

Measure U FACT SHEET

Background: For more than 50 years, victims of heart attacks, strokes, and other medical emergencies in Baldwin Lake, Fawnskin, Big Bear Lake, Sugarloaf, Big Bear City, and surrounding unincorporated Bear Valley Mountain communities, have relied on the Bear Valley Community Hospital for emergency medical services close to home. Particularly in medical emergencies, Bear Valley Hospital operates the only Emergency Room (ER) on the mountain. In 2024, we recorded 12,414 visits to our Bear Valley Community Hospital Emergency Room (ER).

Our community has continually supported a community assessment for Bear Valley Hospital in the past. In 1994, local voters first approved Measure G, a local parcel tax measure supporting our local ER, Hospital, and emergency medical services with locally controlled funding. Local voters supported two additional 10-year extensions in 2003 and 2014 elections. Funds from all three measures have supported keeping the Hospital's ER fully operational, 24-7, and funding qualified doctors and nurses, advanced medical technology, and related services for more than two decades. The Hospital's local parcel tax funding will expire on June 30, 2025. Without it, difficult decisions lie ahead to ensure local access to quality ER medical services for our mountain community.

Measure U UPDATE: Measure U, was approved by Big Bear Valley voters this past November (2024) with more than 72% support. Now, due to an obscure statute in state law discovered after Election Day, Measure U is out of compliance. In order to continue this funding, the Bear Valley Healthcare District Board of Trustees has voted to bring a Replacement Ballot Measure to Big Bear Valley voters this June 24, 2025. Replacement Measure U asks voters to confirm (before our current funding expires on June 30th) what was already approved last November, while also bringing the Measure U funding authorization into full compliance with state law.

June 2025 Measure U Ballot Question: "Maintaining Local Hospital and Emergency Healthcare Services Parcel Tax Measure. To maintain local access to advanced, life-saving emergency medical care, keep medical technology and equipment up-to-date, and ensure Bear Valley Community Hospital has enough qualified doctors and nurses; shall Bear Valley Community Healthcare District's measure be adopted replacing its expiring parcel tax at a rate of \$40 per parcel, providing \$1.2 million dollars annually for 10 years, with independent audits, no money for administrators, and all funds dedicated to Bear Valley Community Hospital services?"

If approved by voters, REPLACEMENT Measure U would:

- Keep Bear Valley Community Hospital's Emergency Room (ER) 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 emergency medical services on the mountain.
- Continue access to medical technologies and treatments for victims of accidents, strokes, heart attacks, and other healthcare emergencies.
- Retain and help recruit qualified nurses and physicians at Bear Valley Community Hospital.
- Support patient safety and minimize wait times in our hospital ER.

FACTS: The REPLACEMENT Measure U election via a June 2025 ALL-MAIL BALLOT will:

- ❖ **Lower the current tax rate for approximately 82% of Big Bear Valley property owners.** If voters approve Replacement Measure U as proposed, the cost to local taxpayers would be reduced for approximately 82% of local property owners - 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.) A uniform (single rate) 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.
- ❖ **Without the June 2025 Measure U Replacement Measure Bear Valley Community Hospital's budget will need to be cut by \$500,000 a year (\$5 million over 10 years).** Additionally, 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 programs, technology and staffing improvements.

A "YES vote" would support the parcel tax Replacement Measure U proposal; a "NO vote" would reject the proposal. All voters living in the Bear Valley Community Healthcare District who are registered to vote will be eligible to vote on this measure. 66.7% voter approval is required for passage.

FOR MORE INFO: Visit the Hospital's website: bvchd.com. Or contact Ryan Orr via email at: ryan.orr@bvchd.org or phone at (909) 878-8231.