
Don't forget about the Del Norte Healthcare District!

By Kevin Hendrick September 23, 2026

In politics as in life, it is not possible to do everything I would like to.

I would rather do a few things well than many things badly. Going into this election cycle, I decided to focus my energy on electing good people to the School Board and City Council. Both agencies are vital to us all.

However, there are other local races that are also important. Recently my friend Clarke Moore emailed me. He said, "Don't forget about the Healthcare District!" He is correct.

There are many special districts that deserve our attention. If you live in these districts, you can vote to elect board members. The Healthcare District is county-wide, so everyone can vote.

To learn more, I went to delnorthehealthcare.com which explains, "A special district is a local government agency that delivers public services in areas not served by another provider."

Del Norte County has 20 special districts providing healthcare, water, wastewater, fire protection, recreation and other services."

"The mission of the Del Norte Healthcare District is to promote a collaborative approach to personal and community health through education, prevention, and healthcare services to residents of Del Norte County."

"The majority of the Del Norte Healthcare District revenues come from taxes (secured property tax, unsecured property tax, and timber) and rental income from other tenants at the Wellness Center." Note: The Healthcare District developed the Wellness Center to provide affordable primary healthcare.

Disclaimer: The Del Norte Democrats have not taken a position on special district races. These are my personal opinions and do not represent the views of the Democratic Party.

Clarke Moore is a credible voice advocating for quality healthcare in Del Norte. After a healthcare career, Clarke served 4 years as a County Supervisor and 20 years on the Healthcare District Board. He has been on the Sutter Coast Hospital Board of Directors for the last 9 years and is currently the Chair.

Five people are running for three seats on the Healthcare District Board. This is non-partisan so you should vote for the most qualified candidates regardless of party affiliation.

I asked Clarke who he would recommend and he endorses Dr. Robert Duncan, Ellie Popadic and Monica Sperling.

Dr. Duncan is an Airforce veteran and Emergency Room Surgeon and is currently the Chief of Medical Staff at Sutter Coast Hospital. Ellie Popadic is a Healthcare Executive and Senior Director of Operations at Sutter Coast Hospital. Monica Sperling is a retired Registered Nurse and incumbent Director.

Each of these candidates brings a wealth of healthcare experience to the table. They will be able to effectively provide a bridge to collaborate with our local hospital and other healthcare providers.

After researching these candidates, I must agree with Clarke. These three are the best choices, and you can vote for three. When you vote, “Don’t forget about the Healthcare District!”

Stayed tuned for more opinions about the non-partisan City Council race and other contests.

Kevin Hendrick is a 33-year resident of Del Norte County