

# Del Norte Healthcare District



Concerns have been raised regarding whether or not non-profit hospitals are meeting their mission to provide charity care in exchange for their tax exemptions. A recent study published in *Health Affairs* indicates that non-profit hospitals are spending less on charity care than for-profit hospitals. Specifically, it was found that for every \$100.00 in total spending, nonprofit hospitals provided \$2.30 in charity care; for-profit hospitals provided \$3.80; and government-run hospitals provided \$4.10.

This data is provided by *Becker's Healthcare*. [Go here to see the full article.](#)

As a result of Sutter Coast Hospital's "non-profit" tax exemption, Del Norte County loses hundreds of thousands of dollars in tax revenue every year. The Del Norte County Tax Assessor's Office reported to the Healthcare District that Sutter Coast Hospital's property is valued at approximately \$53,561,286.00. If Sutter Coast did not have a "charity" tax exemption, it would owe Del Norte County 1% of its property value every year, plus the bond rate. Based on that 1% alone, Del Norte County is losing approximately \$535,613.00 per year in property taxes. To maintain public services, that \$535,613.00 that Sutter does not pay in taxes every year must be paid by someone else - individuals, homeowners, families, and businesses.

We strive to promote a collaborative approach to your health through education, prevention, and healthcare services. In doing this, we have a goal to be responsive to the needs of the community and ensure that Del Norte County residents enjoy optimal health through the delivery of wellness services. We invite you to get involved by attending our public board meetings which take place on the fourth Tuesday of each month (with rare exceptions around holidays). At this time, our meetings are being held virtually. [Go here to see our agendas, minutes, and instructions for logging in.](#)

Sincerely,

Del Norte Healthcare District Board of Directors

Kevin Caldwell, M.D., Elizabeth Austen, Michael Young, Tonya Pearcey, R.N., Juan Santillan