

YES on Measure G

SAVE HEALDSBURG HOSPITAL

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers about Measure G

Q: I thought Healdsburg Hospital's problems were solved in the last election. Why is a parcel tax increase on the April 13th ballot?

- A:** Several unforeseeable events caused the hospital revenue losses.
- Healdsburg District Hospital needs additional support to continue providing emergency room services. For out-patients treated, Medi-Cal only pays the Hospital 25% of fees charged; Medi-Care only pays 56% of fees charged. In addition, the State budget plan is to cut Medi-Cal reimbursements even further.
 - The Health Plan of the Redwoods bankruptcy left Healdsburg District Hospital with bad debt, and a loss of previously anticipated income.
 - Healdsburg District Hospital does not receive the higher fee-for-services that insurance carriers pay to other hospitals.

Q: What will it mean to me if Measure G doesn't pass?

A: Healdsburg District Hospital will close.

Currently, our Healdsburg District Hospital emergency room treats over 11,000 patients a year. Many of these people won't survive a longer trip to Santa Rosa. Santa Rosa emergency rooms are already over-crowded. If you go to a Santa Rosa emergency room, your usual six-hour wait will be much longer. Due to overcrowding Sonoma County patients are often diverted to hospitals as far away as Danville or Gilroy.

- You may lose your own doctor. Without Healdsburg District Hospital, many local physicians will be forced to move their practices elsewhere. Because Healdsburg District Hospital is the **only** medical facility in North Sonoma County capable of sustaining emergency services in case of an earthquake, flood, or other local

disaster, you will be unlikely to get prompt emergency medical care during any crisis. Local access to all health care will be much more difficult for North Sonoma County residents.

- Your property values may go down, or may simply not increase, because there will be no local access to healthcare.

Q: I have Kaiser insurance. Why should I support Healdsburg District Hospital?

- A:** Even if you've never had to use Healdsburg District Hospital's emergency room, there are still some extremely good reasons for you to support Measure G:
- If Healdsburg District Hospital's emergency room closes, southbound ambulances from North Sonoma County will be required to stop at Kaiser Hospital because it is the next closest emergency room. Kaiser Hospital is not prepared to handle the several hundred additional emergency cases a month, causing increased waiting times at Kaiser, as well as significantly increased Kaiser membership costs.
 - Kaiser Health Plan contracts with Healdsburg District Hospital to provide some services in North Sonoma County. If Healdsburg District Hospital closes, those services will have to be handled in Santa Rosa, also increasing waiting times at Kaiser.
 - Even if you are a Kaiser member, you or your family may use Healdsburg District Hospital in an emergency. If it's gone, you won't have that potentially life-saving option.

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Q: What is the North Sonoma County Hospital District?

A: In November 2001, voters overwhelmingly approved (83%) the creation of the District to provide accessible hospital and emergency services. The North Sonoma County Hospital District owns and operates Healdsburg District Hospital for the benefit of Northern Sonoma County residents like you. Healdsburg District Hospital operates the **ONLY** emergency room between Santa Rosa and Ukiah.

Q: What is Measure G going to cost me, one way or the other?

A: If Measure G passes, for each assessed parcel of property you own in the North Sonoma County Hospital District it's going to cost you an additional \$65.00 a year (eighteen cents a day). If Measure G fails, the current \$85.00 a year parcel tax to fund North Sonoma County Hospital District will remain in place, but Healdsburg Hospital will still have to close.

Q: What happens if Healdsburg District Hospital closes?

A: Many things will happen, none beneficial.

- The North County's economy will take a major hit if the Hospital closes. Under-employed surgeons, specialists, and laid-off healthcare workers will spend their income wherever they relocate to.
- No matter where you live in Northern Sonoma County, you will have no option but to go to Santa Rosa or San Francisco to get surgery and emergency services. Can you imagine if your child has a life-threatening emergency, or your husband has a heart attack at 8 AM and you have to sit in Highway 101 traffic? You might even have to visit them in hospital as far away as Danville or Gilroy.

**YES
on
G**

Here's the bottom line –

Without your support, Healdsburg Hospital will close.

For only eighteen cents a day more we can keep an emergency room that exists solely to protect us. For only eighteen cents a day more we can ensure we have a well-prepared hospital ready to serve us, and our families. We can't afford to lose our community hospital, and its doctors. We can't afford to devastate our local economy.

Vote Yes on G on April 13th!

It's up to you!

YOU can Save Healdsburg Hospital

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