



Why Marion County Taxpayers Still Pay Hospital District Taxes



Historical Background

- **1969:** Voters approved bonds to open the Marion County Hospital (MCH).
- **1988:** Due to operational challenges, MCH closed. To comply with state law and manage remaining debt, the **Marion County Hospital District (MCHD)** was created under Texas Constitution Article IX and Special District Local Laws Code Chapter 1055.



Financial Obligations & Indigent Care

- **Bond Debt:** MCHD paid off the hospital bonds by **1993**.
- **Indigent Health Care:** MCHD continues to serve **qualified indigent residents** of Marion County, as required by the **Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 61**.
- **Funding:** MCHD receives **no state or federal funding** and cannot apply for grants. It is funded **solely through property taxes** collected by the Marion County Tax Assessor.



Why Taxes Continue

- Although the hospital is closed, the district:
- Provides **state-mandated health care** for indigent residents.
- Operates more **cost-effectively** than a county-run program.
- Prevents the need for **higher county taxes** that would result from shifting indigent care to the county.



Dissolution Process

- Residents can petition to dissolve MCHD:
- Requires signatures from **15% of registered voters**.
- If passed by vote, indigent care becomes a **county responsibility**, costs will increase.



Public Engagement

- **Monthly Board Meetings:** Held on the **second Thursday at 6:00 PM** at 1113 N. Walcott St., Suite B, Jefferson, TX.
- **Open to the public:** Agendas posted at the courthouse and online.

