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Maple Crest Care Centre Referendum Question Frequently Asked Questions

This November, Boone County residents will be asked to vote on whether or not the County Board can pursue selling Maple Crest Care Centre (Maple Crest). To address common questions related to the question, we've compiled a list of FAQ's.

What is Maple Crest Care Centre?

Maple Crest is an 86 bed nursing home facility located at 4452 Squaw Prairie Rd in Belvidere, Illinois. The existing facility was constructed after a Countywide referendum held on January 7, 1969. The referendum allowed the County to issue nearly \$1M of construction bonds and levy a tax for future debt service payments. The new facility opened in February 1971.

Does Boone County own and operate Maple Crest Care Centre?

Yes and no. In 1999, due to ever-increasing financial and operational difficulties associated with operating a nursing home facility, the Boone County Board voted to outsource the operations of Maple Crest by leasing the facility to a private organization. Currently, Maple Crest is operated by Symphony Care Network, a post-acute care provider with 29 locations throughout the Midwest. Although the operation of Maple Crest is outsourced, the County retains ownership of the facility and grounds.

What level of care does Maple Crest Care Centre provide to its residents?

Maple Crest is rated as a five-star facility (the highest rating) by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The star rating system gives each facility a rating between 1 and 5 stars and includes an analysis of health inspections, staffing, and quality of resident care measures.

What would approval of the referendum mean for the future of Maple Crest Care Centre?

Passage of the ballot question would provide the County Board with the option to pursue selling Maple Crest in such a manner and upon such terms as it deems best for the interest of the County. The process for selling/disposing of a County Home is set-out in the Illinois Counties Code (55 ILCS 5/5-21001). If the home was erected after referendum approval, like Maple Crest was, a referendum is required to sell it. Without approval of the ballot question, the County Board does not have the option to explore selling Maple Crest to a private operator. If, after the passage of the ballot question, the County Board did decide to move forward with selling Maple Crest, the sale would go through the normal public County Board approval process.

What are other Illinois counties doing with their County-owned nursing home facilities?

County-owned nursing home facilities are becoming increasingly rare in Illinois. Some, such as Winnebago County, continue to own and operate a nursing home facility. Others, such as Rock Island County and Champaign County, most recently, have sold their nursing home facilities to private operators.

Additional Questions?

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