

# IOWA

Center for Social Science Innovation

# Final Report

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This report is prepared for the Johnson County Board of Supervisor's Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee regarding **Community Perspectives on the Johnson County Sheriff's Office and Jail**. This report summarizes processes implemented and deliverables provided by the Center for Social Science Innovation regarding the first and second phase of the project: **(1) Survey of Johnson County Residents and (2) In-depth Focus Groups**.

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## Project Overview

### Project Objective

The current project is responsive to the request from the Johnson County Board of Supervisors to provide services that may assist the Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee (CJCC) in its work to develop a plan for the Johnson County Sheriff’s Office and Jail. According to the CJCC Agenda on Thursday, January 9, 2025, “the mission of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee is to create a responsible, thorough, and inclusive plan to replace the Johnson County Sheriff’s Office and Jail by relying on subject matter experts, best practices, and data informed decision making with public input. As a committee, we will strive to prioritize public safety, mental health supports, and community trust. By collaborating with key stakeholders, we aim to address the need for a safe and modern detention and law enforcement facility that meets the needs of staff, incarcerated persons, and the community.”

The Center for Social Science Innovation (CSSI) proposed a mixed mode data collection project to assist CJCC in its work to develop a plan for the Johnson County Sheriff’s Office and Jail. The project goal was to use a scientific approach to (1) poll a representative sample of Johnson County residents to estimate public input regarding the plan to replace the Johnson County Sheriff’s Office and Jail and public perceptions of public safety, mental health supports, and community trust, and (2) moderate focus groups to develop an in-depth understanding of survey responses and community perspectives.

***This report summarizes processes implemented and the deliverables provided by the Center for Social Science Innovation.***

# Phase 1. Survey of Johnson County Residents

## Survey Data Collection

For details regarding the survey development and deployment, see [Appendix 1](#). With support from CSSI staff, the CJCC subcommittee developed a forty-item survey instrument for distribution to Johnson County, Iowa residents (see [Appendix 2](#)). Mail surveys were printed and mailed on May 22, 2025 to a random sample of 3,859 address-based Johnson County records. A postcard reminder was sent to non-respondents on June 12, 2025 and CSSI field staff conducted phone call follow-ups between June 20, 2025 and July 18, 2025.

The survey deployment effort resulted in 751 overall completes and a response rate of 19.46%. The majority of completes were from the mail survey deployment (n = 548), followed by web survey completes (n = 165), and then phone survey completes (n = 38). Table 1 shows a summary of dispositions by mode.

**Table 1: Summary of Dispositions for All Modes**

|                             | Number | Percent of Sample | English n(%) | Spanish n(%) |
|-----------------------------|--------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Mail Sample</b>          | 3859   |                   |              |              |
| Complete                    | 548    | 14.20%            | 548 (100.0%) | 0 (0.00%)    |
| Undeliverable               | 467    | 12.10%            | N/A          | N/A          |
| <b>Web Sample</b>           |        |                   |              |              |
| Complete                    | 165    | 4.28%             | 165 (100.0%) | 0 (0.00%)    |
| Incomplete                  | 14     | 0.36%             | 14 (100.0%)  | 0 (0.00%)    |
| <b>Phone Sample*</b>        | 2127   |                   |              |              |
| Complete                    | 38     | 0.98%             | 38 (100.0%)  | N/A          |
| Incomplete                  | 3      | 0.08%             | 3 (100.0%)   | N/A          |
| Refused                     | 310    | 8.03%             | 310 (100.0%) | N/A          |
| <b>Total</b>                |        |                   |              |              |
| Complete                    | 751    | 19.46%            | 751 (100.0%) | 0 (0.00%)    |
| Incomplete                  | 22     | 0.57%             | 22 (100.0%)  | 0 (0.00%)    |
| Refused                     | 320    | 8.29%             | 320 (100.0%) | 0 (0.00%)    |
| <b>Focus Group Interest</b> | 89     | 2.31%             | 89 (100.0%)  | 0 (0.00%)    |

\*Non-respondents of mail survey

### Survey Data Analysis

Data tables summarizing responses for each question within the survey can be found in [Appendix 3](#). CSSI staff conducted several statistical analyses to provide a more comprehensive preliminary understanding of the survey data results. Statistical tests, such as the chi-square test and analysis of variance, were used to identify if differences across specific groups were more than just random chance. In other words, while some variation is expected in any group or population, these tests identified whether differences were statistically significant (a measure of reliability of findings).

Additionally, three questions on the survey offered respondents opportunities to write open-end responses to prompts developed by the CJCC subcommittee. The open-end responses, as written, are provided in [Appendix 4](#). To synthesize the open-end responses, CSSI field staff reviewed all responses and identified themes within the response content using a list of response codes (see [Appendix 4](#)). Responses were then categorized by vote preference.

In the following section, “Thematic Findings,” results are organized under four themes: (1) initial vote, (2) information and sources, (3) revote, and (4) qualitative findings. Within each theme, several findings are summarized that are responsive to key questions regarding public views on the Johnson County Board of Supervisors’ plan to construct a new building for the Johnson County Sheriff’s Office and Jail. Notes about figures, including variable recodes, can be found in [Appendix 1](#).

## Thematic Findings from Survey

### Theme 1. Initial Vote

#### How do Johnson County residents expect to vote on constructing a new building for the Sheriff’s Office and Jail?

At the beginning of the survey, respondents were informed that the Johnson County Board of Supervisors plans to ask Johnson County residents to vote on constructing a new building for the Sheriff’s Office and Jail in November 2026. Respondents were then asked how they would vote if they had to vote today. Overall, 74% of survey respondents indicated that they would definitely vote “yes” (30%) or probably vote “yes” (44%) to support constructing the new building for the Sheriff’s Office and Jail.

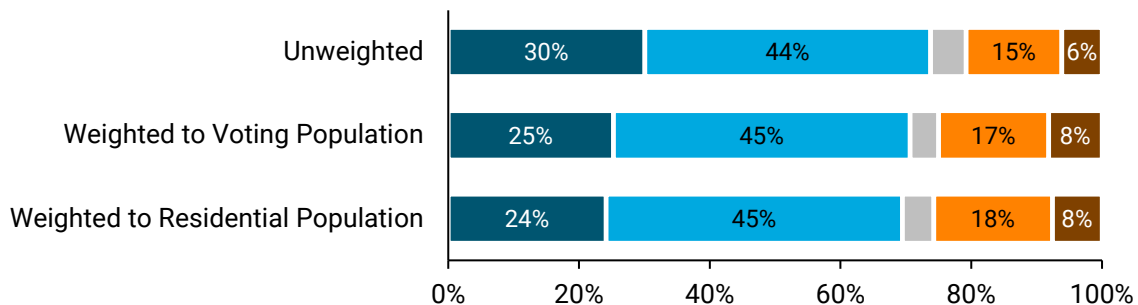
Approximately 70% of the weighted samples (Figure 1) would definitely or probably vote “yes” to support constructing the new building. The weighted results estimate the distribution of survey responses after adjusting the sample to more closely match the characteristics of the voting population and full residential population of Johnson County.

The initial vote distribution is disaggregated by individual characteristics in Figure 2 (the labeled percentage reflects the percent of each group that intends to vote “yes”). As shown, among all disaggregated groups, more than 50% of respondents would definitely or probably vote “yes” to support the construction of the building. Statistically significant differences were noted by age group, political affiliation, and previous experiences of victimization of a violent crime. Respondents aged 18-29 and 30-49 were more likely to definitely vote “no” while respondents aged 65+ were more likely to definitely vote “yes.” Respondents who identified as having an “other or no” political affiliation were more likely to definitely vote “no” compared to those who identified as Democrats, Republicans, or Independents. Finally, respondents who reported being a victim of a violent crime were more likely to definitely vote “no” compared to those who reported not being a victim. Even with these differences, across all groups, respondents were more likely to vote “yes”.

**Figure 1. Initial Vote Distribution**

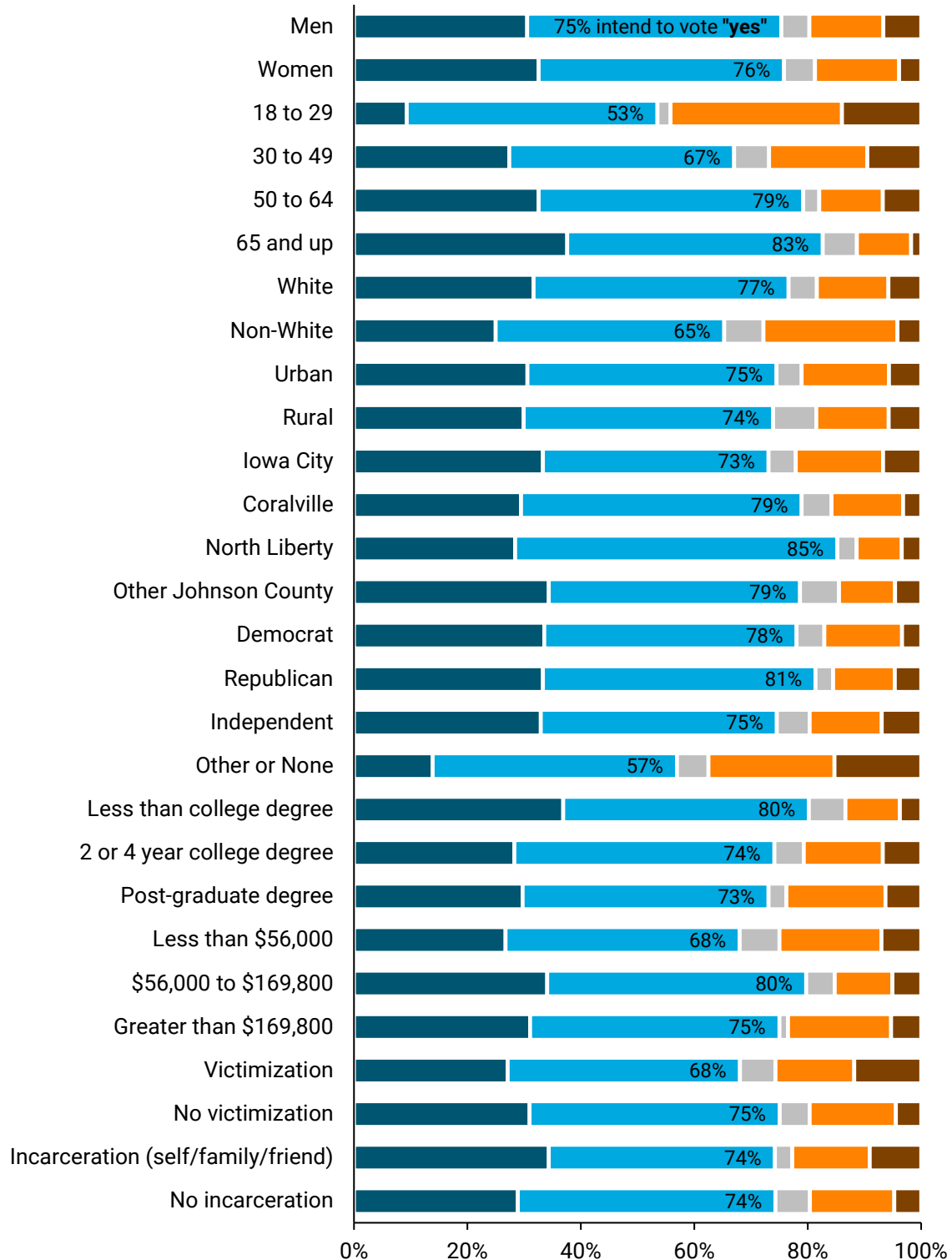
**Survey Question:** The Johnson County Board of Supervisors plans to ask Johnson County residents to vote on constructing a new building for the Sheriff’s Office and Jail in November 2026. If you had to vote today, would you vote “yes” to support constructing the new building or “no” to oppose it?

**VOTING BLOCKS:** DEFINITELY VOTE “YES” TO SUPPORT | PROBABLY VOTE “YES” TO SUPPORT | NEITHER | PROBABLY VOTE “NO” TO OPPOSE | DEFINITELY VOTE “NO” TO OPPOSE



**Figure 2. Initial Vote Distribution, by Individual Characteristics.**

VOTING BLOCKS: DEFINITELY VOTE "YES" TO SUPPORT | PROBABLY VOTE "YES" TO SUPPORT | NEITHER | PROBABLY VOTE "NO" TO OPPOSE | DEFINITELY VOTE "NO" TO OPPOSE



## Theme 2. Information and Sources

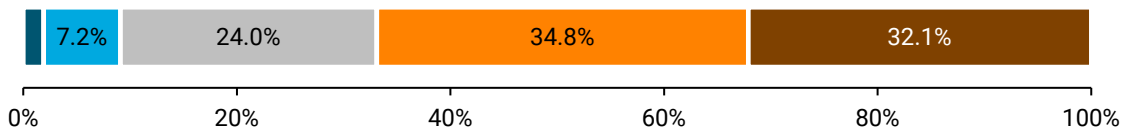
How much information about the Sheriff’s Office and Jail do Johnson County residents currently have?

Information about the Sheriff’s Office and Jail was estimated using four components of the survey:

- (1) **“Familiarity”** - A single item question about the respondent’s level of familiarity with the Sheriff’s Office and Jail building (Figure 3). Approximately one third of respondents were “not at all familiar” (32%), another third were “slightly familiar” (35%), and another third were *at least moderately familiar* (33%).
- (2) **“Awareness of Construction”** - The percentage of respondents aware of the goal to construct a new building (Figure 4). Approximately 58% of respondents were aware of the county’s goal to construct a new building for the Sheriff’s Office and Jail.
- (3) **“Knowledge”** - The accuracy of responses to four factual questions (Figure 5). Approximately 82% correctly identified the location of the current building, whereas 47% correctly estimated the age of the building, 30% correctly estimated the number of people that work for the Sheriff’s Office and Jail, and 34% correctly estimated the number of inmates held in the current Johnson County Jail on a typical day.
- (4) **“Awareness of Issues”** - The level of awareness of six different issues identified by the Board of Supervisors (Figure 6). Respondents were most aware that “due to overcrowding, the county currently pays to jail inmates outside the county” (59%) and that “the building is currently deteriorating” (58%), followed by “the building currently lacks space for inmates to receive services and participate in programming,” (47%), “the conditions of the jail are unsafe for staff” (41%), “the conditions of the jail are unsafe for inmates” (38%), and “the jail does not meet accessibility guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)” (37%).

**Figure 3. Familiarity with Sheriff’s Office and Jail Building**

**Survey Question:** How familiar are you with the current Sheriff’s Office and Jail building?  
 EXTREMELY FAMILIAR | VERY FAMILIAR | MODERATELY FAMILIAR | SLIGHTLY FAMILIAR | NOT AT ALL FAMILIAR



**Figure 4. Awareness of Construction Goal**

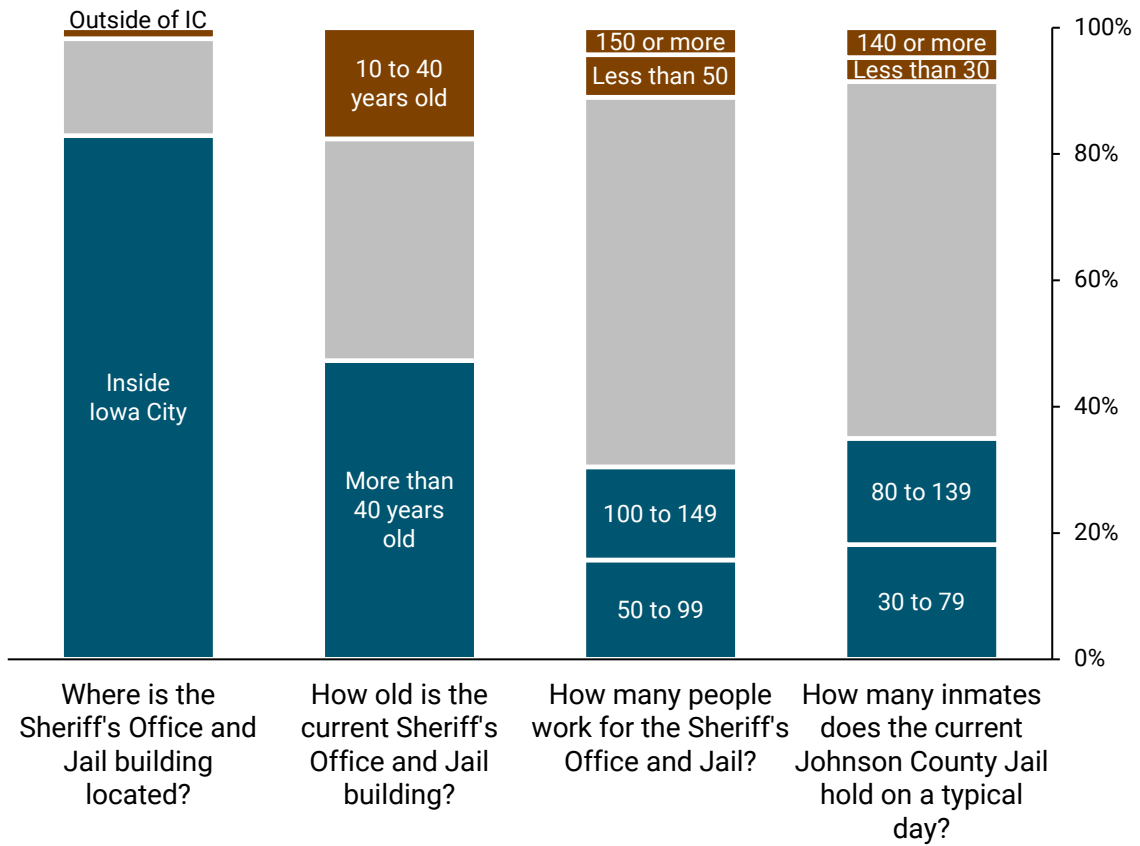
**Survey Question:** Before receiving this survey, were you aware of the county’s goal to construct a new building for the Sheriff’s Office and Jail?  
 YES | NO





**Figure 5. Knowledge about Sheriff’s Office and Jail Building**

**CORRECT\*** RESPONSE | **DON’T KNOW** | **INCORRECT RESPONSE**

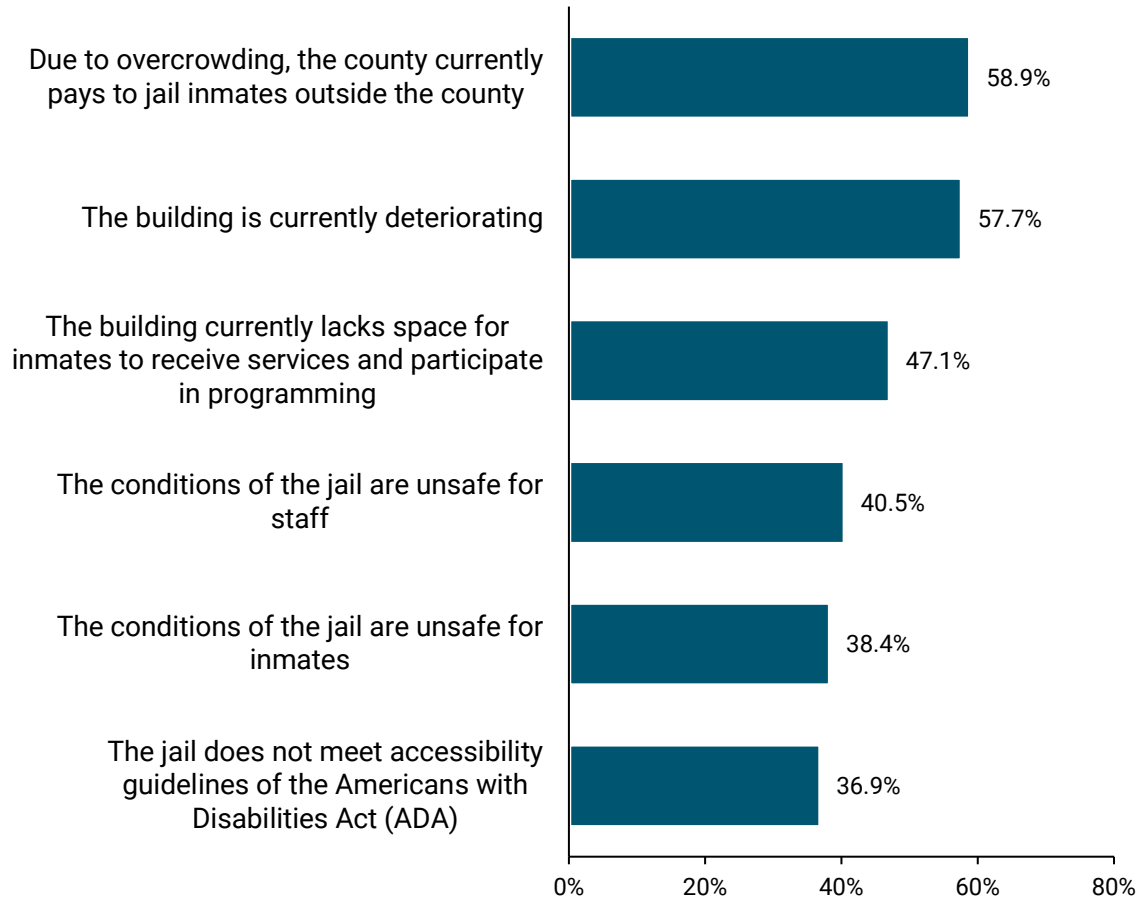


*\*For number of people that work for the Sheriff's Office and Jail, we treat both "50 to 99" and "100 to 149" as correct responses. For number of inmates, we treat both "30 to 79" and "80 to 139" as correct responses.*

## Figure 6. Awareness of Issues Regarding Sheriff’s Office and Jail Building

**Survey Question:** Were you aware of the following issues regarding the current building identified by the Board of Supervisors?

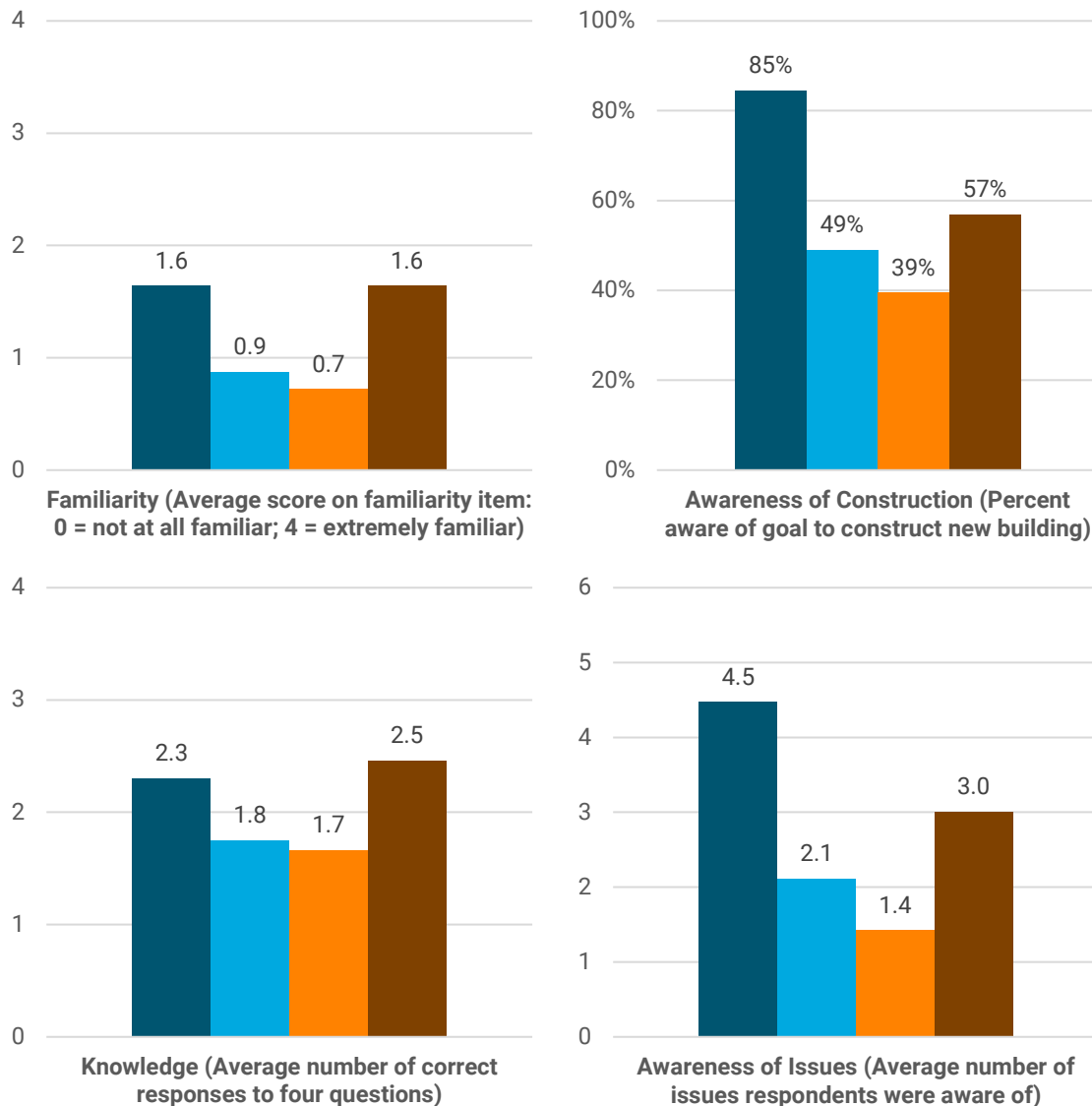
PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS AWARE (SELECTED “YES”) OF EACH ISSUE



## Does the level of information about the Sheriff’s Office and Jail vary by Johnson County residents’ initial voting intentions?

Respondents’ level of information differed by initial voting intentions. Respondents who definitely vote “yes” and definitely vote “no” had higher levels of familiarity and knowledge than both “probably” groups. Respondents who definitely vote “yes” had greater awareness of construction and issues compared to all other groups.

