gatherings of people in confined spaces, which will help slow the spread of the Coronavirus.

<b>Democratic Party Primary Runoff Election – Dallas County</b>	
<b>Election Day: July 14, 2020</b>	
Monday, June 29 – Thursday, July 2	8 am – 5 pm
Friday, July 3 – Saturday, July 4	No voting due to the 4 <sup>th</sup> of July holiday
Sunday, July 5 – Friday, July 10	7 am – 7 pm

For a complete list of Early Voting locations in Dallas County, [click here](#).

- If you voted in the **Democratic** Party Primary Election on Super Tuesday (March 3, 2020), you may only vote in the **Democratic** Party Primary Runoff.
- If you voted in the **Republican** Party Primary Election on Super Tuesday (March 3, 2020), you may only vote in the **Republican** Party Primary Runoff.
- If you did **not** vote in the Super Tuesday elections (March 3, 2020), you may vote in **either** the Republican Party Primary Runoff or the Democratic Party Primary Runoff.





# Richardson Independent School District

Single-member District 3

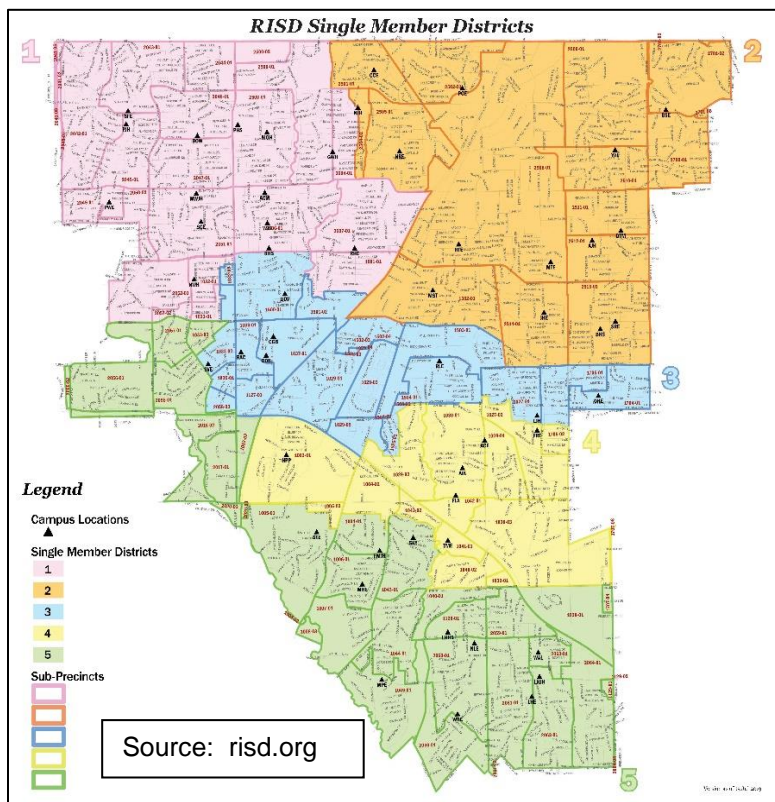
At-Large Place 6

~~May 2, 2020~~

**November 3, 2020**

Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued a proclamation on March 18, 2020, that suspended provisions of the Texas Election Code. Governor Abbott “strongly encouraged local election officials to take advantage of these waivers and postpone their elections until November.”

Via a video conference on March 30, 2020, the Richardson ISD trustees voted unanimously to postpone the May election until November 3, 2020.



The Richardson ISD is in the process of transitioning from a board consisting of 7 members all elected at-large to a new plan called a 5-2 single-member district/at-large plan.

- Districts 1 – 5 are known as “single-member districts”. The trustee elected in Single-Member Districts 1 – 5 must live within the boundaries of the district within the Richardson ISD that they serve. Only registered voters living within the district may vote on the trustee to represent their district.
- Places 6 – 7 are known as “at-large places”. The trustee elected in At-Large Places 6-7 must live within the Richardson ISD, but have no other residency requirement. All registered voters living within the Richardson ISD may vote on trustees to represent At-Large Places 6 & 7.

