



# **Voter Information Guide**

## **Bear Valley Community Healthcare District Special Mail Ballot Election**

**Tuesday, June 24, 2025**

The San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters is conducting a special mail ballot election for Bear Valley Community Healthcare District.

Your mail ballot packet includes the following:

- **Your Official Ballot**
- **Election and Voting Information**
- **Information about Measure U**
- **Your Official Postage Paid Return Envelope**

San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters  
777 E. Rialto Avenue, San Bernardino, CA 92415  
**Elections.SBCounty.gov • (909) 387-8300**

## Important Election Dates

Monday, June 9	Voter registration deadline
Tuesday, June 10	Conditional voter registration begins
Tuesday, June 17	Last day to request a Replacement Mail Ballot
Tuesday, June 24	Election Day
Wednesday, June 25	Canvass of the Election begins
Tuesday, July 1	All ballots returned by mail must be postmarked on or before Election Day and received by the Registrar of Voters no later than this day

## Voter Registration

You received this Voter Information Guide because you are a registered voter in Bear Valley Community Healthcare District.

**Submit a Change of Address form** if you move within the County or change your mailing address. To submit an in-county change of address:

- Download the Change of Address form at **[Elections.SBCounty.gov/VoterRegistration/InCountyCOAForms](https://Elections.SBCounty.gov/VoterRegistration/InCountyCOAForms)**
- Return the completed and signed form to the Registrar of Voters office by:
  - Mail: Registrar of Voters, 777 E. Rialto Avenue, San Bernardino, CA 92415
  - Email: [VoterRegistrations@rov.sbcounty.gov](mailto:VoterRegistrations@rov.sbcounty.gov)
  - Fax: (909) 387-2022

**Register or re-register** if you change your address, name, or party preference, or want to update your signature. To register or re-register:

- Online: Visit **[RegisterToVote.ca.gov](https://RegisterToVote.ca.gov)**
- Mail: Request a voter registration application to be mailed to you.  
Call (800) 881-VOTE or (909) 387-8300 or email [VoterRegistrations@rov.sbcounty.gov](mailto:VoterRegistrations@rov.sbcounty.gov)
- In-Person: Pick up a voter registration application at locations throughout the County. Maps of voter registration locations within San Bernardino County are available at: **[Elections.SBCounty.gov/VoterRegistration/Where](https://Elections.SBCounty.gov/VoterRegistration/Where)**

The voter registration deadline for this election is Monday, June 9.

### Missed the June 9 voter registration deadline?



Visit the Registrar of Voters office to fill out a conditional voter registration application and vote a provisional ballot. For more information, visit **[Elections.SBCounty.gov](https://Elections.SBCounty.gov)** or call (800) 881-VOTE or (909) 387-8300.

## Voting Instructions

### Marking your Official Ballot

1. Use only **Blue** or **Black** pen or marker to completely fill in the oval voting target ○ to the left of your choice like this: ● DO NOT USE RED INK.
2. To vote on the measure, completely fill in the oval voting target to the left of the word "YES" or "NO".
3. If you make a mistake or damage your ballot, request a replacement ballot.

## Assistance for Voters with Disabilities

The Registrar of Voters provides a number of services to increase access and encourage participation by voters with disabilities. Contact the Registrar of Voters office at (909) 387-8300 or (800) 881-VOTE for assistance.

The Registrar of Voters office has an accessible path of travel, accessible parking and includes the following resources:

- Accessible ballot marking devices, including audio and large text options
- Assistance by elections staff
- Handheld magnifying glasses
- Signature guide cards
- Wheelchair accessible voting booths

Additionally, you may bring one or two persons to assist you with marking your ballot.

### Website Accessibility

The Registrar of Voters' website provides screen-reader accessible information for voters, including Voter Information Guides and ballots.

### Remote Accessible Vote-by-Mail

Voters may use their computer to access and vote using an accessible ballot. Once selections are marked, voters will print their ballot, place it in an envelope, and return it to the Registrar of Voters office, a mail ballot drop-off location, or by mail. Visit the Registrar of Voters' website at **[Elections.SBCounty.gov/Elections/2025/0624](https://Elections.SBCounty.gov/Elections/2025/0624)**.

