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MEMO

To: Mayor and Members of the Ames City Council

From: Steven L. Schainker, City Manager

Date: May 10, 2019

Subject: Healthy Life Center Bond Referendum Date

As you will recall at a previous meeting, staff indicated a desire to place the bond referendum for the Healthy Life Center on August 6, 2019, at a special election. We had hoped to obtain your approval for the referendum wording and the election date at the May 14th Council meeting. Unbeknownst to us, the State Legislature passed a bill, which has not yet been signed by the Governor, that changes the dates for special elections in any given year. This new law apparently does away with an August election option and replaces it with a September date.

We have been attempting to obtain a definitive answer from the appropriate State official as to whether or not we can still set a special election in August.

Because we had not received such a response before the time we finalized the agenda on Friday, I have chosen not to place this item on the May 14th agenda.

Since it is taking longer than originally planned to finalize the agreements with our three funding partners and receive all of the private donation pledges in writing, waiting until your next meeting on May 28th to finalize your decision seems appropriate. **However, this delay has caused us to rethink our election schedule and now believe a September 10, 2019, special election is advisable.** Here again, we need to confirm whether or not the new law will allow us to do so.