

City Council Meeting Presentations

April 6, 2026

1. MONTH OF VOLUNTEERISM
2. CODE AMENDMENTS

MONTH OF VOLUNTEERISM

April 6, 2026

CITY COUNCIL GOAL

To have residents and all stakeholders choose Richardson as the best place to locate, contribute, and engage.

CITY COUNCIL TACTIC

Consider ways to make volunteering opportunities easier to know about and understand how to take part.

APRIL IS NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH

National Volunteer Month is a time to celebrate volunteers and encourage more people to get involved in their communities.

To make volunteering opportunities easier to know about and understand how to take part, the City has launched an updated volunteer webpage.



VOLUNTEER LANDING PAGE

Features:

- Volunteer opportunities by program area:
 - Animal Welfare
 - Arts, Culture, and Events
 - Community Services & Environmental
 - Governance/ Civic Participation
- Volunteer opportunities by size:
 - Individual
 - Group
 - Corporate
- Simple sign-up process
- Contact list
- FAQs



VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS: ANIMAL WELFARE

- Animal Shelter
- Doggy Day Out Program
- Foster Program



Animal Shelter Volunteer

Time spent at the shelter is a valuable part of keeping our dogs and cats clean and happy and provides a positive atmosphere and exceptional adoptions.



Doggy Day Out Program

Help our adoptable dogs get out of the shelter for a while and give them a chance to be out in the public in order to increase exposure and hopefully find a forever home!



Foster Program

Volunteers can foster cats or dogs needing temporary homes, helping with medical or behavioral care until adoption.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS: ARTS, CULTURE & EVENTS

- Cottonwood Art Festival
- Eisemann Center Volunteers
- Huffhines Harvest Fest/
Pawtoberfest
- Santa's Village
- Wildflower! Arts & Music Festival
- Parks and Recreation Events



Christmas Parade

Join the City's festive Christmas Parade and help keep things running smoothly. Volunteers assist with check-in, carry banners, and support parade safety.



Cottonwood Art Festival

An event-based volunteer opportunity; helps with festival operations, likely includes setup, guest services, etc.



Eisemann Center Volunteers

Volunteers assist with operations and performances at the Eisemann Center, becoming part of its theatrical community.



Huffhines Harvest Fest / Pawtoberfest

Volunteering at these festivals is a vital part of creating a welcoming atmosphere, supporting activities, and ensuring a safe, enjoyable experience for all visitors.



Parks & Recreation

Help support community events and park activities. Volunteers assist with arts and crafts, tree planting, and event setup. A great way to stay active and give back locally.



Santa's Village

Richardson's Santa's Village is a holiday tradition with festive houses, lights, performances, and activities for families, while volunteers assist with setup, guiding guests, and supporting holiday fun.



Wildflower! Arts & Music Festival

A large annual festival that needs many volunteers (18+, must register and select shifts). Volunteers support various festival duties.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS: COMMUNITY SERVICES & ENVIRONMENTAL

Volunteer Assistance Program
Network of Community Ministries

Corporate Cleanup Program
Storm Drain Marking Initiative
Trash Bash




Volunteer Assistance Program (VAP)

Connects volunteers/groups with homeowners in need (due to age, financial hardship, or disability) who cannot maintain their property. Projects include painting, cleaning, etc., all using donated materials.




Network of Community Ministries

The duties in this program include assisting with food and clothing distribution, greeting clients, organizing donations, and supporting community service operations.




Corporate Cleanup Program

Designed for businesses to participate in environmental cleanup events to improve the city.



Storm Drain Marking Initiative

Part of a regional effort to mark storm drains to reduce pollution and protect watersheds.



Trash Bash

An annual event where residents help pick up trash and recyclables across the community.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS: GOVERNANCE & CIVIC PARTICIPATION

- Boards & Commissions
- Library Adult Volunteering
- Library Teen Volunteering
- Richardson Adult Literacy Center
- Police Department- VIPS



Police Department – VIPS

Volunteers assist with non-enforcement tasks like crime prevention, investigations support, public safety initiatives, etc.



Richardson Adult Literacy Center

The duties in this program include teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to adult learners and supporting classroom instruction.



Boards & Commissions

Citizens volunteer their time, knowledge, and expertise to serve on advisory boards or commissions to help guide city policy or projects.



Library Adult Volunteering

Volunteers assist with pulling books, cleaning books/shelves, supporting on special projects and assisting on classes, lectures or events.