# MEASURE U

## IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE U

*This Impartial Analysis of Measure U has been prepared by County Counsel pursuant to Section 9313 of the California Elections Code.*

This Measure was placed on the ballot by a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of the Bear Valley Community Healthcare District (District). A "yes" vote by at least two-thirds of the voters voting on this Measure will authorize the District to levy an annual special tax on each taxable parcel or real property within the District for ten years, beginning July 1, 2025. A "no" vote means that the District will not levy the special tax.

The District's Resolution No. 25-479 was adopted pursuant to Government Code sections 53720-53730.02. The Measure will impose a special tax of \$40.00 per parcel that is levied annually, commencing on July 1, 2025, and it shall continue for ten years. The special tax is estimated to provide \$1.2 million dollars annually to the District. The tax imposed by this Measure shall be a special tax upon all unimproved and improved parcels of real property in the District and will not be measured by the value of the property.

Beginning July 1, 2025, the special tax will be collected by San Bernardino County on behalf of the District at the same time other charges and taxes are collected. The District will create a designated account into which the proceeds of the tax will be deposited. The District Chief Financial Officer shall file with the Board of Directors of the District an annual report accounting for the tax collected and the way it was spent.

TOM BUNTON  
County Counsel  
s/ JOLENA E. GRIDER  
Deputy County Counsel

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE U

*This Argument in Favor of Measure U was submitted pursuant to Section 9315 of the California Elections Code. It is the opinion of the author(s), and has been printed exactly as submitted.*

Last November, Bear Valley voters overwhelmingly supported **Bear Valley Community Hospital** when they decisively approved **Measure U** with 72.15% support. Later, a technicality in state law was discovered, requiring the same tax rate for all parcels, thus making it necessary to return to voters with a "**replacement measure**" that is fully compliant with state law.

**Measure U, the hospital's "replacement measure" on the June ballot, is vital to our mountain community quality of life and absolutely deserves your support.**

**Remember: Bear Valley Community Hospital is the ONLY ER on the mountain for victims of heart attacks, strokes and other emergencies. The next full service hospital is over an hour away**

**This ISN'T a new tax.** Measure U simply asks you to authorize **REPLACING** the hospital's existing parcel tax with a flat, \$40 tax for all parcels.

**Voting yes LOWERS the current tax rate for 82% of Bear Valley property owners.**

**Passage of Replacement Measure U authorizes hospital funding to:**

- Maintain local access to life-saving emergency medical care
- Keep medical technology and equipment up-to-date
- Recruit qualified doctors, nurses and medical specialists to Bear Valley
- Increase access to advanced medical care and treatments

**ALL funds (100%) stay local for Bear Valley Community Hospital. TAXPAYER PROTECTIONS ARE MANDATORY** – including hospital accountability and annual financial audits to ensure proper spending. Bear Valley voters overwhelmingly approved similar funding measures in 1994, 2003, 2014 and 2024.

No one knows when a life-threatening medical emergency will strike. **Measure U** helps ensure that emergency medical care close to home is accessible when you need it most.

Local doctors, nurses, EMTs, firefighters, former patients and Bear Valley residents urge your support.  
**Stand with us. You'll be in good company.**

**VOTE YES to keep our ER open.**

**VOTE YES to LOWER the hospital tax rate for 82% of local property owners.**

**Please! VOTE YES on U for Bear Valley Community Hospital.**

<https://bvchd.com>

s/ Janet Dooley, Homeowner  
s/ James Dooley, Veteran  
s/ Susan Mueller, Educator  
s/ N. Jeanne Gardner, Educator  
s/ Ernest Mueller, Retired

### **REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE U**

***This Rebuttal to Argument in Favor of Measure U was submitted pursuant to Section 9317 of the California Elections Code. It is the opinion of the author(s), and has been printed exactly as submitted.***

Just as we told you, the Hospital District is lying to you.

They claim this is "not a new tax". It's a new tax because the tax they passed last year was illegal.

They don't mention the over \$10 Million they illegally over-taxed Big Bear with the old tax. They refuse to return the over \$10 Million they stole. It's in their bank account.

They claim that the tax last year had a "technicality" requiring a change. **THEY BROKE THE LAW!** The old tax is illegal.

The Illegality of the old tax wasn't "discovered", as they say. The taxpayers SUED them and they lost in Superior Court because the tax is illegal.