**Figure 7. Familiarity, Knowledge, and Awareness about Sheriff’s Office and Jail Building, by Initial Voting Block**



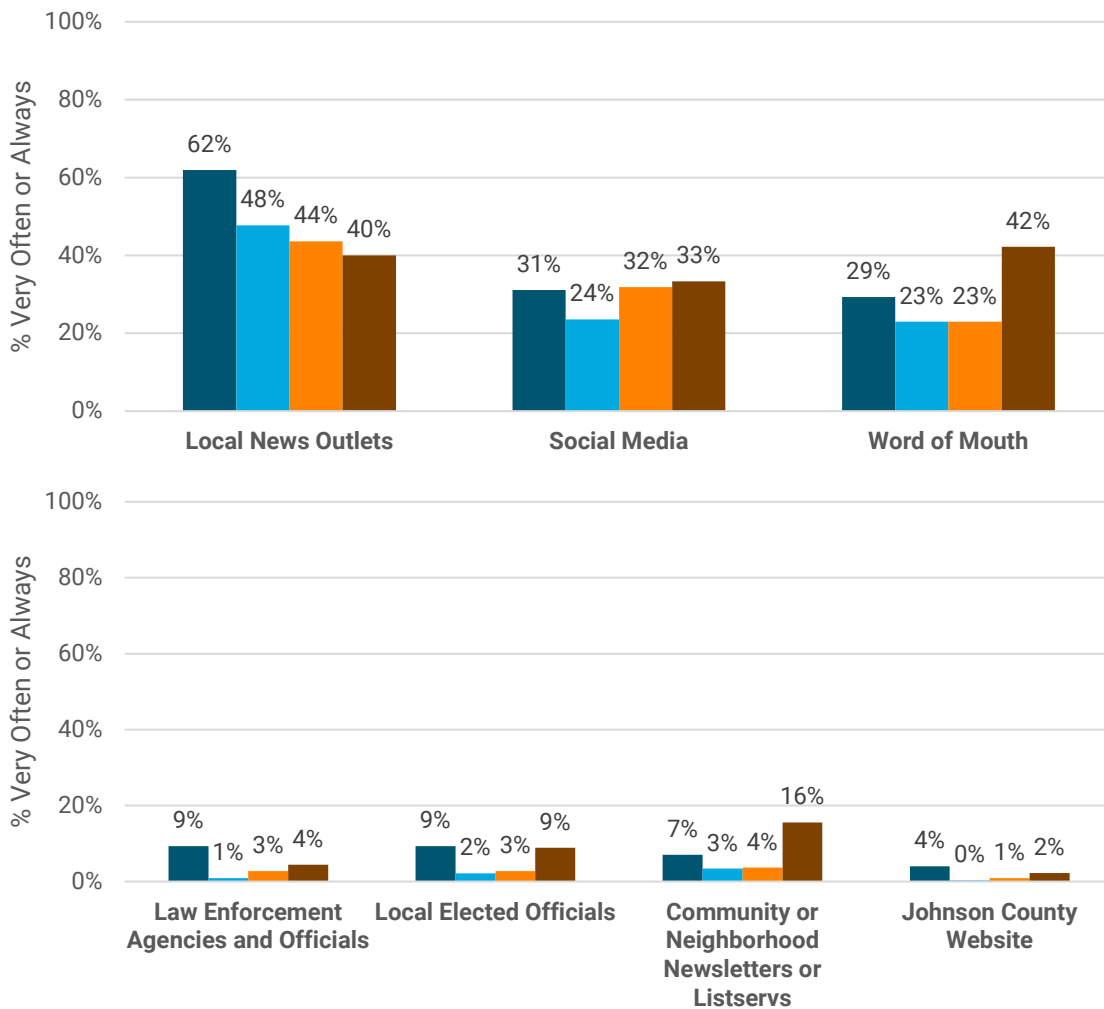
**VOTING BLOCKS: DEFINITELY VOTE “YES” TO SUPPORT | PROBABLY VOTE “YES” TO SUPPORT | PROBABLY VOTE “NO” TO OPPOSE | DEFINITELY VOTE “NO” TO OPPOSE**

## Do the sources of information about local issues vary by Johnson County residents' voting intentions?

Respondents' sources of information differed by initial voting intention, with clear distinctions between respondents who definitely vote "yes" and definitely vote "no". Respondents who definitely vote "yes" were more likely to get information from local news outlets, law enforcement agencies and officials, local elected officials, and the Johnson County website. Respondents who definitely vote "no" were more likely to get information from word of mouth and community or neighborhood newsletters or listservs. Overall, local news outlets, social media, and word of mouth were the most common sources of information for respondents.

**Figure 8. Information Sources, by Initial Voting Block**

**Survey Question:** How often do you get news and information about local issues from each of the following sources?



**VOTING BLOCKS:** DEFINITELY VOTE "YES" TO SUPPORT | PROBABLY VOTE "YES" TO SUPPORT | PROBABLY VOTE "NO" TO OPPOSE | DEFINITELY VOTE "NO" TO OPPOSE

### Theme 3. Revote

How do Johnson County residents change their votes after being informed about the conditions of the current building for the Sheriff’s Office and Jail?

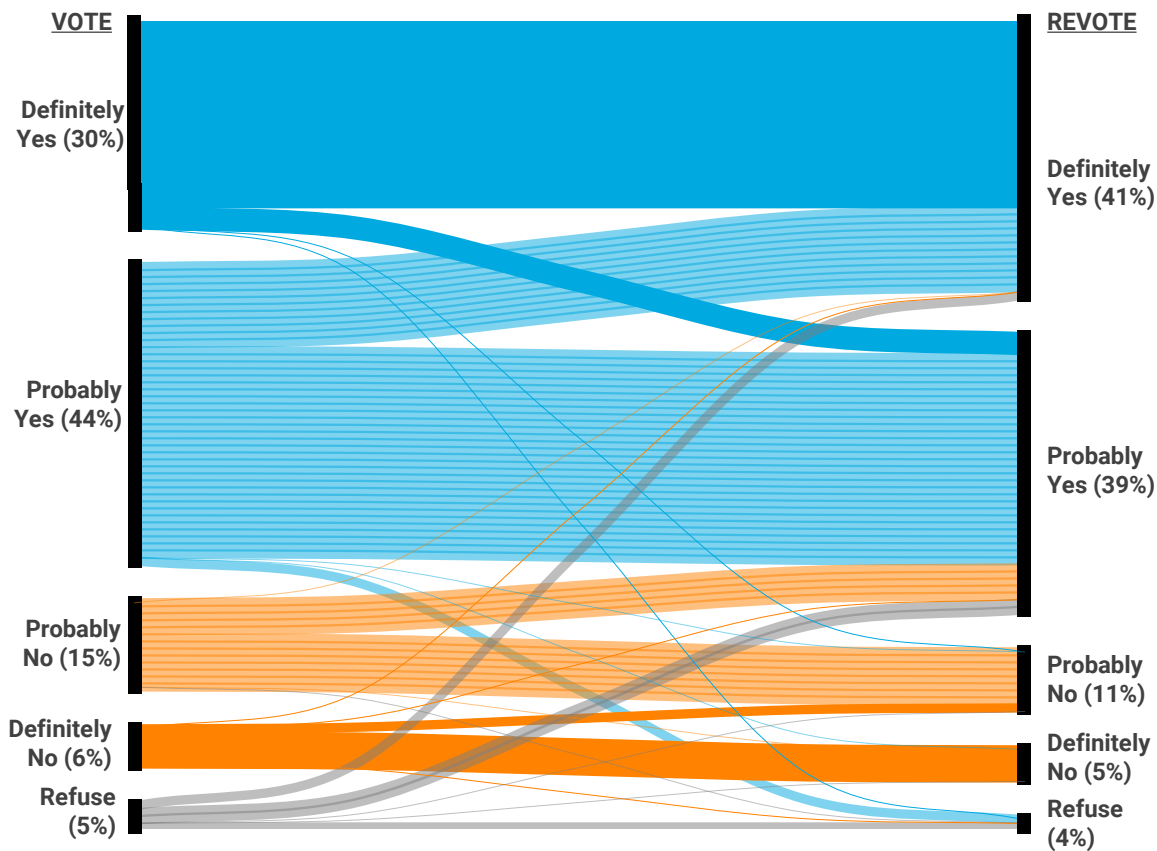
After being informed about several issues with the current building for the Johnson County Sheriff’s Office and Jail, respondents were asked to vote again. In the revote, 80% of respondents indicated that they would definitely vote “yes” (41%) or probably vote “yes” (39%), up from 74% during the initial vote (Figure 9).

**Change in Favorability.** Overall, approximately 18% of respondents provided a more favorable vote during the revote compared to the initial vote (e.g., probably yes to definitely yes), whereas 4% of respondents provided a less favorable vote (e.g. definitely yes to probably yes).

**Change in Vote.** Most respondents (87%) did not change their vote – 72% remained a “yes” vote (either definitely or probably) and 15% remained a “no” vote (either definitely or probably). Another 5% initially voted “no,” then revoted “yes.” Five respondents (<1%) initially voted “yes,” then revoted “no.”

**Figure 9. Change from Initial Vote to Revote**

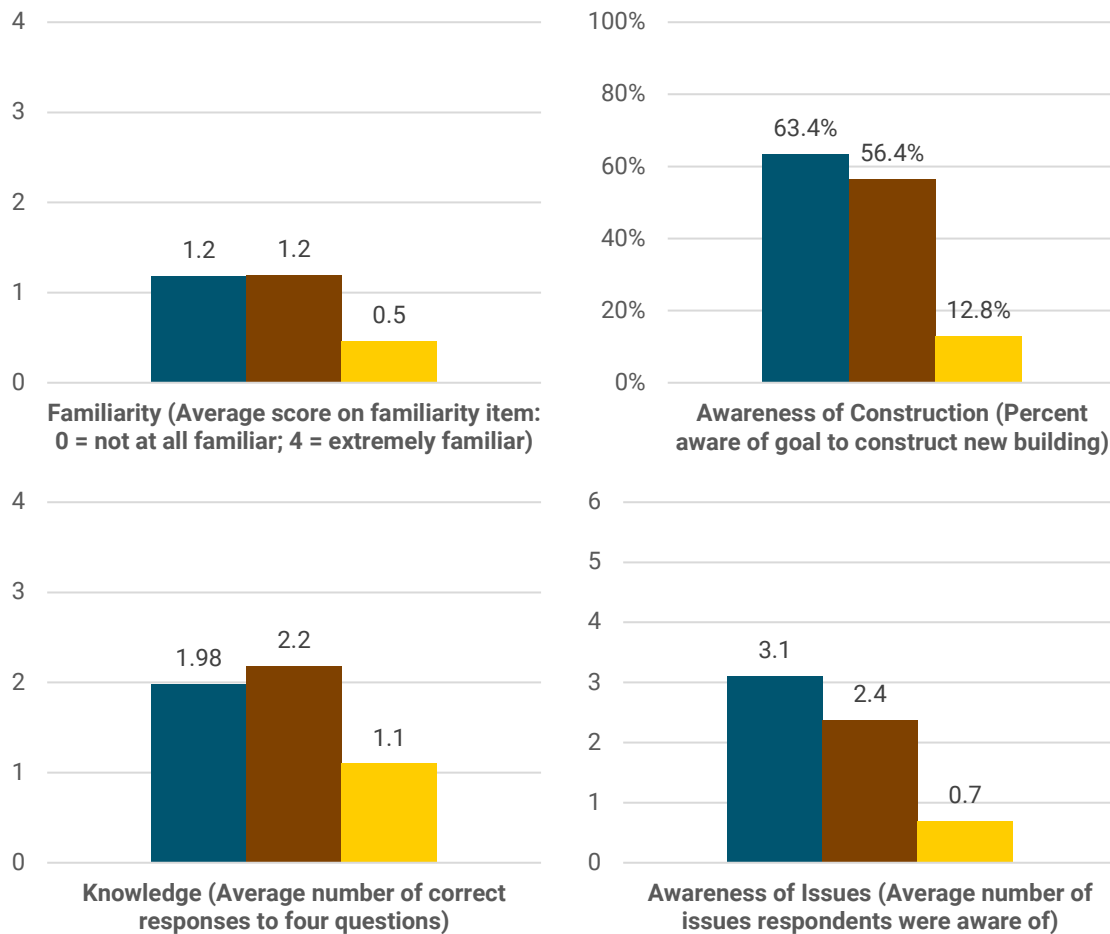
**Survey Question:** Now knowing about the conditions of the current building, if you had to vote today, would you vote “yes” to support constructing a new building or “no” to oppose it?



## Are Johnson County residents that change their votes initially more or less informed about the Sheriff’s Office and Jail?

Respondents who changed their votes from “no” to “yes” indicated less familiarity, knowledge, and awareness of construction and issues compared to respondents whose votes remained “yes” or “no.” For example, 56% of respondents who had stable “no” votes were aware of the goal to construct a new building, while 13% of respondents who moved their vote from “no” to “yes” were aware. The differences in scores between respondents whose votes stayed “yes” or “no” were marginal (i.e., not different at a statistically significant level).

**Figure 10. Familiarity, Knowledge, and Awareness about Sheriff’s Office and Jail Building, by Vote Change**

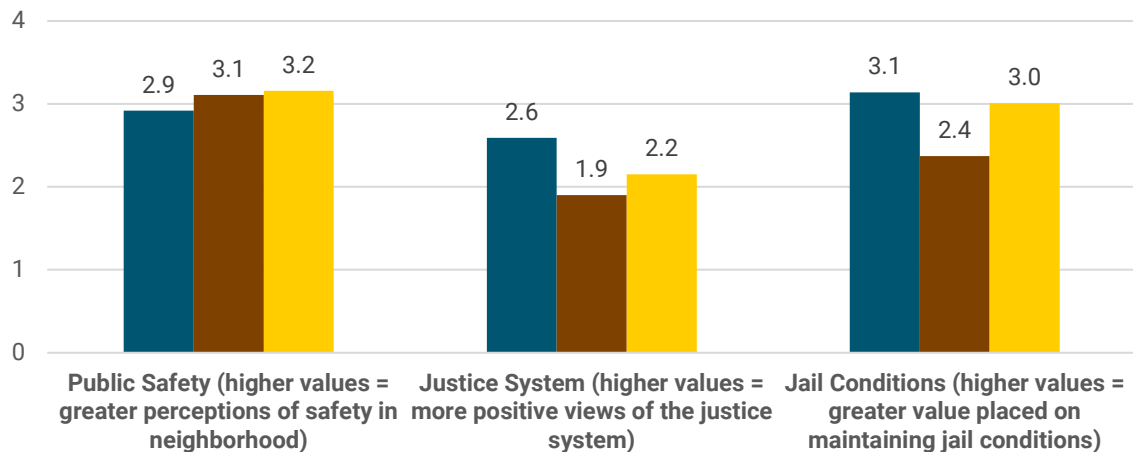


**VOTING BLOCKS: STABLE "YES" VOTE | STABLE "NO" VOTE | MOVE FROM "NO" TO "YES"**

## Do general perceptions about public safety, the justice system, and the importance of jail conditions vary by Johnson County residents' voting intentions?

Perceptions of public safety were similar across all respondents. However, there were differences in perceptions about the justice system and importance of jail conditions. Respondents who had a stable "yes" vote had more positive views of the justice system and placed greater value on maintaining jail conditions compared to respondents who had a stable "no" vote. Respondents who changed from "no" to "yes" were more similar to stable "no" voters in their perceptions of the justice system but were more similar to the stable "yes" voters in their perceptions of the importance of jail conditions. See [Appendix 5](#) for results by initial vote intentions.

**Figure 11. Perceptions of Public Safety and Criminal Justice System, by Vote Change**



**VOTING BLOCKS: STABLE "YES" VOTE | STABLE "NO" VOTE | MOVE FROM "NO" TO "YES"**

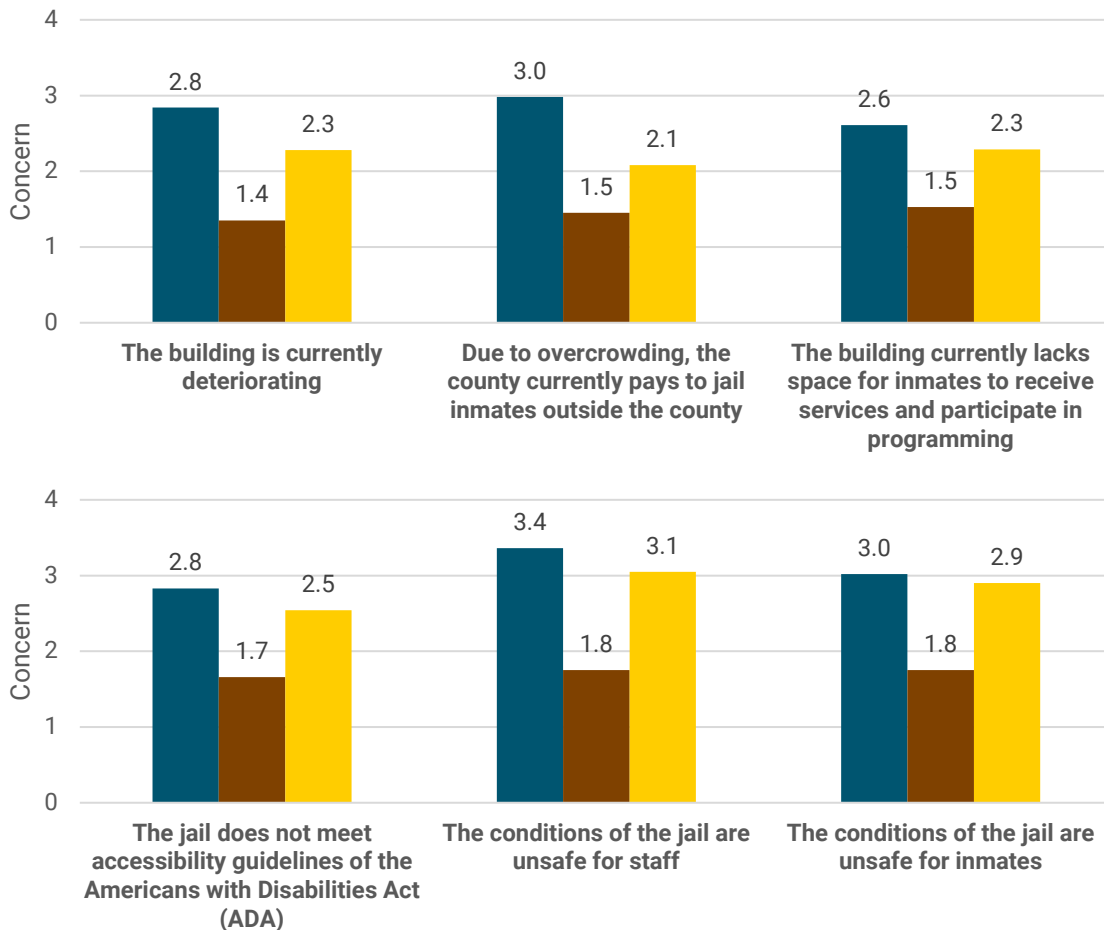
## Does concern about issues identified by the Board of Supervisors vary by Johnson County residents' voting intentions?

Overall, the level of concern about the safety of the jail for staff and for inmates ranked highest, while the concern about the lack of space for services and programming ranked lowest.

Respondents who had stable "yes" votes and respondents that moved from "no" to "yes" rated all six issues as greater concerns than those with stable "no" votes. Compared to respondents with stable "yes" votes, respondents who moved from "no" to "yes" rated two issues as a lesser concern: (1) "the building is currently deteriorating" and (2) "Due to overcrowding, the county currently pays to jail inmates outside the county." However, the respondents who moved from "no" to "yes" rated the remaining four issues as a similar level of concern as those with stable "yes" votes. See [Appendix 5](#) for results by initial vote intentions.

**Figure 12. Concerns about Building Issues, by Vote Change**

**Survey Question:** How concerning are each of these issues to you?



**VOTING BLOCKS:** STABLE "YES" VOTE | STABLE "NO" VOTE | MOVE FROM "NO" TO "YES"



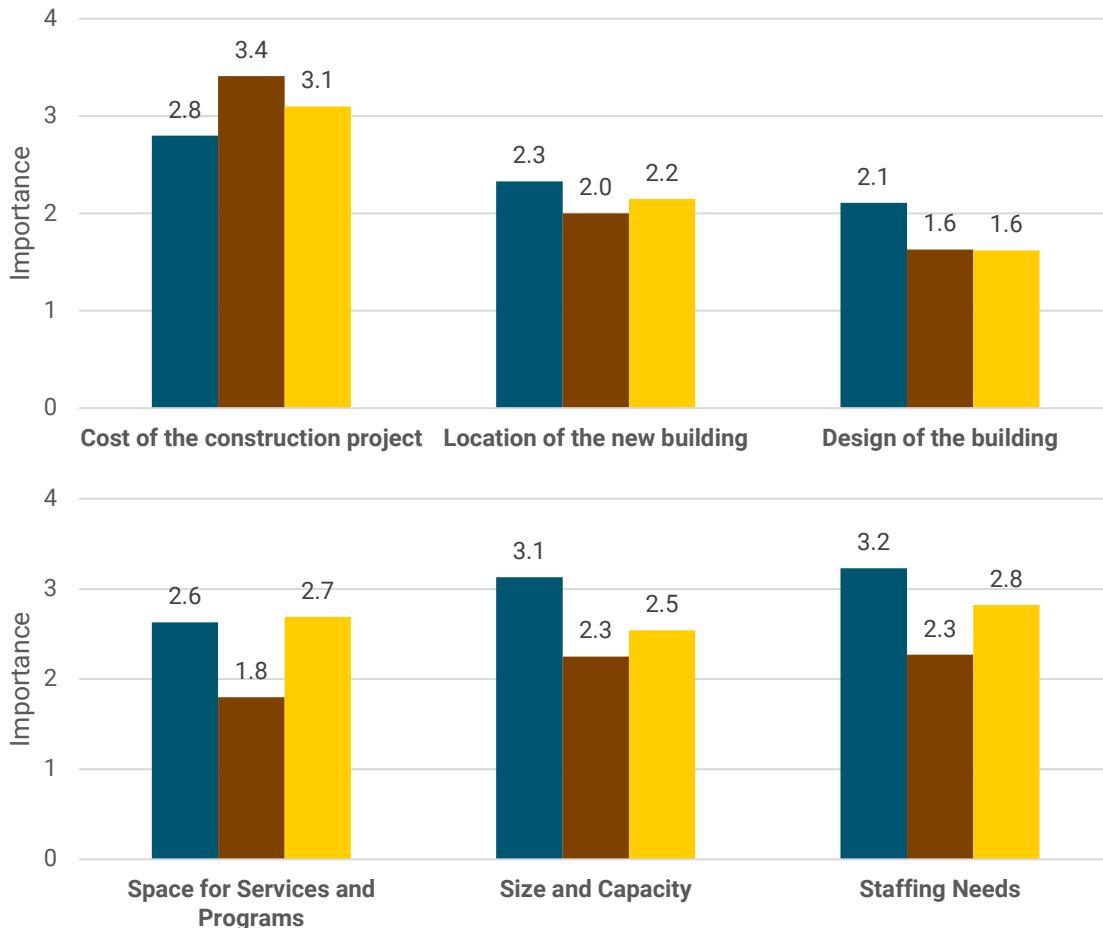
## Does the importance of specific factors related to the construction of the new building vary by Johnson County residents' voting intentions?

Overall, staffing needs, size and capacity, and cost were rated as the most importance factors related to the construction of the new building.

Respondents who had stable "yes" votes rated five of the six factors as more important than those with stable "no" votes. To these respondents, "staffing needs" and "size and capacity" were the most important factors. In contrast, respondents with stable "no" votes rated "cost of the construction project" as more important than those with stable "yes" votes. To these respondents, cost was the most important factor. Respondents who changed their vote from "no" to "yes," rated the following factors as more important than those with stable "no" votes: (1) space for services and programs, and (2) meeting staffing needs. Still, to these respondents, cost was the most important factor. See [Appendix 5](#) for results by initial vote intentions.

**Figure 13. Importance of Specific Factors, by Vote Change**

**Survey Question:** How important are each of the following factors when considering how to vote for the construction of a new Sheriff's Office and Jail Building?



**VOTING BLOCKS:** STABLE "YES" VOTE | STABLE "NO" VOTE | MOVE FROM "NO" TO "YES"

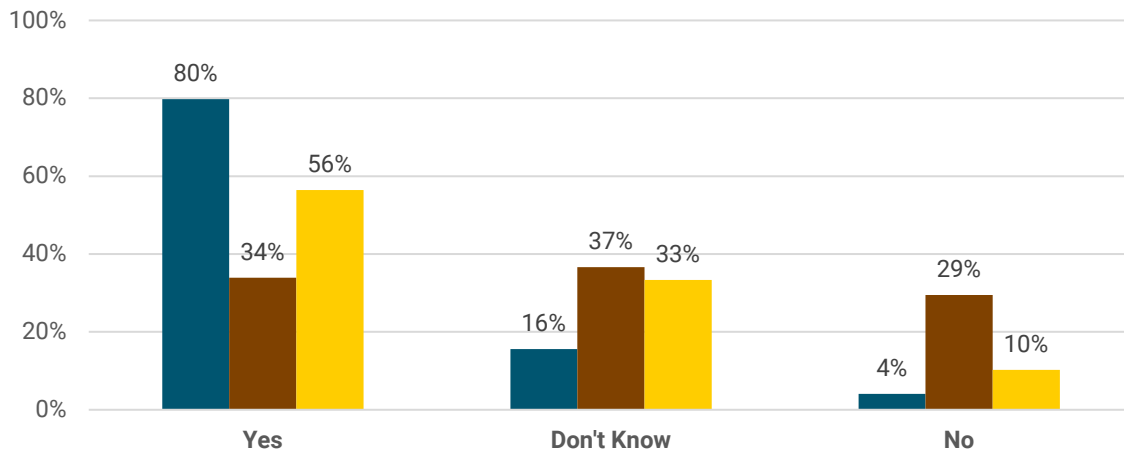
## Does support for exploring a joint law enforcement building with the Iowa City Police Department vary by Johnson County residents' voting intentions?

Overall, 70% of survey respondents indicated that they would be supportive of the possibility of a joint law enforcement building that shares space with the Iowa City Police Department (ICPD).

When disaggregated by voting intentions, respondents with stable "yes" votes and those who changed from "no" to "yes" were more likely to support exploring the combined space. One third of respondents who changed from "no" to "yes" were unsure of their support and an additional 10% were opposed to exploring the combined space. Respondents with stable "no" votes were largely split regarding their support for exploring a combined space, with 34% supportive, 37% unsure, and 29% opposed. See [Appendix 5](#) for results by initial vote intentions.

**Figure 14. Support for Joint Building with ICPD, by Vote Change**

**Survey Question:** Would you be supportive of the Johnson County Board of Supervisors exploring the possibility of a joint law enforcement building that shares space with the Iowa City Police Department?



**VOTING BLOCKS:** STABLE "YES" VOTE | STABLE "NO" VOTE | MOVE FROM "NO" TO "YES"

## Theme 4. Qualitative Findings

### How do Johnson County Residents explain their vote?

After being asked to revote, survey respondents were asked to explain why they would vote “yes” or “no” and were provided space to give a brief open-ended response. All responses, as written, are available in [Appendix 4](#).

Common themes from respondents with **stable “yes” votes** included statements about the conditions of the jail for staff (125 responses), conditions of the jail for inmates (107 responses), overall need of a new jail (94 responses), the poor condition of the jail (84 responses), and the size and capacity of the jail (49 responses).

*“Why do we continue to wait? The situation is not going to improve and the maintenance costs make no sense to continue. Lack of safety is a huge concern. Our law enforcement staff deserves to be safe and comfortable. They are serving our community.”*

*“I’d vote Yes. The conditions sound worse than I realized; also, the lack of ADA and services for inmates, coupled with unsafe conditions for staff, definitely changes my “probably” yes to a definite yes.”*

*“it seems the building is in need of major repair, especially if it is unsafe for staff and inmates. The lack of spaces is also not helping the current situation, both for programs and holding space.”*

Common themes from respondents with **stable “no” votes** included statements about cost (32 responses), over criminalization (24 responses), increased taxes (24 responses), that the county should use money elsewhere (21 responses), and requests for more information (18 responses).

*“it is a very expensive project. I am sure johnson co taxpayers would prefer to spend the money on a better project.”*

*“spending money on community programs (non-police) that bring opportunities and a social safety net would prevent crime & reduce the need for a jail at all. Programs are a better use of my tax money. If joco builds a new jail then the cops will fill it! This cycle of incarceration does not end via an ada jail – it ends with a stronger, more connected community!”*

*“the county should spend more time considering renovation or expansion of the current facility”*

Common themes from respondents who **moved from “no” to “yes”** included statements about the conditions of the jail for inmates (12 responses), conditions of the jail for staff (11 responses), overall need of a new jail (7 responses), the poor condition of the jail (6 responses), and requests for more information (5 responses).

*“Voted probably yes because incarceration is not the best option, and building a larger space means more incarceration but i support inmates safety and wellbeing and Johnson County jail is not in the best shape.”*

*“If the building truly is unsafe for inmates and staff, that needs to be corrected.”*

*“Inmates have a constitutional right to safety in their imprisonment and treatment. Lack of ADA accommodations, ability to do rehabilitation programs, and general safety flies in defiance of that.”*

### What additional information do Johnson County Residents need to make an informed decision about voting for the construction of a new building for the Sheriff’s Office and Jail?

Survey respondents were asked what additional information they would need to make an informed decision about voting for the construction of a new building the Sheriff’s Office and Jail and were provided space to give a brief open-ended response. All responses, as written, are available in [Appendix 4](#).

Common themes from respondents with **stable “yes” votes** included statements about cost (104 responses), location (48 responses), increased taxes (36 responses), joint space with ICPD (34 responses), no clear explanation (25 responses), and requests for more information (25 responses).

