

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kennewick Public Hospital District announces the retirement of Commissioner Gary Long. Having served for over ten years on the Board and as a committee volunteer prior to that, Long served multiple terms as the Board's President and Treasurer. His tenure was during the most tumultuous period of the District's seventy-five-year history. "Going through the hospital's transition and coming out the other side with a clearly defined



structure of how to go forward was one of the toughest challenges," Long said. "Saving the hospital was our greatest accomplishment."

Board President Mark Brault said, "Gary made an enormous contribution to the Kennewick Public Hospital District. He guided the District through a difficult time; was tireless in his efforts to launch the Recovery Center at the KGH campus and stepped into the Treasurer role after the untimely death of Commissioner Steve Blodgett—all an enormous benefit to the District and the community."

"Gary has been passionate about accessible and excellent healthcare being provided in our community," added Leland Kerr, District Superintendent. "He personified the District's dedication to repurposing the old hospital into a recovery center, providing scholarships for local nursing and other healthcare students, as well as assistance to elder care at Adult Day Services and Grace Clinic's diabetes care. Gary made a tremendous contribution."

With his retirement, a vacancy has opened on the Board of Commissioners. Any registered voter living within the boundaries of the District may apply. Application may be made through the District's website at kenkphd.com or mailed to the Kennewick Public Hospital

District, PO Box 6974, Kennewick, WA. 99336 to be received no later than January 29, 2026.

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The Kennewick Public Hospital District (KPHD) was formed in 1948 and adopted the name *Two Rivers Health District* in 2019. The District's Mission is to improve healthcare in our community and address unmet needs through services, education, and collaboration. *Our Vision: We see a community with partners in wellness who ensure access to health care for everyone. To that end, we are committed to: Collaborating to fill gaps from birth to elder care, Supporting area health organizations, and Furthering community wellness through education and outreach.*