



May, 2023

City of Richardson City Council & Bond; Richardson ISD D3 & P6

NONPARTISAN

VOTERS GUIDE

EARLY VOTING ♦ APRIL 24, 2023 – MAY 2, 2023

ELECTION DAY ☐ MAY 6, 2023 ♦ POLLS OPEN 7 AM TO 7 PM

BE A TEXAS VOTER

About This Voters Guide

This printed *Voters Guide* lists items that will be on the ballot for the May 6 election, which includes Richardson and Richardson ISD races. Candidate responses are presented as submitted without editing. This *Voters Guide* is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Richardson, which does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

VOTE411.org & LWVRichardson.org

You may also see all items on your ballot online at www.VOTE411.org. The LWV Richardson website at www.lwvrichardson.org has a wealth of practical information for voters.

Eligibility for Voting

You must be a citizen of the United States, registered to vote in the county of your residence 30 days prior to election day, and must be at least 18 years old on election day. You cannot vote if you have been declared by a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote or are a convicted felon who has not completed your sentence, probation and/or parole.

Polling Place Times & Dates: Collin & Dallas

Monday April 24 – Friday April 288am-5pm
Saturday April 298am-5pm
Sunday April 30 (Dallas only)12pm-6pm
Sunday April 30 (Collin only)Closed
Monday May 1 & Tuesday May 27am-7pm
Saturday May 6 (ELECTION DAY) ...7am-7pm

Polling Place Locations

Voters registered in Dallas County or Collin County may vote in person at any of the polling locations

during early voting. For addresses of locations open during early voting and those open on election day:

- Dallas County: www.dallascountyvotes.org or call 469-627-8683
- Collin County: www.collincountytx.gov/elections or call 972-547-1990.

Early Vote by Mail (Absentee)

Because of changes enacted by the state legislature in 2021, it is important that voters applying for mail ballots not use application forms issued before 2022. The new forms and also mail ballot envelopes ask voters to provide additional identification. We recommend voters provide BOTH a Texas Driver's License or Texas Personal Identification Number AND the last four digits of their social security number on the new application form and ballot envelopes.

You are eligible to vote early by mail if you are registered and:

- 65 years of age or older on Election Day
- Out of the county during the entire election including early voting
- Sick or Disabled or
- Confined in jail but eligible to vote.

People voting by mail due to disability or age may use a single application to request ballots by mail for all elections in a calendar year. To do so, simply mark "Annual Application" on your application for a ballot by mail. **This option must be renewed every year.**

Once you have received and marked your ballot it may be returned in several ways:

- If hand delivered or if delivered by a common or contract carrier without a delivery receipt, it must be **RECEIVED** by the early voting clerk by **7 p.m. on Election Day.**

- If mailed and postmarked by 7 p.m. on Election Day or delivered by common or contract carrier and accompanied by a delivery receipt showing the voter submitted the ballot for delivery by 7

p.m. on Election Day, it must **ARRIVE** by **5 p.m. on the next business day after Election Day.**

Track your mail ballot at www.DallasCountyVotes.org

Other Information

For more information regarding the May 6, 2023 Election, see our website at: www.lwvrichardson.org

Helpful Information

Websites

Dallas County Elections Department	www.dallascountyvotes.org
Collin County Elections Department	www.collincountytx.gov/elections
Texas Secretary of State	www.VoteTexas.gov
League of Women Voters of Richardson	www.LWVRichardson.org
League of Women Voters of Texas	www.LWVTexas.org

Telephone Numbers

Dallas County Elections Department	469-627-8683
Collin County Elections Department	972-547-1990
Texas Secretary of State - Elections Division	800-252-8683
League of Women Voters of Richardson	972-470-0584
League of Women Voters of Texas	512-472-1100

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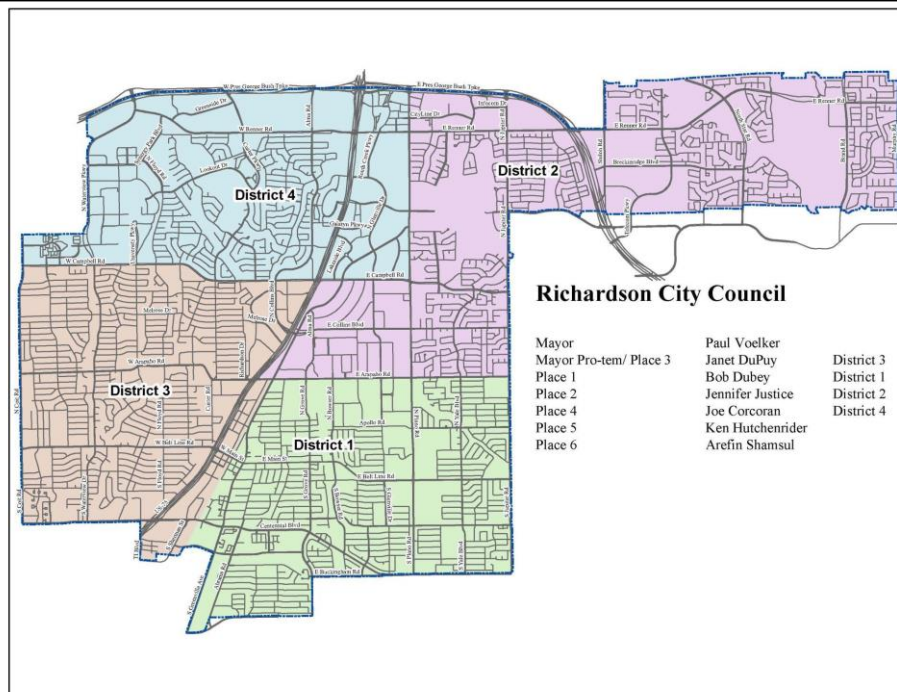
Visit VOTE411.org for the League's online Voters Guide.

The candidates were asked more questions in the online Voters Guide than the number of questions printed in this guide.

RICHARDSON CITY COUNCIL

The Richardson City Council consists of the mayor, two at-large seats, and four place, or district, seats. Though members representing Place 1 thru 4 must reside in those areas, all members of the City Council are elected at-large by voters. Once elected, council members choose the Mayor Pro Tem from among the elected members. All City Council seats carry two-year terms, and are up for election during May of every odd year. If no candidate receives more than 50% of the vote, a runoff election is held. Term limits for membership on the City Council are limited to 6 terms, or 12 consecutive years.

