

# **San Gorgonio Memorial Health Care District**

*December 2021 Parcel Tax Renewal Measure*



## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

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### **Why has San Gorgonio Memorial Health Care District put a measure on the ballot?**

In 2002 and 2012, voters of the San Gorgonio Memorial Health Care District overwhelmingly approved and later renewed a modest parcel tax **to support emergency medical services at San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital**. In life-threatening medical emergencies, **San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital is saving lives every day** thanks in part to this locally controlled public funding, operating the **ONLY** Emergency Room (ER) in the Pass Area. **In 2020 alone, the Hospital recorded 41,997 visits to our Emergency Room. The next closest ER is 35 minutes to over an hour away depending on traffic.** The measure that has qualified for the ballot authorizes an extension until ended by voters to the parcel tax that local voters already authorized **TWICE BEFORE** – this time **WITHOUT** increasing the existing tax rate.

### **Why is this measure needed? What is the urgency?**

Since 1951 (70 years ago) our community has relied on **San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital** for life-saving emergency medical services close to home. Victims of heart attacks, strokes, recreational or car-related accidents and other emergencies, have especially appreciated our Hospital ER - **the ONLY EMERGENCY ROOM in the Pass Area**. Particularly in life-threatening medical emergencies, San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital is saving lives every day thanks to its fully operational Emergency Room (ER). **In 2020 alone, the Hospital recorded 41,997 visits to our Emergency Room.** This funding must be renewed by a super-majority vote of local voters (66.7%) by June 30, 2022 or it will expire.

### **How does the Hospital currently use funds raised by the parcel tax?**

The Hospital currently uses funds raised by Measure D (passed in 2002 and renewed in 2012), currently about \$2.6M annually, to provide for the continued operation and maintenance of the Hospital's Emergency Department and related emergency medical services.

### **What are the Hospital's most urgent needs for funding?**

- **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.

### **What is the Hospital's proposed solution?**

The Hospital 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 Hospital's current parcel tax until ended by voters. A "YES vote" continues this local funding previously approved by voters twice before, 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.

A summary of the measure reads as follows:

***SAN GORGONIO MEMORIAL HOSPITAL EMERGENCY SERVICES CONTINUATION MEASURE.***

*Without increasing existing tax rates that maintain local rapid-response, lifesaving, emergency medical care, provide up-to-date technologies/treatments for emergency accident/stroke/heart attack victims; help ensure patient safety; retain qualified physicians/nurses; shall San Gorgonio Memorial Health Care District's ordinance be adopted continuing its expiring voter-approved annual parcel tax until ended by voters, currently \$60.52/year generating \$2,600,000 annually, requiring public spending disclosure, citizens' oversight, audits, and all funds locally controlled?*

**How much will this measure cost me?**

**This measure will NOT raise your current tax rate.** The cost is modest – currently \$60.52 per parcel per year, generating approximately \$2.6 million annually to support critical emergency medical services and operations at the Hospital. If voters approve the measure, the cost will remain FLAT (\$60.52 per parcel annually) until ended by voters - there will be NO increase to the existing tax rate.

**Is the Hospital E.R really that busy or needed.....we're a small community?**

When a major earthquake, wildfire or other disaster strikes, we need to be ready Our hospital and ER are here to provide emergency medical care – especially during disaster emergencies like these. Even without a disaster – our E.R is needed and used! For a hospital its size San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital IS a busy hospital. **In 2020, the Hospital's ER logged nearly 42,000 visits.**

**What is a parcel tax, when is it collected and by whom?**

A parcel tax is a financial assessment (property tax) levied on each piece of property (parcel) in a given jurisdiction. Property owners pay parcel taxes; renters do not. Parcel taxes are sponsored by individual jurisdictions (in this case the San Gorgonio Memorial Health Care District), collected by county assessors, and governed by/subject to California State Law. Voter-approved parcel taxes appear on and are paid as part of your annual property tax bill.

**Will my property tax rate go up?**

No. If voters approve this measure it will authorize a simple extension of the soon-to-expire parcel tax without increasing the existing tax rate. In other words, the parcel tax will remain FLAT until ended by voters – currently \$60.52 per parcel per year, or about \$5 per month..

**Can the State or any other entity take this money away from the Hospital and use it for other purposes?**

No. ALL funds generated from this measure will be locally controlled and dedicated to emergency medical services at San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital. By law, the State cannot take this funding away and it CANNOT be used for any other purposes.

**Have voters of the Hospital District approved a parcel tax measure before?**

Yes. In 2002 and 2012, local voters overwhelmingly approved a modest parcel tax to support our hospital and keep the ONLY Emergency Room in the Pass Area fully operational.

**I'm a Kaiser member, why should I support this measure?**

No one knows when a life-threatening medical emergency or natural disaster will strike. This measure helps ensure that emergency medical care close to home is accessible when you or your loved ones need it most. In the event of an accident or a medical emergency, first responders may bring patients (including Kaiser members) to San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital to stabilize them before transporting them to another facility.

**Who makes the final decision on this measure?**

The locally elected Health Care District Board is the legal entity that voted to place the measure on the ballot and let the people vote on this issue. REGISTERED VOTERS within the San Geronio Memorial Health Care District will have the final say when they vote.

**When and how will we vote?**

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). 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.

**How can I check if I am registered to vote? What if I am not currently registered to vote? What do I need to know? How can I register to vote?**

To see if you are currently registered to vote, visit the California Secretary of State website: <https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/>. Only voters registered to vote by November 29<sup>th</sup> will be permitted to vote on this measure. Please go to <https://registertovote.ca.gov> prior to the deadline to register.

For more information, visit the San Geronio Memorial Hospital website: <https://sgmh.org/> or contact Executive Assistant Ariel Whitley by phone: 951-769-2160; or email: [awhitley@sgmh.org](mailto:awhitley@sgmh.org).

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