



For Immediate Release

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**Portage County Seeking Public Input on Health Care Center**

Portage County Health Care Center Committee, in collaboration with County administration, is conducting a “referendum study” as part of its planning for the long-term operations of a new Health Care Center. One component of that study is for the county to seek public input via a short survey. This survey will help the County properly and effectively frame a referendum question for the April 2022 election.

The survey—only 9 questions with the opportunity for providing additional comments—can be found on the [Portage County website](#) in the “**In The Spotlight**” section (see below). Residents can also access the survey directly, [here](#).



In 2018, Portage County residents voted to support and approve the Portage County Health Care Center referendum, which provided the ability to levy up to an additional \$1.4 million per year for four years to support the Center's operations. Between 2018 and 2022, the Center carefully budgeted and successfully managed multiple unexpected variables, using only what it needed of the extra tax dollars (i.e. not always the full amount) to fill operational gaps.

The funding also provided Portage County with the time needed to discuss and plan potential futures for the facility. That funding along with state and federal assistance throughout the COVID-19 pandemic has helped the Center navigate the variety of serious challenges presented to the long-term care industry over the last two years.

Input from the public will help provide some insight into important aspects of the planning discussion that is taking place now through the end of the year and into January 2022.

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