

John Gioia (say "Joya")

Supervisor, District I
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Board of Supervisors

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STATEMENT REGARDING DOCTORS MEDICAL CENTER
Supervisor John Gioia
District One

Doctors Medical Center and its emergency room are an important part of the healthcare system here in West County. That's why I advocated for Contra Costa County to step in to help save Doctors Hospital when it filed for bankruptcy in 2006.

Since 2007, a unique partnership between Contra Costa County and the West Contra Costa Healthcare District has brought in over \$70 million in funding from federal, state, county and other hospitals; and has resulted in cutting the hospital's losses from \$36 million per year in 2006 to about \$18 million today.

Working with the community we successfully passed a parcel tax in 2011, receiving 74% voter support, and bringing in about \$5 million per year in additional revenues.

Despite these substantial efforts and with the recent loss of a parcel tax measure that would have brought in about \$20 million per year, Doctors Hospital now faces imminent closure again.

Alameda County has a dedicated sales tax for healthcare. Something we do not have here in Contra Costa. In an effort to find a long-term solution, I am working with Supervisor Karen Mitchoff to bring a proposal to the Board of Supervisors on June 3rd to explore the County's ability to place a sales tax measure on this November's ballot to raise new revenue to support health, public safety and other vital programs. This new revenue will help support Doctors Hospital. It would require a majority vote to pass.

On June 3rd, the Board of Supervisors will consider whether to conduct a poll to measure support for a sales tax measure. However, several cities in Contra Costa are already at the maximum sales tax rate and we need state legislation to raise the sales tax cap.

I am working with Assemblymember Nancy Skinner, who has agreed to work with us to get immediate legislation to raise the sales tax cap in our county to allow this tax measure to be placed on the November 2014 ballot.

I've also had conversations exploring options with California Secretary of Health and Human Services Director Diana Dooley, Congressman George Miller, State Senators Loni Hancock and Mark DeSaulnier, and Assemblymember Nancy Skinner. County Health Director Bill Walker is in contact with the leadership of other local hospitals.

I appreciate the efforts of the community and the hospital's employees to keep the hospital open. I look forward to continue working with the community to pass a countywide sales tax measure to bring badly needed new revenue to support Doctors Hospital and other vital programs in our County.

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