

## What is in the 2025 Bond, and how much is it for?

If approved by the voters, the proposed 2025 bond will provide funds to build a new hospital in front of the current hospital. The Walker County Hospital District (WCHD) owns land between the current hospital parking lot and I-45 that will allow enough space for the new hospital to be constructed.

The current HMH building will remain in place and continue to be operated by HMH (through an agreement with TDCJ/UTMB) to provide correctional care as needed in a facility to be kept completely separate from the new hospital. The bond does not fund correctional care.

The new hospital facility will feature private medical, surgical, and intensive care rooms; new labor and delivery rooms; and emergency rooms.

The WCHD Board of Managers called for a \$246,000,000 bond referendum to fund this new hospital.

## Why do we need a new hospital? Why not refurbish the existing building?

- Keep pace with the growth of our community
- To separate correctional care
- Provide private patient rooms
- Current facilities plant cannot support expansion
- Cost-prohibitive to meet current codes/standards
- Age of current facility makes it difficult to recruit new physicians to area

## What will happen to the existing building?

The current hospital building would remain adjacent to the new hospital and be used to provide correctional care in a separate and distinct area. ALL CARE for correctional patients—including emergency room, radiology, in-patient, and critical care - will be housed separately in the current building.

## Is there something wrong with the current hospital?

No, the current facility is very busy and at a point where increased capacity in several areas of care is necessary.

## Will this impact my taxes?

- Zero tax implication for non-property owners.
- There will be an increase in Walker County Hospital District property taxes.
- Through rent payment for both facilities, HMH will fund a significant portion of the annual debt service, which will reduce the levied tax increase considerably.
- Taxes for homeowners 65+ will not increase above the current WCHD exemption ceiling.

## How does the tax rate of the Walker County Hospital District compare to other hospital districts?

In 2022, Walker County Hospital District tax rate was \$.1027. The average tax rate of hospital districts in Texas was \$.2263.

In 2022, WCHD taxable value was \$6.16 billion. The average tax rate of all hospital districts in Texas with taxable value from \$5.00–9.99 billion was \$.1549.

## How was the New Hospital 2025 Bond Developed?

Leaders in the community provided input to the WCHD more than a year ago, encouraging them to prepare the new hospital bond package. The bond package derives from the work of a Master Plan developed by architecture consultants on behalf of the WCHD in close coordination with leadership from Huntsville Memorial Hospital (HMH). It is the result of quality input and carefully weighed options.

The hospital master plan and renderings were presented to the WCHD Board of Managers, who unanimously called for a bond election at their meeting on February 10, 2025.

**EARLY VOTING****Monday, April 21- Tuesday, April 29, 2025.****Election Day****Saturday, May 3, 2025.**



## Could the money be used for other medical needs besides the hospital?

It is important for our county population to have a hospital with expanded services that is trusted for great care. Short-term funding would not address this issue.

## Are there additional costs besides taxes that will impact me?

No additional financial burden is expected. In fact, the tax burden will be reduced due to HMM paying rent to the Walker County Hospital District.

The increase in new jobs, increased commerce, improved access to high-quality healthcare (without the need to be burdened with travel costs, parking fees, hotel stays, and traffic congestion) will outweigh any adverse impacts.

## How will the new hospital be better for the community?

Huntsville Memorial Hospital is a very good hospital and has been making huge improvements over the last several years.

Quality and patient satisfaction scores continue to increase and are already surpassing the scores of other hospitals south of us. Under the current administration, the hospital's CMS Score has gone from 1 star to 3 stars, and its national LeapFrog score has risen to a B from D.

The hospital's Google star rating is a 4.0 and continues to increase as well, reflecting the care and service provided to our community every day.

A new hospital will help to recruit other specialty physicians currently not available in Huntsville, as well as additional primary care physicians, and will launch us in the direction of creating a Regional Medical Center for Walker County.

## What new jobs for the community would a new hospital bring?

- Construction jobs during buildout.
- New healthcare and support positions due to increased overall capacity between current facility and new hospital.
- Staff positions in clinics of newly recruited physicians.
- Strengthened growth of area business development due to new hospital.

## When is early voting and election day?

Early voting runs Monday, April 21- Tuesday, April 29, 2025. Polls are closed on Sunday.

Election Day is Saturday, May 3, 2025.

Voters must be registered by Tuesday, April 1 to vote in the WCHD 2025 Bond election.

## Where can I vote?

All early voting will take place at the Walker County Storm Shelter (455 SH 75 North in Huntsville).

Walker County has implemented countywide Election Day polling locations, meaning you may cast your ballot at any polling location within the county, regardless of precinct.

