



**PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT No. 1 OF KLICKITAT COUNTY**

**Resolution No. 2013-06**

A resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Public Hospital District No. 1, Klickitat County, Washington (the "District"), expressing the District's strong support for the passage of the ballot proposition proposed by Emergency Medical Services District No. 1, Klickitat County, Washington (the "EMS District"), providing for the submission to the voters of the EMS District #1 at a special election to be held on August 6, 2013, in conjunction with the State primary election, of a proposition authorizing the EMS District #1 to impose a regular property tax levy pursuant to RCW 84.52.069 to provide funds for emergency medical care and emergency medical services, including ambulance services.

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WHEREAS, the District is a duly organized municipal corporation of the state of Washington that owns and operates Klickitat Valley Health (KVH) in Goldendale, Washington, and other health care facilities and services including emergency medical facilities and services; and

WHEREAS, the District and Klickitat County Public Hospital District #2 (Skyline Hospital) have provided emergency medical services, and in particular, **ambulance services**, to the residents of and visitors to Klickitat County for many years; and

WHEREAS, ambulance services provided by the District have been subsidized by revenues from internal sources other than the ambulance service; and

WHEREAS, ambulance services provided by Skyline Hospital have also been subsidized by revenues from internal sources other than the ambulance service and, since 2002, by a voter-approved emergency medical services levy levied annually by Skyline Hospital (the "Skyline EMS Levy"); and

WHEREAS, the Skyline EMS Levy expires at the end of 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, both the District and Skyline Hospital have determined that continued operation of the ambulance service at a financial loss jeopardizes the overall sustainability and critical health care mission of the both Districts; and

**WHEREAS**, both the District and Skyline Hospital have determined that it is no longer financially sustainable to continue to provide the same level of ambulance service as they have historically without additional financial support; and

**WHEREAS**, the District and Skyline Hospital currently provide high level, advanced life support (ALS) ambulance services, 24/7, to Klickitat County residents and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, continuation of current ALS levels of life-saving ambulance services is necessary to assure County residents of safe, professionally staffed, and well-equipped transportation to and between hospitals and other medical facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the District and Skyline Hospital have committed to transfer ambulance operations and assets to Klickitat County EMS District #1 in order to permit operation of the ambulance services under Klickitat County EMS District #1 beginning on or about January 1, 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, Klickitat County Emergency Medical Services District #1, created by the Klickitat County Board of Commissioners, has submitted a regular property tax levy for the purpose of providing sufficient funds to maintain EMS services in the County at current levels; and

**WHEREAS**, voter approval of the Klickitat County EMS District #1 tax levy and subsequent transfer of operations and assets to Klickitat County EMS District #1 on or about January 1, 2014 will release revenues that currently subsidize ambulance services for other necessary health services provided by the District and Skyline Hospital; and

**WHEREAS**, some or all of the costs currently allocated to the ambulance service will be retained and partially reimbursed via the Medicare and Medicaid programs in the District's Critical Access Hospital, Klickitat Valley Hospital; and

**WHEREAS**, the Klickitat County Board of Commissioners has appropriately created EMS District #1 in accordance with RCW 36.32.480(1) and EMS District #1 has proposed a property tax levy in the amount of \$0.30 for each \$1,000 of valuation to provide operating funds for EMS services in accordance with RCW 84.52.069, and

**WHEREAS**, the EMS District adopted a resolution providing for the submission to the voters of the EMS District at a special election to be held on August 6, 2013, in conjunction with the State primary election, of a ballot proposition authorizing the proposed emergency medical services levy; and

**WHEREAS**, the District's Board of Commissioners has determined that the passage of such ballot proposition is in the best interest of the District and would foster the continued availability of high quality ambulance services to the District's residents and other persons served by the District; and

**WHEREAS**, RCW 42.17A.555 provides that the limitation on the use of public facilities to support a ballot proposition does not apply to any action taken at an open public meeting by members of an elected commission of a special purpose district, including a public hospital district, to express a collective decision or to actually vote upon a resolution to support or oppose a ballot proposition, so long as (a) any required notice of the meeting includes the title and number of the ballot proposition, and (b) members of the commission of the special purpose district and members of the public are afforded an approximately equal opportunity for the expression of an opposing view;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT NO. 1, KLICKITAT COUNTY, WASHINGTON, as follows:**

Section 1. The Commission strongly supports the passage of Proposition No. 1, proposed by Emergency Medical Services District No. 1, Klickitat County, authorizing an emergency medical services levy in the amount of 30 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value of property in the District each year for six consecutive years to provide funds for emergency medical care and services, including ambulance services.

Section 2. The Commission urges the voters of the EMS District to participate in the August 6, 2013 primary election in order to meet the validation requirements of RCW 84.52.069, Section (2).

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of Public Hospital District No. 1, Klickitat County, Washington, at an open public meeting thereof this 19th day of June, 2013, the following Commissioners being present and voting in favor of the resolution.

  
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President and Commissioner

  
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Commissioner

  
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Commissioner

  
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Commissioner

  
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Secretary and Commissioner