*“please show how many years before costs to build would be paid for by housing prisoners from other counties. johnson county seems so concerned about the cost to build the facility.”*

*“More publicized information on how things would be with the ICPD and Sheriffs Dept in the same building.”*

*“proximity/transportation to courthouse.”*

Common themes from respondents with **stable “no” votes** included statements about cost (32 responses), increased taxes (15 responses), size and capacity (10 responses), that county should use money elsewhere (10 responses), government overreach/distrust of law enforcement (8 responses), and overcriminalization (8 responses).

*“Cost. What the payback is. How a new facility could save both city and county recurring money each year.”*

*“How much it costs and what percentage of the taxpayers budget is being put towards it. Additionally, knowing what other projects are in the works, rather than building a big nice building for inmates. They are there for a reason!”*

*“none- because laws are to suppress freedom”*

Common themes from respondents who **moved from “no” to “yes”** included statements about cost (12 responses), services and programs space (8 responses), requests for more information (6 responses), size and capacity (6 responses), requests for arrest data (4 responses), and staff needs (4 responses).

*“Average number of inmates, staff count, current size of building, cost of new building, proposed location, tax payer impact”*

*“I would like to see an information packet explaining the need and cost. I’d also like to see what programs and efforts are made to keep people out of jails to begin with.”*

*“Proposed budgets, what new programming is expected in these designs, and what will happen to the old property”*

## What do Johnson County Residents feel is most important for Board of Supervisors to consider when developing the measure for the ballot?

Survey respondents were asked “what is the most important thing you would like the Board of Supervisors to consider when developing the measure for the ballot?” and were provided space to give a brief open-ended response. All responses, as written, are available in [Appendix 4](#).

Common themes from respondents with **stable “yes” votes** included statements about cost (92 responses), conditions of the jail for staff (49 responses), conditions of the jail for inmates (40 responses), the long-term sustainability of a new building (38 responses), and public safety (29 responses).

*“Explain well how any proposed increase in property taxes is justified and beneficial to those who are taxed.”*

*“i hope the supervisors can propose an adequate and safe facility that is not excessively costly to build and operate”*

*“The longevity of a massive project like a new jail. If a new jail is built tomorrow, will it be effective in 20 years? 40 years? I would rather not see another plea for a new jail in my lifetime.”*

Common themes from respondents with **stable “no” votes** included statements about cost (30 responses), that county should use money elsewhere (19 responses), prison abolishment/reform (16 responses), increased taxes (9 responses), and overcriminalization (9 responses).

*“My property taxes have more than doubled in the last 10 years. I cannot support raising taxes further.”*

*“i fear a “bigger better” jail will take away attention and resources from people who need them most.”*

*“More money towards rehabilitation services and extremely less to none towards incarceration and militarization of our police department.”*

Common themes from respondents who **moved from “no” to “yes”** included statements about cost (10 responses), conditions of the jail for inmates (3 responses), staff needs (3 responses), conditions of the jail for staff (3 responses), transparency of county about plans and process for new building (2 responses), county should use money elsewhere (2 responses), location (2 responses), increased taxes (2 responses), and mental health/root causes of crime (2 responses).

*“Long-term cost reductions and maximal safety for inmates and staff”*

*“Budget and the rights of people being jailed.”*

*“Safety and treatment of inmates and staff”*

## Phase 2. Focus Groups

For details regarding the focus group moderator guide development and the facilitation of the focus groups, see [Appendix 1](#). With input from CJCC subcommittee, CSSI staff developed a 90-minute moderation guide to be used with select survey respondents from the survey that was distributed to Johnson County, Iowa residents (see [Appendix 6](#)). Three focus groups were conducted the week of October 6, 2025.

A total of 17 survey respondent participated in the focus groups. Respondents were stratified into the following assigned groups based on their vote preference (as indicated on the survey) and the stability of their preference: (1) “stable yes” voters (n=4); (2) “stable no” voters (n=6); and (3) “shifting yes” respondents indicating a change in vote preference (n=7), either from “probably no” to “probably yes” or from “probably yes” to “definitely yes.” A full description of how the participants were recruited and assigned to focus groups is described in [Appendix 1](#).

The focus group participants were Johnson County residents. Eleven men and six women participated. Eight participants were between the ages of 18 to 64 years, and nine participants were 65 years and older. Most respondents were from Iowa City (n=13), with representation from Coralville (n=2), North Liberty (n=1), and other communities within Johnson County (n=1). Of the participants that attended, all but one were registered to vote in the County.

Each focus group explored the following seven general topics: (1) Biggest consideration determining how one would vote, (2) Most concerning issue about the current Sheriff’s Office and Jail facility, (3) Perceptions of the proposed cost of a new facility, (4) Deeper dive into programs and services, (5) Conditions of the jail and impact on voting preference, (6) Messaging needs and best practices, and (7) Deeper dive into what influence their voting intention on the issue.

A summary of the emerging themes for each of these topics will be presented in this report. We provide the prompts that were utilized for each topic and then provide a summary of the discussion across focus groups. Quotes are provided in *italics* with the focus group identified in [brackets]. For full transcripts of each session, see [Appendix 7](#).

## Focus Group Findings

### **What one issue surrounding the Sheriff’s Office and Jail is the biggest factor in how you would vote?**

Participants in all groups discussed cost as a major factor, with several participants focusing on the impact of the construction of the facility on taxes. The conditions of the current facility was a prominent theme among “stable yes” and “shifting yes” participants. “Stable yes” participants tended to highlight the age and deterioration of the current facility, and “shifting yes” participants tended to focus specifically on the safety of both inmates and staff in the current facility. “Stable no” participants discussed features of the potential new facility, including the programs and services that would be available, the location, and the size of the new facility. Other topics among focus group participants included the use of the facility for ICE detentions and jailing outside the county.

| Theme                          | Example(s)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cost                           | <p><i>"I think the cost-effective use of the... taxpayers' money is really important." [stable yes FG]</i></p> <p><i>"My bottom line is always what's going cost for my property taxes and how much I'm going to pay." [stable yes FG]</i></p> <p><i>"Cost to taxpayers is going to be number one for me." [stable no FG]</i></p> <p><i>"Cost just bubbles up to the top for me." [shifting yes FG]</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Conditions of current facility | <p><i>"It's old. It's been there forever and it's too small and something needs to be done about it." [stable yes FG]</i></p> <p><i>"...there's failing HVAC. I've had somebody going there before and said that he spent the night, and it was very cold. So, their wellbeing-... [both inmates and staff]" [shifting yes FG]</i></p> <p><i>"But I know the biggest issues on my mind when I think of, like, needing to replace a jail are the conditions for the inmates and the staff. Is it safe for them? Is it, if there's, like, issues with mold or something, is it harming everyone who's in that building just by being there?" [shifting yes FG]</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Features of new facility       | <p><i>"For me, I would need to know specifically like what exactly it would be used for, like a number of beds versus services. Like whatever would be- kind of thing specifically is going to be used in a-in a potential new facility." [stable no FG]</i></p> <p><i>"I think for me, I'd be most concerned with what all services for anti-recidivism would be involved in the location. Kind of feel like a larger and more modernized is inevitable, but what services are being provided there is really critical- paramount-... , that's pretty important." [stable no FG]</i></p> <p><i>Respondent 1: "Wherever it is, it'd be important to me that there'd [be hourly bus service.]"</i><br/> <i>Respondent 2: "I was going to say that too. There has to be bus service to it." Respondent 3: "A lot, I mean that way people can visit the inmates and that way the inmates also can have work release during the day." [stable no FG]</i></p> |
| Other                          | <p><i>"I'm immediately thinking of ICE, and ICE detention, because I know Linn County has been holding, I think, 30 to 40 ICE prisoners for, well, prisoners for ICE because ICE doesn't have detention areas in the area. So that's just what I'm thinking of immediately because I know it's happening in Linn County. I don't know what the county's position is on that..." [shifting yes FG]</i></p> <p><i>"I would want to know what's going on with the transferring inmates to Muscatine and other-other places. If that's still the same, still going on, has that been taken care of? You know, I think a large driver of arguing for a new facility, was it didn't have capacity, but I saw a large part of that is being because a lot of people had to be sent to Muscatine or elsewhere and I'm wondering whether they're still doing that. I would vote no currently." [stable no FG]</i></p>                                             |

## Of the concerning issues identified by the Board of Supervisors that were presented in the survey, which was the most concerning to you?

To facilitate discussion around this question, participants were provided with a visual aid that listed the concerning issues identified by the county in the survey. The issues listed were:

- The building is currently deteriorating
- Due to overcrowding, the county currently pays to jail inmates outside the county
- The building currently lacks space for inmates to receive services and participate in programming
- The jail does not meet accessibility guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- The conditions of the jail are unsafe for staff
- The conditions of the jail are unsafe for inmates

Participants highlighted a wide range of issues of concern and discussed a variety of topics. Participants across all three focus groups emphasized concerns for inmate and staff safety (this was also reflected in the survey results). Most participants discussed safety concerns in the context of the current design and physical deterioration of the current facility. *"How you design a jail and how you operate it applies to both the staff and the inmates. And those two things are really linked together... it was just not a good environment" [stable yes FG].* "Stable yes" participants also highlighted safety considerations regarding overcrowding: *"...if you get inmates who are angry and they're on top of each other... I think we've been kind of fortunate not to have an incident where... a member of staff has been... attacked in a serious way..." [stable yes FG].* Speaking to the issue of transferring inmates to jails outside the county: *"...I don't know what kind of liability [the county has] if there's an accident out there on the road for the inmate or the employee." [stable yes FG].*

In addition to safety considerations, "stable yes" participants emphasized cost implications of current operations. For instance, participants highlighted the costs of transferring inmates to other jails: *"And if you're paying to go outside the county, you're taking an employee all day on the road. ... You know, that's a ton of money going out the window just to- on road time." [stable yes FG].*

During "stable no" and "shifting yes" focus groups, participants emphasized the need for more information and more transparency about safety concerns. *"...it's unsafe because it's overcrowded? Or because of some kind of physical deterioration of the building or what?" [stable no FG].* *"Unsafe for inmates. What does that mean? Who's saying that? Where's that coming from? Is that from a group like us, a focus group? Is that from the building inspectors? Is that from other people that know about the inmates?" [shifting yes FG].*

During "stable no" and "shifting yes" focus groups, participants balanced their concerns about safety with concerns about overcriminalization. Participants questioned the reason for the proposed number of beds and inquired whether the proposed larger bed capacity was to generate revenue. *"It says that the new jail is planning on 140 beds to accommodate growth. And I'm curious what they think that growth is coming from, like, 'what is causing the overcrowding issue in general?'" [shifting yes FG].*

In summary, when considering the issues presented, all participants were concerned about safety for inmates and staff. Participants that were "stable no" and "shifting yes" voters tended to want more information about the safety concerns and were balancing their safety concerns with concerns about overcriminalization.



## The current proposed cost is \$80 million. How do you feel about the proposed cost of the facility?

When asked about the proposed cost of the facility, in all three focus groups, participants spoke frequently about the need for additional information to understand and justify the costs. Participants highlighted that they did not have meaningful context for understanding the proposed cost. *"...we have no frame of reference. \$80 million is \$80 million."* [stable no FG].

Most participants emphasized the need for additional details and transparency to justify the costs. *"80 million doesn't mean anything to me except when you say 'here's what that covers'"* [shifting yes FG]. *"If I'm going to vote on \$80 million, I don't want it to just be like a blank check, 'Trust us, we're going to do these things.' I would want to know what exactly, like that there would be some commitment...to structure it in a certain way."* [stable no FG].

Participants named a wide range of components of the proposed cost that they would like to know more about, with a particular emphasis on (1) the design of the building and (2) programming and services:

- **Design of the building:** *"I'd like to see the-the drawings of the building, you know, what it's going to look like. I'd also like to see the inside, make sure it's going to be functionally safe."* [stable yes FG]
  - Operational design: *"The style of operation might make a difference. [Whether it's a pod system or-]... some of that might make a difference to people if they'd understand, [how it's supposed to operate.]* [stable yes FG]. Or concerns about design related to services that are part of operations: *"...[you could have] somebody two in the morning is in a cell and they start freaking out.. the current conditions of the jail make it really hard for services to get in there and help that person safely... having...more modern setups and everything, I think, would be a big improvement."* [stable no FG]
  - Outdoor space: *"...is there going to be like any outdoor space for people who might be there... long term?"* [shifting yes FG]
  - Meeting spaces: *"... what type of meeting spaces will there be for... inmates to be able to talk to their lawyers in a space that is secure."* [shifting yes FG]
  - Costs of additional beds: *"I want more information about...I keep focusing on the beds number, because that's like, what they're advertising. ... But \$80 million just to...add 60 beds doesn't make sense to me."* [shifting yes FG]
  - Additional facilities: *"what facilities are they going to add that might improve the quality of life?"* [shifting yes FG]
  - Differing costs by operational design: *If you can show... 'Okay, here's this design, you know, where we do- let's say pods with a central place here that one person, or we do in a row' you know. How does that impact the design of it? How does that impact the cost? ... ideally, if you had more than one design to-to look at, you know, 'This would be a possibility, and we could do it this way or make it with different price tags on it, you know, if we did this, without this.'"* [stable yes FG]
- **Programming and services:** *"I think they should lay out what they intend to provide as far as services because I don't see the Johnson County Sheriff's Department as a social services agency. I see them as law enforcement. And so, the programming and services, I think they should lay out exactly what they intend to provide and what that's going to cost...that's not resonating with me because I don't know what they're talking about."* [stable no FG].
  - Social workers: *"...are they hiring more social workers to help people get out faster..."* [shifting yes FG]

- Mental health professionals: *“Are they adding more mental health professionals to help make sure their evaluations, maybe a better clinic or care facility on site for inmates who are injured?” [shifting yes FG]*
- Diversion programs: *“is some of this money going to working towards like, the diversion programs? [shifting yes FG]*
- Recreational programming: *“...and people do need to have recreation opportunities, but what is that going to mean and what is that going to look like? So that's a legitimate concern.” [stable no FG]*

Some participants requested cost comparisons in order to better understand the proposed cost, including:

- Comparisons to the costs of not building a jail: *“How much are we paying to jail inmates outside the county versus how much would this new facility cost?” [stable no FG]. “[cost of a new facility] alongside a comparison to what it would cost to keep the current, or [update the current facilities] in some way, so then you've got some kind of basis for comparison rather than just the raw numbers, if you will.” [shifting yes FG]*
- Comparisons to other building costs: *“How does it compare to what the University Hospital does?” [stable yes FG]*

Participants requested information about impact of costs on taxpayer. *“I also want to know, that \$80 million, how much is that per taxpayer. That was something I thought was nice with this last year's [Conservation Bond Issue]. They were like, “per year it's going to cost each taxpayer-” was like a dollar or something. That's a lot more digestible for people than 80 million...” [shifting yes FG]. “...the thing I think would I want to know the most before I checked “yes” on something is, ‘how much is it going to cost me. Not how much is it going to cost the county, how much will it be costing ME?’ And knowing how some of my family members are, I think that would probably be one of the biggest things for them is how much will it cost them individually.” [shifting yes FG]*

In summary, participants requested more information to better understand the justification for the cost of the facility, including more details about the design, operations, and the services that will be made available.

### **Having space for programs and services was an important issue residents mentioned in the survey responses. Why do you think this was an important issue for residents?**

Participants in all focus groups spoke about programs and services being important for rehabilitation and community safety: *“Reduce recidivism.” [stable yes FG]. “To prevent people from being repeat offenders.” [shifting yes FG]. “... if they're going to be there for several months, then programming is useful because... then you can address the substance abuse or mental health issues...” [stable yes FG]. “Because it can make the community safer. If people are getting the proper treatment... that decreases the chance of them repeating the action, which can help make the community safer for everyone.” [shifting yes FG].* Some participants added that the discussion about programs and services in jail is about access: *“...it can be a little bit more difficult to see those different services if you need to leave the jail, because then they have to organize transport all of this stuff. But if those services are offered in the same building, it's probably going to be able to be easier to be able to set it up so... the inmates can actually take advantage of those services...” [shifting yes FG].*

Participants wanted more information about the types of programs and services that would be made available with the new facility. When prompted to discuss the types of programs and services that they would like to see available, participants discussed:

- **Medical facilities:** *“One of the real particular problems a lot of those offices have are medical issues. ... I mean, yeah, there might be a nurse on duty...” [stable yes FG] “...I would like to see them really hammer that, you know, medical facilities and psychiatric services are, you know, on site supportive.” [stable no FG].*

- **Mental health treatment:** *"Mental health stuff to help... just, access to a counselor..." [shifting yes FG]. "R1:... if they're going to be there for several months, then programming is useful because you, then you can address the substance abuse or mental health issues or whatever issues they have, [and hopefully they come out-] R2: [I would go far, as far to say,] it's not just useful, it's essential, yeah. [stable yes FG]*
- **Substance abuse support:** *"...And the people providing services don't need to be employed by the Sheriff's Department. They could be people like the substance abuse center." [stable yes FG]. "...You still need help of how to manage your alcoholism or addiction to whatever substance, and then someone to guide you of how you can continue getting help outside." [shifting yes FG].*
- **Visitor space:** *"I also think having appropriate places for them to have visitors, whether that's community members or lawyers or family members..." [stable no FG].*
- **Spiritual services:** *"...spiritual services would be really incredibly valuable for some people probably." [stable no FG].*
- **Work-release:** *"work-release would be nice" [stable yes FG].*

Some participants in the "stable no" focus groups suggested that jails are also about deterrence: *"There's a question with jails in general. Is the purpose rehabilitation or deterrence?" "I think you can have both." [stable no FG].* Participants cautioned against making the jail experience too nice and expressed some reluctance about the programs and services offered: *"...I don't want to say like have a positive experience because obviously you're in jail for doing something antisocial..." "Yeah, it's supposed to be unpleasant." [stable no FG]. "What kind of services are being- I mean, this is a new angle for me, personally. I don't think of the county jail system as being a real big service provider. I think of them more as being a temporary holder of people. If its long-term, they go...somewhere else." [stable no FG] "When you say programs and services for inmates, I think of people coming down from the parking ramp department giving pottery classes or something... I know it's not something that's silly, but that's the first thing that comes to mind."*

### **Conditions for Sheriff's Office and Jail staff was another issue residents mentioned in the survey responses. How much of a factor is this in determining if you would/wouldn't support a ballot measure?**

During this discussion, participants in all three focus groups expressed concern for both staff and inmates. When discussing staff conditions, both "stable yes" and "stable no" participants discussed the impact of poor conditions on staff recruitment and retention: *"you want to have good facilities for... general employees... so that you can recruit good people." [stable yes FG]. "...bad facilities are incentive to leave, that's for sure. And you invest a lot of money with people up front when you're training them and getting them ready and they're getting to know the job in the first two or three years, and then if they don't like where they're working, then you're losing a lot of money." [stable yes FG]. "Work conditions matter. I've seen departments that have had real problems with turnover." [stable yes FG]. "...we need to be attracting staff of a certain caliber..." [stable no FG].* Participants also emphasized the importance of involving staff in the discussion. *"Did they even ask their employees, you know, what they thought...really needed to be done to make it successful?" [stable no FG].* Participants in the "shifting yes" focus group suggested better conditions for staff would improve treatment of inmates: *"...staff having good working conditions, and hopefully that then moves over to the inmates, and their...treatment is better, or certainly different..." [shifting yes FG].*

Most participants in the "stable yes" and "stable no" focus groups discussed staff safety in the context of the quality of the current building: *"...And then I started seeing the cracks..." [stable yes FG]. "But based on the leaky pipes and the busted-out HVAC and the crumbling concrete and bricks..." [stable no FG]. "...I have also heard about sewer gas smell..." [stable no FG].*

Some participants interpreted safety in the context of violence between inmates and staff: *“And again, to specify safety, it sounds more like... health conditions of the building and how that’s affecting staff. Whereas when I first heard about this, ‘Oh, it’s unsafe,’ I thought they meant maybe staff weren’t safe from violence from inmates or something like that.”* [stable no FG]. Participants in the “shifting yes” focus group discussed how a new facility could be designed to prevent unsafe conditions and violence: *“...what type of security measures will be in place? Not just to keep the staff safe, but to make sure that they feel safe, so they’re less likely to react negatively if something happens.”* [shifting yes FG]. *“...is there enough space to make sure... that the people being held there are safe.”* [shifting yes FG]. *“...multiple spaces...splitting up people in separate blocks...”* [shifting yes FG].

## What do you think are the best ways / methods to reach and educate people about the plan to construct a Sheriff’s Office and Jail?

### Content of Messaging

Most participants suggested focusing on the health concerns created by the current facility when discussing the need of the new facility: *“Talk about asbestos and how that can harm people. Talk about how long-term exposure to mold can affect [your brain] like, stuff like that.”* [shifting yes FG]. Participants emphasized adding a personalized approach in the messaging: *“it could be your brother, your sister, your daughter, you know, it could be you.”* *“I think that’s a significant point.”* [stable yes FG].

Participants recommended providing photos, videos, and testimonials about the conditions of the current facility:

- *“Get more photos and news items inside the jail and show those cracks, show those leaks.”* [stable yes FG].
- *“I think if... somebody saw a... real video of how bad it is in the current one, and you have some deputy saying, ‘Hey, I was trying to save an inmate’s life and I cut myself on this old piping.’”* [stable no FG].
- *“Testimony from current staff. Like, ‘I went there, and I got asthma from the bad pipes.’”* [stable no FG].
- *“If on-the-ground deputies could... tell anecdotal stories about issues they have and how they’re hoping to improve that. And even from the viewpoint of the inmates...”* [stable no FG].
- *“...It’d be hard to find the right ones, but the ones that have used the facility. There’s somebody out there saying, ‘...yes! You guys need to improve, because I stayed there for six months, and it’s not good.’”* [stable yes FG]

Some participants also suggested focusing on the associated costs. *“But there’s a second piece of this, you would have to persuade people that this \$80 million plan is necessary. That it’s not too expensive...”* [stable no FG]. *“They could focus on how much money is the county losing every year paying to ship these inmates out of county and how much have they paid in the last 10 years in total. And to compare that to the cost of a new jail.”* [shifting yes FG].

Participants in the “shifting yes” focus group suggested discussing how the new facility would be used to improve rehabilitation. *“I care about how the 80 million dollars is going to... help the community help people stay out of jail.”* [shifting yes FG]

### Communication Method

Participants discussed a wide range of strategies for communicating information:

- **Educational events with Q&A sessions:** *“I think it’d be good to be interactive, like a Q&A kind of session because we have a lot of questions ourselves.”* [stable no FG]. *“Maybe doing an event in conjunction with the University just to inform people. And maybe have it so there’s a bit of a Q&A section...”* [shifting yes FG].
- **News media:** *“I do think going on those local stations is beneficial... chances are they have a favorite anchor, they have a favorite news station... hitting all three of the... main local ones.”* [shifting yes FG]. *I don’t watch TV*

*much... but I do listen to the radio, Iowa Public Radio. And I listen to the local River To River or Talk of Iowa..."*  
[shifting yes FG]

- **Mailers:** *"I was about to say mail... I get most... stuff from mailers..."* [stable no FG]. *"...when it got a bit closer to the election, they sent a... mail flyer thing, that just had the key points, where you could get the information. It was very clear. You could tell kind of they were more leaning towards voting yes on it, but they sent that out with some basic facts, and then where you could find more information. Because you don't want to overwhelm people, but you still want to find a way to catch their attention. So, I think sending that out to all mail- all everyone that is registered to vote can help..."* [shifting yes FG].
- **Signage:** *"I know the resolution I voted on last year, the biggest thing... there was a very short snappy sign that was on my walk that I passed every day that gave the basics..."* [shifting yes FG]. *"...I have to stop at a traffic light. And if there were something there that gave me three bullet points, I'm... a captive audience for that 43 seconds before the light changes again..."* [shifting yes FG] *"...inside city buses..."* [shifting yes FG].
- **Social media:** *"... I'm definitely on the younger side, but most of my local news comes from either Instagram- I follow the city and the county- or the Iowa City subreddit, or Iowa subreddit..."* [shifting yes FG].

### Messengers

Participants across all three focus groups suggested that county supervisors and city councilors should be delivering messages about the current facility and the referendum: *"I think the board of supervisors too. Obviously, they've been elected, so they have...a base of support in the county."* [stable yes FG].

Participants provided mixed responses regarding the sheriff as the messenger. Participants in the "stable yes" focus group suggested that the sheriff's perspective was an important message to share, but emphasized that it should not only be the sheriff and should include other elected officials, as well as deputies. Participants in the "stable no" focus group felt that the sheriff should not be providing the message: *"I think Sheriff Kunkel is too political to do it. I think he's already made his point..."* [stable no FG]. Instead, "stable no" participants preferred the message come from deputies, other elected officials, or community organizations.

Participants in the "shifting yes" focus group discussed community organizations as important messengers: *"Shelter House. Like, use things like that. The Crisis Center. ... Because, you know, that's where people tend to go... for services anyway. Post some things there on the bulletins... people can come pick brochures and things like that up."* [shifting yes FG].

Overall, participants suggested providing a unified group message: *"What about a joint, sort of like a joint group where you have City Council, you have people who represent community services, and then you have some sort of a law enforcement liaison... And having them all come together and jointly present some of that information."* [stable no FG]. *"I think if you set up a consortium, of a variety, of different agencies. That...consortium can disseminate the information, and that consortium includes all these agencies that might interest me, and you, and you, and all of us."* [shifting yes FG]

### Explain current vote

In the final section of the focus group discussions, participants were asked to provide additional rationale about their responses on the survey regarding their voting intentions.

**"Stable yes" focus group: You indicated that you would probably vote yes on a ballot measure, and your preference didn't change based on information provided in the survey. Why did your preference not change?**

Participants in the “stable yes” focus group further explained the rationale behind their vote by emphasizing the list of concerns with the current facility: *“I’ve been aware of the need for a new jail for years and years... For inmate safety, for the staff there, for the attorneys and for the operation of the justice system. I mean, there’s all lots of reasons why.”* [stable yes FG]. *“I’ve talked to former employees from down at the sheriff’s department, and they convinced me, you know.”* [stable yes FG]. *“I’ve been down there and worked with them and people there, and seen the building and seen other jails, sheriff’s departments, and operations, and that needs to be brought up to 21st century standards.”* [stable yes FG].

**“Stable no” focus group: You indicated that you would probably vote no on a ballot measure, and your preference didn’t change based on information provided in the survey. Why did your preference not change?**

Participants in the “stable no” focus group emphasized a need for more information about the current facility and the plan for building a new facility: *“Now that you know this isn’t safe, would you?” Well, you haven’t convinced me it’s not safe.”* [stable no FG]. *“And I think just our discussing the transparency issues, if they would come to us with transparency, and just lay it on the table...”* [stable no FG]. *“So, people don’t know enough, and they need to know more.”* [stable no FG]. *“And then there’s all the information we don’t know that we need to be shown before we can make a decision.”* *“You know this \$80 million, is there another option, is kind of important for me to know.”* [stable no FG].

Participants in the “stable no” focus group also shared that their voting intentions were changed by the discussion with the other focus group participants: *“I feel like I’m more open to voting for it now. After hearing other people’s thoughts on things because I hadn’t thought about things like programming or, you know, what we can offer inmates.”* [stable no FG]. *“I think I would be a lot more open to supporting that now than I was, but I still need to have some transparency.”* [stable no FG].

**“Shifting yes” focus group: After receiving information on the recent survey you, indicated that your voting intention changed. Why?”**

Participants in the “shifting yes” focus group also discussed a need for more information: *“...getting more details out there about how the current building is, and how much it’s going to cost to keep it running, with the idea that eventually it is just going to be condemned, and we’re going to have to build a new one anyway.”* [shifting yes FG]. *“...If you want more information, visit this site, it’s available. ...And they have all the information they need.”* [shifting yes FG]. *“It’s a tough issue, but I think we need more information, and the public need more information.”* [shifting yes FG].

Participants in the “shifting yes” focus group also shared the importance of getting public input: *“Bringing the public in is great. Like, what you did... that’s what I’m saying. If you put something out there... like a link where people could share their ideas, what they think. Not just us, but another link. And I know someone is going to report all of what we, you know, all of this and compact it...”* [shifting yes FG].

