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Alliance Pledges to Work with Medical Professionals

The Alliance to Save Our Hospital today announced results of a poll of registered voters in the Marin Healthcare District and pledged to work with medical professionals in Marin County to assure the future healthcare of community residents.

Gladys Gilliland, spokesperson for the Alliance, reported that survey results together with the lack of interest from any outside hospital management organization means the options for keeping Marin General functioning are extremely limited.

Gilliland said, "When asked if they would support a bond issue costing \$30 per \$100,000 of assessed value, which would enable the district to finance the cost of modernizing the facility to meet earthquake safety standards, only 45 percent of the voters surveyed said YES, 40 percent said NO and the rest were undecided. A two-thirds majority is needed to approve a bond issue.

"Thus, the idea of Marin General becoming an independent, locally controlled hospital that offers a full range of services is a non-starter. People won't pay for it. We must look at other options," Gilliland noted.

"Similarly, the recent rejection of interest in becoming involved in working with the District by Catholic Healthcare West and similar rejections from other professional operators make it clear that that option is extremely problematic."

"Therefore, the Alliance has concluded that the best option is to work with medical professionals at Marin General and support their efforts to structure a new alternative that does not involve the district," Gilliland concluded.

Other results of the survey were:

- 80 percent rated attracting a first-rate medical staff for Marin General very important.
- Similarly, 86 percent said the opinion of their doctor or other medical people would be very important in deciding what to do about the future of Marin General.
- 66 percent said the bickering at meetings of the District Board demonstrates that the board cannot and should not attempt to run the hospital itself, that it is better to have an independent, professional healthcare management team in charge.
- 65 percent said that, if selling the hospital to a private, non-profit operator were the only viable option to keep the hospital from closing, they would vote for it.

A random sample of 400 Healthcare District voters were polled between July 17 and July 23 by SA|Opinion Research, a division of Solem & Associates. The survey has a margin of error of plus or minus five percentage points.

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