

#### Dear Neighbor:

I write today with an important hospital update on Measure U, approved overwhelmingly by Big Bear Valley voters this past November (2024) with more than 72% support.

First, let me to thank you for your longstanding support of Bear Valley Community Hospital and for your support of Measure U. For more than 50 years, victims of heart attacks, strokes and other medical emergencies across our mountain community have relied on us for life-saving medical care. Your support makes our work possible. We can't do it without you.

Now, due to a technicality in state law discovered after Election Day, Measure U is out of compliance. Because this funding is so vital to the hospital's operation, our Board of Trustees is now considering bringing a Replacement Ballot Measure to Big Bear Valley voters this June. The replacement measure would simply confirm (before our current funding expires on June 30th) what voters already approved last November, while also bringing this vitally needed funding authorization into full compliance with state law.

I will keep you posted as this issue develops. We remain hopeful, if a new measure goes to the ballot, that it too will earn your support as has been the case in four previous elections held in 1994, 2003, 2014, and 2024.

For additional information please email: Info@bvchd.com or call: (909) 866-6501.

Sincerely,

Evan J. Rayner

Evan J. Rayner, Chief Executive Officer

# Important Update

# **Our Goals:**

- ► KEEP our Emergency Room (ER) open and fully operational, 24/7.
- MAINTAIN local access to advanced, rapidresponse lifesaving emergency medical services on the mountain (The next fullservice hospital is over an hour away).
- ► CONTINUE access to up-to-date technologies and treatments for victims of accidents, strokes, heart attacks, and trauma.
- ► RETAIN qualified nurses and physicians at **Bear Valley Community Hospital.**
- ▶ PROTECT patient safety and minimizing wait times in our hospital ER.



P.O. Box 1649 Big Bear Lake, CA 92315

#### bvchd.com

Provided as a public service for your information only, from Bear Valley Community Healthcare District.

## **ALERT!**

Due to a technicality in state law discovered after Election Day, <u>Measure U</u>, approved by over 72% of Big Bear Valley voters last November, is out of compliance. In response, the hospital Board of Trustees is now considering bringing a <u>Replacement Ballot Measure</u> to Bear Valley voters this June. The replacement measure would simply confirm (before current funding expires on June 30th) what voters already approved last November, <u>while also bringing this vitally needed funding authorization into full compliance with state law.</u>



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## If approved by voters, the REPLACEMENT Ballot Measure would:

- ▶ **KEEP** Bear Valley Community Hospital's Emergency Room (ER) open and fully operational, 24/7. (Without Measure U, the district would likely have to limit new Emergency Department programs and lifesaving advancements such as General Surgeons on-call, Board Certified Emergency Physicians, Stroke Accreditation, Level 4 Trauma Designation and other technology and staffing improvements.)
- ► MAINTAIN access to advanced, rapid-response lifesaving emergency medical services on the mountain.
- ► **CONTINUE** access to up-to-date technologies and treatments for victims of accidents, strokes, and heart attacks.
- **RETAIN** qualified nurses and physicians at Bear Valley Community Hospital.
- ▶ **PROTECT** patient safety and minimize wait times in our hospital ER.

## FACTS: The REPLACEMENT Measure Proposal currently under consideration would:

- ▶ Lower the current tax rate for over 80% of Big Bear Valley property owners. If voters approve the replacement measure as proposed, the cost to local taxpayers would be reduced from \$45 per improved parcel to \$40 per year for 10 years. (The cost for unimproved parcels would increase from \$20 for to \$40 per year for 10 years.) This uniform tax rate is required by state law.
- ▶ **REQUIRE strict accountability and taxpayer protections.** ALL funds stay local, dedicated to Bear Valley Community Hospital. Public spending disclosure, and annual independent financial audits ensure funds are used as promised.

Local voters have approved this measure 4 previous times — in 1994, 2003, 2014, and 2024.