



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: If the tax renewal passes, will I be paying more taxes?

A: No. You won't be paying more. This special election is to **renew** the hospital's *existing* sales tax that has been in place for the last 10 years. This is not a new tax.

The hospital sales tax renewal is an important investment in the health and well-being of our community. With your vote FOR this renewal, you help ensure that everyone in our community has access to high-quality healthcare services, regardless of their ability to pay.

While no one wants to talk about taxes, a sales tax is an "equal opportunity" tax, meaning that every consumer pays the same tax, even visitors from outside the county; unlike property taxes or a millage, which can disproportionately affect property owners.

Q: How does the hospital impact the health of our community?

A: The hospital is an important resource for our entire community. Everyone benefits from having a strong, well-funded hospital that can provide high-quality care to those who need it most. You never know when you or a loved one may need to use the hospital's services, and with your vote FOR this renewal, you help ensure those services are available when you, or someone you love, needs them.

We are extremely fortunate in Lawrence County to have our own critical access hospital. Right now, 21 of the state's 75 counties in Arkansas do not have a hospital at all (almost 30%). That list of counties with no hospital includes our neighbor Sharp County.

Q: How will this tax renewal make a difference?

A: The hospital sales tax renewal is a critical requirement to support our community's healthcare infrastructure. Two things that are unique about this sales tax:

- 1) It is a renewal of an existing tax – it is not new, just a continuation of what is already in place
- 2) It is earmarked, by law, for *only* the hospital

The tax generates an estimated \$2.5 million that enables Lawrence Memorial Hospital to continue to keep its doors open. With your vote FOR renewal, you are helping to ensure that *everyone* in our community has access to high-quality healthcare services and facilities. With your vote FOR the renewal, we can continue to make a real difference in the lives of those who need it most and we can keep our hospital.

Lawrence Memorial has a 24-hour Emergency Department that had **6,193 emergency department visits last year**. That's an average of 17 patients a day, 119 patients a week who don't have to drive or get medically transported to the next county for events like a heart attack or stroke. That means lives saved.

Q: How do I know the tax revenue will be effectively managed?

A: There are local oversight and accountability measures in place to ensure that the tax revenue is being used effectively and efficiently. With your vote FOR this renewal, you support a clear, well-defined plan to keep and improve healthcare in our community, and to keep our hospital thriving.

The sales tax revenue is specifically earmarked for the hospital and is used to fund critical healthcare services and facilities, such as emergency care, inpatient care, primary care, pediatric care, cardiology, stroke care, wound care, radiology services including MRI, mammography, CT, bone density and ultrasound, physical, occupational and speech therapy, mental health services, and specialty injections and infusions. Since 2020, the hospital has purchased new medical equipment including a new MRI, CT, ultrasound, bone density scanner, inpatient beds, and lab equipment. The revenue will also allow the hospital to expand current services and potentially begin new services for our community.

The board of community volunteers from Lawrence County provides budget oversight and has accountability measures in place to ensure that the sales tax revenue is being used effectively and efficiently.

Q: Why should the sales tax renewal be prioritized?

A: The hospital sales tax is a critical requirement in the infrastructure that supports the health and well-being of our community. By voting FOR this sales tax renewal on Aug. 8, you are helping to ensure that everyone in our community has access to high-quality healthcare services, regardless of their ability to pay. Without the renewal, our hospital will not be able to operate in the same way you see it today, or worse, our county could face the closure of the hospital.

Q: Why does the hospital rely on the 1-cent sales tax?

A: While the hospital is always exploring other funding options such as grants or partnerships, these options do not provide the sustainable, long-term funding that is needed to support a rural critical access hospital, nor will grants address the critical healthcare needs in our community. Last year, Lawrence Memorial Hospital provided \$230,000 in uncompensated charity care.

By voting FOR the hospital sales tax renewal, we can ensure that Lawrence Memorial Hospital has the stable, predictable funding it needs to keep the doors open and provide high-quality care to everyone in our community.

Q: How does the sales tax benefit small businesses in our community?

A: The hospital sales tax renewal is a critical investment in our community's health and well-being. By voting FOR this renewal on Aug. 8, we ensure that everyone in our community has access to the high-quality healthcare services and facilities they need.

- Additionally, the hospital is the third largest employer in our community, supporting **260 direct jobs**. Lawrence Hall contributes another 135 jobs.
- The hospital's impact on the county's economy through payroll, non-salary and capital spending is **\$54 million annually**.

If you have any questions about the sales tax or the hospital, please contact Josh Conlee, Lawrence Memorial Hospital president at 870-886-1266

Vote FOR the hospital sales tax renewal on August 8. Early voting begins August 1. Thank you.