Council members are responsible for hiring the City Manager, appointing the City Attorney, City Secretary, Municipal Court Judges, City Health Officer and citizens to the City's boards and commissions. The Council is also responsible for passing City ordinances, planning for capital improvements, issuing and selling municipal bonds, purchasing and selling property, establishing City departments, determining City services, approving the annual budget, and setting the City's tax rate. The City Manager is responsible for the City's daily operations, hiring department heads, supervising the City personnel, directing and coordinating all municipal programs, enforcing all municipal laws and ordinances, and recommending an annual budget.



The incumbent City of Richardson Councilmembers in Place 2 (Jennifer Justice), Place 4 (Joe Corcoran), and Place 6 (Arefin Shamsul) will be on the ballot. However, these candidates are unopposed, so they were not asked to participate in this Voters Guide.

BOB DUBEY: Richardson Mayor (Place 7), Ballot Position 1



Biographical Info:

We asked each candidate some general information questions, such as campaign details and important source links. Unfortunately, the candidate had not answered at the time this guide went to print.

Q: QUALIFICATIONS: What makes you the most qualified candidate in your race – and why? (500 character limit)

A: I have the longest tenure on council. I have handled multi-million dollar budgets, I have built and implemented bond projects, I have supervised, evaluated, and mentored hundreds of men and women under my leadership, I have chaired local, state, and regional meetings. I listen and learn before I make a decision. I am used to job pressure and making decisions during a crisis. I stay focused, calm and make decisions based on the facts. I am ethical, honest, trustworthy, and a team player.

Q: INCENTIVES: Should economic incentives be given to encourage businesses to locate/remain in Richardson? Why or why not? And, if so, should there be a cap on incentives given per development or a cap in total incentives given in the city? Why or why not? (700 character limit)

A: I am in favor of economic incentives in some cases. I prefer incentives that give a company a tax break during their start up. A gradual increase of taxes while they establish the business, helps the business become stable and provides tax income to the city. This type of incentive takes no money from the city or our tax payers. The city gets an income at a reduced rate, but it is more money than the city would have if we had a vacant storefront. Agreements like this have a fixed timeline. Regarding caps, the city manager has a cap on what he can spend or approve without council approval. So, each case is unique and deserves consideration. We want to be known as a business friendly city.

Q: WEST SPRING VALLEY CORRIDOR: What could you do as a City Council Member to accelerate the West Spring Valley Corridor development that was proposed in 2009? (500 character limit)

A: The West Spring Valley Corridor is a high priority for the sitting council and our administrative team. We have recently removed economic development from under the chamber of commerce umbrella. Now that economic development is being lead by a city staff member, I believe we can now begin to address this area with a little more emphasis. My recommendation is for the city Retail Committee to work with our new Economic Development office and develop strategies to find interested developers.

Q: AFFORDABLE HOUSING: The Dallas City Council approved moving forward with a project for 'affordable housing' apartments. (Dallas Morning News, February 26, 2021) How do you define "Affordable Housing"? What can you, as a Council Member, do to improve the availability of affordable housing in Richardson? (700 character limit)

A: Affordable housing depends on the individual's income and the value they place on their desired amenities. I am not in favor of federal funding for housing in Richardson. I do like our recent approach of converting an old rundown motel into new apartments for workforce individuals. The monthly living cost was reasonable and the end results are fabulous. The city gets rid of an eyesore, hard workers have an affordable place to live, and our local businesses have committed hard working employees that live close. I would be in favor of a few more of these in Richardson. I believe it is a win-win for all.

JANET DEPUY: Richardson Mayor (Place 7), Ballot Position 2

**Biographical Info:**

Campaign Email: jdeputy@tx.rr.com
Occupation: Realtor
Website: janetforrichardson.com
Education: Bachelor of Arts
Campaign Phone: 214-282-6921
Facebook: janetforrichardson.com

Q: QUALIFICATIONS: What makes you the most qualified candidate in your race – and why? (500 character limit)

A: I've served as Mayor Pro Tem for four years, selected by my Council peers each term. I understand the role of the Mayor, the time commitment, and the challenges. I have vast amounts of experience with the creation of a neighborhood association, my regional board service, as well as my long tenure on the City Plan Commission. I know that we need a quality, dynamic foundation of good neighborhoods and businesses to remain a relevant and desirable city.

Q: INCENTIVES: Should economic incentives be given to encourage businesses to locate/remain in Richardson? Why or why not? And, if so, should there be a cap on incentives given per development or a cap in total incentives given in the city? Why or why not? (700 character limit)

A: Yes, I believe economic incentives should be given to businesses where needed. Our past experience with them has been positive. The development or redevelopment successes and subsequent revenue stream to the city of these businesses outweighs the costs of the incentives we've given. This process has been very successful for us. We have not, and I don't support, a city-wide cap on incentives. We want to remain friendly to business because it helps our residents as well. Our businesses bear 60% of our tax burden so it's important that we keep this ratio in place by responsibly incentivizing businesses where needed.

Q: WEST SPRING VALLEY CORRIDOR: What could you do as a City Council Member to accelerate the West Spring Valley Corridor development that was proposed in 2009? (500 character limit)

A: As mentioned previously, I'm currently the only Councilmember working on the West Spring Valley Corridor. This is a project within the borders of my Place 3 district. It's also a gateway into Richardson and requires some much needed attention. The challenge we had previously was in not having a partner on the Dallas side of Spring Valley committed to improvement. We do now and we've already started work to bring about much needed change to the area via our Task Force work.

Q: AFFORDABLE HOUSING: The Dallas City Council approved moving forward with a project for 'affordable housing' apartments. (Dallas Morning News, February 26, 2021) How do you define "Affordable Housing"? What can you, as a Council Member, do to improve the availability of affordable housing in Richardson? (700 character limit)

A: As a real estate professional, I understand the housing market. Our land values are high, mainly due to our prime location within the Metroplex. We don't plan to build an "affordable housing" compound within our city limits, but we do have apartment complexes that accept HUD vouchers. We have also just approved the redevelopment of an old extended stay hotel into small one bedroom apartments, more affordable for students, teachers, couples. We consider this "workforce housing" and feel that this approach is more in line with the quality environment that Richardson residents want and deserve. DART also allows us to bring workers to our city from other areas that may be more affordable.

