



SMITHVILLE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY NEWS

August 28, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VOTE ON SEPT. 13 AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Residents of Bastrop, Fayette and Lee counties are urged to participate in early voting for the Sept. 13 constitutional amendment election, or go to the polls on Election Day. Early voting begins Aug. 27 and continues through Sept. 9.

“By voting in the Sept. 13 election, Texans have the power to change the state’s Constitution,” said Dennis Jack, Smithville Regional Hospital CEO. “I encourage all citizens to learn about the issues and cast your vote during the early voting period.”

While no candidates are on the ballot for the Sept. 13 election, there are 22 proposed Amendments to the Texas Constitution. One of the proposed amendments, Proposition 12, will have a far-reaching impact on health care providers. Proposition 12 would amend the Constitution to authorize the Texas Legislature to establish caps on noneconomic damages in health care and other civil lawsuits.

Passage of this amendment supports the health care lawsuit abuse reform measures approved by the Legislature in May, and will have the effect of producing an immediate reduction in professional liability insurance premiums.

“As you know, reducing premiums is critical to preserving patient access to health care services, particularly physicians,” said Jack. “I urge everyone to vote ‘YES’ on Proposition 12!”

To view a sample ballot listing all 22 proposed constitutional amendments, visit the Texas Secretary of State’s Web site at <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/whatisontheballot.shtml>.

List of early voting locations in your area:

Smithville City Hall
317 Main Street
Smithville, Texas 78957

Early voting: September 6th from 9 am – 3 pm

Bastrop Old Historic Jail – Conference Room
801 Pine
Bastrop, Texas 78602

Early voting: August 28th & 29th from 8 am – 5 pm
Closed August 30th, 31st, Sept. 1st (Labor Day Weekend)
September 2nd – 5th from 8 am – 5 pm
September 6th from 9 am – 3 pm
September 8th – 9th from 8 am – 5 pm

Cedar Creek Justice of the Peace #3 Building
111 Pearce Lane
Cedar Creek, Texas

Early voting: September 6th from 9 am – 3 pm

Elgin County Annex Building
704 Hwy 290
Elgin, Texas

Early voting: September 6th from 9 am – 3 pm

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
MARKETING DEPARTMENT
SMITHVILLE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY
512-360-2121**