



# Save the Hospital

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## *The Citizens to Save the Hospital Committee Withdraws its Initiative to Launch the Campaign for Measure P*

**Mariposa, CA – 23 February 2022** – With Measure P now approved by the John C. Fremont Healthcare District Board of Directors and the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, the Citizens to Save the Hospital Committee formally withdrew its Citizens Initiative by submitting the required notice to the County’s Election Department.

“We were forced to make this change because a proposed statewide proposition threatens to invalidate the Citizens Initiative,” said Suzette Prue, Co-chair of the Committee.

The wording of the Citizens Initiative ordinance does not comply with changes the proposed Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act would make, retroactive to January 2022, to the California Constitution.

“With insufficient time to gather the signatures needed to put a modified version of the Citizens Initiative on the ballot for the June Primary Election, the Committee asked the Healthcare District’s Board of Directors to modify the citizens ordinance to satisfy all the provisions in the proposed proposition,” Prue added.

The District’s version of the ordinance retains all three of the improvements that the Citizens Committee included in its ordinance to address concerns voters had with Measure N by:

- Imposing a “sunset” to terminate the sales tax after 40 years
- Revising the Expenditure Plan to more clearly describe how the funds can be spent
- Adding an Accountability and Transparency section to require more rigorous accounting

“Many people who voted no on Measure N are supporting the effort this time because of the changes we made, so we are pleased the Healthcare District Board agreed to respect the wishes of the more than 1700 residents who signed the petition by keeping all three improvements,” said Committee Co-chair Beth Tomsick.

In addition to satisfying the provisions of the proposed Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act, the modified ordinance includes explicit limitations in the Expenditure Plan, enhances the Accountability and Transparency section, addresses issues involving the California Environment Quality Act (CEQA), and adds a section on Bonding/Long-term Financing to expedite the design phase of the project.

The Citizens to Save the Hospital committee will continue to lead the campaign for the passage of the modified ordinance that is now, as the Citizens Committee originally planned, on the ballot as Measure P for the upcoming June 2022 Primary Election.

“We are grateful for the hard and thoughtful work the Citizens Committee has done and will continue to do to ensure that our community can have a local hospital, with its life-saving emergency medical care, for generations to come,” said Matthew Matthiessen, Chief Executive Officer of the John C. Fremont Healthcare District.

To get more information, volunteer to help or make a campaign contribution, please visit [www.SaveTheHospital.org](http://www.SaveTheHospital.org). Residents can also follow the campaign via the Citizens so Save the Hospital page on Facebook, and @SaveJCFHospital on Twitter and Instagram.

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Editor’s Note: For background, here is a link to the proposed Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act: <https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/initiatives/pdfs/21-0042A1%20%28Taxes%29.pdf>. See Section 6 for the provisions that pertain to local tax initiatives like Measure P.