G. SCOTT WADDELL: Richardson Place 1, Ballot Position 1

**Biographical Info:**

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Education:	TCU 1981 grad
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Campaign Email:	gscottforricharson@gmail.com
Facebook:	www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100090645305071

Q: QUALIFICATIONS: What makes you the most qualified candidate in your race – and why? (500 character limit)

A: I am running because I am qualified. I have, like most of the candidates, completed many of the programs the city offers. It is the activities and accomplishments created by me outside of those programs that have made a difference in the community. What I have done over the years for the community was never about me but about the community. I listen to the community and find solutions. I build teams to work together to make solutions happen. My attitude is "we" and not "me".

Q: INCENTIVES: Should economic incentives be given to encourage businesses to locate/remain in Richardson? Why or why not? And, if so, should there be a cap on incentives given per development or a cap in total incentives given in the city? Why or why not? (700 character limit)

A: Each opportunity is unique. A major corporation brings other supporting companies and additional employment. It is difficult, without specifics, to give a detailed answer. In general, I am not against giving economic incentives depending on the structure of the incentive and the expected return of investment.

Q: WEST SPRING VALLEY CORRIDOR: What could you do as a City Council Member to accelerate the West Spring Valley Corridor development that was proposed in 2009? (500 character limit)

A: First, I would revisit the plan. Richardson has developed and changed in the last 14 years and a review of expectations, needs, and wants should take place. If Dallas is not going to enhance the south side of Spring Valley then reconsideration should take place before action is taken. The properties serve a purpose, and the crime is not coming from within, so I do think a strong review is needed to have a better understanding of their worth.

Q: AFFORDABLE HOUSING: The Dallas City Council approved moving forward with a project for 'affordable housing' apartments. (Dallas Morning News, February 26, 2021) How do you define "Affordable Housing"? What can you, as a Council Member, do to improve the availability of affordable housing in Richardson? (700 character limit)

A: This discussion is due to the success of Richardson as a city. Our location is prime. Our first responders are first class. Our city management is outstanding. Thus, the demand for housing is at an all-time high. Affordability is a term that has meaning only relative to income. The truth is bringing in jobs that have a higher pay scale will make the houses affordable in Richardson. It is not the responsibility of the COR to limit the amount a person can ask when selling their house. I have personally experienced the difficulty in finding affordable nice housing in Richardson, and still I am not in favor of government intervention in housing for Richardson.

CURTIS DORIAN: Richardson Place 1, Ballot Position 2

**Biographical Info:**

Occupation:	Designer-Builder-Developer
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Campaign Email:	curtisforrichardson@gmail.com
Facebook:	www.curtisdorianforrichardson.com
Campaign Twitter Handle:	curtisdoria

Q: QUALIFICATIONS: What makes you the most qualified candidate in your race – and why? (500 character limit)

A: I've been serving in a volunteer role for Richardson for the last 20 years. I was appointed commissioner for the Cultural Arts Commission, serving 8yrs. I've been HOA President for 12yrs, I operate a Richardson Local Design-Build Business for over 28 yrs. I understand budgeting and how infrastructure and revitalization improvements benefit residential and commercial planning. I've been through every local Richardson government program available prior to running for this seat. I am Richardson.

Q: INCENTIVES: Should economic incentives be given to encourage businesses to locate/remain in Richardson? Why or why not? And, if so, should there be a cap on incentives given per development or a cap in total incentives given in the city? Why or why not? (700 character limit)

A: I believe in creating incentives that allow sustainability and value to improving our infrastructure and economic development. Council needs to work as a team to determine what incentives are practical and affordable for our city.

Q: WEST SPRING VALLEY CORRIDOR: What could you do as a City Council Member to accelerate the West Spring Valley Corridor development that was proposed in 2009? (500 character limit)

A: Considering this area borders Dallas, we need to collaborate with Dallas and our council to continue revitalization improvements for both the East and West side of Spring Valley and Walnut.

Q: AFFORDABLE HOUSING: The Dallas City Council approved moving forward with a project for 'affordable housing' apartments. (Dallas Morning News, February 26, 2021) How do you define "Affordable Housing"? What can you, as a Council Member, do to improve the availability of affordable housing in Richardson? (700 character limit)

A: Workforce housing is recommended for developers to include a percentage of incentives for new construction and while improving and repurposing existing structures.

DAN BARRIOS: Richardson Place 3, Ballot Position 1

**Biographical Info:**

Campaign Phone: 214-802-3292
Facebook: [www.Facebook.com/DanForRichardson](https://www.facebook.com/DanForRichardson)
Campaign Email: dan@danforrichardson.com
Occupation: High School Teacher & Adjunct Professor
Website: www.danforrichardson.com
Education: B.S. in Business Administration & MBA in Strategic Management

Q: QUALIFICATIONS: What makes you the most qualified candidate in your race – and why? (500 character limit)

A: I have a unique and balanced set of experiences that have prepared me to serve and immediately get to work. I've served our community through multiple organizations, boards, and my faith network. I have a B.S. in Business Administration and a MBA in Strategic Management. Professionally, prior to becoming an educator, I worked as a Sales Executive where I developed national teams and managed key accounts. I'm ready to ask the right questions and bring the voice of the community front and center.

Q: INCENTIVES: Should economic incentives be given to encourage businesses to locate/remain in Richardson? Why or why not? And, if so, should there be a cap on incentives given per development or a cap in total incentives given in the city? Why or why not? (700 character limit)

A: There are several economic development incentives that can be used to attract and retain business. I support their strategic use. First, let me be clear that I don't support giving away the keys of the city. When the city is using your tax dollars, residents should know they are getting a fair return on investment, including good jobs and long-term economic growth. I support identifying where the most immediate attention is needed and consider long-term projects that can be supported by today's investment.

Q: WEST SPRING VALLEY CORRIDOR: What could you do as a City Council Member to accelerate the West Spring Valley Corridor development that was proposed in 2009? (500 character limit)

A: As a resident in this area, I'm fully committed to finally making this project a reality, and I would like to see this as a priority in the updated Land Use Plan. As a council member, I would bring together residents, stakeholders and local business owners to discuss a collective vision. Because of the location, it'll be important to work with the surrounding Dallas City Council members and the Dallas County Commissioners to identify ways we partner on infrastructure and economic projects.