## Summary

Participants in the three focus groups were highly engaged and interested in the topic. The discussions throughout the focus groups were heavily focused on the building conditions, the cost of the project, the programs and services that would be offered in the new facility, the importance of additional information and transparency, and best strategies for messaging.

Most participants agreed that the current facility was in poor condition. Some participants wanted more information about the conditions. When considering the issues of the current building, most participants emphasized inmate and staff safety.

When discussing the proposed new facility, the biggest issue that emerged in all three groups was cost justification and the desire to know more about details of the plan. Specifically, there was a suggested need for more details about what the costs will entail, what programs and services may be offered as part of these costs, and how the design of the facility justifies the cost and how it compares to other projects. Taxpayer impact was a recurring concern, particularly among “shifting yes” voters, who emphasized the importance of framing costs in terms of individual burden.

The focus group participants viewed programs and services as a critical topic that strongly informs their vote preference. The “stable no” and “shifting yes” focus groups, in particular, spent more time discussing what information about programs and services they would need to know to make an informed decision. Participants wanted to know about medical facilities, mental health treatment, and substance abuse supports, among other topics. Some “stable no” participants were more favorable of a new facility when considering the potential for more programming and services. Some “stable no” participants expressed caution about the jail’s role as a service provider.

All focus groups emphasized that communication about the project should be transparent, personalized, and multi-channel – using photos, videos, testimonials, and clear cost breakdowns. They recommended trusted messengers such as elected officials, deputies, and community organizations, and suggested interactive forums, mailers, signage, and social media to reach voters effectively. Participants agreed that clear information and visible accountability are critical for building trust and shaping public support.

## **Appendix 1. Methodology**

### **Project Design**

#### **Overview**

CSSI proposed a mixed mode design – survey and focus groups - to best meet the project objective. Our overall methods operated from a community engaged research orientation (e.g. Israel et al., 1998; Minkler 2000, 2005; Wallerstein et al., 2020), with CJCC as an integral part of the iterative development and implementation process. The key principles of community engaged research highlight: 1) community as a central unit of analysis; 2) the strengths and resources within communities to create solutions; 3) collaborative partnerships, mutual benefit, and co-learning in all phases of the project; and 4) the cyclical and iterative nature of community-based work. CSSI strived to integrate community engaged principles throughout the project to ensure that the methods selected yielded outcomes representative of the needs and perspectives of key partners and communities. Furthermore, our methods adhered to best practices in survey methodology (e.g., Dillman et al., 2009; Messer & Dillman, 2011; Millmar & Dillman, 2011) that have established evidence-based recommendations for sampling strategies and modes of data collection to minimize error in reporting and increase the scientific integrity of results.

#### **Population and Setting**

The project sampled residents, 18 years and older, living in Johnson County, Iowa. Based on U.S. Census Population estimates (2023), the population of Johnson County, Iowa is 157,528 comprised of 62,214 household units. Looking at demographics, 19.10% of the population are persons under 18 years, 80.9% of the population are over 18 years, and 13.80% are persons over 65 years. Approximately 49.60% of the population is male and 76% are white alone. A majority (86%) of the population resides in incorporated areas.

### **Survey Design**

#### **Survey Development**

CSSI staff provided consultation to the CJCC sub-committee to assist with survey development in close accordance with standards and best practices established by the American Association of Public Opinion Researchers (AAPOR). The team is well versed in survey instrument development and testing. Staff experience includes the construction of questionnaires, including content development and framing, sensitivity concerns, and general best practices in question format, language choice, and flow.

Survey questions were developed in collaboration with CJCC. Survey topics included a baseline voting measure, general knowledge about the Sheriff's Office and jail, information sources, questions about awareness and concern of the facility, a re-assessment of voting preference, perceptions about planning factors and considerations, perceptions about community safety and justice, demographics questions, and a question to determine interest in participating in future focus groups.

A forty-item instrument was developed for mail, web, and phone data collection. Items consisted of Likert type scales, single select options, and open response questions. Survey questions were crafted neutrally to reduce leading or bias of the respondents and provide clear and concise questions wording. Response options were



designed to be balanced and to elicit the most meaningful responses. Staff provided suggestions to clarify the content of the survey to promote quality exchanges in all modes of deployment.

Additionally, to recognize the language differences within the county and be responsive to budgetary needs, the survey cover letter included instructions, in Spanish, for potential Spanish-speaking respondents to request a Spanish-language survey packet be mailed to them or to complete the survey online via quick response (QR) code. Any respondent, regardless of language, was also able to complete the survey online in their preferred language (English or Spanish).

Prior to survey deployment, the CSSI team performed an in-house quality assurance review and quality control testing of the survey instrument to ensure that the questions were free from errors, sequencing of survey questions follows the appropriate flow, the content was relevant and clearly presented, and the survey accurately captured the data requested by the county. CSSI project specialists conducted weekly quality control assessments of project data and provided additional training to field staff weekly or as needed.

The survey was finalized for deployment on May 9, 2025. A copy of the mail survey instrument and postcard is available in [Appendix 2](#).

## Survey Deployment

**Sample.** After completion of the survey instrument, CSSI staff assisted with sampling and deployment for the survey. We targeted 400 completed surveys, which based on the total population of Johnson County, represents the minimum recommended size to produce representative results with a 5% margin of error. In other words, because it is not feasible to survey the entire population, using a sample of 400 respondents will increase the likelihood that the outcomes are close to the real population value.

A random sample of 3,859 address-based Johnson County records were purchased from Dynata, a reputable sample provider. Most records included a name for mailing; however, 129 records did not include a name associated and were addressed to "Current Resident." Landline and cell phone numbers were appended to each record if available. University of Iowa Campus mail removed 13 records prior to printing and distribution due to invalid mailing addresses.

One limitation of an address-based sample is that areas which have more apartment buildings tend to have high occupant turnover and are much more likely to have an out-of-date name associated with the record. These are more likely to come back undeliverable from the United States Postal Service.

**Mailing #1.** Surveys were printed in English and consisted of a 6-page survey instrument printed booklet style with a pre-perforated 1-page consent cover letter (eight pages total); The booklet was sized to be 8.5" x 11". The survey packets were sent to a sample of 3,846 on May 22, 2025, using a 9" x 12" window envelope with the Iowa logo and included the survey booklet, a \$1 pre-incentive, and a 6.5" x 9.5" pre-paid business reply envelope addressed to the Center for Social Science Innovation (CSSI) for use by the respondent when returning survey. The unique survey identification number was printed on the footer of the survey for tracking purposes.

**Postcard Reminder.** A postcard reminder was sent on June 12, 2025, approximately three weeks following mailing #1, and sent to non-respondents (n= 3,374). The postcard was 8.5" x 5.5" and printed in black ink on sunburst yellow cardstock.

**Phone Call Follow-Up.** CSSI field staff conducted phone call follow-ups to non-respondents with an offer to complete the survey over the phone. Follow-up calls were conducted between June 20, 2025, through July 18, 2025. The calls were conducted using computer-aided telephone interview (CATI) software. For telephone data

collection, a total of 1,931 records were attempted, and invited to complete a telephone survey. The maximum number of attempts for any unique records was three, unless a callback request was established. If a callback was established, the respondent was called back periodically through the end of the study. If a voice mailbox was reached, a message was left at the first and final attempts for all records and included a toll-free number for the respondent to call and complete the survey. If a potential respondent was reached, field staff provided a brief description of why they were calling and collected survey responses via computer-aided telephone interview. The telephone survey was only offered in English.

**Mailing #2.** A second mailing was planned to occur approximately four weeks following the initial mailing but was eliminated as a cost saving measure in light of a better than expected response rate to the first mailing, postcard reminder, and phone call follow-up. The projected costs for this second mailing was reallocated toward the moderation of three community focus groups and transcription to be conducted at a later date.

## Survey Phase Administration

### Mail Tracking

The CSSI tracked incoming mail consisting of survey responses using a Microsoft access database. For each survey received, the following information was tracked: date received, version (1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> mailing, if applicable), status, completion mode (mail, telephone, web), survey language (English, Spanish), and focus group interest. The following survey statuses were used: undeliverable (no forwarding address available), re-send (forwarding address available), complete, incomplete, refused, deceased, incarcerated, duplicate. Any surveys tracked as “re-send” were re-sent to the participant with the materials described above, and the sample address was updated. All surveys were de-identified and prepared for data entry and coding.

All surveys were independently double entered by field staff using Qualtrics survey software to store data. Field staff are trained to enter data as written on the survey; therefore, any misspellings or grammatical errors will be present in the raw data. A comparison script was developed using Stata to compare responses across raters and identify data entry discrepancies. Field staff then retrieved the actual survey and recorded the correct value. Incorrect values were re-coded within the data with correct values. Additional quality checks were performed by the project specialist after re-coding.

Open-ended responses were reviewed independently by a team of field staff and a list of response codes were developed so each open response could be categorized numerically. The numeric codes were used to quantify open-ended responses. A table showing a list of response codes, themes identified, and a description of the theme is available in [Appendix 4](#).

### Quality Control Measures

**Translation.** Translation of the survey instruments and materials were conducted by a consultant who is a native Spanish speaker and current Master of Fine Arts candidate in Spanish Creative Writing.

**Data Collection.** To ensure quality, field staff were provided standardized training of mail tracking, data entry, and calling procedures, including voice mail protocols and disposition coding. Field staff also receive project-specific training related to the project background and instrument. Disposition codes are reviewed and cleaned regularly. In-person monitoring and supervision of mail tracking, data entry and interviewing and was implemented during CSSI hours of operation. Additionally, field staff productivity was monitored.

**Returned Incentives.** Upon receipt of an undeliverable survey mailing, returned cash incentives (\$1 bill) were tracked in the mail tracking database and deposited according to departmental cash handling procedures. During data collection, 526 incentives were returned due to undeliverable addresses.

## Focus Groups

The Center for Social Science Innovation (CSSI) supported the county in conducting 3 focus groups to further explore themes identified from the survey. As part of the support for focus groups, CSSI provided consultation to develop a moderator script and assistance with focus group planning. CSSI provided two staff members to serve as moderator and assistant moderator, with the purpose of recruiting participants and collecting qualitative data at the focus groups. CSSI also provided necessary materials and recording equipment to conduct the focus groups. Data and document storage is provided by CSSI in accordance with University of Iowa policies.

Three exploratory focus group sessions were conducted with survey respondents who indicated interest in participating in a focus group discussion. Focus group recordings were transcribed by CSSI field staff and reviewed by the moderator and assistant moderator for accuracy. Transcription and thematic coding was conducted by CSSI.

## Focus Group Moderator Script

A moderator script was developed in collaboration with a CJCC sub-committee. CSSI staff provided consultation on the script. The script contained an introduction and ground rules section, followed by an opening question asking, "What one issue surrounding the Sheriff's Office and Jail is the biggest factor in how you would vote?" Six additional questions were asked during the focus group discussion, and topics included 1) concerning issues identified by the Board of Supervisors that were presented in the survey, 2) discussions about cost, 3) discussions about programs and services, 4) conditions for staff, 5) messaging, and 6) vote preference. The script included a primary question for each topic area as well as 1-5 question prompts to help guide the conversation and explore topics in more detail. Most questions were allotted approximately 15 minutes to discuss, with variations in duration as appropriate.

## Recruitment

CSSI led recruitment efforts for participation in focus groups. The initial survey included a question, "Are you interested in participating in a 90-minute focus group about this topic?" Ninety respondents indicated interest and provided contact information for future contact. Respondents were given the option to provide a phone number and an email address. These respondents were further stratified into the following assigned groups based on their vote preference and the stability of their preference: (1) "stable yes" voters (n=16) who indicated they would probably vote yes to a referendum, (2) "stable no" voters (n=12) who indicated they would probably vote no on a referendum, and (3) "shifting yes" respondents who indicated a change in vote preference (n=17), either from "probably no" to "probably yes" or from "probably yes" to "definitely yes." Respondents who indicated stable preferences of "definitely yes" (n=23), "definitely no" (n=7), and those who failed to provide a vote preference (n=9) were omitted from selection. The CSSI moderator and assistant moderator contacted eligible participants via phone and email up to two times. If an answering machine was reached, the caller left a message and callback number. Recruitment started approximately 3-4 business days ahead of the planned focus group dates. Once a respondent agreed to participate, they were sent a confirmation email and calendar invitation including details of the location, date, and time of the focus group. The CSSI team also sent a calendar invitation to participants the morning of the focus group.

### Moderation

Three 90-minute in-person focus groups were conducted at the Center for Social Science Innovation, Social Sciences Research Building at 605 East Jefferson Street. All focus groups were conducted in English. Each respondent was supplied with a name placard, note pad, pen, and a light meal and refreshments.

The three focus groups yielded 17 participants. Upon completion of the focus groups, the study team paid respondents a \$50 cash incentive for their time. Table 1 describes details of each focus group conducted.

**Table 1. Focus Group Locations & Participation**

|         | Description           | Date of Focus Group | Location                                         | Participants N |
|---------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Group 1 | “Stable yes” voters   | 10/6/2025 @ 4:30 PM | Social Sciences Research Building, Iowa City, IA | 4              |
| Group 2 | “Stable no” voters    | 10/6/2025 @ 6:30 PM | Social Sciences Research Building, Iowa City, IA | 7              |
| Group 3 | “Shifting yes” voters | 10/8/2025 @ 5:30 PM | Social Sciences Research Building, Iowa City, IA | 6              |
| Total   |                       |                     |                                                  | 17             |

The focus groups were recorded using digital voice recorders (various models). The CSSI managed the recordings and saved audio files to University network drives immediately after completion of the focus group.

### Transcription

Audio files were transcribed by CSSI. First, the audio data was processed using Whisper by OpenAI (<https://openai.com/index/whisper/>). Whisper is an automatic speech recognition (ASR) system trained on 680,000 hours of multilingual and multitask supervised data collected from the web. The software enables transcription in multiple languages, as well as translation from those languages into English.

Following automated processing by Whisper, CSSI field staff began a manual transcription process using Olympus transcription software to adjust and correct any inconsistencies found during the Whisper processing. This is a three-step process where an initial field staff reviews the transcripts and corrects inconsistencies, a second field staff reviews the file and edits for quality, and then the field staff supervisor conducts a final read-through and approval. The transcript files were shared with the client immediately upon transcription completion.

### Coding

Thematic categories and sub-categories were developed by the moderator and assistant moderator using the focus group moderator guide. Sub-codes were established based on themes that emerged from the focus group conversation. The CSSI moderator and assistant moderator oversaw transcript-based content analysis using

Dedoose 9.2.12, a software package that facilitates qualitative analysis. Coding discrepancies were reviewed and discussed by raters and moderators until a consensus was achieved. Then, the codes were exported to an Excel file for review. Focus group codes are available in [Appendix 8](#).

### Institutional Review Board

All study procedures were reviewed and deemed non human subjects research by the University of Iowa Institutional Review Board, IRB-02. A copy of the determination is available in [Appendix 9](#).

### Document Storage

CSSI will end data storage on 08/14/2030 and will destroy any hard copy surveys or electronic data sets in a secure manner. The CSSI's standard policy is to retain data for up to five years.

### Project Deliverables to Client

The following files are posted via OneDrive:

| File name                                           | Mode   | File Type      |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------|----------------|
| CSSI IOWA_Final Report_CJCC Survey and Focus Groups | Survey | PDF            |
| CJCC Survey Data (CJCC_Final_8-8-25.xlsx)           | Survey | Excel Workbook |
| CJCC Survey Codebook                                | Survey | Docx           |

## Acknowledgement in future publications

We request that you acknowledge the research support services offered during this project in papers, reports, or other output relying on these services. Specifically, and in addition to any discussion included in the data or methodology section as appropriate, we ask that our support be noted in the general acknowledgements section. This could be as simple as the following: “Support for [services, e.g., data collection, transcription, statistical analysis] was provided by the Center for Social Science Innovation at the University of Iowa.”

We would be excited to learn about publications and presentations arising from this support and can disseminate them through CSSI media channels, if desired.

## Figure Notes

Below, we provide additional notes regarding several figures included in the “Thematic Findings” section of the report.

### Figure 1. Initial Vote Distribution

- Data weights were calculated using the ‘anesrake’ package in R (<https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/anesrake/anesrake.pdf>). This package takes the targeted percentages for selected demographic categories and uses an iterative procedure to generate the weights from those targets. It uses the American National Election Studies (ANES) weighting algorithm. Weights were generated for both the voting population and the general population of Johnson County, Iowa, using publicly available data. Using Johnson county voting registration data (<https://www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/voter-registration-statistics>), a *voting population weight* was developed using party identification, age, and zip code variables. Six hundred fifty-eight (658) responses were weighted, with only the cases where valid responses in all three of the weighting categories were available. Using data from the United States Census Bureau’s American Community Survey data (<https://data.census.gov>), a *general population weight* was developed using gender, age, and zip code variables. Six hundred seventy-one (671) responses were weighted, with only the cases where valid responses for all three of the weighting categories were available.

### Figure 2. Initial Vote Distribution, by Individual Characteristics

- To comport with research and reporting standards, we do not include groups in which there were ten or fewer respondents. “Refuse to answer” responses were excluded in statistical analyses.
- “White” includes all respondents that identified as “White” and did not report having a Hispanic or Latino origin or background.
- “Non-White” includes all respondents that identified as a racial group other than “White” or reported having a Hispanic or Latino origin or background.
- “Other Johnson County” includes respondents that reside in zip codes not associated with Iowa City, Coralville, or North Liberty.

### Figure 8. Information Sources, by Initial Vote

- Survey responses were recoded to reflect the percentage of respondents that reported that they “very often” or “always” got their news and information about local issues from the list of possible sources.

**Figure 11. Perceptions of Public Safety and Criminal Justice System, by Vote Change**

- The scale “public safety” was measured by calculating the average of responses to three items: “Please indicate how much you agree or disagree (0 = *strongly disagree* to 4 = *strongly agree*) with the following statements about public safety in your neighborhood:” (1) “I feel safe walking in my neighborhood, day or night,” (2) “Violence is not a problem in my neighborhood,” and (3) “My neighborhoods is safe from crime.”
- The scale “justice system” was measured by calculating the average of responses to four items (0 = *never* to 4 = *always*): “Thinking of the justice system, including law enforcement and the courts, how often does the justice system:” (1) “Treat people with respect,” (2) “Treat people fairly,” (3) “Take time to listen to people,” and (4) “Give victims the support they need.”
- The scale “jail conditions” was measured by calculating the average of responses to seven items (0 = *strongly disagree* to 4 = *strongly agree*): “Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about the conditions inside jails:” (1) “The government has a responsibility to ensure humane jail conditions,” (2) “Poor jail conditions increase the risk of reoffending after release,” (3) “Everyone, regardless of their crimes, deserves basic standards of living while incarcerated,” (4) “Improving jail conditions should be a priority in criminal justice reform,” (5) “It is important that jails comply with modern standards,” (6) “Spending tax money on improving jail conditions is worthwhile,” and (7) “It is important that jail staff work in safe and sanitary conditions.”

**Figure 12. Concerns about Building Issues, by Vote Change**

- “Concern” for each issue is rated on the following scale: 0 = “not a concern,” 1 = “slight concern,” 2 = “moderate concern,” 3 = “definite concern,” and 4 = “extreme concern.”

**Figure 13. Importance of Specific Factors, by Vote Change**

- “Importance” for each factor is rated on the following scale: 0 = “not important,” 1 = “slightly important,” 2 = “moderately important,” 3 = “definitely important,” and 4 = “extremely important.”

## **Appendix 2. Survey and Postcard Reminder**





**Center for Social Science  
Innovation**

University of Iowa  
Social Sciences Research Building  
605 E. Jefferson Street  
Iowa City, Iowa 52242  
319-335-6800  
cssi.research.uiowa.edu

July 22, 2025

[FIRST\_NAME] [MI] [LASTNAME]

or Current Resident

[ADDRESS 1], [ADDRESS 2]

[CITY], [STATE\_ABBR] [ZIP]-[ZIP4]



Dear [First\_Name],

The Johnson County Board of Supervisors is conducting a survey to evaluate public views on their plan to construct a new building for the Johnson County Sheriff's Office and Jail. The goal is to address the need for a safe and modern jail and law enforcement facility that meets the needs of staff, incarcerated persons, and the community. We are inviting you to complete this survey because you are a resident of Johnson County, Iowa.

The Johnson County Board of Supervisors is working with the University of Iowa Center for Social Science Innovation to deploy this survey. We ask that you complete and return this survey, at your earliest convenience, by using the enclosed, postage-paid envelope. You may also take the survey online by scanning the QR code at the top of this page. The survey should take no more than 15 minutes for you to complete. We will send a reminder postcard in approximately 2 weeks and attempt to contact you by phone to complete the survey during the call.

We will keep the information you provide confidential, and the data collected will be completely de-identified upon receipt of the survey. If we write a report about this study, we will do so in such a way that you cannot be identified.

Enclosed you will find a \$1 bill, yours to keep as a "thank you" for considering this request.

If you have questions about the survey, please contact Cassidy Branch at [cassidy-branch@uiowa.edu](mailto:cassidy-branch@uiowa.edu) or 319-335-4091. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Si habla español, puede solicitar una copia impresa o completar la encuesta usando el código QR en la parte superior de la página. Para solicitar una copia impresa o si tiene preguntas sobre la encuesta, comuníquese con Cassidy Branch a la dirección de correo [cassidy-branch@uiowa.edu](mailto:cassidy-branch@uiowa.edu) o al teléfono 319-335-4091. Muchas gracias por su tiempo y consideración.

Sincerely,

Cassidy Branch, Center for Social Science Innovation

ID:

*Instructions: Please answer these questions to the best of your ability, and return the completed survey in the enclosed, postage-paid envelope. Select only one answer for each question or item.*

- 1. The Johnson County Board of Supervisors plans to ask Johnson County residents to vote on constructing a new building for the Sheriff's Office and Jail in November 2026. If you had to vote today, would you vote "yes" to support constructing the new building or "no" to oppose it?**
- Definitely vote "No" to oppose     
  Probably vote "No" to oppose     
  Probably vote "Yes" to support     
  Definitely vote "Yes" to support

*Now we would like to ask you some questions about your general knowledge of the current building that holds the Johnson County Sheriff's Office and Jail. Please answer to the best of your ability even if you are unsure.*

- 2. How familiar are you with the current Sheriff's Office and Jail building?**
- Not at all familiar     
  Slightly familiar     
  Moderately familiar     
  Very familiar     
  Extremely familiar
- 3. Where is the Sheriff's Office and Jail building located?**
- Inside Iowa City     
  Outside of Iowa City     
  Don't know
- 4. How old is the current Sheriff's Office and Jail building?**
- Less than 10 years old     
  10 to 40 years old     
  More than 40 years old     
  Don't know
- 5. How many people work for the Sheriff's Office and Jail?**
- Less than 50     
  50 to 99     
  100 to 149     
  150 or more     
  Don't know
- 6. How many inmates does the current Johnson County Jail hold on a typical day?**
- Less than 30     
  30 to 79     
  80 to 139     
  140 or more     
  Don't know
- 7. Based on what you know about the current Sheriff's Office and Jail building, how would you rate the conditions of the building on the following scale?**
- Very Poor     
  Poor     
  Acceptable     
  Good     
  Very Good
- 8. Before receiving this survey, were you aware of the county's goal to construct a new building for the Sheriff's Office and Jail?**
- Yes     
  No

- 9. How often do you get news and information about local issues from each of the following sources?**

|                                                                            | Never                 | Rarely                | Sometimes             | Very Often            | Always                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Local news outlets (e.g., newspaper, television, radio)                    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Social media                                                               | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Word of mouth (Friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, work organizations) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Law enforcement agencies and officials                                     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Local elected officials                                                    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Community or neighborhood newsletters or listservs                         | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Johnson County website                                                     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Other (please specify): _____                                              | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

ID: <CSSI\_ID>

Now we would like to share some additional information about the conditions of the current Johnson County Sheriff's Office and Jail building. The Board of Supervisors has identified several issues with the building.

**10. Were you aware of the following issues regarding the current building identified by the Board of Supervisors?**

|                                                                                                   | Yes                   | No                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| The building is currently deteriorating                                                           | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Due to overcrowding, the county currently pays to jail inmates outside the county                 | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The building currently lacks space for inmates to receive services and participate in programming | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The jail does not meet accessibility guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The conditions of the jail are unsafe for staff                                                   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The conditions of the jail are unsafe for inmates                                                 | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

**11. How concerning are each of these issues to you?**

|                                                                                                   | Not a Concern         | Slight Concern        | Moderate Concern      | Definite Concern      | Extreme Concern       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| The building is currently deteriorating                                                           | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Due to overcrowding, the county currently pays to jail inmates outside the county                 | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The building currently lacks space for inmates to receive services and participate in programming | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The jail does not meet accessibility guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The conditions of the jail are unsafe for staff                                                   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The conditions of the jail are unsafe for inmates                                                 | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

**12. Now knowing about the conditions of the current building, how much would you agree or disagree that a new Sheriff's Office and Jail building is needed?**

- Strongly disagree     
  Disagree     
  Neither agree nor disagree     
  Agree     
  Strongly agree

**13. Now knowing about the conditions of the current building, if you had to vote today, would you vote "yes" to support constructing a new building or "no" to oppose it?**

- Definitely vote "No" to oppose     
  Probably vote "No" to oppose     
  Probably vote "Yes" to support     
  Definitely vote "Yes" to support

**14. Please explain why you would vote yes or no. (Write your response in the blank space below)**

The Johnson County Board of Supervisors is exploring different options for constructing a new building to hold the Johnson County Sheriff's Office and Jail. This includes discussions with Iowa City about a potential joint law enforcement building that shares space with the Iowa City Police Department. The following questions are intended to identify what factors are most important to you as a voter as they move forward with these discussions.

**15. How important are each of the following factors when considering how to vote for the construction of a new Sheriff's Office and Jail building?**

|                                   | Not important         | Slightly important    | Moderately important  | Definitely important  | Extremely important   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Cost of the construction project  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Location of the new building      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Design of the building            | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Space for services and programs   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Size and capacity of the building | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Staffing needs                    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

**16. Would you be supportive of the Johnson County Board of Supervisors exploring the possibility of a joint law enforcement building that shares space with the Iowa City Police Department?**

Yes                       No                       Don't know

**17. What additional information would you need to make an informed decision about voting for the construction of a new building for the Sheriff's Office and Jail? (Write your response in the blank space below)**

**18. What is the one most important thing you would like the Board of Supervisors to consider when developing the measure for the ballot? (Write your response in the blank space below)**

We would now like to ask you about your general perceptions and experiences regarding community safety and the criminal justice system.

