

Marion County Hospital District

P.O. Box 717 ♦ Jefferson, TX. 75657
Phone 903-665-2161 ♦ Fax 903-665-8011
Email marioncohd@sbcglobal.net

The Reason Property Owners of Jefferson, Marion County, Texas Pay Hospital District Taxes When There Is NO Hospital

1. Marion County Hospital was opened in 1969 with bonds created with voter approval. At that time the hospital became a "Mandated Hospital for Indigent Healthcare in Marion County." The Hospital closed December 1, 1988, however the Hospital District was still responsible for outstanding bonds.
2. The responsibility of Indigent Healthcare remained the Marion County Hospital District's responsibility until the bonds were paid in 1993. Due to this fact, the Indigent Health Care Office was opened to continue medical assistance for the Indigent residents of Marion County, Texas.
3. Once the bonds were paid, the Marion County Hospital District's Indigent Healthcare Program *could* have been assumed by Marion County and administered as a County program with State mandated benefits. However, to dissolve the Marion County Hospital District's Indigent Healthcare Program, the District's elected board of seven (7) directors could only order an election if the Board received a petition requesting an election for dissolution that is signed by a number of residents of the District equal to at least fifteen (15%) of the registered voters in the District.
4. If a majority of the votes in the election favor dissolution, the Board shall find the District is dissolved. If a majority of the votes in the election do not favor dissolution, the Board shall continue to administer the District, and another election on the question of dissolution may not be held before the first anniversary of the most recent election to dissolve the District.
5. With a dissolution of the Hospital District Indigent Healthcare Program by election of the voters, the Program would then be the responsibility of Marion County. This would require a full time staff of at least three-five (3-5) employees with full benefits. The qualifying Indigent residents of the County would be eligible to receive the state mandated thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00 paid at Medicaid rates) or thirty (30) days of medical benefits per year. The funding for a County administered Indigent Healthcare Program would substantially increase the tax burden on Marion County property owners and tax payers.
6. The Hospital District's Indigent Healthcare Program's qualifying Indigent residents are currently eligible to receive up to seven thousand (\$7000.00) of medical benefits (at Medicaid rates) per fiscal year. The Marion County Hospital District Indigent Healthcare Program now employs a staff of three (3), part time with office hours 8:00 a.m. until 12 noon, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. The Hospital District does not provide medical nor retirement benefits to the staff.
7. The District is governed by the elected Board of Directors who have the authority to provide the basic healthcare, plus any additional benefits they approve which the District can afford to provide. This Program does not receive funding from local, State or Federal government programs and due to its origin, cannot apply nor receive grants. It is funded *only* by the property tax payers of Marion County.
8. This Program has been operational since 1988. The Program has provided medical assistance to an average of one hundred (100) patients/residents per year and accomplished this with a budget of approximately one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000.00) per fiscal year.
9. When Marion Central Appraisal District is paid for appraisal services and the Marion County Tax Assessor/Collector's office is paid for collection of taxes for the Hospital District; the balance of tax revenue provides the only funding to the Indigent Healthcare Program.