Q: AFFORDABLE HOUSING: The Dallas City Council approved moving forward with a project for 'affordable housing' apartments. (Dallas Morning News, February 26, 2021) How do you define "Affordable Housing"? What can you, as a Council Member, do to improve the availability of affordable housing in Richardson? (700 character limit)

A: Richardson has a diversity of incomes and residents, including retirees, professionals, college students, and young families. It should be a core priority to ensure we offer a diverse set of housing you can afford and maintain a strong sense of community.

Growth is going to continue to happen, but we must strategically manage it in a way that protects neighborhoods and benefits residents. It's going to take collaboration from everyone, including developers that share our mutual vision and have innovative ideas for new land use. These decisions will become tougher over time, but as your council member you'll have my pledge to always keep your community at the center of the conversation.

STEPHEN SPRINGS: Richardson Place 3, Ballot Position 2

**Biographical Info:**

Campaign Phone: 972-467-7536
Facebook: www.facebook.com/StephenforRichardson
Campaign Email: Stephen@StephenforRichardson.com
Occupation: Civic Architect
Website: www.StephenforRichardson.com
Education: Bachelor of Architecture, University of Texas at Austin

Q: QUALIFICATIONS: What makes you the most qualified candidate in your race – and why? (500 character limit)

A: I know how cities work because they are my clients in my day job as a civic architect. I routinely present to cities as they study and design their buildings and their futures. I also stand out because of the history and depth of my civic engagement. There is no better training for sitting at the dais than doing so on the plan commission. I already have a voting record and history of taking positions. It is given that there will be a new face in Place 3, and I have the shortest learning curve.

Q: INCENTIVES: Should economic incentives be given to encourage businesses to locate/remain in Richardson? Why or why not? And, if so, should there be a cap on incentives given per development or a cap in total incentives given in the city? Why or why not? (700 character limit)

A: In short, yes. While economic incentives for businesses may not be popular in all circles, they are a reality of the environment Richardson operates in. We need as many tools as possible to compete in DFW. We have been very blessed to have leveraged more state dollars for such incentives than any other city in the state. That has been a phenomenally successful strategy that makes no sense to cap or limit. As far as capping or limiting local dollars, I believe such is a case-by-case decision. There should obviously not be any open checks, but artificial guardrails in my view weaken a city's position at the table. If it gets too rich, we simply must know when to walk away.

Q: WEST SPRING VALLEY CORRIDOR: What could you do as a City Council Member to accelerate the West Spring Valley Corridor development that was proposed in 2009? (500 character limit)

A: This corridor was the first major rezoning effort taken as recommended by the 2009 Comprehensive Plan. It was aggressive in its regulatory nature to support its visionary goals. I believe it is time to look in the rearview a bit to see if we were too aggressive, and to check against current market conditions. I don't think we need a redo, but some tweaks may be in order. We also need to keep engaging the City of Dallas in doing their part. Half the corridor is not in Richardson's control.

Q: AFFORDABLE HOUSING: The Dallas City Council approved moving forward with a project for 'affordable housing' apartments. (Dallas Morning News, February 26, 2021) How do you define "Affordable Housing"? What can you, as a Council Member, do to improve the availability of affordable housing in Richardson? (700 character limit)

A: Affordable housing for most means subsidized housing, which means government involvement. Then the notion of affordable housing creates an unnecessary binary argument of home owners vs. apartments and the inevitable NIMBY-ism. A better term is workforce housing, which I believe most people recognize as sorely needed and something we can start building some consensus around. Workforce housing will undoubtedly be discussed at length in developing the new Comprehensive Plan. We must avoid pitting single-family homes against apartments. There are many more housing types we simply need to thoughtfully legalize, such as duplexes, ADUs, pocket neighborhoods, etc.

TODD HARRIS HUNTER: Richardson Place 5, Ballot Position 1



Biographical Info:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Todd4Richardson/
Campaign Phone: 919-740-1884
Campaign Email: ToddHunterforRichardson@gmail.com
Occupation: VP of Fuel Supply, GPM-Empire, LLC
Website: www.ToddHunterForRichardson.com
Education: BS, Aviation Administration, San Jose State University; MBA Finance, Embry-Riddle

Q: QUALIFICATIONS: What makes you the most qualified candidate in your race – and why? (500 character limit)

A: Conflicts of interest matter. I have no professional or personal conflicts that will interfere with me serving this great city. I will spend the city's money as if it were my own.

I am a candidate with 20+ years of experience in infrastructure improvement, transportation, operations, finance, and procurement.

As a U.S. Army Flight Officer, I dedicated 8-years of my life to serving our country. I have a heart for service, a mind for business, and bring a fresh perspective to Richardson.

Q: INCENTIVES: Should economic incentives be given to encourage businesses to locate/remain in Richardson? Why or why not? And, if so, should there be a cap on incentives given per development or a cap in total incentives given in the city? Why or why not? (700 character limit)

A: Economic incentives are crucial to Richardson remaining competitive. In my extensive experience in private/public partnerships, there is a delicate balance to offering incentives. Whether large or small, I will assess each opportunity on a case-by-case basis and on its own merit. Depending on the positive impact to our community (i.e., high paying jobs and anticipated tax revenue), I will make independent decisions on capping incentives. To date, we have funded large and small Chapter 380 projects and tax abatements, each creating growth for our city. My goal is to continue evaluating the projects that best support our city's comprehensive plan.

Q: WEST SPRING VALLEY CORRIDOR: What could you do as a City Council Member to accelerate the West Spring Valley Corridor development that was proposed in 2009? (500 character limit)

A: Richardson has worked well with the city of Dallas on reinvesting in the West Spring Valley Corridor. In collaboration with our Dallas counterparts, I will ensure we bring new businesses and revitalized housing to the area. Projects approved over the last few years are a step in the right direction, but more is needed. I will support Richardson Police Department safety strategies that will encourage more capital investments in the corridor.

Q: AFFORDABLE HOUSING: The Dallas City Council approved moving forward with a project for 'affordable housing' apartments. (Dallas Morning News, February 26, 2021) How do you define "Affordable Housing"? What can you, as a Council Member, do to improve the availability of affordable housing in Richardson? (700 character limit)

A: Affordable housing means that residents are paying no more than 30% of their gross income on housing. I will support an updated Comprehensive Plan with proactive redevelopment with a highest and best use mentality. I support Richardson workforce development efforts that help increase citizen overall incomes. I will review Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's) policies on properties that have sufficient space and depth to do so. I will incorporate sound financial strategies and creativity to support the best affordable housing concepts.