I'll tell you the true situation. Since the Hospital District lost the court case on their illegal tax from last year, they are allowed to collect \$20 per parcel across Big Bear. That's the order of the Court. That's the situation right now. But they want to DOUBLE the amount they can tax you. They say that's not a tax increase. **LIARS!**

What does YOUR VOTE mean? If you vote yes, the tax on each parcel in Big Bear Valley will DOUBLE!

If you vote NO, the tax will remain the same and each parcel will be taxed \$20 only.

A Yes Vote DOUBLES the tax. A NO vote keeps the tax at \$20 per parcel.

They stole \$10 Million from Big Bear. Now they want to double the tax because we caught them cheating. Twice!  
**VOTE NO!**

s/ Daniel Gulbranson

### **ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE U**

***This Argument Against Measure U was submitted pursuant to Section 9315 of the California Elections Code. It is the opinion of the author(s), and has been printed exactly as submitted.***

Here We Go Again.

The Hospital District has violated Tax Law for the past 20 years!

They have illegally collected more than \$10 Million Dollars from Big Bear Taxpayers, above the amount allowed by law! They refuse to return the \$10 Million they stole from us.

The Superior Court found that they violated the tax laws in 2 different lawsuits! Now, since the tax they passed last year was illegal, they want to raise our taxes, even more than the illegal tax last year!

They receive tens of millions of dollars from the regular property taxes we pay. Yet they claim that they need this extra, special property tax, in addition to the regular tax money. They are lying! They have a surplus and tens of millions in the bank.

They don't need the extra money. They want more money, because they send tens of millions of dollars to a private corporations in New York City and Tennessee. Our public hospital is managed by private employees of these corporations!

Stop rewarding the lying, cheating and stealing. This is a case for D.O.G.E. How long will Big Bear allow this corruption?

Vote No. Voting No will not end any programs at the hospital. All healthcare will continue without change. Raising our taxes will only make out-of-state corporations richer.

This is a tax increase. They lied last year; and they're lying now. Tell them NO!

The Hospital District does not pay income tax, does not pay property tax. They send our tax dollars out of Big Bear to other states. Of course they say that this tax increase will go to good purposes; that's how they get you to vote for these ridiculous taxes. America is fed up!

Vote No. Stop this corrupt agency from sucking money out of Big Bear.

s/ Daniel Gulbranson

### REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE U

*This Rebuttal to Argument Against Measure U was submitted pursuant to Section 9317 of the California Elections Code. It is the opinion of the author(s), and has been printed exactly as submitted.*

Don't be deceived by this opponent's angry, inaccurate, misleading statements.

**Measure U is absolutely needed and continues to be a sound investment – especially if you care about access to LIFE-SAVING emergency medical care in our mountain community.**

**FACT: Bear Valley Community Hospital is the ONLY ER in Big Bear Valley for victims of heart attacks, strokes and other emergencies. The next full service hospital is nearly an hour away.**

**VOTING YES LOWERS the Hospital's tax rate for 82% of local property owners.**

**Historical FACTS:** Big Bear Valley voters overwhelmingly approved similar hospital measures in 1994, 2003, 2014 and 2024. However, after the November 2024 measure was approved by more than 72%, an angry combatant filed a law suit. Later, the parties **agreed** that current state laws require a uniform tax rate where all property owners gets taxed the same, whether their parcels are "improved" or "unimproved." The Hospital also agreed **not to levy** the tax voters had approved last November. Instead, **Replacement Measure U** now seeks your support to authorize the same (uniform) payment from all property owners required by state law.

**Again, Replacement Measure U LOWERS the hospital tax rate for 82% of local property owners.** Without Measure U, emergency services, ER physicians, the stroke program, and others services could be cut or eliminated.

**Big Bear can easily be cut off from outside help during earthquakes, fires, or other disasters. We NEED a full-service Hospital so LOCAL residents can receive medical care during emergencies like these.**

**Please! Support Bear Valley Community Hospital – VOTE YES on U!**

s/ Catherine Herrick, Business Owner  
s/ Helen Walsh, Community Advocate  
s/ Brian S Biscotti, Chiropractor  
s/ Steve Knapik, Medical Doctor  
s/ Phil Hamilton, Community Advocate

## FULL TEXT FOR MEASURE U

The following is the full proposition presented to the voters by the Bear Valley Community Healthcare District (BVCHD).