The transition from all 7 board members being elected at-large to the new 5-2 plan is being phased in over 3 years. The first set of elections were for Districts 2, 4, & 5. In the May 5, 2019 election,

- Erin Linn was elected in District 2,
- Regina Harris was elected in District 4, and
- Karen Clardy was elected in District 5.

The second set of elections, scheduled for May 2, 2020, were to decide who would serve in Single-Member District 3 and At-Large Place 6. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the elections were moved to November 3, 2020. Under the new rules, old Place 2 was being replaced by new Single-Member District 3. Also under the new rules, the person serving in Single-Member District 3 has to live in District 3. Kristin Kuhne, serving in old Place 2, does not live within the boundaries of District 3, so could not serve after the original May 2, 2020 election date. This left the seat in District 3 open. On Wednesday, May 27, 2020, Debbie Renteria was sworn in to fill the seat until the November 3, 2020 election. Ms. Renteria is unopposed in the election.



*Board Secretary Libby Oliver swears in Debbie Renteria*

Under the new rules, old Place 6 is being replaced by At-Large Place 6. Board President Justin Bono serves in old Place 6. Since it is transitioning to an At-Large Place, there are no residency requirements for At-Large Place 6, allowing Mr. Bono to continue in the position until the election in November. At that time, registered voters in the RISD will choose between Eric Eager and Bridgett Y. Hudson. (Candidates are listed in ballot order.)

Filings for the Nov 3rd election are set. Nobody else will be allowed to file to run in the election.

The third set of elections are scheduled for May 2021. Single-Member District 1 (the seat is currently held by Jean Bono) and At-Large Place 7 (the seat is currently held by Kim Caston) will be on the ballot.



*The last board meeting of 2019-2020 was by Zoom*



## Voting by Mail

### Texas Vote by Mail Lawsuits

Several lawsuits have been filed concerning which Texas voters can apply to vote by mail due to the pandemic. Various courts rule on these lawsuits every few days, making it difficult to keep up with the current status of this issue. For a recent ruling by the Texas Supreme Court, [click here](#).

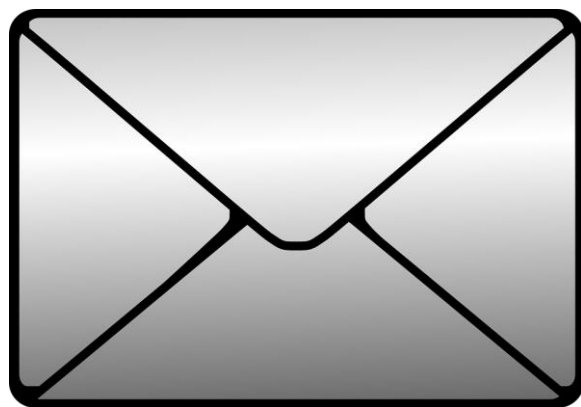
When there is a definitive answer on this issue, we will make every effort to provide accurate information as to who is permitted to apply to vote by mail. In the meantime, current guidance from the Texas Secretary of State is below.

### Who May Vote by Mail

According to the Texas Secretary of State's website, "Only specific reasons entitle a registered voter to vote early by mail (no longer called absentee voting). You may request a ballot by mail if you:

- will be away from your county on Election Day and during the hours that early voting is conducted;
- are sick or disabled\*;
- are 65 years of age or older on Election Day; or
- are confined in jail."

\* The Texas Election Code (Section 82.02) defines disability as "a sickness or physical condition that prevents the voter from appearing at the polling place on election day without a likelihood of needing personal assistance *or of injuring the voter's health* [emphasis added]."



### Applying to Vote by Mail

For the safety of all Texans, voters who are eligible (see the 4 qualifying reasons above) should apply to vote by mail as soon as possible to alleviate the pressure on those who might have to vote in person and the poll workers who will have to brave the pandemic to protect democracy.

If you qualify to vote by mail, you may request an Application for Ballot by Mail (ABBM) from the Early Voting Clerk in your county of residence:

- [Dallas County](#)
- [Collin County](#)
- or you can [print an ABBM directly from the Texas Secretary of State's office \(PDF\)](#), [\(Spanish version \(PDF\)\)](#). If you do not have a printer, you can fill out an application online at [Register2Vote.org](#). They will then mail you your completed application form and a stamped, addressed envelope. Sign the form and mail it in. There is no cost to the applicant.