KEN HUTCHENRIDER: Richardson Place 5, Ballot Position 2



Biographical Info:

Facebook:	Facebook.com/ken4richardson
Campaign Phone:	2143841747
Campaign Email:	kennethhutchenrider@mhd.com
Occupation:	President Methodist Richardson
Campaign Twitter Handle:	@ken4richardson
Website:	ken4richardson.com
Education:	Bachelor of Business Admin-Texas A&M University, Master of Healthcare-University of Houston C L

Q: QUALIFICATIONS: What makes you the most qualified candidate in your race

– and why? (500 character limit)

A: My experience as a leader in this community both professionally and politically have given me a depth of knowledge that is extremely useful for this public office. I believe experience matters and I am the most qualified candidate for this position. I am responsible for an extremely complex organization and have successfully grown this entity and with this has successfully worked with City personnel to move our City forward.

Q: INCENTIVES: Should economic incentives be given to encourage businesses to locate/remain in Richardson? Why or why not? And, if so, should there be a cap on incentives given per development or a cap in total incentives given in the city? Why or why not? (700 character limit)

A: Targeted economic incentives should be utilized to ensure strong economic growth in our Community. Currently businesses account for 60% of our tax base with homeowners being responsible for the remaining 40%. In neighboring communities, it is exactly opposite. This causes in essence a tax increase on our homeowners which should not occur. Given our strong commitment to a balanced budget, incentives should always be targeted and will be capped by this process.

Q: WEST SPRING VALLEY CORRIDOR: What could you do as a City Council Member to accelerate the West Spring Valley Corridor development that was proposed in 2009? (500 character limit)

A: Over the past several years there has been ongoing revitalization and crime prevention efforts on the West Spring Valley Corridor. We have been able to leverage our own Economic Development Dollars along with grants from Dallas County to help this process. We need to continue these efforts and seek additional funding sources to continue this work along this corridor. Finally, we need to continue the partnership with Dallas Police to ensure a crime free area for our residents.

Q: AFFORDABLE HOUSING: The Dallas City Council approved moving forward with a project for 'affordable housing' apartments. (Dallas Morning News, February 26, 2021) How do you define "Affordable Housing"? What can you, as a Council Member, do to improve the availability of affordable housing in Richardson? (700 character limit)

A: I believe that affordable housing is Workforce Housing so that people who work in Richardson can afford to live here. Recently we approved a Zoning request to change the Hyatt House to affordable workforce housing. I believe we can continue to encourage redevelopment such as this to create opportunities for workforce housing.

RICHARDSON BOND ELECTION

City of Richardson, Texas Proposition A

“THE ISSUANCE OF \$46,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR A NEW CITY HALL AND THE IMPOSITION OF A TAX SUFFICIENT TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON THE BONDS.”

Propuesta A de la Ciudad de Richardson, Texas

“LA EMISIÓN DE \$46,000,000 EN BONOS DE OBLIGACIÓN GENERAL PARA UN AYUNTAMIENTO NUEVO Y LA IMPOSICIÓN DE UN IMPUESTO SUFICIENTE PARA PAGAR EL CAPITAL Y LOS INTERESES SOBRE LOS BONOS.”

Dự Luật A Của Thành Phố Richardson, Texas

“VIỆC PHÁT HÀNH \$46,000,000 CÔNG KHỐ PHIẾU TRÁCH NHIỆM CHUNG CHO TÒA THỊ CHÍNH VÀ VIỆC ÁP DỤNG MỘT KHOẢN THUẾ ĐỦ ĐỂ TRẢ TIỀN GỐC VÀ TIỀN LÃI CỦA CÔNG KHỐ PHIẾU.”

DESCRIPTION:

Richardson City Hall was badly damaged as the result of an electrical fire on August 22, 2022. The damage was significant enough to close the facility.

At its January 23, 2023 meeting, Richardson City Council reviewed alternatives to either repair City Hall or replace City Hall. City Council gave direction to begin the process to call a bond election to fund the construction of a new building.

On February 13, 2023, the Richardson City Council voted to call a May 6th bond election asking voter approval to issue up to \$46 million to build a new City Hall, replacing the current fire-damaged building.

- It is estimated that it would cost \$85 million to build a new Richardson City Hall.
- The 2021 City of Richardson Bond had \$22.4 million dedicated to renovating City Hall. The Texas Attorney General's office has stated that the \$22.4 million originally passed in the 2021 bond can be applied toward the cost of building a new City Hall, but the \$22.4 million must only be used for items approved in the 2021 bond that were originally planned for the renovations to City Hall prior to the fire.
- Renovations that would have been paid by the 2021 bond were scheduled to begin this year. However, due to the fire, these renovations have not started.
- Travelers Insurance, which holds the city's insurance policy on public facilities, is estimating a minimum claim of approximately \$16.5 million. However, the final figure may not be known until negotiations end, which may continue through the summer.
- If approved, the City will only sell enough debt to account for the difference between: 1) revenue from the 2021 Bond funds plus insurance proceeds and 2) the total projected cost to build a new City Hall.
- The new City Hall would be scheduled to open in 2026.

All registered voters who live in the City of Richardson (both Dallas and Collin Counties) may vote on the bond proposition. The proposition will be printed in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. You may vote in favor of the proposition or against the proposition.


Will taxes go up if the bond passes?

The proposed bond referendum does not include a planned increase in the City's property tax rate. According to the City, future property tax revenues at the existing tax rate are projected to be sufficient to repay the bond.

REASONS TO VOTE “FOR” OR “AGAINST” THE PROPOSITION

Based on research by the League of Women Voters of Richardson, some arguments for and against Proposition A to authorize the sale of \$46 million in bonds to build a new city hall are:

Supporters say:	Opponents say:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A new building will be more energy-efficient than a 43-year-old building. The new building will be able to serve the public more efficiently and be safer for all users.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Don't demolish a building just because it is old. The City will lose a landmark that has a unique architectural design.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Before the fire, the City had already outgrown the existing City Hall. The temporary facilities being used are not set up for long-term operations or interacting with the public. For permanent use, these facilities would need to be upgraded at significant expense.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The proposed new City Hall is much larger than the City Hall that burned. Many City departments are currently operating out of other, under-utilized City buildings and could continue to do so in the future.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Richardson needs to plan a building that will last at least 50 years. The City has estimated that over 50 years, building a new City Hall would save taxpayers approximately \$61 million compared to leasing office space. Lease terms could limit or conflict with City Hall operations, such as limits on media access or political activity on the property.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The City does not need to spend money on a larger City Hall building if more office space is needed. Office space in Richardson is currently inexpensive and easily available. The City should consider a long-term lease of existing space rather than a "vanity project."
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The cost to repair and renovate the burned building is 70% of the cost of building a new building. A modern City Hall campus could help the City recruit and retain talent and would allow for improved interior and exterior public spaces for community events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The City's own projections show that it will cost \$25 million more to build a new building than to repair and renovate the existing City Hall. Our tax revenues should be put to better uses.




