



To the Catholics of Maricopa County,

As people of faith, we are called to care for the sick and the suffering, but we are also called to be wise stewards of what God has entrusted to us. Proposition 409 is not good stewardship. It asks us to take on more debt, more taxes, and to support an institution that has chosen to stand against the moral teachings of the Church.

In 2014, Valleywise Health asked voters to approve a \$935 million bond. Voters said yes. That bond will not be paid off until 2038, and property owners are still paying for it right now. Now, just ten years later, Valleywise is back asking for another 30-year bond, adding \$897 million more in debt to be paid for through higher property taxes. This is not compassion. It is financial irresponsibility that takes advantage of working families and homeowners who are already stretched thin.

If Valleywise truly cared about transparency and accountability, they would show the public exactly how the last billion dollars were spent before demanding another. Instead, they are relying on emotional appeals while avoiding the hard truth about their spending and priorities.

Let's also be honest about who Valleywise is... This is the same institution that proudly promotes itself as a national "LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality Leader" through the Human Rights Campaign, a political group that openly rejects Catholic teaching on life, family, and human sexuality. Valleywise celebrates this partnership publicly, and yet they expect Catholics to help fund their agenda through this bond.

The Bible is clear: *"So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them"*. Genesis 1:27 As Catholics we have a moral responsibility to not fund ideologies that violate the Natural Law and the Sacred Scripture which Proposition 409 intends to do.

We cannot separate moral integrity from financial responsibility. Voting no on Proposition 409 is not turning our backs on those in need of mental health care. It is standing up for accountability, good stewardship, and truth. It is refusing to pour more money into an institution that has made its opposition to Catholic values abundantly clear.

Valleywise already has one massive bond that taxpayers will be paying off for another thirteen years. Asking for another one now is reckless and unfair, especially when families are facing higher mortgages, grocery costs, and property taxes.

Catholics must not be misled by emotional appeals that confuse poor stewardship with charity. True charity requires truth. We cannot help the vulnerable by burdening others unjustly, and we cannot advance public health by funding institutions that undermine our faith.

Election Day is November 5th. Stand for truth and integrity. Vote **NO** on Proposition 409.

Sincerely,

John Yep
President, Catholics For Catholics