

FAQ

PULLMAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL
THE NEXT ERA OF EXCELLENCE

What is the status of the current hospital bond?

In 2004, we opened a new state-of-the-art hospital funded by an \$8.2 million bond, philanthropy, and bank financing. Since voters passed the 2001 bond for the new hospital, we have worked to be excellent stewards of our public district hospital, including refinancing the original bonds in 2011 – a district taxpayer savings of more than \$400,000 over the life of the bond. This bond will be paid off in 2021.

What has the current Era of Excellence provided the community?

Over the last five years, Pullman Regional Hospital has invested approximately \$12 million in plant, facilities maintenance, and equipment and has used hospital reserves and philanthropic gifts to add a fourth operating room and build the new Same Day Services addition to keep up with the growing demand for outpatient care.

What new services will be provided through the Next Era of Excellence?

The Next Era of Excellence includes a proposed addition to the hospital to co-locate and better coordinate services and team-based care. Space is needed to create this improved patient experience.

- Potential medical specialties to increase access include Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Cardiology, Gastroenterology, Psychiatry, General Surgery, OB/GYN, Ophthalmology, Otolaryngology, Allergy, Dermatology, Physical Medicine, Rheumatology, Endocrinology, Nephrology.

- Confirmed practices ready to move to new space include Palouse Pediatrics, Pullman OB/GYN, Behavioral Health and Palouse Pulmonary & Sleep Medicine).

- New services: family medicine residency program, care coordination and telehealth, Center for Women's & Children's Health, including diagnostics, adult day health, drop-off childcare

Also included as part of the Next Era of Excellence is an upgraded, state-of-the-art, information technology system that is an essential infrastructure to develop a seamless community-wide electronic patient medical record.

What is an electronic medical record and what does it mean to me?

An electronic medical record contains your health information and history. Hospitals and physician offices use different software systems or paper records that do not "talk to each other." As such, most times patients must fill out a form when they visit a new provider. A universal community-wide electronic medical record will serve as a central repository for patient medical records. Physician offices and hospitals in the community would be connected to this repository.

When will the bond proposal be on the ballot?

The measure will be on the ballot for a vote on November 5, 2019.

What are the boundaries of the hospital district?

The boundaries are the city of Pullman. Those residing in Pullman city limits will be eligible to vote on the bond levy.

How much will the Next Era of Excellence cost and how will it be funded?

The total project cost is estimated to be \$40 million. We plan to fund this through a \$29 million bond levy and \$11 million through the Foundation and the hospital.

What is the expected levy rate?

Based on the average assessed value of a home in Pullman of \$250,000, in 2019 a homeowner will pay taxes of \$83.00 per year (\$6.92/month) for the original hospital bond from 2001. If the proposed new bond passes, the same homeowner will pay hospital taxes of \$250 per year (\$20.83/month) beginning in 2020. This is an increase in hospital bond taxes of \$167 per year (\$13.92/month). Note: Pullman homeowners are currently paying an M&O levy tax for Pullman Regional Hospital which will continue once the 2001 bond is retired.

When would the project be complete?

If funding is approved and philanthropic support from the community is attained, the plan is to break ground on the addition in 2021 and expect to be complete in 2022.

What are the plans to bring needed specialty medicine to Pullman Regional Hospital, such as oncology?

We continue to work collaboratively with other rural hospitals in the region to financially support expensive specialty care. We have been actively working with Gritman Medical Center and Whitman Hospital and Medical Center to bring oncology services to the region. This fall, a new oncologist will be starting at Palouse Oncology in Moscow, and a new full-time neurologist will be starting practice with Palouse Neurology. Both of these practices are shared services of the three hospitals. Additionally, the three hospitals support Palouse Surgeons, Palouse Urology and Palouse ENT/Audiology. We will continue to work together to bring other needed specialists to the area to serve our community in a cost effective manner.

Why are only Pullman residents being asked to fund the proposed bond?

As a public district, non-profit hospital, our current district boundaries are Pullman city limits. Changes to this would require a community wide effort to redistrict the voting area. Meanwhile, the Pullman Regional Hospital Foundation actively solicits private donations from residents outside the hospital district to support their community hospital.

How will parking be impacted?

As the hospital continues to grow and see more patients, the challenges of parking grow. Here are facts on our parking situation and things we are considering as we plan for possible expansion.

- Currently, the hospital campus has 527 parking stalls and 25 of those stalls are designated as accessible.
- With the possibility of an addition, we will need a total of 582 stalls, or a minimum of 55 more stalls, with 12 of those designated as accessible. Our current 25 accessible stalls exceed the code minimum of 2 percent.
- This past spring, we reorganized staff and physician parking which freed up many lots next to Sid's Pharmacy and Palouse Medical.
- We have options for building the additional 55 spaces needed but they do not include a parking structure which is cost prohibitive. We may create more than 55 spaces but it is clear that we've already added more patient parking through the recent reorganization of staff and physician parking.
- Options we are considering that would help with the parking situation and possible expansion are valet service and shuttle service.

What is the hospital structure?

Pullman Regional Hospital is a public hospital district governed by a seven-member Board of Commissioners, all elected officials. As a non-profit, critical access hospital, we do not get paid 100 percent of the cost of providing our services. Our margin earned after expenses are paid is reinvested in to the hospital and medical services.

Remember to vote on November 5th.

For more information, visit pullmanregional.org/next-era