CITY OF RICHARDSON CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FORUM

Thursday, April 20, 2023 7:00 pm

**Eisemann Center
Bank of America Theatre
2351 Performance Drive
Richardson, TX 75082**

Candidates are listed in ballot order.

Mayor (Place 7) Bob Dubey Janet DePuy	Place 1 G. Scott Waddell Curtis Dorian
Place 3 Dan Barrios Stephen Springs	Place 5 Todd Harris Hunter Ken Hutchenrider


Do you have a question you want the candidates to answer at the forum?

- Email it to voterservice@lwvrichardson.org
- Questions that are emailed are given the same consideration as questions submitted at the forum.
- Questions will be screened according to League of Women Voters of Texas Guide to Candidates Forums.

Follow the Richardson League on: Visit www.lwvrichardson.org for nonpartisan, factual election information.
 Facebook: [LWVRichardsonTX](https://www.facebook.com/LWVRichardsonTX)
 Instagram: [@lwvrichardson](https://www.instagram.com/lwvrichardson)
 Online Voters Guide: [VOTE411](https://www.lwvrichardson.org/vote411)

The City of Richardson City Council Candidates Forum will be recorded and made available, hopefully, by April 21, 2023. Watch the League of Women Voters of Richardson's website: www.lwvrichardson.org for information.

The Richardson ISD Candidate Forum will be recorded and made available, hopefully, by April 18, 2023. Watch the League of Women Voters of Richardson's website: www.lwvrichardson.org for information.



Richardson ISD District 3 and Place 6 Candidate Forum

Monday April 17, 2023 7:00 pm

**Richardson ISD
Administration Building Auditorium
400 S. Greenville Avenue
Richardson, TX 75081**

Candidates are listed in ballot order.

District 3 Bonnie Abadie Debbie Rentería	Place 6 Blake Sawyer Eric Eager
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Do you have a question you want the candidates to answer at the forum?

- Email it to voterservice@lwvrichardson.org
- Questions that are emailed are given the same consideration as questions submitted at the forum.
- Questions will be screened according to League of Women Voters of Texas Guide to Candidates Forums.

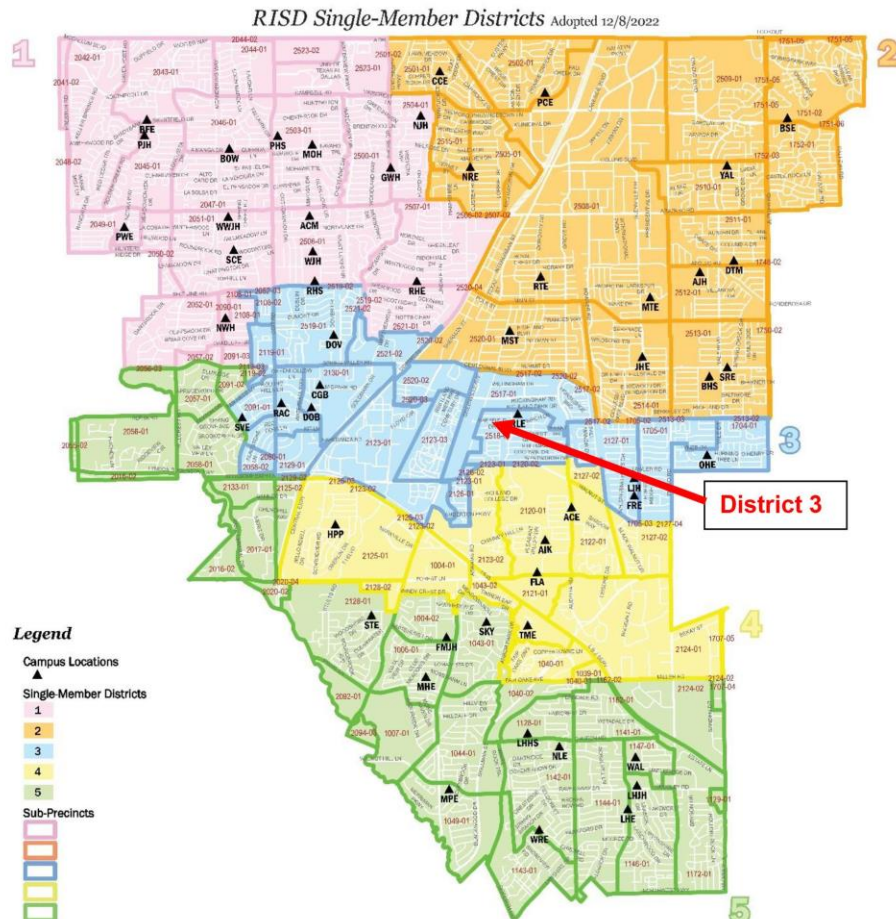
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 Online Voters Guide: [VOTE411.org](https://www.lwvrichardson.org/vote411)

RICHARDSON ISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RISD voters elect board members to serve three-year staggered terms. Five trustees represent specific geographic areas (known as Single-Member Districts), while two At-Large trustees represent the entire district. If no candidate in a race receives a majority of the votes, there will be a runoff. Service on the board is voluntary and members must complete an extensive orientation as well as continued training throughout their terms. The Board of Trustees has the executive power and duty to govern and oversee the management of RISD. Some of the Board's general responsibilities include:

- Setting district policies and supporting administrators and teachers in the execution of those policies.
- Employing and evaluating the superintendent.
- Adopting the annual budget.
- Levying/collecting taxes and issuing bonds
- Performing specific duties imposed by the state.

You must live in Richardson ISD District 3 to vote in the District 3 Election.
All registered voters living in Richardson ISD may vote in the Place 6 Election.



