



**SAN CLEMENTE HOSPITAL ISSUES SURVEY**  
**320-957**

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

1. To begin, overall how would you rate the quality of life in the City of San Clemente? Is it excellent, pretty good, only fair or poor?
2. Generally speaking, how would you rate the quality of health care available today in your area of San Clemente? Is it excellent, pretty good, only fair, or poor?
3. As far as you know, is there a hospital that is open in the City of San Clemente?
4. Next, do you feel that the closest **(SPLIT SAMPLE A: “emergency room”)(SPLIT SAMPLE B: “hospital”)** to your home is much too far away, a little too far away, or not too far away?
5. Have you heard, read, or seen anything recently about the City’s search for a new healthcare provider to run a local hospital in San Clemente?

**(IF Q5= “YES”)**

- 5a. Have you heard, read, or seen a lot about it, some, or just a little?
6. Generally speaking, do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose creating a new hospital in San Clemente?
7. As you may know, the Saddleback Memorial Medical Center on Camino de los Mares in San Clemente closed in 2016 and there are currently no hospitals or emergency rooms open in the city of San Clemente. The City has explored many options for attracting a healthcare provider to take over the former Saddleback Memorial Medical Center. All of the experts who have analyzed the building have said that it would take approximately \$200 million to either rebuild the closed hospital, or to knock it down and build a new one that meets the city’s current needs and hospital standards, or to build a new hospital at a different location.

Knowing this, would you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the City of San Clemente using public funds to pay for the construction of a local hospital in the city?

**(SPLIT SAMPLE C ONLY)**

8. a. Next would you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the following option for creating a new hospital in San Clemente: The City purchasing the old Saddleback Memorial Hospital on Camino de las Mares, demolishing it, building a new hospital, and finding a healthcare provider to run it?

**(SPLIT SAMPLE D ONLY)**

b. Next would you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the following option for creating a new hospital in San Clemente: The City building a new hospital on vacant land it owns north of the Target store at Avenida Vista Hermosa near the Talega neighborhood, and finding a healthcare provider to run it?

9. If the City moves forward with a plan to construct a new hospital in San Clemente, there may be a measure on the ballot to secure some funding for this purpose. The potential ballot measure may read as follows:

**San Clemente Hospital/Public Health Measure**

To improve local access to emergency and inpatient/outpatient medical care, natural disaster/public health emergency preparedness, recruit/retain physicians/nurses, by building a new hospital in San Clemente meeting seismic safety standards, shall the measure authorizing \$204,000,000 in bonds at legal rates, funded by levying 3¢ per \$100 of assessed valuation, providing \$10,100,000 annually for 30 years, requiring independent audits, oversight, all funds for a San Clemente hospital only, be adopted?

Based on the description, would you vote yes in favor of this measure or no to oppose it?

- Definitely yes
- Probably yes
- Undecided, Lean Yes
- Undecided, Lean No
- Probably no
- Definitely no

10. Now, thinking more about the proposal for a new hospital in San Clemente, here is a list of individual features, provisions and outcomes from this proposal. Regardless of whether or not you support the proposal for a hospital or the ballot measure you considered earlier, as you read each feature, provision and outcome, please indicate how important it is to you personally. Is it extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not too important? (**RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ITEMS**)

- [ ]a. Providing a local emergency room to handle most local highway traffic and beach accidents

**(SPLIT SAMPLE A ONLY)**

- [ ]b. Improving preparedness for public health emergencies that could arise from the storage of spent nuclear fuel just south of San Clemente in San Onofre

**(SPLIT SAMPLE B ONLY)**

- [ ]c. Improving preparedness for public health emergencies

**(SPLIT SAMPLE C ONLY – OLD HOSPITAL)**

- [ ]d. Safely demolishing the closed hospital and removing asbestos, lead paint and mold
- [ ]e. Opening a hospital near existing medical offices and pharmacies
- [ ]f. Opening a hospital in an area that is already developed, avoiding new construction in open space areas
- [ ]g. Locating the hospital near an off ramp of the I-5 freeway

**(SPLIT SAMPLE D ONLY - TALEGA)**

- [ ]h. Building a hospital on vacant land owned by the City
- [ ]i. Protecting natural habitats and recreation areas in the development of the hospital
- [ ]j. Locating the new hospital near new housing developments to ensure more people have easy access to the hospital
- [ ]k. Locating the new hospital to the north of the Target store at Avenida Vista Hermosa

11. Next, you will be reading some statements that could be made by potential supporters and opponents of the proposed ballot measure you read about earlier to **(SPLIT SAMPLE C – OLD HOSPITAL: “replace the existing Saddleback Hospital building with a new, up-to-date hospital”)** **(SPLIT SAMPLE D - TALEGA: “build a new hospital in the Talega area of San Clemente”)**.