Library Teen Volunteering

Volunteers support by Prep craft materials, sort items, assist in children's programs, attend Teen Advisory Board meetings.

GROUP/ CORPORATE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Animal Shelter
- Corporate Cleanup Program
- Cottonwood Art Festival
- Network of Community Ministries
- Richardson Adult Literacy Center
- Santa's Village
- Storm Drain Marking Initiative
- Trash Bash
- Volunteer Assistance Program
- Wildflower! Arts and Music Festival



HOW TO SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER

www.cor.net/i-want-to/volunteer

Volunteer

Font Size: [+](#) [-](#) [+](#) [Share & Bookmark](#) [Feedback](#) [Print](#)

Connect, Contribute, and Create Impact

Volunteering with the City of Richardson offers a chance to support programs like animal care, library services, community events, and environmental initiatives. It's a rewarding way to give back, meet new people, and make a difference in your city.

[Individual Opportunities](#) [Group Opportunities](#) [Corporate Opportunities](#)

[Contact List](#) [FAQS](#) [Gallery](#)

Everything You Need to Know

- [What volunteer opportunities are available in Richardson? >](#)
- [What are the age requirements to volunteer? >](#)
- [Are background checks required? >](#)
- [How do I sign up to volunteer? >](#)
- [Do I need to live in Richardson to volunteer? >](#)
- [Is there any training or orientation required? >](#)
- [Is there a required number of hours or weekly commitment? >](#)
- [Can I volunteer as a group \(e.g., from a business or organization\)? >](#)
- [What kinds of tasks or duties will volunteers do? >](#)
- [Is there any cost to volunteer? >](#)
- [How will I know about upcoming volunteer opportunities or events? >](#)
- [Can volunteers get credit for community service \(e.g. for school or court\)? >](#)
- [What happens if I'm no longer able to volunteer regularly? >](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Animal Shelter Volunteer	972-744-4480	AskRichardsonAnimalServices@cor.gov
Boards & Commissions	972-744-4292	AskRichardsonCitySecretary@cor.gov
Christmas Parade	972-744-4300	AskRichardsonParks@cor.gov
Corporate Cleanup Program	972-744-4080	AskRichardsonHealth@cor.gov
Cottonwood Art Festival	972-744-4580	Cottonwood@cor.gov
Doggy Day Out Program	972-744-4480	AskRichardsonAnimalServices@cor.gov
Eisemann Center Volunteers	972-744-4668	Volunteer@eisemanncenter.com
Foster Program	972-744-4480	AskRichardsonAnimalServices@cor.gov
Huffhines Harvest Fest / Pawtoberfest	972-744-4580	HuffhinesHarvestFest@cor.gov
Library Adult Volunteering	972-744-4350	AskRichardsonLibrary@cor.gov
Library Teen Volunteering	972-744-4358	RichardsonTeenAdvisoryBoard@gmail.com
Network of Community Ministries	972-662-8694	Volunteer@thenetwork.org
Parks & Recreation	972-744-4300	AskRichardsonParks@cor.gov
Police Department – VIPS	972-744-4842	CommunityRelations@cor.gov
Richardson Adult Literacy Center	972-644-5119	Volunteer@ralc.org
Santa's Village	972-744-4580	AskRichardsonParks@cor.gov
Storm Drain Marking Initiative	972-744-4080	AskRichardsonHealth@cor.gov
Trash Bash	972-744-4080	TrashBash@cor.gov
Volunteer Assistance Program (VAP)	972-744-4842	VAP@cor.gov
Wildflower! Arts & Music Festival	972-744-4580	Wildflower@cor.gov

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Trash Bash April 11th
- Richardson BioBlitz April 25th
- Cottonwood Art Festival May 2-3rd
- Electronics Recycling and Paper Shredding Event May 9th
- Wildflower! Arts & Music Festival May 15-17th

QUESTIONS?

AskRichardson@cor.gov

RICHARDSON  **VOLUNTEERS**

WORK SESSION

LEGISLATIVE-RELATED AMENDMENTS TO COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE AND CODE OF ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS

April 6, 2026

OVERVIEW

- Zoning protest criteria (i.e. written protest criteria thresholds);
- Definition of “family”; and
- Flags and flagpoles.

89TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

- Following conclusion of the 89th Legislative Regular Session, staff identified several changes to procedures and regulations that are necessary to ensure compliance with the newly adopted state statutes.
- While several procedural items have already been addressed, the following new laws will require regulatory updates to the City’s Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO) to ensure compliance:
 - HB 24: Zoning protest criteria (i.e. written protest criteria thresholds); and
 - SB 1567: Definition of “family”

HB 24 ZONING PROTEST CRITERIA

HB 24 – ZONING PROTEST CRITERIA

- Prior to passage of HB 24, objection from property owners comprising 20% of the subject property or property within the 200-foot notice area could trigger a supermajority requirement for approval of a zoning change request.
- HB 24 increased the property owner protest threshold from 20% to 60% for rezoning requests that allow for more residential development; and
- Allowed a simple majority vote (instead of a supermajority) to approve, regardless of higher 60% threshold requirement.
- Goal of legislation was to facilitate the development of residential housing.
- All other rezoning requests (i.e. commercial, industrial, etc.) would maintain the 20% property owner protest threshold to require a supermajority of Council to approve.

HB 24 – ZONING PROTEST CRITERIA

- The CZO currently references that if a proposed zoning change or special permit is protested in accordance with Section 211.006 of the Texas Local Government Code (TLGC), the affirmative vote of at least three-fourths (supermajority) of all members of City Council must be received in order to take effect.
- Today, per the new statute, there are scenarios where a three-fourths vote is not allowed, particularly as it relates to zoning requests that allow for increased residential development, thus necessitating changes to the CZO.

HB 24 – ZONING PROTEST CRITERIA

- The following sections of the CZO will need to be amended to comply with the new legislation:
 - Article XXII-A (Special Permits), Sect. 4; and
 - Article XXIX (Changes and Amendments), Sect. 6
- Staff is proposing to amend the CZO – both for zoning map amendments and special permits – by adding the state statute language (with clarifications)
 - Will also apply to special development plans and major modifications since considered a zoning action

HB 24 – ZONING PROTEST CRITERIA

	TYPE OF ZONING CASE	PROTEST CRITERIA
CURRENT	Land-based Zoning Changes (ZCs) and Special Permits (SPs)	20% protest requires supermajority of Council to approve (6 out of 7)
PROPOSED	Land-based ZCs and SPs allowing additional residential development	60% protest requires simple majority of Council to approve (4 out of 7)
	All other land-based ZCs and SPs (i.e. commercial, industrial)	20% protest requires supermajority of Council to approve (6 out of 7)
	Proposed Comprehensive Zoning Changes	No protest ability

SB 1567

DEFINITION OF “FAMILY”

SB 1567 – DEFINITION OF “FAMILY”

- This statute is pre-emptive on cities (that satisfy threshold criteria) such that cities:
 - May not restrict the number of occupants in a housing unit based on familial relations, age, or occupation, but
 - May continue to enforce building and fire code requirements and standards adopted by the State.
- The statute is specifically targeted at home-rule municipalities with:
 - A population less than 250,000; and
 - With an institution of higher education with an enrollment greater than 20,000, or those municipalities adjacent to such institutions.
 - Given that the University of Texas – Dallas is within Richardson, coupled with university enrollment population and the City’s population meeting the statute’s threshold requirements, this bill applies to Richardson.
- The statute allows for deed restrictions to still apply and be more restrictive than the statute for those neighborhoods that may have deed restrictions.

SB 1567 – DEFINITION OF “FAMILY”

- CZO Article I, Sec. 2 defines “family” and includes references limiting the number of persons and qualifiers for certain relations (i.e. blood, adoption, or marriage)
- Therefore, the CZO will need to be amended to redefine this term
- The CZO needs an updated definition that removes the limits on the number of occupants and removes certain relations requirements in order to be compliant with the statute

SB 1567 – DEFINITION OF “FAMILY” – PROPOSED CHANGES

Article I. Title, Definitions, General Provisions, Auto Wrecking Yards, and Swimming Pools – REVISED DEFINITION

Current CZO Definition:

Family means one or more persons related by blood, adoption or marriage, living and cooking together as a single housekeeping unit, exclusive of household servants. A number of persons, but not exceeding two, living and cooking together as a single housekeeping unit, though not related by blood, adoption or marriage, shall be deemed to constitute a family.

Proposed CZO Definition:

Family means any number of persons occupying a single dwelling unit, living and cooking together as a single housekeeping unit, including but not limited to those related by blood, marriage, adoption, guardianship, or dependency.