BONNIE ABADIE: Richardson ISD District 3, Ballot Position 1

**Biographical Info:**

Campaign Email: bonnie@ndma.ninja
Website: bonnieforrisd.com
Campaign Phone: 972-415-9962
Occupation: owner North Dallas Martial Arts
Education: BS Marketing
Facebook: www.facebook.com/BonnieAbadieforRISD

Q: QUALIFICATIONS (500 Characters): What makes you the most qualified candidate in your race – and why?

A: I am a business owner and a former substitute teacher so I bring a unique perspective to the board.

Q: SCHOOL CHOICE (700 characters): What is your view of “school choice,” as currently proposed by Texas state leaders? How do you feel Educational Savings Accounts or Vouchers will affect public schools?

A: I'm all for school choice in a sense that parents should be able to choose where to send their children to school – private, charter, public, or home school them. The money shouldn't follow the child as legislators are suggesting and this is why: if they send that money (\$8K) to the private schools, a) the economically disadvantaged still won't be able to afford the extra funds to pay for private education, b) I don't trust the government to not put conditions on the schools who accept the funds to teach certain ways or to force them into administering state mandated tests, & c) they will still have to fund public schools so to make up for the funds that are going to private and homeschool.

Q: BANNING BOOKS (500 characters): What is your position on banning books in RISD school libraries or in classroom libraries?

A: Currently there are several bills in the house and senate concerning books in the schools. It isn't age appropriate to have some of the current books in the schools due to their adult themes. House Bill 900 is going to require a rating for books just like there are ratings for movies should it be passed. This way parents have more control over what they deem appropriate for their children to read.

Q: BUDGET (700 characters): If the budget requires significant reductions, what budget line items should have the highest priority? What budget line items are expendable? Would you be willing to close schools, if necessary, to counter a budget shortfall?

A: RISD is a very top-heavy district; meaning we have a great number of administrators (this ranges from the admin building to multiple levels of directors, assistant directors, executive directors and all the other layers) that we probably could do without as well as several new departments that were created during the former superintendent's tenure. Just over 600 new positions were added, including a doubling of the staff at Greenville Ave. The district purchases & finances new technology that is the latest and greatest. The most recent purchase was iPads for all. A) you don't finance technology and B) you don't purchase top of the line iPads. New curriculum is purchased often.

Q: SCHOOL SAFETY (500 characters): What is the district doing now to keep our schools safe? Should the district do more to keep guns and weapons brought in by students, staff, or outsiders, out of our schools? If so, what?

A: Currently, we have locked doors and visitors must be buzzed into the school, show an id (Checked through the Raptor system), and receive a visitor badge. After the recent deadly shooting in Lake Highlands, metal detectors were deployed for a few days as a precaution. While this is good as a temporary measure, it is not feasible to do on an every day basis. I think the utilization of more resource officers in the schools would help alleviate some of the issues as well as holding firm in discipline.

DEBBIE RENTERÍA: Richardson ISD District 3, Ballot Position 2



Biographical Info:

Campaign Email: debbieforrisd@gmail.com
Website: debbieforrisd.com
Campaign Twitter Handle: @DRenteria92
Occupation: Former District Dir. Texas HD102
Education: Pepperdine University
Facebook: www.facebook.com/DebbieForRISD/

Q: QUALIFICATIONS (500 Characters): What makes you the most qualified candidate in your race – and why?

A: As a former educator, longtime community advocate, and proud parent of two children who are products of RISD, I have the unique ability to look at policies and practices from practically all angles. I understand how much every person cares about the success of our district and I'm able to bring multiple groups together to accomplish a goal. My experiences, both personally and professionally, help me lead on the school board with expertise and empathy.

Q: SCHOOL CHOICE (700 characters): What is your view of “school choice,” as currently proposed by Texas state leaders? How do you feel Educational Savings Accounts or Vouchers will affect public schools?

A: While I always support parents doing what's best for their child, I cannot condone state policies that take away funding from our public schools. Regardless of where a student ultimately enrolls, I believe in giving every family the option of high-quality public schools. I advocate against vouchers because I want our state to invest that funding into our public schools so every child has the resources they need to thrive without burdening local taxpayers. I understand that a child's education is a very individualized journey. Our public schools should be able to provide quality programs, resources, and staff focused on helping every student succeed.

Q: BANNING BOOKS (500 characters): What is your position on banning books in RISD school libraries or in classroom libraries?

A: I believe in every parent exercising their right to help make decisions regarding their child's education. I do not, however, support an exertion of improper influence over every student and family in the district. I trust our librarians to fill our libraries with materials that are of proper appropriateness and merit. Our current system allows parents to opt-out of any titles they wish without limiting options for the student body as a whole.

Q: BUDGET (700 characters): If the budget requires significant reductions, what budget line items should have the highest priority? What budget line items are expendable? Would you be willing to close schools, if necessary, to counter a budget shortfall?

A: Student safety and academic success for all are my highest priorities. To make sure our children are learning and growing to the best of their ability, I believe in hiring and retaining great teachers, providing secure and comfortable classrooms, and having ample staff within the district to proactively close potential learning gaps. I also see the value in supporting extracurricular and career-readiness programs to engage our students beyond the classroom. I see closing schools as a worst case scenario option, and I would consult with our financial experts to discuss ways to avoid it. Preventing those options is one reason why I feel strongly about advocating for more state funding.

Q: SCHOOL SAFETY (500 characters): What is the district doing now to keep our schools safe? Should the district do more to keep guns and weapons brought in by students, staff, or outsiders, out of our schools? If so, what?

A: Student safety is a top priority for myself and the leaders in our district. I'm proud that we already set rigorous standards for safety, conduct random safety checks on campuses, and partner with Richardson and Dallas PD to properly staff our schools. We have a zero-tolerance policy for any threats or acts of violence. In addition to policies promoting student safety, I'd love to see us communicate more with students to quell any anxieties and ensure they feel safe enough to focus on school.

BLAKE SAWYER: Richardson ISD Place 6, Ballot Position 1



Biographical Info:

Occupation: Director of US Operations
Education: BBA Computer Science
Website: blake4richardson.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/blake4richardson/
Campaign Email: blake@blake4richardson.com
Campaign Phone: 214-253-9719

Q: QUALIFICATIONS (500 Characters): What makes you the most qualified candidate in your race – and why?

