Boundary Community Hospital Announces Two-Year Special Hospital Tax Levy for November Ballot

Proposed levy would provide $1.5 million annually for two years to support emergency services, hospital infrastructure, and continued access to local care

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Rural hospitals across the United States continue to face significant financial and operational challenges. Rural healthcare providers often serve smaller populations while maintaining essential services that must remain available regardless of patient volume. They also face challenges related to workforce recruitment and retention, increasing costs for supplies, medications, equipment and utilities, geographic barriers, and the high proportion of patients covered by public insurance programs.

According to the American Hospital Association, 48% of rural hospitals operated at a financial loss in 2023. The organization has also reported that more than 100 rural hospitals have closed or converted to other types of healthcare providers over the past decade. These circumstances reflect broader financial pressures affecting rural healthcare nationwide, although the financial condition and circumstances of individual hospitals vary.

Boundary Community Hospital (BCH) is experiencing many of the same financial pressures affecting rural hospitals across the country.

Boundary Community Hospital provides local healthcare services to Boundary County and the surrounding region, including 24/7 emergency care, diagnostic imaging, laboratory services, rehabilitation, surgery, infusion services, cardiopulmonary care, transitional care, and primary and specialty care through Boundary Community Clinics.

Approximately 80% of BCH patients are covered by Medicare, Medicaid, or TRICARE, programs whose reimbursement may not cover the full cost of providing care. At the same time, the cost of prescription drugs, medical supplies, specialized equipment, utilities, and skilled healthcare personnel continues to rise. BCH reported an operating loss of about $1 million in 2025.

The hospital's 2026 operating budget is about $25.9 million, with an average daily operating cost of nearly $72,000. Boundary County currently provides approximately $370,000 annually to BCH, enough to cover roughly five days of hospital operations.

What is being proposed?

The proposed Special Hospital Tax Levy would collect $1.5 million per year for two years (2027 and 2028), for a total of $3 million. The levy is temporary and would end after 2028.

If approved, levy funding would be divided into two primary areas:

- $750,000 annually for Emergency Department technology, equipment, and personnel.
- $750,000 annually for hospital infrastructure, essential utilities, personnel, and physical improvements.

The estimated annual cost is approximately $58 for every $100,000 of taxable assessed property value.

The levy is one part of BCH's expanded effort to address the financial strain facing rural healthcare while continuing essential services locally. The hospital continues to pursue operational efficiencies, appropriate reimbursement, grants, and other available funding sources.

"Our responsibility is to make sure Boundary County residents understand both the financial realities facing their hospital and exactly what this proposal would fund. This is a community decision, and we want voters to have clear, factual information so they can make an informed choice." - Bryce Cordle, CNO, Boundary Community Hospital

Qualified Boundary County electors will vote on the proposal during the Tuesday, November 3, 2026 General Election. The measure requires a simple majority for approval.

BCH will provide additional information about the proposal, including FAQs, financial information, proposed uses of levy funds, and opportunities for community members to ask questions before Election Day.

The hospital's role is to provide the facts. Boundary County voters make the decision.

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