**19. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about public safety in your neighborhood:**

|                                                      | Strongly disagree     | Disagree              | Neither disagree nor agree | Agree                 | Strongly Agree        |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| I feel safe walking in my neighborhood, day or night | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Violence is not a problem in my neighborhood         | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| My neighborhood is safe from crime                   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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20. Have you ever been a victim of a violent crime such as a robbery, burglary, physical attack or assault?  
 Yes       No

21. Thinking of the justice system, including law enforcement and the courts, how often does the justice system...

|                                    | Never                 | Rarely                | Sometimes             | Very often            | Always                |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Treat people with respect          | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Treat people fairly                | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Take time to listen to people      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Give victims the support they need | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

22. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree that the following statements should be the purpose of jails in society.

|                                                                    | Strongly disagree     | Disagree              | Neither disagree nor agree | Agree                 | Strongly Agree        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| To punish people who break the law                                 | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| To protect the community from crime                                | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| To deter people from committing crimes                             | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| To rehabilitate people through treatment and services              | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| To serve as a temporary holding place for people accused of crimes | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

23. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about the conditions inside jails

|                                                                                             | Strongly disagree     | Disagree              | Neither disagree nor agree | Agree                 | Strongly Agree        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| The government has a responsibility to ensure humane jail conditions                        | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Poor jail conditions increase the risk of reoffending after release                         | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Everyone, regardless of their crimes, deserves basic standards of living while incarcerated | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Improving jail conditions should be a priority in criminal justice reform                   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| It is important that jails comply with modern standards                                     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Spending tax money on improving jail conditions is worthwhile                               | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| It is important that jail staff work in safe and sanitary conditions                        | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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24. Which of the following best describes you?  
 Man  
 Woman  
 Prefer to self-describe: \_\_\_\_\_
25. What year were you born? \_\_\_\_\_
26. What is your marital status?  
 Single, never married  
 Married, or with a committed partner  
 Divorced or separated  
 Widowed
27. Including yourself, how many adults ages 18 or over are currently living in your household? \_\_\_\_\_
28. How many children under the age of 18 are currently living in your household? \_\_\_\_\_
29. What is the highest level of school that you have completed?  
 Some high school or less  
 High school graduate or GED  
 Some college, no degree  
 2-year or associate degree  
 4-year or bachelor's degree  
 Post-graduate degree
30. Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin or background?  Yes  No
31. Which of these best describes your race?  
 Black or African-American  
 Pacific Islander  
 Asian or Asian-American  
 White  
 Native American or American Indian  
 Mixed Race  
 Some other race: \_\_\_\_\_
32. Do you speak a language other than English at home?  Yes  No
33. Which of the following best describes your employment status?  
 Employed or self-employed full-time  
 Employed or self-employed part-time  
 Not employed, but looking for work  
 Not employed and not looking for work  
 Not employed, unable to work due to a disability or illness  
 Retired  
 Student  
 Stay-at-home spouse or partner
34. Over the last 12 months, what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes?  
 Less than \$56,600  
 \$56,600 to \$169,800  
 More than \$169,800
35. What is your ZIP code? \_\_\_\_\_
36. Do you consider the address where you live to be urban or rural?  Rural  Urban
37. Have you, a family member, or a friend ever been incarcerated in the Johnson County Jail?  Yes  No
38. Are you currently registered to vote in Johnson County?  Yes  No
39. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a(n):  
 Democrat  
 Republican  
 Independent  
 Other or none
- If you are Independent or something else, are your opinions closer to the Democratic or Republican Party?  
 Democratic Party  
 Republican Party
40. We are interested in further understanding individual's views on the Sheriff's Office and Jail Facility. Are you interested in participating in a 90-minute focus group about this topic? This information will not be linked to your survey responses.  
 Yes, I am interested in participating in an interview/focus group.  
My name is: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact me at this phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact me at this email address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 No, I am not interested in participating in an interview/focus group.

*Thank you for participating in this survey*

Dear [First\_Name],

Recently, the Center for Social Science Innovation and the Johnson County Board of Supervisors mailed you an invitation to complete a survey about the Johnson County Sheriff's Office and Jail building.

If you haven't already, please complete and return the survey you were sent by using the enclosed, postage-paid envelope. Or you can complete the survey using the QR code on this postcard. We will also attempt to reach you by phone in the next few weeks to complete the survey.

If you have questions regarding the survey, please contact Cassidy Branch at the Center for Social Science Innovation for assistance:

Email: [cassidy-branch@uiowa.edu](mailto:cassidy-branch@uiowa.edu)  
Phone: 855-204-4692

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Si habla español, puede solicitar una copia impresa o completar la encuesta usando el código QR. Para solicitar una copia impresa o si tiene preguntas sobre la encuesta, comuníquese con Cassidy Branch a la dirección de correo [cassidy-branch@uiowa.edu](mailto:cassidy-branch@uiowa.edu) o al teléfono 319-335-4091. Muchas gracias por su tiempo y consideración.



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## Appendix 3. Quantitative Data (Univariates)

**Notes for reading the tables:** Each question has two sets of tables. The first table provides the descriptive statistics and includes the number of responses, the mean, and the standard deviation. The valid total equals the number of responses excluding the “refuse to answer” responses. The missing total is the number of “refuse to answer” responses. “Refuse to answer” responses were included in the valid total for the two vote questions.

The second table is a frequency table and includes the number of responses (N) and percentage of each selected options.

**Q1. The Johnson County Board of Supervisors plans to ask Johnson County residents to vote on constructing a new building for the Sheriff’s Office and Jail in November 2026. If you had to vote today, would you vote “yes” to support constructing the new building or “no” to oppose it?**

|         |      |
|---------|------|
| Valid   | 710  |
| Missing | 0    |
| Mean    | 2.13 |
| SD      | 1.08 |

| Response                         | N   | Percent |
|----------------------------------|-----|---------|
| Definitely vote “Yes” to support | 226 | 30.1%   |
| Probably vote “Yes” to support   | 328 | 43.7%   |
| Probably vote “No” to oppose     | 110 | 14.7%   |
| Definitely vote “No” to oppose   | 46  | 6.5%    |
| Refuse to answer                 | 41  | 5.46%   |

**Q2. How familiar are you with the current Sheriff’s Office and Jail Building?**

|         |      |
|---------|------|
| Valid   | 741  |
| Missing | 10   |
| Mean    | 3.88 |
| SD      | 1.00 |

| Response            | N   | Percent |
|---------------------|-----|---------|
| Extremely familiar  | 14  | 1.9%    |
| Very familiar       | 53  | 7.2%    |
| Moderately familiar | 178 | 24%     |
| Slightly familiar   | 258 | 34.8%   |
| Not at all familiar | 238 | 32.1%   |



### Q3. Where is the Sheriff's Office and Jail building located?

| Valid   | 744  | Response             | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|----------------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 7    | Inside Iowa City     | 617 | 82.9%   |
| Mean    | 1.32 | Outside of Iowa City | 13  | 1.7%    |
| SD      | 0.73 | Don't know           | 114 | 15.3%   |

### Q4. How old is the current Sheriff's Office and Jail building?

| Valid   | 744  | Response               | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|------------------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 7    | Less than 10 years old | 0   | 0%      |
| Mean    | 3.17 | 10 to 40 years old     | 131 | 17.6%   |
| SD      | 0.70 | More than 40 years old | 352 | 47.3%   |
|         |      | Don't know             | 261 | 35.1%   |

### Q5. How many people work for the Sheriff's Office and Jail?

| Valid   | 745  | Response     | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|--------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 6    | Less than 50 | 50  | 6.7%    |
| Mean    | 3.93 | 50 to 99     | 110 | 14.8%   |
| SD      | 1.39 | 100 to 149   | 117 | 15.7%   |
|         |      | 150 or more  | 32  | 4.3%    |
|         |      | Don't know   | 436 | 58.5%   |

**Q6. How many inmates does the current Johnson County Jail hold on a typical day?**

|         |      | Response     |     |         |
|---------|------|--------------|-----|---------|
| Valid   | N    | Response     | N   | Percent |
| 738     |      | Less than 30 | 28  | 3.8%    |
| Missing | 13   | 30 to 79     | 134 | 18.2%   |
| Mean    | 3.92 | 80 to 139    | 124 | 16.8%   |
| SD      | 1.34 | 140 or more  | 35  | 4.7%    |
|         |      | Don't know   | 417 | 56.6%   |

**Q7. Based on what you know about the current Sheriff's office and Jail building, how would you rate the conditions of the building on the following scale?**

|         |      | Response   |     |         |
|---------|------|------------|-----|---------|
| Valid   | N    | Response   | N   | Percent |
| 740     |      | Very Good  | 5   | 0.7%    |
| Missing | 11   | Good       | 19  | 2.8%    |
| Mean    | 2.73 | Acceptable | 248 | 36.7%   |
| SD      | 1.15 | Poor       | 313 | 46.3%   |
|         |      | Very Poor  | 91  | 13.5%   |

**Q8. Before receiving the survey, were you aware of the county's goal to construct a new building for the Sheriff's Office and Jail?**

|         |      | Response |     |         |
|---------|------|----------|-----|---------|
| Valid   | N    | Response | N   | Percent |
| 742     |      | Yes      | 433 | 58.4%   |
| Missing | 9    | No       | 309 | 41.6%   |
| Mean    | 1.42 |          |     |         |
| SD      | 0.40 |          |     |         |

**Q9. How often do you get news and information about local issues from each of the following sources?**

**Q9a. Local news outlets (e.g., newspaper, television, radio)**

| Valid   | 744  | Response   | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 7    | Never      | 43  | 5.8%    |
| Mean    | 3.45 | Rarely     | 90  | 12.1%   |
| SD      | 1.09 | Sometimes  | 233 | 31.3%   |
|         |      | Very often | 247 | 33.2%   |
|         |      | Always     | 131 | 17.6%   |

**Q9b. Social Media**

| Valid   | 740  | Response   | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 11   | Never      | 140 | 18.9%   |
| Mean    | 2.73 | Rarely     | 156 | 21.1%   |
| SD      | 1.15 | Sometimes  | 244 | 33.0%   |
|         |      | Very often | 164 | 22.2%   |
|         |      | Always     | 36  | 4.9%    |

**Q9c. Word of mouth (Friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, work organizations)**

| Valid   | 739  | Response   | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 12   | Never      | 37  | 5.0%    |
| Mean    | 2.97 | Rarely     | 160 | 21.7%   |
| SD      | 0.88 | Sometimes  | 352 | 47.6%   |
|         |      | Very often | 165 | 22.3%   |
|         |      | Always     | 25  | 3.4%    |

**Q9d. Law enforcement agencies and officials**

| Valid   | 741  | Response   | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 10   | Never      | 307 | 41.4%   |
| Mean    | 1.83 | Rarely     | 289 | 39.0%   |
| SD      | 0.86 | Sometimes  | 115 | 15.5%   |
|         |      | Very often | 25  | 3.4%    |
|         |      | Always     | 5   | 0.7%    |

**Q9e. Local elected officials**

| Valid   | 741  | Response   | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 10   | Never      | 261 | 35.2%   |
| Mean    | 1.97 | Rarely     | 282 | 38.1%   |
| SD      | 0.88 | Sometimes  | 162 | 21.9%   |
|         |      | Very often | 34  | 4.6%    |
|         |      | Always     | 2   | 0.3%    |

**Q9f. Community or neighborhood newsletters or listservs**

| Valid   | 742  | Response   | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 9    | Never      | 291 | 39.2%   |
| Mean    | 1.93 | Rarely     | 252 | 34.0%   |
| SD      | 0.92 | Sometimes  | 161 | 21.7%   |
|         |      | Very often | 33  | 4.4%    |
|         |      | Always     | 5   | 0.7%    |

**Q9g. Johnson County website**

| Valid   | 738  | Response   | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 13   | Never      | 372 | 50.4%   |
| Mean    | 1.69 | Rarely     | 236 | 32.0%   |
| SD      | 0.86 | Sometimes  | 117 | 15.9%   |
|         |      | Very often | 12  | 1.6%    |
|         |      | Always     | 1   | 0.1%    |

**Q9h. Other** (n=19 unique open-text responses that do not fit within previous categories: TV apps, signs/posters, podcasts, other news outlets, online news, national news, mail, internet search, email, attorney community)

| Valid   | 243  | Response   | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 508  | Never      | 177 | 72.8%   |
| Mean    | 1.56 | Rarely     | 21  | 8.6%    |
| SD      | 1.03 | Sometimes  | 26  | 10.7%   |
|         |      | Very often | 14  | 5.8%    |
|         |      | Always     | 5   | 2.1%    |

**Q10. Were you aware of the following issues regarding the current building identified by the Board of Supervisors?**

**Q10a. The building is currently deteriorating**

| Valid   | 735  | Response | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|----------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 16   | Yes      | 424 | 57.7%   |
| Mean    | 1.42 | No       | 311 | 42.3%   |
| SD      | 0.49 |          |     |         |

**Q10b. Due to overcrowding, the county currently pays to jail inmates outside the county**

| Valid   | 738  | Response | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|----------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 13   | Yes      | 435 | 58.9%   |
| Mean    | 1.41 | No       | 303 | 41.1%   |
| SD      | 0.49 |          |     |         |

**Q10c. The building currently lacks space for inmates to receive services and participate in programming**

| Valid   | 734  | Response | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|----------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 17   | Yes      | 346 | 47.1%   |
| Mean    | 1.53 | No       | 388 | 52.9%   |
| SD      | 0.50 |          |     |         |

**Q10d. The jail does not meet accessibility guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**

| Valid   | 731  | Response | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|----------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 20   | Yes      | 270 | 36.9%   |
| Mean    | 1.63 | No       | 461 | 63.1%   |
| SD      | 0.48 |          |     |         |

**Q10e. The conditions of the jail are unsafe for staff**

| Valid   | 728  | Response | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|----------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 23   | Yes      | 295 | 40.5%   |
| Mean    | 1.59 | No       | 433 | 59.5%   |
| SD      | 0.49 |          |     |         |

**Q10f. The conditions of the jail are unsafe for inmates**

| Valid   | 727  | Response | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|----------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 24   | Yes      | 279 | 38.4%   |
| Mean    | 1.62 | No       | 448 | 61.6%   |
| SD      | 0.49 |          |     |         |

**Q11. How concerning are each of these issues to you?**

**Q11a. The building is currently deteriorating**

| Valid   | 738  | Response         | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|------------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 13   | Not a concern    | 34  | 4.6%    |
| Mean    | 3.56 | Slight concern   | 73  | 9.9%    |
| SD      | 1.00 | Moderate concern | 180 | 24.4%   |
|         |      | Definite concern | 349 | 47.3%   |
|         |      | Extreme concern  | 102 | 13.8%   |

**Q11b. Due to overcrowding, the county currently pays to jail inmates outside the county**

| Valid   | 729  | Response         | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|------------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 22   | Not a concern    | 51  | 7.0%    |
| Mean    | 3.65 | Slight concern   | 50  | 6.9%    |
| SD      | 1.11 | Moderate concern | 166 | 22.8%   |
|         |      | Definite concern | 296 | 40.6%   |
|         |      | Extreme concern  | 166 | 22.8%   |



**Q11c. The building currently lacks space for inmates to receive services and participate in programming**

| Valid   | 732  | Response         | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|------------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 19   | Not a concern    | 71  | 9.7%    |
| Mean    | 3.40 | Slight concern   | 84  | 11.5%   |
| SD      | 1.18 | Moderate concern | 185 | 25.3%   |
|         |      | Definite concern | 265 | 36.2%   |
|         |      | Extreme concern  | 127 | 17.3%   |

**Q11d. The jail does not meet accessibility guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**

| Valid   | 737  | Response         | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|------------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 14   | Not a concern    | 46  | 6.2%    |
| Mean    | 3.61 | Slight concern   | 83  | 11.3%   |
| SD      | 1.15 | Moderate concern | 162 | 22.0%   |
|         |      | Definite concern | 265 | 36.0%   |
|         |      | Extreme concern  | 181 | 24.6%   |

**Q11e. The conditions of the jail are unsafe for staff**

| Valid   | 740  | Response         | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|------------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 11   | Not a concern    | 26  | 3.5%    |
| Mean    | 4.08 | Slight concern   | 47  | 6.4%    |
| SD      | 1.05 | Moderate concern | 86  | 11.6%   |
|         |      | Definite concern | 267 | 36.1%   |
|         |      | Extreme concern  | 314 | 42.4%   |

**Q11f. The conditions of the jail are unsafe for inmates**

| Valid   | 739  | Response         | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|------------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 12   | Not a concern    | 51  | 6.9%    |
| Mean    | 3.80 | Slight concern   | 58  | 7.8%    |
| SD      | 1.18 | Moderate concern | 124 | 16.8%   |
|         |      | Definite concern | 260 | 35.2%   |
|         |      | Extreme concern  | 246 | 33.3%   |

**Q12. Now knowing about the conditions of the current building, how much would you agree or disagree that a new Sheriff's Office and Jail building is needed?**

| Valid   | 739  | Response                   | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|----------------------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 12   | Strongly agree             | 295 | 39.9%   |
| Mean    | 1.94 | Agree                      | 283 | 38.3%   |
| SD      | 1.02 | Neither agree nor disagree | 103 | 13.9%   |
|         |      | Disagree                   | 30  | 4.1%    |
|         |      | Strongly disagree          | 28  | 3.8%    |

**Q13. Now knowing about the conditions of the current building, if you had to vote today, would you vote "yes" to support constructing a new building or "no" to oppose it?**

| Valid   | 724  | Response                         | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|----------------------------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 27   | Definitely vote "Yes" to support | 308 | 41.0%   |
| Mean    | 1.79 | Probably vote "Yes" to support   | 296 | 39.41%  |
| SD      | 0.84 | Probably vote "No" to oppose     | 81  | 10.79%  |
|         |      | Definitely vote "No" to oppose   | 39  | 5.2%    |
|         |      | Refuse to answer                 | 27  | 3.6%    |

**Q15. How important are each of the following factors when considering how to vote for the construction of a new Sheriff's Office and Jail building?**

**Q15a. Cost of the construction project**

| Valid   | 740  | Response             | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|----------------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 11   | Not important        | 14  | 1.9%    |
| Mean    | 1.79 | Slightly important   | 44  | 5.9%    |
| SD      | 0.84 | Moderately important | 130 | 17.6%   |
|         |      | Definitely important | 338 | 45.7%   |
|         |      | Extremely important  | 214 | 28.9%   |

**Q15b. Location of the new building**

| Valid   | 740  | Response             | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|----------------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 11   | Not important        | 77  | 10.4%   |
| Mean    | 3.27 | Slightly important   | 89  | 12.0%   |
| SD      | 1.15 | Moderately important | 225 | 30.4%   |
|         |      | Definitely important | 253 | 34.2%   |
|         |      | Extremely important  | 96  | 13.0%   |

### Q15c. Design of the building

|         |      |
|---------|------|
| Valid   | 739  |
| Missing | 12   |
| Mean    | 3.02 |
| SD      | 1.24 |

| Response             | N   | Percent |
|----------------------|-----|---------|
| Not important        | 109 | 14.7%   |
| Slightly important   | 137 | 18.5%   |
| Moderately important | 222 | 30.0%   |
| Definitely important | 173 | 23.4%   |
| Extremely important  | 98  | 13.3%   |

### Q15d. Space for services and programs

|         |      |
|---------|------|
| Valid   | 742  |
| Missing | 9    |
| Mean    | 3.51 |
| SD      | 1.16 |

| Response             | N   | Percent |
|----------------------|-----|---------|
| Not important        | 53  | 7.1%    |
| Slightly important   | 87  | 11.7%   |
| Moderately important | 184 | 24.8%   |
| Definitely important | 261 | 35.2%   |
| Extremely important  | 157 | 21.2%   |

### Q15e. Size and capacity of the building

| Valid   | 740  | Response             | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|----------------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 11   | Not important        | 22  | 3.0%    |
| Mean    | 3.94 | Slightly important   | 31  | 4.2%    |
| SD      | 0.96 | Moderately important | 138 | 18.6%   |
|         |      | Definitely important | 330 | 44.6%   |
|         |      | Extremely important  | 219 | 29.6%   |

### Q15f. Staffing needs

| Valid   | 741  | Response             | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|----------------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 10   | Not important        | 17  | 2.3%    |
| Mean    | 4.04 | Slightly important   | 27  | 3.6%    |
| SD      | 0.93 | Moderately important | 123 | 16.6%   |
|         |      | Definitely important | 317 | 42.8%   |
|         |      | Extremely important  | 257 | 34.7%   |

### Q16. Would you be supportive of the Jonson County Board of Supervisors exploring the possibility of a joint law enforcement building that shares space with the Iowa City Police Department?

| Valid   | 739  | Response   | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 12   | Yes        | 525 | 71.0%   |
| Mean    | 1.50 | No         | 60  | 8.1%    |
| SD      | 0.82 | Don't know | 154 | 20.8%   |

**Q19. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about public safety in your neighborhood.**

**Q19a. I feel safe walking in my neighborhood, day or night**

|         |      |
|---------|------|
| Valid   | 740  |
| Missing | 11   |
| Mean    | 4.16 |
| SD      | 0.91 |

| Response                   | N   | Percent |
|----------------------------|-----|---------|
| Strongly Disagree          | 10  | 1.4%    |
| Disagree                   | 38  | 5.1%    |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 79  | 10.7%   |
| Agree                      | 307 | 41.5%   |
| Strongly agree             | 306 | 41.4%   |

**Q19b. Violence is not a problem in my neighborhood**

|         |      |
|---------|------|
| Valid   | 740  |
| Missing | 11   |
| Mean    | 3.98 |
| SD      | 1.00 |

| Response                   | N   | Percent |
|----------------------------|-----|---------|
| Strongly Disagree          | 18  | 2.4%    |
| Disagree                   | 53  | 7.2%    |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 113 | 15.3%   |
| Agree                      | 299 | 40.4%   |
| Strongly agree             | 257 | 34.7%   |

**Q19c. My neighborhood is safe from crime**

| Valid   | 741  | Response                   | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|----------------------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 10   | Strongly Disagree          | 17  | 2.3%    |
| Mean    | 3.71 | Disagree                   | 90  | 12.1%   |
| SD      | 1.03 | Neither agree nor disagree | 156 | 21.1%   |
|         |      | Agree                      | 304 | 41.0%   |
|         |      | Strongly agree             | 174 | 23.5%   |

**Q20. Have you ever been a victim of a violent crime such as a robbery, burglary, or physical attack or assault?**

| Valid   | 729 | Response | N   | Percent |
|---------|-----|----------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 22  | Yes      | 144 | 19.8%   |
| Mean    | 1.8 | No       | 585 | 80.2%   |
| SD      | 0.4 |          |     |         |



**Q21. Thinking of the justice system, including law enforcement and the courts, how often does the justice system...**

**Q21a. Treat people with respect**

|         |      |
|---------|------|
| Valid   | 718  |
| Missing | 33   |
| Mean    | 3.60 |
| SD      | 0.75 |

| Response   | N   | Percent |
|------------|-----|---------|
| Never      | 6   | 0.8%    |
| Rarely     | 44  | 6.1%    |
| Sometimes  | 231 | 32.2%   |
| Very often | 384 | 53.5%   |
| Always     | 53  | 7.4%    |

**Q21b. Treat people fairly**

|         |      |
|---------|------|
| Valid   | 715  |
| Missing | 36   |
| Mean    | 3.53 |
| SD      | 0.79 |

| Response   | N   | Percent |
|------------|-----|---------|
| Never      | 17  | 2.4%    |
| Rarely     | 39  | 5.5%    |
| Sometimes  | 250 | 35.0%   |
| Very often | 365 | 51.0%   |
| Always     | 44  | 6.2%    |

**Q21c. Take time to listen to people**

| Valid   | 715  | Response   | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 36   | Never      | 10  | 1.4%    |
| Mean    | 3.40 | Rarely     | 81  | 11.3%   |
| SD      | 0.81 | Sometimes  | 279 | 39.0%   |
|         |      | Very often | 305 | 42.7%   |
|         |      | Always     | 40  | 5.6%    |

**Q21d. Give victims the support they need**

| Valid   | 712  | Response   | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 39   | Never      | 16  | 2.2%    |
| Mean    | 3.29 | Rarely     | 78  | 11.0%   |
| SD      | 0.81 | Sometimes  | 335 | 47.1%   |
|         |      | Very often | 248 | 34.8%   |
|         |      | Always     | 35  | 4.9%    |

**Q22. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree that the following statements *should* be the purpose of jails in society**

**Q22a. To punish people who break the law**

| Valid   | 740  | Response                   | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|----------------------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 11   | Strongly disagree          | 37  | 5.0%    |
| Mean    | 3.76 | Disagree                   | 60  | 8.1%    |
| SD      | 1.06 | Neither disagree nor agree | 120 | 16.2%   |
|         |      | Agree                      | 348 | 47.0%   |
|         |      | Strongly agree             | 175 | 23.6%   |

**Q22b. To protect the community from crime**

| Valid   | 739  | Response                   | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|----------------------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 12   | Strongly disagree          | 11  | 1.5%    |
| Mean    | 4.16 | Disagree                   | 32  | 4.3%    |
| SD      | 0.85 | Neither disagree nor agree | 55  | 7.4%    |
|         |      | Agree                      | 370 | 50.1%   |
|         |      | Strongly agree             | 271 | 36.7%   |

**Q22c. To deter people from committing crimes**

|         |      | Response                   |     |         |
|---------|------|----------------------------|-----|---------|
| Valid   | 737  |                            | N   | Percent |
| Missing | 14   | Strongly disagree          | 32  | 4.3%    |
| Mean    | 3.88 | Disagree                   | 50  | 6.8%    |
| SD      | 1.05 | Neither disagree nor agree | 113 | 15.3%   |
|         |      | Agree                      | 325 | 44.1%   |
|         |      | Strongly agree             | 217 | 29.4%   |

**Q22d. To rehabilitate people through treatment and services**

|         |      | Response                   |     |         |
|---------|------|----------------------------|-----|---------|
| Valid   | 739  |                            | N   | Percent |
| Missing | 12   | Strongly disagree          | 26  | 3.5%    |
| Mean    | 3.96 | Disagree                   | 38  | 5.1%    |
| SD      | 1.01 | Neither disagree nor agree | 124 | 16.8%   |
|         |      | Agree                      | 306 | 41.4%   |
|         |      | Strongly agree             | 245 | 33.2%   |

**Q22e. To serve as a temporary holding place for people accused of crimes**

| Valid   | 737  | Response                   | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|----------------------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 14   | Strongly disagree          | 16  | 2.2%    |
| Mean    | 3.91 | Disagree                   | 34  | 4.6%    |
| SD      | 0.88 | Neither disagree nor agree | 122 | 16.6%   |
|         |      | Agree                      | 395 | 53.6%   |
|         |      | Strongly agree             | 170 | 23.1%   |

**Q23. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about the conditions inside jails**

**Q23a. The government has a responsibility to ensure humane jail conditions**

| Valid   | 738  | Response                   | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|----------------------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 13   | Strongly disagree          | 9   | 1.2%    |
| Mean    | 4.38 | Disagree                   | 6   | 0.8%    |
| SD      | 0.74 | Neither disagree nor agree | 41  | 5.6%    |
|         |      | Agree                      | 321 | 43.5%   |
|         |      | Strongly agree             | 361 | 48.9%   |

**Q23b. Poor jail conditions increase the risk of reoffending after release**

| Valid   | 735  | Response                   | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|----------------------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 16   | Strongly disagree          | 47  | 6.4%    |
| Mean    | 3.36 | Disagree                   | 110 | 15.0%   |
| SD      | 1.13 | Neither disagree nor agree | 243 | 33.1%   |
|         |      | Agree                      | 202 | 27.5%   |
|         |      | Strongly agree             | 133 | 18.1%   |

**Q23c. Everyone, regardless of their crimes, deserves basic standards of living while incarcerated**

| Valid   | 740  | Response                   | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|----------------------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 11   | Strongly disagree          | 11  | 1.5%    |
| Mean    | 4.15 | Disagree                   | 26  | 3.5%    |
| SD      | 0.86 | Neither disagree nor agree | 81  | 10.9%   |
|         |      | Agree                      | 345 | 46.6%   |
|         |      | Strongly agree             | 277 | 37.4%   |

**Q23d. Improving jail conditions should be a priority in criminal justice reform**

| Valid   | 736  | Response                   | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|----------------------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 15   | Strongly disagree          | 15  | 2.0%    |
| Mean    | 3.77 | Disagree                   | 52  | 7.1%    |
| SD      | 0.94 | Neither disagree nor agree | 183 | 24.9%   |
|         |      | Agree                      | 323 | 43.9%   |
|         |      | Strongly agree             | 163 | 22.1%   |

**Q23e. It is important that jails comply with modern standards**

| Valid   | 734  | Response                   | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|----------------------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 17   | Strongly disagree          | 6   | 0.8%    |
| Mean    | 4.01 | Disagree                   | 37  | 5.0%    |
| SD      | 0.84 | Neither disagree nor agree | 106 | 14.4%   |
|         |      | Agree                      | 379 | 51.6%   |
|         |      | Strongly agree             | 206 | 28.1%   |