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?

### SECTION 1: KEY FACTS

The Bear Valley Community Healthcare District is committed to insuring strong, high-quality healthcare to the Big Bear Valley population and visitors to the Valley.

- The measure presented is a renewal of a parcel tax first approved by voters in 1994. It was subsequently extended by voters in 2003 and 2014.
- Since its inception in 1994, the tax has not been increased.
- The measure generates \$1.2 million that is integral to the hospital operations, community safety, health, and wellness.
- The proposed renewal would assess \$40 per parcel uniformly across the District.
- The funds generated from the measure will be put in a segregated account to be used only for voter-approved purposes and will be subject to an annual report on the receipt and use of the funds that will be available to the public.
- Funds generated from the measure will go towards:
  1. Maintaining access to state-of-the-art medical technologies and equipment, including those used in the treatment of victims of accidents/strokes/heart attacks.
  2. Retaining qualified nurses and physicians at Bear Valley Community Hospital.
- Funds generated from the measure will not go towards administrator salaries.

### SUMMARY

Rural health care facilities experience heightened financial challenges amid persisting workforce shortages, rising costs and leveling reimbursement. (Becker's Hospital Review, March 21, 2024.)

Bear Valley Community Healthcare District, which operates a rural, critical access hospital (one of 37 in California) and in July, celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> year serving the Big Bear Valley Community, is not exception. Revenue from special tax proceeds for the last 31 years have allowed the District to meet the challenges of rising costs for labor and technology, including recruiting and retaining high-quality physicians, specialists, and nurses.

Due to fires, snowstorms, earthquakes and other hazards and natural disasters, the continued operation of BVCHD with a skilled physicians, nurses, and modern equipment and technology, ensures the quality of life and well-being of Big Bear Valley residents. Through continued financial stewardship, the District has allowed for no increase to the parcel tax in its 30-year existence, but it remains a vital financial component of operating critical healthcare services for the community.

## Return Instructions

### How to Vote Your Ballot

1. Read the instructions on the ballot and vote the ballot.
2. Refold the ballot exactly as you received it.
3. Place the ballot in the enclosed Official Return Envelope and seal it.
4. Read the Declaration of Voter on the Official Return Envelope.
5. Sign your name by the red "X" and print the date.

### How to Return Your Ballot

1. Return by mail:
  - No postage required.
  - Ballot must be postmarked on or before Election Day, June 24 and received by the Registrar of Voters office no later than Tuesday, July 1.
2. Drop off at:
  - The Registrar of Voters office
    - Beginning May 27, Monday to Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
    - Election Day, June 24, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
  - Drop-off boxes located below:
    - Registrar of Voters, 777 E. Rialto Avenue, San Bernardino, CA 92415
    - Big Bear Lake Branch Library, 41930 Garstin Drive, Big Bear Lake, CA 92315
    - Big Bear Lake Civic Center, 39707 Big Bear Boulevard, Big Bear Lake, CA 92315
  - Drop-off boxes are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, until 8 p.m. on Election Day.
  - Ballot must be delivered no later than 8 p.m. on Election Day.
  - Visit **Elections.SBCounty.gov/Voting/MailBallotDropOff** for a map of locations.

### How to Obtain a Replacement Ballot

Email to **MailBallots@rov.sbcounty.gov**, or call **(800) 881-VOTE** or **(909) 387-8300**.

### How to Track Your Ballot

Choose from three options to track your mail ballot:

1. Sign up at **WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov** and subscribe to receive automatic updates on the status of your mail ballot via phone, text, or email notification. Track when your ballot is mailed, received, and accepted for counting; or
2. Go to **Elections.SBCounty.gov**, login to My Elections Gateway, and click on **My Mail Ballot Status**; or
3. Go to **VoterStatus.sos.ca.gov**, login, select this election under Voting History, and click on **Show Status**.

### How to Share Your Voting Experience on Social Media

Take a Mail Ballot Selfie with your mail ballot envelope, and share your experience with friends and family through social media by using **#SBCVote2025**, **#SBCountyCounts**, and **#BallotSelfie**.