First, here are some statements from supporters of the measure. After reading each statement, please indicate if it makes you much more inclined to vote yes on the measure, somewhat more inclined, or less inclined to vote yes. If you do not believe the statement, or if it has no effect on your thinking one way or the other, please indicate that instead. **(RANDOMIZE ORDER OF STATEMENTS)**

- [ ]a. Studies have shown an increase in patients dying in a local community when their emergency room shuts down. Seconds count in an emergency, but currently, paramedics have to take San Clemente residents 20 to 40 minutes away to reach an emergency room. This measure would ensure that, rapid response, life-saving, quality medical treatment for victims of heart attacks, strokes and other emergencies is available much more quickly in our own community.
- [ ]b. This measure contains strict accountability provisions by requiring annual independent financial audits, public disclosure of all spending, local oversight, and ensures that all funds are used only for the purpose of building and equipping a new hospital in San Clemente and cannot be used for other purposes or taken by the County or by Sacramento.

**(SPLIT SAMPLE A ONLY)**

- [ ]c. This bond measure will improve the quality of health care services in San Clemente by providing easier and greater access to specialists, attracting and retaining top quality doctors and nurses, and keeping up with advances in medical technology for emergency, cardiac, cancer, and stroke care, among other critical services.

**(SPLIT SAMPLE B ONLY)**

- [ ]d. In the event of an earthquake or other natural disaster, we need a modern, local hospital that is up to current seismic standards that will protect the safety of patients, doctors, nurses and other staff, can care for emergency room patients and serve as a local command center.

**(ASK SPLIT SAMPLE C ONLY – OLD HOSPITAL)**

- [ ]e. The City has done extensive research on the options for a hospital, including asking healthcare providers to bid on running the old site and touring the site several times with those groups. All of the hospital industry experts who visited the site agreed that the existing hospital building is so outdated, it would cost at least as much to repair and restore it, and upgrade it to current earthquake safety standards, as it would to build a new hospital.

**(ASK SPLIT SAMPLE C ONLY – OLD HOSPITAL)**

- [ ]f. Something needs to be done with the old Saddleback Hospital building that has been closed down for more than five years. This location is too important to be left as a vacant, run-down hospital. This plan will replace an eyesore, abandoned building with an up-to-date hospital to serve our community.

**(ASK SPLIT SAMPLE C ONLY – OLD HOSPITAL)**

- [ ]g. Upgrading and reopening Saddleback Hospital makes sense because many of the existing doctor’s offices and specialty pharmacies in town are located near it, as are several senior living communities. Our city needs a hospital and the best place to put it is where there has been a hospital in San Clemente since 1971.

**(ASK SPLIT SAMPLE D ONLY - TALEGA)**

[ ]h. This Saddleback Hospital building has been closed down for more than five years and is now just a vacant, run-down, unsafe building with asbestos problems that doesn't meet earthquake safety standards. This measure gives us a fresh start on the kind of hospital that our community needs.

**(ASK SPLIT SAMPLE D ONLY - TALEGA)**

[ ]i. This measure will fund the plan to build a hospital on vacant land in an area that is easily reached by residents all over San Clemente and is close to a fire station and the police station at City Hall. It gives all residents better access to rapid-response, emergency, life-saving medical care within a few minutes of their home.

**(ASK SPLIT SAMPLE D ONLY - TALEGA)**

[ ]j. Building a new hospital in this area will also create a new location from which ambulances can be dispatched. In times of critical medical emergencies, having better ambulance service coverage throughout the city will improve ambulance response times and help save lives.

12. Now that you have read more, here again is the potential ballot measure which may read as follows:

**San Clemente Hospital/Public Health Measure**

To improve local access to emergency and inpatient/outpatient medical care, natural disaster/public health emergency preparedness, recruit/retain physicians/nurses, by building a new hospital in San Clemente meeting seismic safety standards, shall the measure authorizing \$204,000,000 in bonds at legal rates, funded by levying 3¢ per \$100 of assessed valuation, providing \$10,100,000 annually for 30 years, requiring independent audits, oversight, all funds for a San Clemente hospital only, be adopted?

Based on the description, would you vote yes in favor of this measure or no to oppose it?

- Definitely yes
- Probably yes
- Undecided, Lean Yes
- Undecided, Lean No
- Probably no
- Definitely no

13. Now, you will be reading some statements made by people who oppose the measure you have been reading about to **(SPLIT SAMPLE C – OLD HOSPITAL: “replace the existing Saddleback Hospital building with a new, up-to-date hospital”)****(SPLIT SAMPLE D – TALEGA: “build a new hospital in the Talega area of San Clemente”)**. After reading each statement, please indicate if it makes you much more inclined to vote no on this measure, somewhat more inclined, or less inclined to vote no. If you do not believe the statement, or if it has no effect on your thinking one way or the other, please indicate that instead. **(RANDOMIZE ORDER OF STATEMENTS)**

[ ]a. This bond measure puts all of the tax burden of building the hospital on San Clemente residents, even though it is going to serve residents from all over South Orange County, as well as tourists. Others need to be paying their fair share for the hospital too.