FLAGS AND FLAGPOLES

FLAGS AND FLAGPOLES

- Code of Ordinances, Chapter 18, Article III, Sec. 18-96 (10) currently regulates flags as part of the City’s sign regulations.
- The ordinance defines flags and includes size and quantity limitations applicable to corporate logo flags; however, there are no regulations concerning:
 - Total number of flags or flagpoles;
 - Flagpole heights;
 - Flagpole setbacks; or
 - Flag sizes for flags other than corporate logo flags.
 - In addition, while site plan approval is required, a permit is not.
- It is important to note that flags are treated similar to signs, thus regulations must be “content neutral” due to case law pertaining to signs.

FLAGS AND FLAGPOLES – PROPOSED CHANGES

	CURRENT REGULATION	PROPOSED REGULATION
DEFINITION/ PURPOSE	<p>Emblems and insignia of the United States, federal agencies, and any state or local governmental body, including corporate and logo flags.</p> <p>Decorative displays for holidays or legal public demonstrations which do not contain advertising and are not used for such.</p>	<p><i>Flag:</i> a piece of cotton, silk, or polyester cloth or similar material, typically oblong or square, attachable by one edge to a flagpole</p> <p><i>Corporate flag:</i> a flag bearing the emblem and/or insignia of an on-premise business or organization</p> <p><i>Flagpole:</i> a pole used for flying a flag</p>

FLAGS AND FLAGPOLES – PROPOSED CHANGES

	CURRENT REGULATION	PROPOSED REGULATION
QUANTITY	None, other than max. 1 corporate flag when accompanied by U.S. and/or state flag of equal size or larger	<i>Over 10 acres, 2+ street frontages, and nonresidential/mixed-use zoning:</i> Max. 6 flagpoles and max. 6 flags per platted lot <i>All other lots:</i> Max. 3 flagpoles and max. 3 flags per platted lot
FLAGPOLE HEIGHT	None	Max. 25 ft. in residential districts; Max. 40 ft. in nonresidential and mixed-use districts
FLAG SIZE	<i>(Corporate flags only):</i> Sites <1 ac.: 40 sq. ft.; Sites 1 – 5 ac.: 60 sq. ft.; Sites >5 ac.: 96 sq. ft.; Residential zoning districts: 40 sq. ft. (regardless of acreage)	Max. 25 sq. ft. in residential districts; Max. 40 sq. ft. in nonresidential and mixed-use districts

FLAGS AND FLAGPOLES – PROPOSED CHANGES

	CURRENT REGULATION	PROPOSED REGULATION
<p>CORPORATE FLAGS</p>	<p>-</p>	<p><i>Over 10 acres, 2+ street frontages, and nonresidential/mixed-use zoning: Max. 2 corporate flags per platted lot, provided 2+ flagpoles and other flagpole(s) are being used for U.S., state, or local flag</i></p> <p><i>All other lots with nonresidential and mixed-use zoning: Max. 1 corporate flag per platted lot, provided 2+ flagpoles and other flagpole(s) are being used for U.S., state, or local flag</i></p> <p><i>Educational institutions, religious institutions, public buildings, and multi-family residential developments located within residential zoning districts: Max. 1 corporate flag per platted lot, provided 2+ flagpoles and other flagpole(s) are being used for U.S., state, or local flag</i></p>

FLAGS AND FLAGPOLES – PROPOSED CHANGES

	CURRENT REGULATION	PROPOSED REGULATION
LOCATION	N/A (site plan approval required)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each flagpole shall be set back from all property lines a distance equal to or greater than the height of the flagpole; • Flagpoles shall not be located in any easement; • Site plan approval required for all flagpoles in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nonresidential & mixed-use zoning districts; ▪ Educational institutions, religious institutions, public buildings, and multi-family residential developments within residential zoning districts
PERMIT REQUIRED	No.	A permit is required only for flagpoles greater than 25 ft. in height

NEXT STEPS

NEXT STEPS

- Based on the feedback received from City Council, staff will make any necessary updates to the proposed approach for each code amendment and prepare formal code amendments for City Council's action.
- CZO amendments:
 - Standard dual public hearing process (following proper public notification in accordance with state statutes),
 - Receive a recommendation from the City Plan Commission prior to final action by City Council.
- Code of Ordinance amendments:
 - Do not require a public hearing;
 - Require action by City Council only; and
 - City Council may receive public testimony.

DISCUSSION/DIRECTION