

May 13, 2008 will be an important day in Valley County. Valley County voters will have the opportunity to exercise their privilege to cast a ballot on a special bond election. A majority vote in favor of the special bond will allow the Valley County Health System to proceed with building a new hospital.

Opportunities and privileges are also available to voters in their journey to the ballot box. The Valley County Health System has made enormous efforts to provide you with facts and knowledge. They know there must be an informed public in order to be an informed voter.

They have planned community meetings with presentations relating to the new hospital building, why the new hospital is needed, finances, critical access designation, recruitment and retention of healthcare professionals, use of the existing facility and more.

I hope you are planning to attend one of these meetings. Ask questions. Do not walk out the door if you feel your questions have not been answered.

For those who have already attended a meeting, I hope your questions were answered. If not, you have more opportunity to become informed through upcoming meetings, a website, www.newerainhealthcare.com, personal contacts and available literature.

Then go to the polls. I will be voting “yes” in favor of a new hospital.

Phyllis Clement