[ ]b. If this measure goes through, it is going to lead to years of construction noise, dirt, truck traffic, increased commute travel times and other impacts on the neighborhoods where the hospital will be **(SPLIT SAMPLE C – OLD HOSPITAL: “demolished and”)** built.

**(SPLIT SAMPLE A ONLY)**

[ ]c. It doesn't make sense for the City of San Clemente to get involved with building a hospital. With all of the challenges facing our city right now, we should leave the building of a hospital to the companies and non-profit organizations that run hospitals and know how to do that work.

**(SPLIT SAMPLE A ONLY)**

[ ]d. This bond measure just covers the cost of building the hospital. **(SPLIT SAMPLE C – OLD HOSPITAL:** “It would cost tens of millions of dollars more to buy the old hospital property. And”) Buying all the equipment and paying for all the staff on an ongoing basis is going to require even more money and probably another tax measure.

**(SPLIT SAMPLE B ONLY)**

[ ]e. This measure would cost the average San Clemente homeowner about \$230 a year for the next 30 years, which will also get passed down to renters. Most San Clemente taxpayers are already getting hit hard by rising local, county, state and federal taxes. Residents should reject this new tax increase because we simply cannot afford to pay even higher taxes right now.

**(SPLIT SAMPLE B ONLY)**

[ ]f. Many of us like living in San Clemente because of its small-town feel. Building a new regional hospital is going to bring more people to this area leading to growth and development that transforms our community, greater traffic and congestion, crime, and strain on city services and infrastructure.

**(SPLIT SAMPLE C ONLY – OLD HOSPITAL)**

[ ]g. There is no need to build a hospital in San Clemente. We had one and it closed because there weren't enough people who wanted to use it. And a new hospital in town will not even be a trauma center so it won't even handle many emergencies. Even if it's a good idea to build a hospital in San Clemente, it has already been proven that the location of the Saddleback Hospital does not work for our community. That's why it closed in the first place.

**(SPLIT SAMPLE D ONLY - TALEGA)**

[ ]h. There is no need to build a hospital in San Clemente. We had one and it closed because there weren't enough people who wanted to use it. And a new hospital in town will not even be a trauma center so it won't even handle many emergencies. Even if it's a good idea to build a hospital in San Clemente, this measure calls for developing one of the few natural areas of open space left in San Clemente and the City would have to pay at least \$5 million just to level the ground and bring in brand new water, sewer and electrical lines.

14. Sometimes over the course of a survey like this some people change their minds and others do not. Here is the potential local ballot measure one final time, which may read as follows:

**San Clemente Hospital/Public Health Measure**

To improve local access to emergency and inpatient/outpatient medical care, natural disaster/public health emergency preparedness, recruit/retain physicians/nurses, by building a new hospital in San Clemente meeting seismic safety standards, shall the measure authorizing \$204,000,000 in bonds at legal rates, funded by levying 3¢ per \$100 of assessed valuation, providing \$10,100,000 annually for 30 years, requiring independent audits, oversight, all funds for a San Clemente hospital only, be adopted?

Based on this description, would you vote yes in favor of the measure or no to oppose it?

- Definitely yes
  - Probably yes
  - Undecided, Lean Yes
  - Undecided, Lean No
  - Probably no
  - Definitely no
15. What if this ballot measure was for \$100 million in bonds levying 1.6 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation, instead of \$204 million in bonds levying 3 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation? If that were the case, would you vote yes in favor of the measure or no to oppose it?

- Definitely yes
- Probably yes
- Undecided, Lean Yes
- Undecided, Lean No
- Probably no
- Definitely no

16. Next, the proposal you have been considering is not the only way for the City to help create a new hospital in San Clemente. Below are the option you have been considering along with another option which would cost approximately the same amount of money and provide approximately the same level of service as the option you have been considering. After you read the description of the options, please indicate which you prefer. **(ROTATE FIRST TWO OPTIONS)**

The City could purchase the old Saddleback Memorial Hospital on Camino de las Mares, demolish it, build a new hospital, and find a hospital operator to run it.

OR

The City could build a new hospital on vacant land it owns north of the Target store at Avenida Vista Hermosa near the Talega neighborhood, and find a hospital operator to run it.

OR

The City could not build a new hospital in San Clemente at all

17. Which of the following applies to you?
- Own a single-family home
  - Own a condominium
  - Rent an apartment or home
  - Rent or own a mobile home
  - Prefer not to say
18. With which racial or ethnic group do you most identify yourself?
- Hispanic or Latino
  - Black or African American
  - Anglo or White
  - Asian or Pacific Islander
  - More than one ethnic or racial group
  - A different ethnic or racial group
  - Prefer not to say
- QX. What is your gender?
- Male
  - Female
  - Non-Binary
  - Prefer not to say