If you are eligible to vote by mail, you must re-apply each year beginning on January 1<sup>st</sup>. If you are 65 years of age or older OR you have a disability, you may request to receive ballots for all elections and runoffs held that year. If you do not apply at the beginning of the year, be sure to apply prior to the deadline to request an ABBM form prior to the election you want to vote in that year. Read the instructions carefully, fill out the application, and return it to [your county Early Voting Clerk](#). Close to election day, you will receive your ballot in the mail

## Mailing in your ballot

Once you receive your ballot, fill it out and return it to your Early Voting Clerk in time to arrive on or before Election Day

Early Voting Clerk  
2010 Redbud Blvd., Suite 102  
McKinney 75069

Early Voting Clerk  
1520 Round Table Drive  
Dallas 75247

**In order for your ballot by mail to count, mail your completed ballot in early enough to arrive in the office of the early voting clerk by**

- **Election Day OR**
- **by 5:00 pm the day after Election Day as long as the ballot was postmarked by 7:00 pm on Election Day**





## Year in Review

As we begin the 2020-21 League year,  
here's a look back at some of our accomplishments of the past year.

### Voter Registration

10 LWV-Richardson members and 5 non-member volunteers conducted 24 voter registration events at 15 different locations, registering 195 voters.

### Issue Advocacy

- We continued advocacy with the City of Richardson over its coordination with the City of Dallas and Dallas County in the completion of the Central Trail.
- We met with city leaders and the CEO of the Network of Community Ministries concerning the development of a city-funded program to assist low- and moderate-income homeowners with health- and safety-related repairs. We encouraged the City Council to include the development and implementation of such a program in the Goals process.
- We continued long-term efforts to inform members and contributors of changes in the Children's Health Insurance Program, and urged them to contact legislators about those changes.
- We attended the Texas House Redistricting Committee hearing in Collin County and submitted written testimony to the committee.

### Financial Management

- We continued our longstanding tradition of excellent management of the funds donated by the residents and businesses in our area.
- After several years of waiting, we were finally designated by the IRS as a 501(c)(3).

### Voter Education

- We hosted candidate forums attended by all candidates running for RISD Board of Trustees Districts 2 and 4.
- We distributed approximately 1600 printed Voters Guides for the RISD Elections, the Texas Constitutional Amendment Election, and the Primary Elections.
- We provided information about voting machines and Vote Centers.
- We provided timely election information on our website, Facebook page, Twitter, and through our League telephone.

### Public Educational Meetings

We co-sponsored public meetings on the topics of Redistricting, the Census, and Immigration.

### Membership & Social Gatherings

- We added eight new members.
- We conducted a New Member Orientation meeting and luncheon.
- We held monthly social gatherings for members.
- We had a mid-year dinner for members.

### Meetings – Actual and Virtual

In addition to the public educational meetings listed above, we also held a Calendar Planning Meeting, a virtual Local Program Planning survey (in-person meeting postponed), and four board meetings. The final board meeting, the LWVTX State Convention, and our Annual Meeting were all held entirely on Zoom.

## Annual Meeting

The League of Women Voters of Richardson held its 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting by Zoom videoconference on Wednesday, May 13, 2020. Seventeen members were in attendance.



Business conducted at the meeting was as follows:

**Bylaws Committee** Chair Ellen Steger presented proposed changes to the LWV-Richardson Bylaws:

- Change from 3 vice presidents to 4 vice presidents
- Change time to send information prior to the Annual Meeting from 1 month to 14 days
- Strengthen the process for check signing and authorization
- Change quorum for membership meetings
- Allow electronic meetings
- Change Nominating Committee to be 3 members
- Minor wording changes for clarity

These changes were adopted by the membership.

**Citizen Education/Advocacy** Vice President Nancy Wilson presented the report of the Local Program Planning survey. Following discussion, the membership voted to retain all current Local Positions without change, and to adopt no new studies for the coming year.

