



April 1, 2024

To the Board of County Commissioners of Park County,

The League of Women Voters of Park County are writing in support of the proposal by the Platte Canyon Health Services Committee to place on the November ballot the request from voters to create a Health Services District for the Platte Canyon region of Park County.

The League of Women Voters of the United States holds access to available and affordable health care for all citizens to be an essential right: “We believe that our health care system should provide a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost to all US residents. Basic care includes disease prevention, primary care (including reproductive services), acute long-term care, mental health care as well as health promotion and education.”

We believe that the Platte Canyon region of Park County is a health care desert due to the distance citizens must go to get basic care and the potential dangers in extended travel on Hwy 285, especially for our senior citizens, which comprise nearly 23% of our total population on the NE side of Kenosha Pass. Though health care offices exist in Conifer, for many of our citizens, this is still a 25-45 minute drive or more. The major of the two clinics there rarely has openings for new patients; Stride health care only has appointments on two days of the week.

This level of health care is does not meet the requirement to meet the basic health care needs of our population.

The members of the League of Women Voters of Park County urges the BOCC to allow this initiative to go onto the November ballot so that citizens can choose to support and use the services of a health services district for the Platte Canyon area.

Respectfully,

Charlotte Wytias

President, League of Women Voters of Park County, Colorado