**Q23f. Spending tax money on improving jail conditions is worthwhile**

| Valid   | 733  | Response                   | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|----------------------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 18   | Strongly disagree          | 21  | 2.8%    |
| Mean    | 3.78 | Disagree                   | 1   | 0.1%    |
| SD      | 0.96 | Neither disagree nor agree | 148 | 20.2%   |
|         |      | Agree                      | 352 | 48.0%   |
|         |      | Strongly agree             | 158 | 21.6%   |

**Q23g. It is important that jail staff work in safe and sanitary conditions**

|         |      |
|---------|------|
| Valid   | 738  |
| Missing | 13   |
| Mean    | 4.52 |
| SD      | 0.64 |

| Response                   | N   | Percent |
|----------------------------|-----|---------|
| Strongly disagree          | 6   | 0.8%    |
| Disagree                   | 1   | 0.1%    |
| Neither disagree nor agree | 21  | 2.8%    |
| Agree                      | 285 | 38.6%   |
| Strongly agree             | 425 | 57.6%   |

**Q24. Which of the following best describes you?**

|         |      |
|---------|------|
| Valid   | 722  |
| Missing | 29   |
| Mean    | 1.45 |
| SD      | 0.51 |

| Response                 | N   | Percent |
|--------------------------|-----|---------|
| Man                      | 406 | 56.2%   |
| Woman                    | 310 | 42.9%   |
| Prefer to self-describe* | 6   | 0.8%    |

\*Trans man (n=1), Non-binary (n=3)

**Q25. What year were you born? (Calculated Age Category)**

|         |      |
|---------|------|
| Valid   | 682  |
| Missing | 69   |
| Mean    | 3.02 |
| SD      | 0.96 |

| Response    | N   | Percent |
|-------------|-----|---------|
| 18 to 29    | 43  | 6.3%    |
| 30 to 49    | 179 | 26.3%   |
| 50 to 64    | 178 | 26.1%   |
| 65 or older | 282 | 41.3%   |



**Q26. What is your marital status?**

|         |      |
|---------|------|
| Valid   | 726  |
| Missing | 25   |
| Mean    | 2.15 |
| SD      | 0.79 |

| Response                             | N   | Percent |
|--------------------------------------|-----|---------|
| Single, never married                | 112 | 15.4%   |
| Married, or with a committed partner | 461 | 63.5%   |
| Divorced or separated                | 85  | 11.7%   |
| Widowed                              | 68  | 9.4%    |

**Q27. Including yourself, how many adults ages 18 or over are currently living in your household?**

|         |      |
|---------|------|
| Valid   | 729  |
| Missing | 22   |
| Mean    | 1.85 |
| SD      | .75  |

| Response | N   | Percent |
|----------|-----|---------|
| 1        | 226 | 31.0%   |
| 2        | 414 | 56.8%   |
| 3        | 67  | 9.2%    |
| 4        | 14  | 1.9%    |
| 5        | 7   | 0.96%   |
| 6        | 1   | 0.1%    |

**Q28. How many children under the age of 18 are currently living in your household?**

|         |     |
|---------|-----|
| Valid   | 729 |
| Missing | 22  |
| Mean    | .37 |
| SD      | .87 |

| Response | N   | Percent |
|----------|-----|---------|
| 0        | 581 | 79.7%   |
| 1        | 68  | 9.3%    |
| 2        | 50  | 6.9%    |
| 3        | 20  | 2.7%    |
| 4        | 8   | 1.1%    |
| 5        | 0   | 0.0%    |
| 6        | 2   | 0.3%    |

**Q29. What is the highest level of school that you have completed?**

|         |      |
|---------|------|
| Valid   | 724  |
| Missing | 27   |
| Mean    | 4.68 |
| SD      | 1.43 |

| Response                    | N   | Percent |
|-----------------------------|-----|---------|
| Some high school or less    | 8   | 1.1%    |
| High school graduate or GED | 74  | 10.2%   |
| Some college, no degree     | 105 | 14.5%   |
| 2-year or associate degree  | 51  | 7.0%    |
| 4-year or bachelor degree   | 200 | 27.6%   |
| Post-graduate degree        | 286 | 39.5%   |

**Q30. Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin or background?**

|         |      |
|---------|------|
| Valid   | 711  |
| Missing | 40   |
| Mean    | 1.98 |
| SD      | 0.12 |

| Response | N   | Percent |
|----------|-----|---------|
| Yes      | 11  | 1.5%    |
| No       | 700 | 98.5%   |

**Q31. Which of these best describes your race?**

|         |      |
|---------|------|
| Valid   | 712  |
| Missing | 39   |
| Mean    | 3.90 |
| SD      | 0.65 |

| Response                           | N   | Percent |
|------------------------------------|-----|---------|
| Black or African-American          | 23  | 3.2%    |
| Pacific Islander                   | 1   | 0.1%    |
| Asian or Asian-American            | 29  | 4.1%    |
| White                              | 647 | 90.9%   |
| Native American or American Indian | 0   | 0.0%    |
| Mixed Race                         | 8   | 1.1%    |
| Some other race*                   | 4   | 0.6%    |

*\* Respondents did not provide valid race response*

### Q32. Do you speak a language other than English at home?

| Valid   | 719  | Response | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|----------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 32   | Yes      | 78  | 10.8%   |
| Mean    | 1.89 | No       | 641 | 89.2%   |
| SD      | 0.31 |          |     |         |

### Q33. Which of the following best describes your employment status?

|         |      |
|---------|------|
| Valid   | 722  |
| Missing | 29   |
| Mean    | 3.28 |
| SD      | 2.47 |

| Response                                                    | N   | Percent |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----|---------|
| Employed or self-employed full-time                         | 357 | 49.4%   |
| Employed or self-employed part-time                         | 46  | 6.4%    |
| Not employed, but looking for work                          | 4   | 0.6%    |
| Not employed and not looking for work                       | 2   | 0.3%    |
| Not employed, unable to work due to a disability or illness | 12  | 1.7%    |
| Retired                                                     | 276 | 38.2%   |
| Student                                                     | 20  | 2.8%    |
| Stay-at-home spouse or partner                              | 5   | 0.7%    |

### Q34. Over the last 12 months, what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes?

| Valid   | 659  | Response               | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|------------------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 92   | Less than \$56,600     | 172 | 26.1%   |
| Mean    | 1.94 | \$56,600 to \$169,800  | 355 | 53.9%   |
| SD      | 0.68 | Greater than \$169,800 | 132 | 20.0%   |

### Q35 What is your Zip code (Categorized)

| Response | N   | Percent | Response | N  | Percent |
|----------|-----|---------|----------|----|---------|
| 50266    | 1   | 0.1%    | 52317    | 94 | 12.9%   |
| 52203    | 1   | 0.1%    | 52322    | 17 | 2.3%    |
| 52214    | 1   | 0.1%    | 52327    | 3  | 0.4%    |
| 52217    | 1   | 0.1%    | 52333    | 45 | 6.2%    |
| 52235    | 5   | 0.7%    | 52338    | 20 | 2.8%    |
| 52240    | 150 | 20.6%   | 52340    | 29 | 4.0%    |
| 52241    | 101 | 13.9%   | 52356    | 2  | 0.3%    |
| 52242    | 1   | 0.1%    | 52358    | 2  | 0.3%    |
| 52245    | 135 | 18.6%   | 52404    | 1  | 0.1%    |
| 52246    | 97  | 13.3%   | 52446    | 1  | 0.1%    |
| 52247    | 10  | 1.4%    | 52755    | 5  | 0.7%    |
| 52253    | 1   | 0.1%    | 55240    | 1  | 0.1%    |
| 52314    | 2   | 0.3%    |          |    |         |

**Q36. Do you consider the address where you live to be urban or rural?**

| Response | N   | Percent |
|----------|-----|---------|
| Urban    | 562 | 78.2%   |
| Rural    | 157 | 21.8%   |

|         |      |
|---------|------|
| Valid   | 719  |
| Missing | 32   |
| Mean    | 1.22 |
| SD      | 0.41 |

**Q37. Have you, a family member, or a friend ever been incarcerated in the Johnson County Jail?**

| Response | N   | Percent |
|----------|-----|---------|
| Yes      | 198 | 27.2%   |
| No       | 530 | 72.8%   |

|         |      |
|---------|------|
| Valid   | 728  |
| Missing | 23   |
| Mean    | 1.73 |
| SD      | 0.45 |

**Q38. Are you currently registered to vote in Johnson County?**

| Valid   | 734  | Response       | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|----------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 17   | Registered     | 690 | 94.0%   |
| Mean    | 1.07 | Not registered | 37  | 5.0%    |
| SD      | 0.29 | Don't know     | 7   | 1.0%    |

**Q39. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a(n):**

| Valid   | 702  | Response      | N   | Percent |
|---------|------|---------------|-----|---------|
| Missing | 49   | Democrat      | 328 | 46.7%   |
| Mean    | 1.98 | Republican    | 129 | 18.4%   |
| SD      | 1.06 | Independent   | 173 | 24.6%   |
|         |      | Other or none | 72  | 10.3%   |

***If you are Independent or something else, are your opinions closer to the Democratic or Republican Party?***

| Valid   | 202  | Response             | N  | Percent |
|---------|------|----------------------|----|---------|
| Missing | 549  | The Democratic Party | 93 | 46.0%   |
| Mean    | 1.69 | The Republican Party | 78 | 38.6%   |
| SD      | 0.72 | Neither              | 31 | 15.3%   |

**Q40. We are interested in further understanding individual's views on the Sheriff's Office and Jail Facility. Are you interested in participating in a 90-minute focus group about this topic?**

| Response | N   | Percent |
|----------|-----|---------|
| Yes      | 89  | 11.9%   |
| No       | 662 | 88.1%   |

## Appendix 4. Qualitative Data

The table below lists the codes used by CSSI staff when assessing common themes in the text responses to three open-ended questions (Q14, Q17, Q18).

| Code | Themes                                                   | Description                                                                                                                         |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1    | Poor condition                                           | The building is currently deteriorating                                                                                             |
| 2    | Savings by not paying to house inmates outside of county | Due to overcrowding, the county currently pays to jail inmates outside the county                                                   |
| 3    | Accessibility issues                                     | The jail does not meet accessibility guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)                                        |
| 4    | Conditions for staff (safety)                            | The conditions of the jail are unsafe for staff                                                                                     |
| 5    | Conditions for inmates (safety)                          | The conditions of the jail are unsafe for inmates                                                                                   |
| 6    | Cost                                                     | Cost of the construction project                                                                                                    |
| 7    | Location                                                 | Location of the new building                                                                                                        |
| 8    | Design                                                   | Design of the building                                                                                                              |
| 9    | Services and programs space                              | Space for services and programs / The building currently lacks space for inmates to receive services and participate in programming |
| 10   | Size and capacity                                        | Size and capacity of the building                                                                                                   |
| 11   | Staff needs                                              | Staffing needs/ staff requests                                                                                                      |
| 12   | Inmate needs                                             | Inmate needs/ conditions                                                                                                            |
| 13   | Overall need                                             | Unspecified needs, e.g. "it is needed"                                                                                              |
| 14   | Need more information                                    | Requests more information for budget, plans of building, and statistics                                                             |



| Code | Themes                                             | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15   | Familiar with issues                               | Specifies personal experience or knowledge regarding building                                                                                                                                                     |
| 16   | Joint space with ICPD                              | Mentions impact of joint buildings                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 17   | Mentions renovating / maintenance instead          | Discusses renovating or upgrading old building rather than building a new facility                                                                                                                                |
| 18   | New building not needed- conditions are acceptable | Expresses that the current conditions are manageable/fixable with their existing budget                                                                                                                           |
| 19   | JoCo should use money elsewhere                    | Money for a new jail should be used for social services/other public services                                                                                                                                     |
| 20   | Prison abolishment/reform                          | Against prisons/advocates for alternatives to prison- building a new facility should not be the most pressing justice reform issue                                                                                |
| 21   | Government overreach/distrust of law enforcement   | Worried about expanding federal/local government's power by building new prison                                                                                                                                   |
| 22   | Long overdue                                       | Specifies that the project is long overdue but doesn't specify reason for supporting new facility- e.g. 'it's about time!', 'get it on the ballot!'                                                               |
| 23   | Over criminalization                               | Mentions residents of JoCo are over criminalized by law enforcement                                                                                                                                               |
| 24   | Mental health/root causes of crime                 | Mentions directing attention toward mental health and other social problems that lead to crimes is necessary                                                                                                      |
| 25   | Public safety                                      | Emphasizes the importance of a new facility that improves safety of the citizens of JoCo and benefits to the community because of a new facility (unrelated to staff/inmate safety regarding the building itself) |
| 26   | Increased taxes                                    | Mentions the impact of the project on their taxes                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 27   | No clear explanation                               | No exact reason provided for their vote                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 28   | Racial disparities                                 | Mentions racial disparities in prison population in JoCo                                                                                                                                                          |

| Code | Themes                                                        | Description                                                                                                                                                      |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 29   | Need for increased law enforcement and detention              | Specifies that they want a new building for the purpose of increasing arrest numbers/greater potential to work with ICE to increase detentions of JoCo residents |
| 30   | Long-term sustainability of new building                      | Future of how the building will be used, maintained, or upkeep                                                                                                   |
| 31   | Resources used/environmental impact                           | Source of resources and impact on environment (unrelated to funding sources)                                                                                     |
| 32   | Contractor                                                    | Who is contracting the construction and use of local labor                                                                                                       |
| 33   | Timeframe of construction                                     | When the project would start and when it would be finished                                                                                                       |
| 34   | Requests arrest data                                          | Want to know data for arrests                                                                                                                                    |
| 35   | Requests information comparison                               | Wants to know JoCo current jail vs. new jail on issues, other county jails vs. JoCo, issues if the ICPD and JoCo joined vs if they stayed separate, etc.         |
| 36   | Plans for old building                                        | What will be done with the old building if a new one is constructed                                                                                              |
| 37   | Transparency of JoCo about plans and process for new building | Specifies that overall/general transparency from the county is wanted/needed and how their plan will address the issues                                          |
| 38   | Efficiency                                                    | Unspecified want for efficiency                                                                                                                                  |
| 39   | Spreading public awareness                                    | Discusses continuing to make the public aware of the voting, conditions, and situation regarding the jail                                                        |
| 40   | Unbiased/clear wording on the ballot                          | Discusses the importance/impact of the language used on the ballot                                                                                               |

Responses to all three open-ended questions asked in the survey are listed below.

For each open-ended question, responses were categorized into the following sections:

- 1) those who would vote “yes” both when asked at the beginning of the survey and after learning about conditions
- 2) those who would vote “no” both when asked at the beginning of the survey and after learning about conditions
- 3) those whose vote changed from “no” at the beginning of the survey, to “yes” after learning about conditions
- 4) those whose vote changed from “yes” at the beginning of the survey, to “no” after learning about conditions

## Q14. Please explain why you would vote yes or no.

### ***Responses from those whose votes were a stable “yes”***

- needed.
- First of all for the administration it would be easier for the public defenders office for them to communicate with clients. It would save money for transporting overflow. It would really serve justice in a more efficiency way and promote justice. It would be better for inmates and employees.
- If the current status of the building is unsafe for staff and inmates as well as it being too small, there needs to be change.
- I would probably vote yes but would like to know the cost and the plan on obtaining that amount of money over x amount of years etc.
- Because staff and inmates deserve a safe and modern facility.
- safety is important.
- the town is growing and reconstruction is everywhere so why not rebuild it.
- staff and inmate safety needs to be a priority
- It all sounds very concerning and sounds like we should get a new building quite quickly
- no need in fixing up on a building that leaks. I have seen pictures of brick or stone deteriorating. a bandaid keeps costing money
- it's obvious the current situation & conditions of the jail are unsustainable.
- need new jail shouldn't have to pay other jails for our prisoners
- every time a vote has been put on the ballot since i have voted yes for a new jail.
- everyone deserves a safe and habitable place to work or to have to be in.
- after i took a tour i realized how very bad of shape its in. our officers & inmates & citizens deserve better & have for years.
- To make law enforcement officers job easier
- Facts and need

- building is literally crumbling & unsafe and staff is in danger daily.
- The ongoing costs of maintenance are a greater burden to taxpayers than the Cost of renovation- for yes, I would need to better understand the board and the Counties position on Criminal justice reform. I know the cost of fixing the old building outweighs the cost of building a new facility, but there's a caveat of how to address these issues and these costs.
- public services do not usually ask for something that is not needed, given the date it will be really ready.
- The question is actually confusing. You just gave me the facts about the condition, and then asked me how I would vote if I didn't know the condition.
- If the building is unsafe for staff due to its deteriorating construction or internal size/layout then there really isn't any other option since safety should be the primary concern
- I've seen the building, it's only a matter of time before it starts collapsing.
- let's not put staff & inmates in harm's way, let's address this & take care of people!
- as a law student studying international human rights law, I am very passionate about ensuring safe, rehabilitative facilities for incarcerated people & a safe working environment for sheriff dept. & jail employees.
- staff and inmates' health are important!
- rights of inmates to have safe housing & to have access to services. rights of employees to be safe at work.
- it doesn't do its job well, that's number one. if it is unsafe for everybody then it's failing and should be renovated or replaced. (I don't know which is more feasible)
- A renovation would improve the quality of life for everyone working and being held there.
- if these statements are true then there is an identified need. next would be what would take care of this need and should it be a unified project that involves Iowa city police dept.
- we need updated facility but not for taking inmates from outside of Johnson county. joint space with ICPD would be appropriate. I am told that arrests and confinement rates are declining. we need to be sure that mental health and other human issues are addressed.
- Citizens have been delaying infrastructure investments for too long
- I know fixes are needed but I want to know how they will be paid for. raising taxes? property or otherwise? state or federal funds? would have to know to fully support this.
- for all of the above reasons and concerns - it's very important that a building is up to date and safe for everyone.
- I would vote yes. for the staff to be safe and inmate too
- new jail has been needed for years it's about time.
- jail is old, very old.
- if it is bigger, built to last many years, & it houses at least Johnson county & Iowa city police - multi jurisdiction facility
- the jail and sheriff's office needs to be updated.
- I know it is very old and lacks space for proper control of inmates.
- definitely move new jail to outskirts of IC maybe IJW by national guard bldg.

- i believe the county should have a safe and adequate space to house and work with prisoners
- the condition of the current facilities is unsustainable
- if true, i see the need for a new building. however, i'd need more than a few lines on a 5 page survey to arrive at a final decision.
- Sound like the building is old and repairing will not meet the standards it should. Building a brand new building is the way to go
- Needed
- a new jail is needed with adequate facilities to accommodate people either with or without disabilities and to help with overcrowding
- Yes it is needed and would save the county money over time
- my biggest concern is the long term costs of housing inmates outside of the county exceeds the cost of building a new facility.
- pre to the buildings deterioration, the safety of the staff is primary concern. the age of the bldg makes it very uneconomical to repair its mast commercial bldgs need a complete rebuild every 0 years but with age of this one at least 0 years and the structure shows signs of major stress and cracks really mandate a new structure
- It sounds like the facility in unsafe & too small to house inmates properly. A newer, larger facility would allow these issues to be resolved for the safety of all involved as well as the community safety.
- I would vote yes because the employees and inmates deserve better conditions.
- The need is pretty clear
- safety and security, physically & for health, are important to operate such a facility
- vote yes if proposal is not excessively ambitious
- new construction is obviously needed
- My wife has worked and represented clients there.
- i would trust the decision makers to make it known when the building needed to be replaced
- It's time to have an updated, safe building for inmates and sheriff staff.
- Improve public safety
- With crime levels going up, there is a need for increased incarceration capacity to serve as a deterrent for crimes, as long as violent criminals are put away in a cell and not released back into our neighborhoods.
- i believe we need good public sergices and a new correction facility is warranted, good expenditure for my taxes to support.
- i feel we need to provide safe space for workers & inmates & should have space so we do not transport people elsewhere
- there is mold in the current jail, the roof leaks every time it rains, the ventilation is horrible! there are not enough holding cells to house inmates who need to be separated from others. there are more than college students and

drunks that go to jail, that yet that's what everyone thinks of they think of the jail/sheriffs office. it is not safe for staff, inmates, or evidence.

- need
- yes: the building needs to be updated to meet current needs of the county and staff. it's unfortunate that the sheriff's staff has to work in the current building's environment
- the building is in terrible condition and is continuing to deteriorate. not fair to the staff or the inmates.
- unsafe conditions
- johnson county is an affluent community, we can afford to build a new jail
- this building currently in use has been inadequate for many years
- safer and healthier for all involved
- It is needed, however, it would depend on reasonable steps to achieve overall goals.
- yes because the issues were not presented with nuance, which i default to believe the jail is overcrowded routinely and the maintenance costs currently are significant.
- updates are often necessary
- because we've needed a new one for yrs. it should be moved to the north (flip places w/ parking lot) and connected to the courthouse by a skywalk, or include a justice center where hearings can be held.
- building is old and needs to be updated! better use of tax payer dollar to build a new facility! waited long enough!
- i've been aware of poor condition for some time.
- i've already voted yes. i don't know why others vote no.
- the county is wasting money transporting prisoners out of the county, and trying to maintain a building that has passed its useful life.
- Concerned about staff and their safety
- i've been aware of these concerns for many years. each time it's on our ballot, i vote "yes" to replace. each time voters vote it down. btw-our courthouse is also falling apart, saw firsthand during jury duty.
- there is nothing to be gained by putting it off - things only get worse as time goes on
- i have been in the jail & the basement area reeks of urine + is unsafe for distressed inmates & their staff. current jail is unsafe for transgender people
- The building looks no safe from outside
- modernization is important for safety
- the safety of inmates and staff is important- and it's important that out public building be kept up.
- If we're choosing to incarcerate people, we need to have a proper facility to do it in. Voting would also depend on how the office and the jail building budgets are connected
- we are a large college campus - uihc - a lot of people coming and going - with a lot of challenges for our city. we need a sheriff office & jail & staff to manage this appropriately!

- I would say the fact that it's been a persistent issue on the ballot for the last several voting sessions and that they hired you to do these interviews is means enough that it's probably important, especially with the issues you're telling me today on this survey
- i would vote yes due to concerns: safety for both staff and inmates. i would like to see adequate programming for inmates and absolutely an ada accessible structure
- I would need to know how it impacts taxes and who will pay for it
- It's overdue.
- these conditions of the jail & sheriff's office will only get worse. i worked in a old building and it was not pleasant
- it's needed
- it is important for all people to have a save place to sleep or work
- the main reason for voting yes would be to provide space and resources for those inmates with mental illness.
- I trust the supervisors and other professionals who have found it necessary to build a new building, especially when safety and wellbeing of both staff and inmates is a concern.
- deputies transporting and a new facility up to date is needed
- because a need exists
- it has to be done.
- If someone must be held in jail for any reason it is a moral obligation to ensure the conditions are safe and reasonably comfortable.
- If the jail has faults, it should be either repaired or reconstructed. My issue is another hefty tax to the residents to pay for update. I would like to first see a breakdown of the county's costs before voting in favor of a new jail.
- safety
- I would need more detail about what makes it unsafe and what the plans for the new building are
- without a functional and safe environment, how do we expect inmates to receive proper processing and allow staff to ensure this processing in an efficient manner?
- A safe building is important for the safety of everyone
- yes i support
- we need to have a safe space for staff and not pay others to take the inmates
- Periodic investment is a necessity
- all public infrastructure needs to be kept in good repair and meet public capacity needs, even if it deals with "less favored" members of the community. public workers also need safe and proper facilities to do their jobs.
- i will vote yes but would prefer our tax dollars support mental health care and rehabilitation programs and for public school counselors
- there are many issues with our current system of incarceration, but better and safer buildings for both staff and inmates is the easiest fix that can be quickly accomplished and still make a positive difference
- i just looked at the photos on your website and that would definitely influence my vote

- I would vote yes because of the unsafe conditions and because of the fact that we are paying to jail inmates in other places
- Inmates are also humans and we should treat them- although they've made mistakes that shouldn't define who they are and allow them to have programming that allows them to grow. The workers deserve to work in a space that is safe for them also.
- mostly concerned with staff safety
- i am 58 years old- our population has nearly tripled or quadrupled since i have grown up & johnson county- i feel this is a necessity
- Safety for staff and inmates.
- Need
- will vote yes due to unsafe conditions for staff & inmates
- need a safe place for staff, visitors, & inmates
- we need adequate facilities to both actuator justice and the rehabilitate offenders
- above concerns seem problematic!
- It's unacceptable to ask our Johnson officials to work in such conditions and inhumane to not provide appropriate treatment for inmates. This isn't that much additional tax for Johnson Co residents to build this facility, we need to just do it.
- new jail and office has been needed for many years
- new jail is needed
- i want to support law enforcement
- To provide more space and a safer environment for inmates and staff and be able to provide the appropriate opportunities for growth
- due to building condition & over crowding
- I believe a new jail has been needed for too many years in order to treat inmates humanely, protect staff, provide more operational efficiency, and save money in the long run.
- the building is way overdue for renovations and upgrades
- it's needed
- condition of current building indicates need for new facility
- i would vote yes because the current building is not safe for inmates nor staff, and we are paying other places to take our inmates! jail should be unpleasant but humane.
- i would vote yes to promote inmate and staff safety
- safety is paramount for inmates and staff. accessibility is essential. sending inmates away from their support circle is dehumanizing.
- j.c. (really more ic) has always been slow to meet correctional needs. it's as if we are held hostage to the "people's republic" mentality. adequate facilities need not and will not result in arresting too many people



- If building is deteriorating and beyond repair then it is logical to construct a new one.
- i hate the fact that we have to pay other cities or counties to jail our inmates
- current jail deteriorated & inadequate
- when i was a student at ui in 1980 i lived in a house directly across the street from the facility, so am aware of how old and small it is. and how much larger the metro is today.
- new jail is needed, but decision must be made in context with budget, competing needs
- it seems there are concerning issues, but i've not been here long (6 months), so i would do a bit more research before voting. but i've done research on corrections and believe safe housing & programming are very important.
- i feel that i should support the sheriff and deputies.
- Need new infrastructure in this town, the same way we need new cities and parks and programs. New jail isn't as sexy but it is necessary and the people inside, both staff and inmates, deserve safe conditions
- different "older" jc jail experience in 97 i was robbed at gunpoint, handcuffed. when perpetrator was caught & put in jc jail, he broke out of the back jail window. caught again in w/ he kicked his way out of sheriff's car. wasn't caught again at least w/in 7 yrs - so i believe in good, safe jail conditions! :)
- Why do we continue to wait? The situation is not going to improve and the maintenance costs make no sense to continue. Lack of safety for staff is a huge concern. Our law enforcement staff deserves to be safe and comfortable. They are serving our community.
- Safety and cost efficiency.
- we need it!
- it will only cost more to wait
- sounds like its needed
- building conditions and space are very important.
- the conditions at the current building are not safe for inmates or staff.
- sheriff presentation to a church mens group explained the problems with the current building and its safety issues.
- this issue has dragged on too long. get the job done and build a new jail!
- Violent crime has gone from an occasional incident in Iowa City to a daily fact of life. We need to incarcerate these people.
- i know they have been trying to get a new facility for years, it needs to happen
- The deficiencies of this building have been present for years and in need of action. I know improvements have been made in the past years but I also know that larger issues remain.
- it would relieve overcrowding, money spent sending inmates elsewhere could be put to better use, building is falling apart.
- The state of incarceration whether short or long-term in this country is already terrible across the board. Public money should be directed towards improving conditions in the facilities where we detain, process, and conduct the business of law enforcement. That's precisely why we pay taxes as citizens. My vote would be yes.