**Treasurer** Keith Burgess reported that LWV-R is in excellent financial shape, with a healthy reserve.

**Budget Committee** Chair Vicki Barrett presented the proposed budget. Following discussion that noted the uncertainty of the effect of the current situation on spending in the coming year, the membership voted to adopt the budget as presented.

**Nominating Committee** Chair Jessica Hook presented the slate of nominees to the board:

### Officers

President – Ellen Steger

1<sup>st</sup> VP, Study and Advocacy Coordinator – Marcia Grau

2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Voter Service Coordinator – Pamela Wren

3<sup>rd</sup> VP, Communications Coordinator – Jean Richards

4<sup>th</sup> VP, Membership Coordinator – Nita Thomason

Secretary – Vicki Barrett

Treasurer – Keith Burgess

On-Board Directors (Up to four directors may be elected.)

Director – Diana Lace – Newsletter Committee Chair

Director – Linda Grigsby – Publicity Committee Chair

No nominations were made from the floor. The board was elected as slated.

**Outgoing President** Jean Richards presented a review of the year's activities. **Incoming President** Ellen Steger congratulated the new board and made some comments. Members' written submissions to the "I Wish the League Would ..." segment of the meeting were read and recorded for use by the new board in its planning for the coming year.





## From the City of Richardson Week in Review May 22, 2020

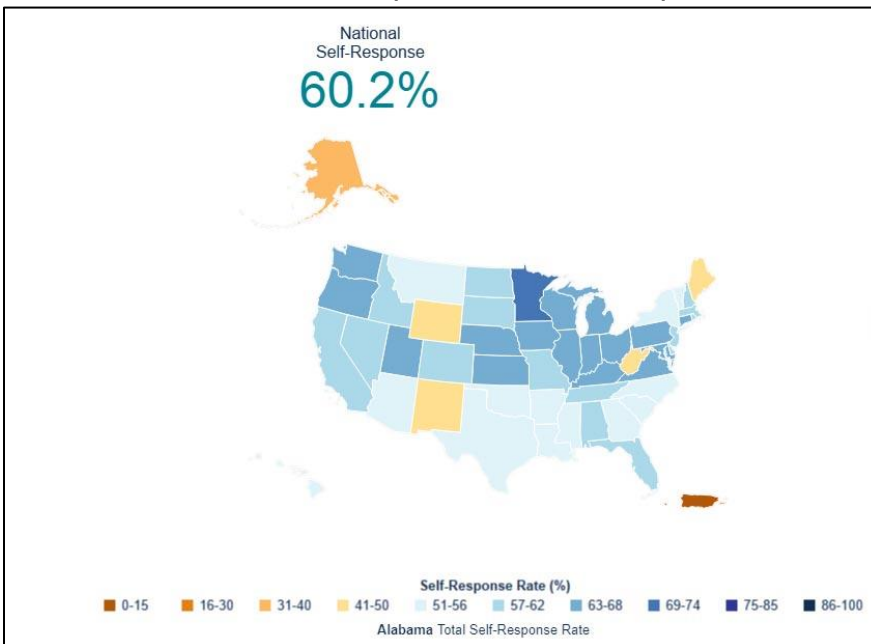
Beginning the week of May 25, the U.S. Census Bureau will begin to drop off 2020 Census questionnaire packets at front doors of households in areas of Texas where the majority of households do not receive mail at their physical address. Some areas of Collin County are included in this effort. The Census Bureau began hand-delivering census materials on March 15 but suspended all fieldwork for this operation on March 18 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Temporary field staff have been trained to observe all social distancing protocols and will wear official government-provided personal protective equipment for their safety and the safety of the public. This operation is contactless and follows the most current federal health and safety guidelines.

Website: [www.cor.net/census](http://www.cor.net/census)

## From the United States Census 2020

The 2020 Census Self-Response rates for responses received through May 26, 2020



- Collin County: 66.3%
- Dallas County: 56.0%
- Richardson: 63.0%
- North River, North Dakota (pop. 55): 100%

- **Texas ranks 40<sup>th</sup>** among the states in its self-response rate of 54.9%
- Minnesota is #1 with a 70.1% self-response rate