



Rochelle Fire Department
401 5th Ave.
Rochelle, IL 61068

David W. Sawlsville
Fire Chief
Phone: (815) 562-2121

Karen Tracy
Chief Executive Officer
Rochelle Community Hospital
900 North Second Street
Rochelle, IL 61068
ktracy@rcha.net/815.562.2480

March 3, 2026

Dear Karen Tracy,

On behalf of the Rochelle Fire Department, I am writing to express my strong support for Rochelle Community Hospital's (RCH) capital project to enhance and modernize its Emergency Department, Convenient Care, Radiology Department, and Laboratory Services. This investment is vital to strengthening access to high-quality healthcare for our region and ensuring the long-term sustainability of an essential community institution.

RCH plays a critical role as a trusted, accessible, and patient-centered healthcare provider for residents of Rochelle and the surrounding rural communities. As patient needs evolve and demand increases, the hospital requires modernized facilities and updated clinical spaces to continue delivering safe, efficient, and exceptional care. The proposed improvements will directly address these needs.

Improved Access to Care

Enhancing emergency, convenient care, radiology, and laboratory services will significantly expand access for patients who rely on timely diagnostics, urgent evaluations, and efficient care pathways. These upgrades will reduce wait times, increase service capacity, and allow more patients to receive care close to home instead of traveling to distant hospitals.

Improved Quality of Care and Patient Outcomes

By modernizing clinical environments and integrating updated technology, RCH will strengthen its ability to provide efficient emergency care and high-quality diagnostic services. Emergency response, rapid testing and early detection are directly linked to better patient outcomes. This project will ensure that clinicians have the tools and space needed to deliver the highest standards of care.

Enhanced Patient Throughput and Operational Efficiency

Updated layouts, expanded treatment areas, and streamlined workflows will improve patient movement through each department, reduce bottlenecks, enhance safety, and support a more efficient use of staff resources. These gains are essential for meeting growing demand and supporting a positive patient experience.

Securing the Long-Term Viability of the Hospital

For a rural community, the stability of the local hospital is vital to the region's health, economy, and resilience. This capital project is not just a facilities improvement, it's a long-term investment in ensuring that Rochelle Community Hospital remains a strong, sustainable healthcare anchor for generations to come.

For these reasons, I offer my full support for RCH's capital project and recognize the profound and lasting impact this investment will have on the health and well-being of our community.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if additional information or perspective would be valuable.

Sincerely,



David Sawlsville
Fire Chief
Rochelle Fire Department
dsawlsville@rochelleil.us