- for decades we have spent millions of dollars sending our inmates to other county jails. the opposition to this vote believes leo will arrest more college kids with more room in a jail. this is simply not true. we need a safe place for inmates and those who care for them. a new jail will provide this service, and save taxpayer dollars.
  - i feel that it is our communities obligation to house our own "offenders" and under a safe + sanitary environment.
  - yes because of everything we have gone over
  - i know that the county has needed a new jail for a long time. inmates and staff have to be in a safe environment. there has to be space for services.
  - because we need it!
  - Old jail not safe. Supporting law enforcement is vital to our community
  - It is good to have a new building up to date than the old one
  - it's not good that the county is paying other locations to jail joco. inmates; time + \$ spent on transportation + jail costs would be better served locally. particularly if this has an impact on who is sent to other facilities; how is that decided? how long are they jailed at the other facilities, etc. safety for staff + for the inmates is extremely important!
  - Overall good for the community
  - \$ how much
  - I think the jail conditions are important to address. This makes me think it is important to build a new jail. I'm concerned that adding capacity will increase the incarceration rate. We will fill the available space regardless of how big we go. That points to a problem.
  - I am aware that we need a new building and will likely vote in favor of that but feel a little conflicted not knowing what the new building would entail or who all is involved (is it joint entity?)
  - For all the reasons listed in this survey. How can we expect to keep great staff employed and engaged in the recovery and rehabilitation process if the conditions they work in are subpar at best. Likewise, how can we expect inmates to want to better themselves if not given every opportunity to do so. I understand it's jail and not a vacation, but if the true objective is to educate, rehabilitate and improve people while giving them opportunities to succeed. For some for the first time in their life, why shouldn't we.
  - I'd vote Yes. The conditions sound worse than I realized; also, the lack of ADA and services for inmates, coupled with unsafe conditions for staff, definitely changes my "probably" yes to a definite yes.
  - I would vote yes, the only thing that would cause me to hesitate would be the scope and the size of the project. I do think they need a new jail facility. Rooms for services would be great, instead of additional jail cells
  - i voted "yes" to new building before
  - Seems like it is about time for a new building. I feel satisfactory about using taxpayers dollars to build it.
  - the current facility is inadequate, and is in need of extensive repairs, expansion, and modernization. honestly, i don't understand the resistance to building a new facility.
  - i would vote "yes" to support a new jail if the johnson county board would cut spending a lot of taxpayer money on freebie programs. i don't trust any one of them to make rational decisions on spending taxpayer money for anything wise. all they do is make "pro-socialist" decisions.
  - Need additional information
-

- if it's truly needed it would be a responsible use of tax dollars
- need safety for staff and inmates stop spending money housing inmates in different counties
- we have spent millions of dollars jailing inmates outside the county for years. the millions spent would have paid for a new jail. i am disgusted with the people of iowa city who vote no for a new jail.
- the jail is outdated and too small for the inmate population. as such the inmates are being held in inhumane conditions. it also costs taxpayers money housing inmates out of county.
- Seems needed
- In favor is supporting safety of our community members and staff. Being able to expand programming is extremely important.
- it is needed
- good use of my tax \$
- i don't know what the associated cost is
- the city of iowa city is experiencing growing pains & the jail is outdated by today's needs.
- i am not very familiar with local facilities, however if the sheriff's office needs it, i would vote yes.
- it has been a need for our growing community
- definite need based on all above findings.
- It seems like it needed
- Need a better condition facility for our law enforcement personal
- old and out dated
- My main concern is that it is my understanding that the location that has been discussed is a former landfill site, and I would be concerned about constructing a major, expensive facility at that location.
- the building will only get worse.
- i'd vote "yes" for the safety of staff and inmates. i'd vote "yes" to reduce the cost(s) of having to house inmates elsewhere at increased costs to johnson co.
- We clearly need a new jail. My certain yes vote would depend on jail location, total cost and transparency with tax payers. For example, what other city/county inmates would be housed there and would nearby communities be assessed to contribute if they are housing inmates there on a regular basis?
- conditions of the current jail are not acceptable for inmates or workers.
- i feel that a new jail is needed.
- Seems needed. I'd rather us actually address systemic issues with criminal justice, policing, and imprisonment, but this still feels needed.
- it appears a new building is needed but the price tag would need to be reasonable
- Thank you
- for inmates to better themselves they need to feel supported

- community safety staff safety inmate security
  - any building that is unsafe for staff & inmates should be in a new building that is safe
  - there is a serious need for a modern correctional facility these days to be built in johnson county. it needs to be safe and secure for all.
  - Given current conditions, I want the staff and the inmates to be safe and receive human decency
  - jail should be a definite punishment, but even punishment must comply with human dignity, and commit to demonstrate the best values our society has to offer. that includes a decent holding facility that inmates and staff feel "comfortable" with.
  - safe for the staff, inmates, and community. ic should be proud of our civic institutions.
  - we are wasting money sending inmates to other county jails. i also feel the safety issues are extremely concerning. the longer the city waits, the more expensive this project becomes. please make this a priority for our county.
  - why pay to house inmates elsewhere?
  - i give talks to law enforcement about mental illness. my peers have not been treated as respectfully & compassionately as i would hope.
  - Because they are humans and they do not have enough space. If they do not have space they need need a new building
  - Mostly because it doesn't sound safe to inhabit for anyone and sounds like more space is needed to house inmates.
  - it's been a need for some time now!
  - they need more space for the influx of violent criminals from the southside of chicago & cedar rapids
  - the sheriff and his deputies have taken an oath to defend the constitution of iowa and of the usa. therefore, the sheriff and his deputies will be arresting more lawbreakers out of the general population and undocumented/illegal immigrants. i do expect the sheriff to cooperate fully with ice and other state and federal law enforcement agencies.
  - Yes, if the new building will locate out of center city area
  - Time to bring this building and its environment up to support 2025 standards.
  - I've heard and seen enough interviews with officials to know that the need is there
  - this has been a issue for decades. it will only get worse.
  - long overdue to increase safety for staff, inmates & community. current cost in efficiencies waste financial resources.
  - need safe conditions for law enforcement staff
  - i understand the building needs repair & there is not enough space for inmates.
  - yes because i know it's necessary, but difficult to vote to increase law enforcement funding without true police reform.
  - If it's unsafe, no one should work under those conditions
  - to keep both staff & inmates safe
  - The conditions are unsafe for both staff and inmates alike.
-

- for every reason outlined in question
- we need to renew jail for better condition
- If there are funds to build a new building to address the issues listed previously, then why not build a new one. People deserve a nice home or place of work
- I have a friend who used to work at the jail and he'd be excited for this, so I'd vote yes.
- the current building is a money pit. the state of the building and cost to house prisoners in other counties.
- The need has been there for a long time and the steps to prolong the life of the building are inadequate.
- Public and inmates safety
- Based on information provided, it sounds like a new facility is needed to provide a safe environment for both the guards and the inmates.
- need safety for all
- it's an important part of making sure our law enforcement system works to ensure the safety of all residents, students and visitors to our iowa city community.
- need jail staff and inmates to be safe
- if the bldg. is deteriorating & you're paying washington co. to house your inmates, then it makes sense to build a new structure.
- if it's needed then build it.
- In my opinion everything has blown up around here (crime, etc.) very important to have this.
- if conditions are posing a safety issue for staff and inmates, action needs to take place.
- i would support having a safe and roomy space for inmates and a good work environment for the staff.
- cost, size, future needs included in planning. funding sources.
- the above concerns merit it.
- This is a long overdue need for the area
- We need it
- They need more space and wasiting money sending inmates elsewhere
- We have needed a new jail for a long time due to overcrowding, deteriorating conditions, and the money spent to house inmates in other counties.
- Safety concerns
- i want to live in a community where i feel safe.
- It's time to expand!
- no one ever wants to support money for jails, etc i know this will be tough to overcome. i promise not to stand in the way of the. i'll vote yes!
- north liberty just built new bldg for all city agencies & new jail. i can see how this has led to improvement in services & satisfaction

- Safety
- Need for safety
- risk of unwanted incident affecting staff or inmates is present. an incident would likely be very costly and could involve litigation.
- each county should have adequate space to house inmates & have safe space for staff.
- sounds like it's needed.
- It's a question of by making the changes, how much do we save annually? Is it paid for with property taxes or local taxes? I would be more against property taxes, everybody should be taxed equally, local tax would make it easier. How much money is this going to save us by having inmates not transferred to other counties. What are the pros and cons of the cost of building a new jail and the money going elsewhere to other counties.
- safety of public services employees is very important
- This has been an issue for a long time. While it will be large expense, it will eliminate paying to house elsewhere, allow for more activities (i.e. Medical visits for inmates, safer areas for both staff and inmates), and state of the art offices and technology.
- Enforcing the law is a very important aspect for our safety. You have to have the facilities in order to incarcerate the criminals. Paying another county for this service is a waste of our taxpayer dollars. With our current tax rate in this county, public safety should be one of the top priorities for funding.
- sounds like your current facility is a shit hole.
- all inmates deserve to be safe
- i believe this facility should be safe for both inmates & staff.
- need a safe place to keep inmates & staff.
- How will it be paid for?
- Because of Staff safety as well as Inmates safety.
- We need a nice building for sheriff
- I would vote yes for safety reasons.
- I would vote yes because the current jail is unsafe and in terrible condition and it's more financially responsible to build or refurbish current jail rather than continue to pay other counties to take inmates.
- For the improved safety of employees and inmates
- if not safe for staff & inmates, new building needed plus extra cost to jail inmates outside county
- i worked with local law enforcement to establish the guidelink center for emergency mental health services. during that time i was given a tour of the jail. even then it was apparent the facility was in poor shape. seven years later and still no fixes is terrible. our johnson county sheriffs do a wonderful job for the community it's a disgrace our community is not backing them on a much needed new building.
- nobody should have to work in unsafe working conditions. our law enforcement should feel secure and safe to do their jobs effectively. without having what they need to work effectively its a safety issue for the whole county.

- sounds like it is necessary, curious to know how much money is paid to house our inmates elsewhere.
- Yes because it will make difference in other people lives
- Building deteriorating
- it has been needed for a long time.
- public buildings must be safe for all concerned
- i know the building is outdated & inadequate for our growing population
- it seems the building is in need of major repair, especially if it is unsafe for staff and inmates. the lack of space is also not helping the current situation, both for programs and holding space.
- Need a facility that is safe for staff & inmates.
- Safety for our officers and inmates are the number one priority
- it is a definite need as crime rates are high and they can't always hold needed criminals
- county is spending a lot of money to house inmates elsewhere.
- been needed for a long time!
- i don't vote! don't understand it
- i support police and law enforcement.
- if it's no longer effective or safe to use a new one should be built.
- safety, accessibility, sufficient space, & space to provide classes & programming are extremely important.
- what i have read in the press citizen convinced me.
- unsafe for deputies - paying other counties to house our inmates is not financially beneficial to our county
- unsafe conditions
- necessary thing, the overcrowding. I wasn't aware of the unsafe issue, but it is definitely cold and old and small. I supported as long as they don't raise my taxes
- staff and inmates deserve a decent building w/ up to date accommodations regardless
- sounds like it is needed
- "it's time to move forward"
- need for physical as well as mental health.
- the jail needs to be safe for employees and inmates.
- I would vote yes, because jail needs to be safe place for those who work there, and higher security for detentions.
- seems like a new jail is needed
- safety of staff & inmates, much needed working space for employees of the sheriffs office
- It is needed
- keep johnson county safe.

- To save money, keep people safe who are in the building, to have program space to help reduce recidivism, and to have pride in our public servants and the buildings in which they do business on our behalf.
- yes. it's an old building & it's too small
- Capacity
- a safe space is necessary
- if needed for safety of inmates and staff it would be yes.
- The building is old and makes it difficult to maintain safe housing for the inmates which causes issues to staff and inmate safety.
- Much needed.
- the current building is costly to maintain and seems to lack support for staff to provide for their safety as they care for our community.
- I'm a teacher who also works in deteriorating buildings. I can understand the need for a new sheriff's building.
- I've been a resident of Johnson County since '0 and I can't remember the last time that building got an upgrade
- Pass
- we have needed a new building for years! trust your sheriffs office. get them what they need! please!!
- yes - we do need a jail - i've always voted yes when it was on the ballot.
- if structurally needed then one should be built.
- Safety of the officers and the inmates. We shouldnt be paying to house inmates elsewhere. We should do it on our own and if we build it big enough we can collect revenue to house inmates from other counties. Safety is the big priority
- much more important than frivolous expenditures currently being made by supervisors
- depends if it is combined with the iowa city police department. a new building is needed for a joint law enforcement agency. if the sheriff department remains alone, then the county should replace the old houses across the street with a modern pod-style inmate facility. then link it to the current building with a skywalk. the current building could then be remodeled for employees and services for inmates and attendees.
- It sounds like the building is undersized and outdated and makes the staff and inmates unsafe
- Because you know people are human and they all deserve something well. We all deserve second chances. We all deserve something something good. If the building is deteriorating we need to put up another one.
- Based on how much the county is growing, it is needed.
- I have a lot of confidence in the prison sheriff. I have been reasind in the news and seeing pictures of the building deteriorating. I do not like paying other counties to jail inmates
- we need a place for criminals to be housed. i do have a problem with the current building being in such bad deteriorated condition after less than 50 years.



- i'm familiar with brad kunkel from his service as a solon city council member years ago. i trust that he is truthful in stating the needs for a new building. brad understands what is best for his community and those who he is responsible for.
- it is long overdue.
- surveys like polls are unreliable. no one knows the honesty of the person answering the question or taking the poll.
- i can see the need for safety for law enforcement people to safely do their jobs.
- the jail building does not meet the need of our increasing population in the county. also is probably dated in a lot of aspects!
- this is an overdue and much needed project.
- it is past time for a larger, modern facility for the safety of all.
- i believe what our sheriff's are telling us. we need to update!
- a county we need to provide a safe jail for our employees and we should not be paying other counties to house inmates. we have the size and \$ in our county to do better. the location in the middle of iowa city also could be more safe if located in rural johnson county.
- because of all the issues listed in question #
- i toured the jail many years ago with a scout troop & i felt it needed updates/changes at that time.
- what employee wants to go to work at a workplace that is not safe and "falling down" around them? i wouldn't. i support our officers in blue and their staff.
- staff safety
- obviously. i would want to see the proposal before definitely voting yes
- for the safety of the staff, inmates, public.
- based on what i have hears, the current building is decrepit and undersized. cost to the taxpayer is a concern, but i agree a new facility is needed.
- it needs to be updated.
- vote yes if better understanding of the need for including what sets our sheriff's dept different/better than theirs
- more efficient building need.
- the need is very clear and urgent for a building that meets all needs, is safe, and will be current.
- because we pay other counties to house our inmates.
- i've only lived here a short while. i'm learning a lot from this survey!
- it's needed!!
- Believe in law enforcement safety
- because the people who work there and the inmate need to be insafe conditons and its important that the people in there have an opportunity to better themselves
- to better improve the county facility

- i like to support law enforcement & making sure justice is adequately administered.
- The current building is unsafe for what it's used for.
- spend the money and not "band-aid" money
- economic and humane reasons seem strong enough to demand adequate conditions for all involved.
- its a clear need. its dumb to send prisoners to other places \$\$.
- safety for both inmates & staff in concerning & the county financial burden to send inmates to other counties
- building is old and not to standards
- you have a definite need.
- Costs continue to go up. You can pay now or pay more later
- would like to see one like the cedar county correction center

### ***Responses of those whose votes were a stable "no"***

- i am not aware of the current facility's shortcomings. would vote no, pending an engineer's assessment.
- local taxes are high enough!
- it is a very expensive project. I am sure johnson co taxpayers would prefer to spend the money on a better project
- prisons are a capitalist scheme to preserve the current power structure
- worried about trump & associates..national guard call-up and those two things leaking down to our local level
- I voted no because I would need to see what is the plan to rebuild, what are the new plans to improve rehabilitation resources, cost saving measures planned over what's currently spent on transportation, etc. I'm concerned any large contract created will be over budget to what realistically could be completed. In summary, I would only vote yes if there was a comparison of other similar projects and their associated budget.
- jailing your people is not how you resolve the lack of community or other resources they need.
- Tough economy
- my question is not if a new building is probably needed, but whether these county funds may be better used for rehabilitation programs, investing back into jc public education, affordable housing... things that would be a long-term fix, not a band-aid.
- based on this survey, i'm not sure why it's necessary to build an entirely new building. that seems excessive. i also believe in reducing the need to criminalize citizens. let's do better!
- spending money on community programs (non-police) that bring opportunities and a social safety net would prevent crime & reduce the need for a jail at all. programs are a better use of my tax money. if joco builds a new jail then the cops will fill it! this cycle of incarceration does not end via an ada jail - it ends with a stronger, more connected community!
- a new jail must be frugally built. more focus needs to be put on funding & creating spaces that provide resources & services that prevent recidivism &/or the need for having a jail at all. sales pitching a jail design as if it was a probable landmark & point of pride is offensive. prisons dont fix problems. they only contain & hide problems.

- the current building should be repaired and the solution to space issues is to stop needlessly holding so many people.
  - Unfortunately, I spent an evening there a couple of years ago and thought the conditions were satisfactory.
  - no
  - I don't believe we should continue to jail people especially minorities. Iowa is ranked the 41th on the list of cities with highest police violence against protestors. black folks make up 1% of our population but 10% of homicide victims and our prison population. black iowans make up about 60% of the victims of police murder. they are also 38 times more likely than their counterparts to be shot at in their lifetimes. So no, I don't believe we need a new jail. I believe we need to defund the police and rehabilitate people before they go to jail. We give all of the money in this town to bullshit landlords and restaurant owners and the cops. We have a homeless population and a severe lack of housing for the lower income population. This town only cares about hurting black people and protestors through police force. I refuse with every fiber in my being of their being a new jail or ANY money being given to the police or sheriff or any other racist patriarchal institution in this city/state. SHAME ON ALL OF YOU. put the money into our community, our children, our impoverished, our disabled, our people. NOT TO WHITE SUPREMACIST INSTITUTIONS LIKE THE POLICE FORCE
  - too costly to taxpayers -esp- county residents ask habitate for humanity to build new jail & sheriff office. residents can donate labor & money
  - this has been going on for a long time. the problems should have been addressed years ago. someone should have had the foresight to initiate repairs and build on to the current building. everyone in this county wants a new building. every time there is a problem with a building the solution seems to be to build new. fix things when they ended it. my property taxes are way to high the way it is.
  - it's my understanding the bos has approved approx 00k to design an estimated fix to many of the problems.
  - upgrade old jail
  - i think they can fix what they have!
  - i would need to know specifically what the funding would be going toward (the jail cells, ada compliance, safer building, etc)
  - the county should spend more time considering renovation or expansion of the current facility
  - There are many options that would relieve the issues without the construction of a new jail. One we currently do: Shipping them out to other jails. There are other options. Going nuclear and burdening the taxpayers with making a nice home for inmates is absurd.
  - i am overtaxed
  - The city needs to focus on other things like road repairs and technology. Iowa is years behind most other states.
  - I don't want my tax money going to incarcerating people that you will not rehabilitate.
  - This money could be preventative, in the community or mental health. I also just don't like the manipulation aspect of these questions and it makes me want to support it less.
  - ridiculous state laws & government! everything about "jail or prison" is for profit!
  - building could be updated
-

- how will the proposed new building be funded? prisons shouldn't be too comfortable. that would defeat the deterring effect of prison.
- I would only vote yes if it does not increase property taxes
- i do not want a higher capacity jail in town. the 00 it sits at now is fine. make less arrests. if you want the people to approve a new jail it has to have a similar capacity to the current jail and the new jail should have more services and programming. the jail should also remain near where it is. don't move it out of town. everyone is already pissed about the dmU and where they have to pucker their towed vehicles up from now.
- Not the highest priority. There is plenty of opportunity to make the city/county budget more efficient.
- Need more information about the sheriff's intent. We do not want to keep a full jail, or arrest more people, so expanded capacity is not a valid reason.
- We may need an updated facility, but additional beds will only be used for malicious purposes.
- need to know more details and other potential options to retrofit, also; what is the cost of jailed inmates outside of county in contrast to cost + other variables of upgrading or replacing jail? perhaps outsourcing is better for a number of reasons....
- financial strain on property owners (tax)
- I would need more details backed by statistics. Examples help. I haven't heard of anything bad happening at the jail, and its location is good. A new jail would be out on the western edge of town, right?
- i am not convinced that enough effort and resources are dedicated to jail diversion programs. i am purely concerned at the racial disparity in jail admission. the most recent census figures indicate african american represent 8% of johnson county population yet a lesser proportion of inmates come from the community.
- dude. the us incarcerates a greater % of our population than any other country. black people + other people of color as well as mentally ill people are arrested + incarcerated in wildly disproportionate #s. literally the last thing johnson county needs is to waste \$ on a jail, which they will be monetized to keep full for decades. hard pass.
- property taxes are too high
- need more info beyond an assertion that it's unsafe - how is it unsafe? i need to make my own decisions based on facts not an a assertion. how is the building deteriorating?
- depends on what it would cost me- it's important, but assessments and taxes keep going up, and there is a limit to how much can be stretched given inflation, tariffs, etc.
- do not believe we need to hold so many people in jail. if they are not a threat to themselves or the community, release them to the community and family and work. jail and prison do not rehabilitated people. if they need to be punished(?) figure out a way that does not hurt their families-
- just your opinion in above statements, w/o facts to support
- funding for social safety net + schools [up arrow] need for incarcerations [down arrow] make rich people pay taxes
- too expensive
- No new jails. Fund prevention.
- i believe in the abolition of all jails, prisons, "correctional" facilities. until the officers in and around iowa city show the moral courage necessary to quit and completely change their worldviews, i will be voting no.

- I think the dollar amount is not correct and they should look for a new location and they should be more things they should look at before they push this ballot through. Put more money into mental health locations so that we do not have many people in or jails.
- Because it probably will make my taxes go up and they have been going up every year.
- it would probably raise taxes, which would never go down again. it would probably be cheaper just to remodel it.
- need to combine ic police and sheriff & staff, plus jail into one building...the cost assumption would be to raise taxes to pay for it. citizens of ic/johnson county already get hammered by property taxes!!!
- Would vote no because it does not align with what I think the priorities for the county should be.
- they are more pressing public needs.
- arrest fewer people and when the numbers are down, i will support
- because no information on how this building will be funded, needed explanation
- need to know costs for new jail vs cost to house inmates to go elsewhere need to know costs & feasibility of remodel &/or repair. need to know services & programming needed.
- we should keep fewer people in jail for less time.
- Unnecessary expenses in a prison system that does nothing to re-integrate and rehab inmates, instead continues to punish them making the problem worse
- I was at a meeting where they discussed construction of the new jail. There should be more focus on alternatives to incarceration rather than "better" incarceration. This same funding could go toward community programs that divert people from the criminal legal system entirely. I support improvements to the facility, but I don't support an expanded carceral system.
- taxes
- i need to know more: -what is the plan for activating services and programs? a big new jail with inadequate/unprepared services would be :( -if the location changes, what us the plan for the space? i have more...
- I do not support the current ongoing system of punitive punishment toward incarcerated peoples. It is cruel and unjust.
- local iowa city property taxes just jumped meaningfully. local groups need to work together around financing.
- New jail and building equals new taxes to Johnson county residents
- There's bigger issues this money could be going to- no more jails.
- I assume this will increase taxes. Property taxes and other city, county, state, and federal taxes have increased significantly in recent years with cuts to public services. Under a new federal administration and with reprieve of from the recent increases, I would support this tax. But right now, I cannot.
- taxes
- The main concern is the money. I would like plans to house less inmates and no need a jail of much size. And the cost I've seen to house inmates in other jails does not seem to be more than paying for a new jail over years. I support less inmates and smaller more affordable facilities.

- no information provided about construction cost, operating cost, staff increases or decreases, current capacity, degree of criminality of people held in jail.....
- localities with expanded capacity for inmates have an adverse incentive for practical policing and justice reform.
- inmates don't have to have everything so so
- need more detailed information & need ensure that the continues efforts of law enforcement are to support & protect the public - not to harass i am more worried about how i could be treated by law enforcement than i am violence/safety in my neighborhood
- stop the financial bleeding for taxpayers. johnson county already has issues with financial malfeasance with county officials. the trust, hearts and minds needs to be regained before there is any more spending and taxation. the board of supervisors needs to strongly vent energy toward more ways to cut costs or create revenue for county tax payers
- A new facility would cost lots of money. I'm not sure if there are actual issues that require a new facility or if some people just want a new one.
- This survey makes assertions without supporting data. Do all of these inmates need to be in jail? We need investment in community resources that prevent crime, not investment in facilitates that do nothing to address root causes.
- It always spending spending spending.
- I feel like it could be two seperate buildings, don't have to be one all together. The sheriffs office could have a new building and the inmates can stay in other counties, that is fine with me
- Not sure about the current building conditions
- No need has been demonstrated
- taxes in johnson county are already exorbitant. adding more taxes for a new jail is too onerous a tax burden. if funding other than taxpayers' money, then no problem with new jail.
- not sure how new facility would impact me financially.
- taxes are already too high. many dui prisoners shouldn't be in jail. put an ankle bracelet on them and make them stay at home. that should clear a lot of jail space.
- i don't think what you think is unsafe are really unsafe. the conditions aren't supposed to be a hotel for inmates. staff are armed and if not armed why is that?
- what isn't being proposed as an option is updating the facility to meet ada requirements and improve safety for staff and inmates.
- Taxes
- sheriff and department actively participate in campaign commercials and vocally endorse democrats. the same group (democrats) that defund police and open borders.
- we are over taxed currently
- vote "no" due to trend to use local law enforcement to implement ice as unlawful detention of persons without warrant.
- i think modifications could be made to existing & other jails could cont. to house. taxes? economy already bad.

- should be taking better care of the building. just because my home is old doesn't mean i need a new one. maintenance is what it takes! no
- i need to do my own research on the subject
- expense
- Every proposal I have seen put forward in the past lacks common sense...we don't need to spend untold amounts of money on some palace. Build a functional, modern jail and spend more money on preventing people from ending up in the jail. I don't disagree on the premise we need the building, but every other time it has come up I feel the proposed solution has been outlandish.
- as i noted i don't have enough detailed information on what is specifically wrong
- don't think it's that bad
- johnson county supervisors spend too much on nonessential projects. use that money to build a jail.
- I don't know anything about this issue. One sentence descriptions were added in this survey but there is no "backing" provided for the simple statements. If you are needing to pass this than very serious effort should be put in place to inform voters of the actual issues and true reasoning behind the needs
- The building was poorly constructed from the beginning and has not been maintained
- it is a jail. inmates do not need to be housed in a taj mahal worth million of dollars.

### ***Responses of those whose votes changed to "yes"***

- Concerned about staff and tax payers' dollars, but I give no shits about the inmates. Don't do the crime, if you can't do the time.
- Voted probably yes because incarceration is not the best option, and building a larger space means more incarceration but i support inmates safety and wellbeing and Johnson County jail is not in the best shape.
- the schools also need more funds, but those taxes are being cut. lots of need, not enough help for everything; need to weigh many dif problems. open to more info
- keep inmates well cared for
- inmate care & staff safety should be prioritized
- While I would prefer that jails didn't exist at all, I understand that the current situation is a safety concern.
- Seems more necessary when you learn it is over capacity and unsafe.
- If it would provide a space for inmates to receive adequate resources, especially for nonviolent criminals, i would be in support
- i have heard from friends that a new jail needs to be able to accommodate more inmates. we are losing money to pay another county to incarcerate johnson co inmates
- Yes because there have been clear examples now given of why the jail/office is needed. I would like to know why it is considered unsafe though.
- If the building truly is unsafe for inmates and staff, that needs to be corrected.

- if all the issues in question apply to the current office/building, then i'd vote yes to make it safer for everyone all around. also, why is it not ada accessible?! disabled people don't work there or even commit crimes?!
- I think there is an increase of incarcerated people
- if conditions are as bad as you suggest, then a new building is likely needed
- Probably would vote yes if I knew how this could impact taxes, how money would be spent specifically, etc
- this is something we need/should support as a civic duty
- I don't want people to be in an unsafe building whether they're incarcerated or not. Plus, all buildings should be ADA compliant
- Because it appears the building is actually needed
- whether it's a prison jail home restaurant university- every establishment should never increase with rehab/state of long housing/problems.
- we can't have people living and working in unsafe conditions
- Inmates have a constitutional right to safety in their imprisonment and treatment. Lack of ADA accommodations, ability to do rehabilitation programs, and general safety flies in defiance of that.
- i want the jail to be safe, but i want more information from independent sources
- The need for a new building was adequately supported by the information in this survey
- self explanatory
- would need more about the issue (pros & cons) before actual voting in
- Seems like it's not functioning the way that it should be so that's an issue.
- If the old building is not safe it should be demolished
- For the staff
- want staff and inmates to be safe.
- the current building doesn't seem safe to use.
- didn't know it is in such poor condition.

