



**Scott Barrilleaux**

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DREW MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, INC.  
778 Scogin Drive Monticello, AR 71655  
Phone: (870) 367-2411  
Fax: (870) 460-3562  
[www.drewmemorial.org](http://www.drewmemorial.org)

To the Drew County community,

This week's special election served as a wonderful reminder of our community's pride in our county-owned hospital. As the administrator, I know firsthand how our physicians, board, staff, and volunteers strive to make Drew County a hub for medical care in the region. As the precincts reported in on Tuesday night, I was very encouraged to see such a high voter turnout in a December Special Election. This is a testament to the value our residents place on our organization and its mission.

As our County Clerk (unofficially) reported the final vote totals in our favor, I received countless handshakes, and notes and calls of congratulations. I was told many times how excited you all are that our hospital will continue to evolve with our community's health care needs- starting with our planned Surgery Center. I want the hospital's supporters to know how excited we are for this expansion, chiefly because we know you are behind us.

You are our constituents. You are the people we serve; the people who we always strive to serve better. You are the supporters who went out and registered to vote for the first time, who delivered yard signs around the county, who educated anyone you met about our ballot issue. We know you reached out to your neighbors, and family members to make sure they knew about the expansion project, how it would be funded, and how its construction will impact Southeast Arkansas. Because of you, we saw impressive voter engagement.

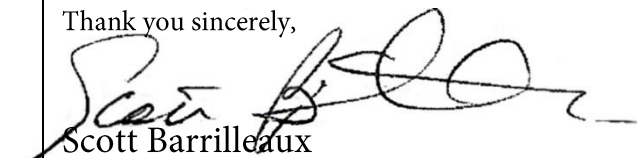
I am grateful to the voters who have made it clear you know our expansion plans are intended to make the area's quality of life improve, without increasing taxes. It is heartening to know that by and large, we agree that a stronger hospital means a stronger community.

We will move forward with our expansion plan knowing you support our efforts to improve this community's access to healthcare.

Our next steps bring the expansion plan into reality. Our Architecture firm, TEG, will develop the construction documents. Drew Memorial Hospital will solicit bids from contractors and vendors to determine the exact timeline and costs associated with the project. We will continue to work toward the approval process of our USDA-Rural Development loan application, which, as I outlined in our public forums, allows us to finance the project with a remarkably low interest rate. Ultimately, we plan to break ground on the expansion in spring or summer of 2016, and we hope you'll join us in celebrating that occasion.

I'll keep you updated on our progress.

Thank you sincerely,

  
Scott Barrilleaux  
Chief Executive Officer  
Drew Memorial Hospital