A: I believe that I have the experience, temperament, and investment to be the best candidate in this race.

I am experienced through my committee history, current PTA involvement, business background, and time in advisory roles in other organizations.

I have the temperament because of my ability to listen first and speak second, my wiring to approach a problem logically, and my desire to find common ground with others.

I am invested because I have 3 kids that will be in RISD for years to come.

Q: SCHOOL CHOICE (700 characters): What is your view of “school choice,” as currently proposed by Texas state leaders? How do you feel Educational Savings Accounts or Vouchers will affect public schools?

A: I am a big believer in our public schools. Having three kids that use specialized services that the district supplies (such as special education, physical therapy, dyslexia interventions, AP courses, and magnet programs.) Having gone to a public school and having public educators in my close family, I think we should focus on helping our teachers teach excellent curricula from a neutral viewpoint.

If the state decides to change how it funds our students and provides other government-funded options, we should try even more to provide excellent educations and programs that become a draw to our families to our schools. Providing a diverse education can encourage all students to excel in RISD.

Q: BANNING BOOKS (500 characters): What is your position on banning books in RISD school libraries or in classroom libraries?

A: 500 characters is not enough space to discuss this. No candidate is in favor of "banning" books. As a member of the TAC, we were able to put processes in place so teachers at all levels can teach, students learn, and parents have transparency in the process.

Much like we do with school dress codes and technology, we can evaluate books, build great libraries, and protect all children. Creating a partnership with our parents and libraries can be a great way to encourage strong readers.

Q: BUDGET (700 characters): If the budget requires significant reductions, what budget line items should have the highest priority? What budget line items are expendable? Would you be willing to close schools, if necessary, to counter a budget shortfall?

A: At a recent board meeting, a plan was discussed to address our massive budget shortfall. We have lower enrollment, lower attendance, and a lower student-to-staff ratio than our neighbors. In the capacity section, there were nearly 10,000 open spaces for students.

Some proposed options for bridging that gap included removing the homestead exemption or raising the tax base. Before looking at those options, we should ensure our current resources are appropriately utilized.

We should look at every decision to determine how they help with the goal of student academic achievement and support and optimize our district so that when enrollment does grow, we have teachers and support to grow with it.

Q: SCHOOL SAFETY (500 characters): What is the district doing now to keep our schools safe? Should the district do more to keep guns and weapons brought in by students, staff, or outsiders, out of our schools? If so, what?

A: The current protocol of having school resource officers at our junior and senior highs, ensuring that the entrances and exits are locked throughout the day, and making sure we are diligent in protecting our students.

There must be a balance between creating a welcoming environment and a hardened space. We can be more diligent in ensuring our students learn to work productively through differences and focus on what unites us over some intersectional divisions.

ERIC EAGER: Richardson ISD Place 6, Ballot Position 2



Biographical Info:

Occupation:

CEO

Education:

BS Accounting University of North Texas, MS Taxation
University of North Texas, CPA

Website:

www.eager4risd.com

Campaign Twitter Handle:

@eric_eager

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/eager4RISD

Campaign Email:

eager4risd@gmail.com

Campaign Phone:

9727880796

Q: QUALIFICATIONS (500 Characters): What makes you the most qualified candidate in your race – and why?

A: With my 3-years of experience as a Board member, I understand what is needed to accelerate learning. The district will benefit from my entrepreneurial and finance background, where I work every day with limited funds, find different ways to attract and retain talent and create solutions to challenges. I have served on multiple RISD committees, from Strategic Planning to Facilities Planning. Combined with being a father of recent RISD graduates provides me with a well-rounded experience.

Q: SCHOOL CHOICE (700 characters): What is your view of “school choice,” as currently proposed by Texas state leaders? How do you feel Educational Savings Accounts or Vouchers will affect public schools?

A: I believe that competition drives improvement and innovation, but the proposed voucher system is not providing a fair playing field. While public school districts are held to standards of accountability to taxpayers, vouchers provided to private schools are provided with no accountability. Plus, voucher schools will not be required to provide additional resources for special needs students, can reject students and will drain funds from an already underfunded Texas education budget.

Q: BANNING BOOKS (500 characters): What is your position on banning books in RISD school libraries or in classroom libraries?

A: Parents have a vital role in the education of their students. I believe we should partner with parents to determine what is appropriate for their family without limiting titles or opportunities from other families who would like the opportunity to read those books. All parents in our district can opt out of any title they do not want their child to be able to check out from their school library.

Q: BUDGET (700 characters): If the budget requires significant reductions, what budget line items should have the highest priority? What budget line items are expendable? Would you be willing to close schools, if necessary, to counter a budget shortfall?

A: With the current budget shortfalls due to inflation, escalating competition for quality teachers, and reduced state funding, we will need to evaluate every expense to drive efficiency. Plus, we will need to implement new programs that appeal to the next generation of parents to increase student attendance. We should explore all options for increasing revenue and driving efficiencies to balance the budget to avoid any consideration of school closure.

Q: SCHOOL SAFETY (500 characters): What is the district doing now to keep our schools safe? Should the district do more to keep guns and weapons brought in by students, staff, or outsiders, out of our schools? If so, what?

A: We must continue to provide resources and procedures to keep our children safe. Our recent RISD Bonds have provided the funding to ensure all campuses have a double buzz-in front office vestibule, robust camera system, door-ajar alerts, badge entry systems, and many other safety and security best practice measures. This year, our campuses participated in intruder alert assessments in which outside representatives check exterior doors in an effort to find any deficiencies to perimeter security.



Local Elections Matter. Get Ready To Vote.

 **Local* elections are Saturday, May 6!**

- EARLY VOTING: **MONDAY, APRIL 24-TUESDAY, MAY 2**
- LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE: **THURSDAY, APRIL 6**

**Local elections are nonpartisan. This is your opportunity to vote for your mayor, city council member, and school district trustee.*

Have a voice in *your* government! 

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votetexas.gov

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BALLOT, WHERE &
WHEN TO VOTE



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or ballotpedia.org

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YOUR BALLOT



Vote411.org

SEE COLLIN SAMPLE
BALLOT, WHERE &
WHEN TO VOTE



[↑bit.ly/CollinBallot](http://bit.ly/CollinBallot)
or ballotpedia.org

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[↑lwvrichardson.org](http://lwvrichardson.org)
972-470-0584
or lwvtexas.org

Got questions? We have answers! Vote411.org

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