

# **San Gorgonio Memorial Health Care District**

*December 2021 Parcel Tax Renewal Measure*

## **FACT SHEET**



For over 70 years, victims of heart attacks, strokes and other medical emergencies in Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, and surrounding unincorporated communities of Riverside County, have relied on **San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital** for life-saving emergency medical services close to home. Particularly in life-threatening medical emergencies *when every second counts*, **San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital is saving lives every day**, operating the ONLY Emergency Room (ER) in the Pass Area. **In 2020 alone, the Hospital recorded 41,997 visits to our Emergency Room.**

Our community has generously supported vital local funding for the Hospital in the past. In 2001, local voters first approved Measure D, a local parcel tax to support the Hospital's ER and emergency medical services with stable locally controlled funding. In 2012, voters overwhelmingly approved extending Measure D funding for an additional 10 years. Funds from both measures have been essential to keeping the Hospital's ER fully operational, 24-7, and funding qualified doctors and nurses, advanced medical technology and related services over the past two decades.

**Local funding support is vital to San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital operations.** The Hospital's most urgent needs are:

- **Keeping the Emergency Room (ER)** open and fully operational, 24/7.
- **Maintaining** advanced, rapid-response lifesaving emergency medical services in the Pass Area.
- **Continuing** local access to up-to-date technologies and treatments for victims of accidents/strokes/heart attacks.
- **Retaining** qualified nurses and physicians at San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital.
- **Becoming qualified as a primary stroke center**, which requires significant investments in the medical technologies that the hospital utilizes.

**The Hospital's local parcel tax funding will expire on June 30, 2022.** Without voter-approved renewal of this funding, the Hospital governing board will face difficult decisions to keep its ER open and maintain a balanced budget while also ensuring quality emergency medical services for our rapidly growing community.

The Health Care District has evaluated its options relative to this soon-to-expire local public funding. The solution that has emerged as most promising asks voters to authorize continuing WITHOUT increasing the District's current parcel tax until ended by voters. The cost to local taxpayers is modest – \$60.52/parcel per year or about \$5/month.

On Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at a special meeting of the locally elected Board of Directors of the San Gorgonio Memorial Health Care District, the Board voted to place the proposed parcel tax renewal measure on the ballot. The election will take place entirely (100%) by mail ballot election. Voters should expect to receive their ballots via US Mail the week of November 15<sup>th</sup>, with December 14, 2021 serving as Election Day (the final day to cast ballots).

A "YES vote" continues this local funding previously approved by voters, keeping the overall tax rate FLAT – currently \$60.52 per parcel per year - until ended by voters, and dedicating all funds to emergency medical services at San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital. A "NO vote" rejects the proposal.

Voters living within the Health Care District boundaries who are registered to vote by November 29, 2021 (as required by state law), will be eligible to vote in this election. The measure (yet to be named) needs 66.7% support to succeed – i.e. two-thirds of voters who vote on the measure must vote yes in order for the measure to pass.

**For more information**, visit the Hospital's website: <https://sgmh.org/> or contact Ariel Whitley in Hospital Administration at SGMH via phone: 951-769-2160; or email: [awhitley@sgmh.org](mailto:awhitley@sgmh.org).