### ***Responses of those whose votes changed to "no"***

- if i were not aware of any problems or concerns with the building, i may not understand the motivation behind constructing a new building and therefore might be more likely to vote "no".
- i would want more info - who made the "list of issues" - the board mbrs or some paid architect firm?
- if someone thinks the jail is in good condition, i think that overcrowding & paying to house inmates elsewhere is not a big enough reason to support building a new jail. i feel that knowing about the building's unsafe condition is essential to a yes vote.



## Q17. What additional information would you need to know to make an informed decision about voting for the construction of a new building for the Sheriff's Office and Jail?

### *Responses of those whose votes were a stable "yes"*

- Location
- How it would affect the common Iowa city individually.
- what will go unfunded if we build?
- proximity/transportation to courthouse
- would like to see layout and what the cost of everything would entail
- its ability to meet future needs
- how it would accommodate both agencies.
- cost and size proposal
- please show how many years before costs to build would be paid for by housing prisoners from other counties. Johnson county seems so concerned about the cost to build the facility.
- don't really need any additional information.
- just plan of bldg & location
- collaborative effort w ic police. cost & financing plan for the project.
- Even as I'm hearing the questions, the unsafe conditions are vague to me and that seems important, and excluded from the current questions. Conditions around services are also vague, are they rehab? Are they for family? Are we making investments in the needs around mental health and criminal justice?
- touring old offices and check for need
- I would be interested if funds would also be available for non-policing community support options to reduce arrests.
- The overall cost to tax payers and the expected longevity of the new building
- None, when I heard about it being a possibility I became totally for it. The 2 departments work together so why not put them in the same building which should make working together much easier. Might even be able to cut the middle man in passing information needed.
- how long construction & approval will take; what are the pros & cons of sharing space; icpd>; would it lead to greater efficiency & effectiveness, and would it be a cost-saving solution.
- i would like to know who is designing the building, the reasons behind their specific design, if the county has hired a private contractor to build it yet, and if so, who?
- when will it be done?
- how exactly the proposed construction addresses the identified issues. how long do they expect the new location to cost.

- How long the project would take and the resources needed to complete.
  - a plan -- where, what, how much money
  - proposed size and kinds of facilities to be included, particularly non-incarceration facilities
  - how much it costs & how it would be paid for
  - just get on with it
  - will local labor be used as much as possible?
  - where it would be located.
  - where would money come from?? additional taxes? & how much.
  - future needs moving mental health to other areas
  - whether the cost was reasonable
  - more detail: cost, timeline, economic impact to downtown, impact on safety, etc
  - Location would not be bad to know but not very important. Budgetary needs since tax dollars will be paying for it.
  - cost meets ada requirements adequate staff cameras to observe inmates
  - the cost. what will happen with my property tax- how much will it go up!
  - I feel well informed
  - how do costs compare for renovations to old building vs new building vs continuing to house inmates outside the county
  - from the pictures and written stories i have seen or read, i don't really need any more info, but would certainly consider an oversize bldg to accommodate some prisoners from other counties
  - Costs that would be passed to the community.
  - More publicized information on how things would be with the ICPD and Sheriffs Dept in the same building.
  - cost & how it would affect the surrounding area
  - input from icpd & other participating partys.
  - Cost savings
  - cost efficiency - ? shared resources cons i'm not aware of
  - None, build it now.
  - projections of increasing use
  - Where will it be built? Will nearby neighborhoods be affected?
  - I have enough information.
  - i think the location at riverside dr. and hwy 6 would be an excellent spot with room, access, and central location.
  - raise in taxes - how much
  - the cost & desirability of location i trust someone else re the design.
-

- how to pay for it
- cost of housing inmate elsewhere due to overcrowding -current costs to maintain/fix current building issues -safety concerns due to current building conditions
- i would like to see the design first before voting for it
- cost + projected capacity, expansion space, safety
- past news articles has made it clear a new jail is needed
- cost of such a building, will you sell bonds?
- See the particulars.
- that the space is convenient for icpd officers to reach like the current location, and includes space for expansion.
- none- would vote yes regardless!
- cost sharing arrangements
- need more information communicated about terrible condition & need for new jail
- none, it is overdue
- Cost
- don't know
- cost and amount to tax payers
- i'm good with my decision, it's been needed for years
- examples from the staff of times the current conclusion made their jobs more difficult or contributed to unsafe conditions for the inmates.
- location, conditions
- Update every 2 weeks
- staff/inmate ratio
- I would like to see a rough budget breakdown of what the location, the jail part, and the sherriffs part will cost separately, and be able to vote based on what we think should be funded
- what is being considered for the future versus what is now... iowa city can be too "showy", need good basics & space
- community that can grow the facility & needs but not overbrand for "bragging rights"
- I think this survey is giving me all the information I need- I know I've voted on it before, but I've never really done it with much intention or knowledge.
- cost efficiency & safety for all concerned
- i just know that if the old building is not safe for everyone, it needs to have new safe and modern building
- process for construction bids
- location, cost is ia city sharing cost of building
- i think i would vote yes and leave the details to others

- what services would be provided
  - Proposed location and impact on other infrastructure
  - size and capacity of building
  - i don't know
  - Ensuring that the needs are met fully with a reasonable consideration for cost.
  - I would like a breakdown of the Johnson county sheriff's and ICPD's budget before agreeing to constructing a new jail. Both law enforcement agencies have been known to overspend on outlandish, militaristic vehicles and equipment. The question should be: "Do you agree with a raise in local taxes to offset the cost of a new jail, while the local law enforcement agencies have misused funds to acquire weapons of war to use against the community?"
  - 1. # of years before the building is deemed complete unsafe 2. projected cost if we wait
  - The details of the new building
  - cost, location, clarity
  - new building is very good and important
  - Continued factual information
  - how would it impact cost and safety of staff and inmates
  - Size and price and what is gonna cost us in our tax dollars
  - I think I have enough information to vote yes
  - how much this would cost to me/general residents
  - i feel if the police office wants to be part of the johnson county jail, they need to help foot the bill as well
  - Cost to taxpayers
  - current capacity for inmates & new capacity being planned
  - how much extra tax burden will occur
  - reasons for/details of new design, cost, impact on taxes
  - voting date needs to be advertised better
  - cost to taxpayers
  - design & price, tax impact on residents
  - are politics involved?
  - Design plan
  - i strongly believe the sheriff & ia city pd should attempt to build a joint facility
  - Increase in property tax and the ROI over time, and ancillary services to support alternatives to incarceration and promote rehabilitation.
  - explanation of how new building would be of benefit
  - i know how i would vote
-

- how would a new building add effectiveness to services and result in best outcomes (fewer repeat visitors... now having folks in jail for essentially being mentally ill...), which lead to most cost-effective dept. long term? how is the current building situation leading to lost & cost inefficiency?
  - open and fair bidding process. open meetings for public comment and concern.
  - none. this story has been beat to death. the need is high.
  - specifics & facts on the current facility, and if it can still be used for some purpose
  - how does ic police feel about this, is there a protocol in place to split costs & solve disagreements between the users?
  - read independent investigative reporting by quality source- c.r. gazette, little village
  - i have very little knowledge... once on the nextdoor.com social media platform, there was a discussion... otherwise this survey is only the second time i've heard about the need for a newly constructed jcso & jail building
  - cost.
  - Where it will be located, and if it's close to downtown, how big of a disruption it'll be. Right now it's a little removed from downtown, but if it's added as an expansion to the Iowa City police department, it'll be hard to ignore
  - all of the above in #15
  - Nothing. I'm on board.
  - I think I have the information I need from you and talking with city workers.
  - none - go for it!
  - cost & location
  - cost, location, staffing needs
  - beyond cost saving, what are the pros & cons of a joint space?
  - will a shared space with ic police delay this decision? what is being done to help voters/community members understand the need for space for services and programs?
  - I can't think of anything else.
  - sorry, i don't know how to convince others.
  - Where the budget is coming from, what the upkeep plan is for the new facility (how maintenance for a joint facility will be covered long term).
  - This isn't a cheap or easy undertaking, so I would like to know how conditions would measurably improve for both inmates, law enforcement personnel, and staff.
  - where to build/cost comparisons of jcso by itself vs with icpd
  - how does this work in other jurisdictions?
  - cost
  - - size of new building - where will money come from? - expected costs to construct and maintain
  - needs are met? cost of project? (total)
-

- cost to taxpayers/increase in taxes/what will pay for it.
- cost to the taxpayers, location
- Budget and future concessions
- cost
- possible location
- design, size, cost
- If the building size were to grow would that mean we have to explore adding additional staff? I'm more in favor of spending on staff and programs that explore diversion and jail alternatives
- I'd like to understand the joint option with JCSD and ICPD in a single location. It would sound like a better use of public funds, and possibly allow for a better design and build, but I would be guessing on that information. I'd also like to have more information on how the redesign helps with ADA compliance and service needs, and improves the safety of staff while facilitating inmate services locally without requiring them to be sent elsewhere.
- I would just like details about the services that would be housed and provided at the facility- what would be the capacity? How many people are the planning on housing? what services will they provide?
- How this would affect taxpayers.
- the cost of a new facility vs. updates to existing buildings and the cost of housing inmates elsewhere.
- are the jcs going to make any responsible cuts to their budget to help pay for this endeavor, or is it just higher taxes upon higher to the paying taxpayers.
- More information
- cost, implications for taxes
- cost, location, size
- none- it should have been done years ago.
- cost, location, space for inmates needs, space for attorney/client communication.
- cost & utility of bldg.
- Cost
- Possible long term cost savings to tax payers.
- specific information about existing deficiencies and photos
- time frame for construction
- cost implications
- cost & longevity of the new bldg. & location.
- more info on city and county facilities.
- no more need
- Based on the information provided and the condition of the current building and situation. I would recommend a new facility that benefits our law enforcement officers!

- I think the need has been there for a long time, and I trust that the leaderships that's in place will make wise and informed decisions.
- the new building needs to be functional, not fancy! keep it simple, but able to meet current needs and plan for the future.
- Total number of inmates housed currently. What inmate numbers we have contracted out to other areas to house and the cost.
- do not need additional info - already plan to vote yes
- what if any legal/regulatory limitations are there in combining or sharing facilities between city police & Johnson Co sheriff
- Thank you
- ensure inmates have adequate space & have access to programs/education to make good use of their time
- location of joint building access to city for police coverage
- definite cost
- cost of project as well as construction companies
- If they're going to make sure it's compliant with ADA, that matters a lot to me
- town hall meeting with all concerned, perhaps a video tour of the facility.
- list of pros & cons
- cost
- I am not sure where the police department is. If they have enough room I do not know why they would need to combine them.
- i am all for a new building. it needs to pass ADA standards.
- will there be less violent criminals on the street & blacks.
- you listed off a bunch of concerns so i would want to know how they address each one, some of them you kinda talked about but didn't reference again so i would want to know each of the concerns, how would the new building address that
- the sheriff and his deputies have sworn an oath to defend our constitutions. i need to have assurance that the sheriff, the ic police chief and the board of supervisors and city council will cooperate with ICE & other federal agencies.
- Cost
- projections on how long the building would last and fulfill needs
- what is the extent of building decay? what is the extent of overcrowding?
- Impact on community
- how will this impact taxes and property values?
- Considering the cost, what would it do for taxes?
- location & what building would accomplish

- easier to coordinate information. better information dispersal in an emergency.
- No additional info needed
- The current conditions and expected price of the construction
- none. the building has been needed for years.
- How would the City of Iowa City utilize the space in the city building the IC Police currently utilize if they moved out into a new building?
- Probably a newsletter that lays everything out in an easy to digest format.
- what do other communities this size have for a sheriff's office and jail? what did they pay for construction/remodeling?
- cost, location, size & capacity
- who is in the bidding pool how expenses are shared between city & county.
- Location and price timeline.
- i don't need any additional information.
- what the advantage and disadvantage of it are.
- No further information
- Just normal, more specific plans, and details
- if the price is reasonable, you have a better chance of passing this.
- Taxes
- details about current status of operations. identify specific needs to be addressed. information on plan for new facility and how needs/issues are addressed/not.
- location & cost
- 0
- A better layout of the actual options for the cost- a system of options and what we can do, what exactly is the money going to. I'm not opposed to paying something, I'd be willing to vote yes for some things, but maybe not for other things. A B C D and not E
- make sure the building is designed for the long term
- Location and possibly sharing space with UI Police and ICPD.
- Impact on our taxes, cost of the building, Sheriff's law enforcement policies and procedures.
- funding for both and where it would come from space-land would state, government come into play for the costs would it raise tax's in any way?
- how many beds would be in the cells for inmates
- taxpayer impact?
- cost, tax increase, do voters get to vote on options for the building?



- Cost
- It seems all the things are covered.
- Where that spece
- Cost, features, advantages, space, location, safety
- Location of new building if not staying in the current spot
- Cost and overall benefits
- i will vote yes no matter what because i know how needed it is.
- the overall cost, location, how much cost to taxpayers
- is there concern about staffing?
- Construction costs
- what conflicts between two factions would occur? operations same for both?
- percentage of who pays what for a joint building and will there be room for expansion in the future
- overall details, but the design is what i'm mostly looking at. since space, safety and programming are all issues, the design would need to be modern and helpful, and made available to the public before voting.
- What is anticipated allocation from property taxes for construction.
- Services provided to inmates. Safety features for officers and staff
- cost to taxpayers. how will it be paid for?
- how it will be funded and over what period of time; how the cost to build will affect my taxes; will law enforcement receive new training to utilize space for programming/services for inmates?
- none, it's overdue and needed
- price, size, impact
- current conditions efforts to end unnecessary jail time for misdemeanors and non-violent crime, drug rehab programs
- size of building
- cost to tax payers.
- transparent in formation on all levels to be successful.
- location.
- location, cost,
- Because is two different departments
- how costs would be shared
- Cost
- cost location

- land for new bldg. future expansion
  - How is it going to impact property tax and what is being cut to pay for the project.
  - what portion of this is being paid by people other than property owners.
  - how it would be financed. property taxes are already too high.
  - Not sure
  - no additional information is necessary.
  - cost, cost sharing, location
  - do both agencies see a good fit?
  - whether they are joint or not.
  - That the Sherrif has input as to the design and needs.
  - whether it is a joint facility or a county-only facility
  - Proposals, locations, all the stuff. The more information coming out to the communte the better.
  - Id really like to know more about it.
  - What help will their be for those with substance abuse issues.
  - I do not need any other information
  - how will it be paid for
  - costs. amenities. maintenance.
  - reminding us of the expense of transporting and housing the over/excess prison population in other county jails.
  - cost to seniors - taxes have increased over the past year or two.
  - where it will be located
  - what are the services and programs? in detail
  - cost, location, capacity, life expectancy
  - cost, design
  - location, cost, size
  - cost, price for taxpayer
  - size, cost, location
  - the items listen in #15 seem to cover everything.
  - cost and cost savings.
  - explain why its needed. what does the community get by building it?
  - location & more about cost.
  - i would vote yes - just make the build secure and safe but does not need all the frills.
  - get information out to voters.
-

- I would need to know if it is in fact giving more space for rehabilitation efforts.
- greater details about the cost and plan
- Where it's being built and how it solves the current issues.
- cost
- buy in by both entities regarding economy of scale and efficiency.
- explanation of what safety concerns exist for staff & inmates & what type of services would be available in the new building
- Unsure
- how much it would cost to upgrade the current facility?

### ***Responses of those whose votes were a stable "no"***

- construction costs: estimated tax increase to fund the project.
- total cost and where money is coming from -
- homes for the homeless
- attitude of co. cops & i.c cops forward inmates...in general
- See previous comment.
- how does this support inmates? have other solutions been explored?
- Cost to taxpayers/is it really necessary?/
- cost of the project and what that amount of money actually equates in the grand scheme of the county budget - would there be an interruption/even more unsafe practices in the transition period?
- i would need to see data that confirmed that we as citizens and local government are working to dismantle systems of incarceration, not maintain them.
- a jail does not make my community safer, it locks my neighbors away & interferes with their lives, disrupts families, schooling, jobs, and people's future.
- a substantive plan on ways to drastically reduce jail population and decrease funding to the office.
- Not much. I don't love the majority of Iowa City Police and Johnson County Sheriffs. Besides Officer Colin. He's fair and amazing. Hire more people like him and then way more folks would be on board with supporting this effort. Even some of the options selectable in this survey are aggressive. Matches the officers in Iowa City's vibe. It's no longer "serve and protect" but "be sneaky and bust." Disappointing and gross.
- I don't need more information on our city pouring money into a bullshit new jail so cops can arrest and kill even more minorities. NO NO NO NO NO. Cops don't stop crime. Jails don't stop crime. None of this is getting to the real issue here.
- are all Iowa city & county residents expected to share costs?
- when our property taxes are going down. if you start lowering property taxes, then i'll vote yes.

- what are actual concerns/problems? can these be addressed by the \$3m fix currently be explored? are there other options than incarceration/shipping off to muscatine for minor offenses?
- the cost
- how many additional jail cells would be added & does this scale with current violent crime rates.
- I can make an informed decision right now.
- why? no university heights jail!
- How much it costs and what percentage of the taxpayers budget is being put towards it. Additionally, knowing what other projects are in the works, rather than building a big nice building for inmates. They are there for a reason!
- When would construction start and where
- Sounds like you'll send me anything to convince me, so I don't know that that matters.
- none- because laws are to suppress freedom
- more info about county benefits (cost/efficiency) of shared facility
- price + method of covering cost (taxes in jc are already high enough)
- how it would be paid for
- location, capacity (i would not vote for anything over 100), services, programming, design. i will not vote for a new building located outside of the city and off bus routes.
- what options are available to decrease the number of incarcerations? what is the tax burden for property owners?
- Expected occupancy rate for the jail.
- How many beds are being added and will they be for rent
- Where would it be? How big? How expensive? Who would be in charge of what: city or county?
- [illegible handwriting] steps to deter offenders from jail.
- i have all the info i need - even this obviously expensive survey is way too much to spend already
- how much tax increase
- in what way does the county believe the jail is unsafe for staff and inmates? what specifically? have there been safety incidents?
- location cost opinion of both county and ic police staff
- how many people are jailed at a time. space enough to keep dignity- one person to a cell.
- a whole lot
- are there rich people willing to pay their fair share in taxes to fund it?
- cost
- as stated previously, it would be reassuring to me to see the sheriff + jail staff totally disavow their complicity in the american machine of death and hatred.
- Budget, and what training the officers are being given that would reduce the needs for such high capacity in our jails

- The cost.
- how much it will cost taxpayers
- cost-cost-cost.
- Efforts being made to reduce arrests and incarceration. Where the building fits with the board's other priorities.
- funding
- # of incarcerated people, humane design
- Cost, he thinks that the rationale of the issue is not factual information like unsafe building for staff and building is deteriorating
- need to know a total cost analysis
- None. Strongly disagree on new prison. Invest on better conditions for people to ensure they dont become criminals
- What kind of programming will be offered at the new facility? Will the programming include practices that reduce recidivism? What kind of rehabilitative models will be used in the new facility that weren't available before?
- Money
- -staffing plan -proposed services -capacity/conditions -style -proposed location -plan for old space
- I refuse to answer.
- How will this project be funded?
- How many more people they plan on keeping there as a result of increased capacity.
- Location and cost to residents.
- how it would effect taxes
- Cost. What the payback is. How a new facility could save both city and county recurring money each year.
- cost of construction, cost of operation, capacity "needs", what alternatives are being considered.
- legal obligations under ada vs cost of new building and cost to remedy
- more detail on current issues
- what is this going to cost the county taxpayers? how many years will it take to pay for this endeavor? how long will the project take to completion with guaranteed no deviation? a focus on doing more with less?
- How much of the funding is coming directly out of my pockets.
- Much more data than this survey presents. And counter points that present a fair and balanced perspective of this issue.
- Long term financial study on the impact of the outflow to house them outside of the county now verses the new building and tax wise where the money is coming from.
- For the inmates, what's the average term they're sentenced to? What kind of criminals do we have there?
- Specific information, not vague assurances that there are deficiencies
- where is the funding coming from?

- how the operations of each entity would work.
- cost analysis
- enforce immigration laws and work with ice.
- lower property taxes
- public condemnation of scope creep in support of ice, sale of mrap vehicle
- cost benefit publicized to county residents w/ images of problems. a lot of times problems of public places exaggerates? costs inflated.
- none.
- how will it be funded. will my taxes be raised to fund it?
- expense
- Design, location and how it fits into community policing, prevention and education.
- specific details of the requirements of the new building
- I don't know enough about the initial request. First demonstrate to voters that there is truly a problem that needs addresses
- i will not be voting for a new jail in any shape or form

### ***Responses of those whose votes changed to "yes"***

- Average number of inmates, staff count, current size of building, cost of new building, proposed location, tax payer impact
- what inmates think/what their experience is and what their needs are.
- expected budgets for new building operation compared to current jail operation costs.
- I would like to see an information packet explaining the need and cost. I'd also like to see what programs and efforts are made to keep people out of jails to begin with.
- Need to know what other options there are.
- What the benefit to the community would be — like rehabilitation programs so these people can become productive citizens
- i'd want to know #s of inmates.
- cost of construction, size of proposed new building
- How much it would cost. What are the safety issues currently and how do the challenges plan on being dealt with.
- More information about the design of the new building (how much space is intended for increased capacity vs programming/rehabilitation vs other purposes)
- pictures, maybe a video of such deterioration of the building posted on social media or reported by a news outlet for max coverage. if it's a matter of adding ramps & auto operators then just do that.

- the cost of the construction and who will pay for it
- The trend of arrest rate of the recent year
- more detailed data on # of inmates, recidivism and the success of programming, staff qualifications and turnover, etc. how does jc jail compare to peer cities?
- clear argument, facts & figures, projections as to growth of # of prisoners
- I would like to know how much it will cost
- Unsure
- how this building will benefit the community and what other services it can provide
- definitely need "help."
- Proposed budgets, what new programming is expected in these designs, and what will happen to the old property
- information on rehabilitation efforts, facts & figures on current jail
- cost and how it'd be paid for.
- What programs would be offered to inmates
- Cost, size, programs, employees
- cost, services, safety
- Costco, impact on taxes
- time to complete the new building. what to do with the old building and the land.
- cost, how big to accommodate needs.

### ***Responses of those whose votes changed to "no"***

- cost -budget -contractor -timeline for completion -design -environmental impact
- design + cost! feasibility no tash ma hal government has a vision to build more than they need form a commission!
- the future expectations of how the new jail would function. i would want to vote for a plan that is expected to meet future needs for some time, as well as current needs.

## Q18. What is the most important thing you would like the Board of Supervisors to consider when developing the measure for the ballot?

### ***Responses of those whose votes were a stable "yes"***

- Security and the wellbeing and health of the inmates and staff.
- Cost and location.
- Unsure
- keep the community safe and be fiscally responsible
- how it will be paid for
- doesn't have to be fancy just a very serviceable building.
- projected cost
- if it does not include both agencies, i probably am less likely to support
- cost and size
- i especially liked the last plan where the building could be utilized for other purposes depending on jail census.
- safety for staff and inmates.
- possibility of passing better not perfect than not at all
- Building design and capacity
- Safety
- cost
- I would say it would have to be a systems based approach that is about crime prevention and restorative justice, have to be built around systems that don't just put people behind bars.
- Community support programs need to live side by side with policing and punitive options.
- The impact on tax payers
- Let's get it on the ballot
- long-term benefits- better to plan for the long-term instead of putting a band-aid on.
- i would appreciate if government officials, at every step of this process, would refer to the un standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners (nelson mandela rules)
- Funding for this development
- integration of the service roles of police & sheriff
- we don't need people with guns responding to family and mental health issues in the city and county.
- including how it would be paid for
- this issue has gone on way too long



- do it right the first time, give the officers & employees what they need to do their jobs safely & correctly.
- cost
- long term usage
- that the building would be built with the future in mind!
- future needs stop criminalizing mental health. more funds for mental health help.
- i hope the supervisors can propose an adequate and safe facility that is not excessively costly to build and operate.
- safety of staff and inmates
- cost. also, location of the new facility.
- be as detailed and transparent as possible
- to insure public safety and also keep us all safe
- the safety of the staff.
- i know the bldg. and the staffing are important but have my doubts that the measure will pass due to the cost to the taxpayers
- Cost and longevity
- consider the bldg to be oversize to take in some from other counties for addtl increase- as we have been paying over in the past
- Cost effective ways to make a new facility feasible for the city.
- There's no question this is a necessity for Iowa City.
- Clarity of scope and intent, to the extent possible
- -cost -need
- cost and efficiency
- Efficiency and capacity planning
- Getting it over the threshold for a yes vote. Whatever gives it the best chance.
- cost
- Location and impact
- location of facility.
- where the money comes from
- keep us informed
- plan for the future, but don't need the taj mahal.
- the safety of both staff and inmates of the sheriffs office/jail
- need for safe and modern jail in order for staff to do their jobs in a professional manner

- i want them to pick a place that makes the police and sheriff available to all areas easily. i also would like them to find a location that is not near the transit facility!!
- long term use, capacity, cost
- safety of staff, officers and the inmates
- location and design
- Similar process as to the development of the aquatic center; proposed plans, interaction with public, assessment ops and adaptability.
- cost
- cost
- that the common lib attitude that if you don't expand and build a new, safe jail, it will keep from arresting people, is stupid & not true.
- get on ballot asap!
- efficiency
- better public communication before the election
- wording the measure in a way that doesn't make the "defund the police" crowd immediately vote no. make sure you stress that a primary objective of the new facility would be to improve conditions for prisoners.
- Building a sufficient jail that will accommodate the natural growth of inmates to population size.
- cost & location
- long term success
- unsure of this
- the opinion of the staff on what is needed
- safety of staff & inmates
- No idea
- safety for the public.
- I would like to see a ranked choice option available- I know it's often not how we vote in Iowa, but it would be nice to see a ballot with a ranked option for budget spending. Like, heres how a 1.5 million dollar jail project would work, heres how a 2 million dollar jail project would work, and being able to vote specifically on the breakdown of what we need rather than just a "yes, new jail" or "no, no new jail".
- Based on the past, I don't know how they would do it any differently. Spreading more information about the conditions like this survey here is doing is the best thing I could think of.
- safety
- the location of the new building it needs maybe to be in country side for safety and security
- Communicate better.
- space for services and programs

- beside cost i think planning for the future needs with space available to expand or refit
- services for inmates with mental illnesses
- Making sure they communicate the 'why'
- county and city budgets and staffing
- not sure
- Making certain that all inmates are held in a safe, clean environment.
- The longevity of a massive project like a new jail. If a new jail is built tomorrow, will it be effective in 20 years? 40 years? I would rather not see another plea for a new jail in my lifetime.
- I want to know if we get in an input on the building itself or if we're just giving them broad permission to make whatever they want
- Time to build vs cost
- cost
- not sure
- Value creation. Best option, lowest cost
- the fact that there may be people held that have not been convicted and therefore are innocent until proven guilty, and for those that have been convicted, one of the main goals is rehabilitation
- safety factors and positive outcomes for repeat offenders. possible through these changes.
- The safety and concerns of the staff and the inmates
- Rehabilitation process for the inmates
- provide safety for staff
- that people can make an informed decision
- Unbiased wording, shared space with IA City
- capacity (current & planned)
- safety of the community
- staff safety
- long term costs. make a plan that saves day-to-day expenses after the building is built
- Make it clear how much it'll cost the average citizen annually.
- common sense!
- the growth of johnson county
- Meeting current guidelines and having appropriate staff and space for services
- same as previous question
- Explain well how any proposed increase in property taxes is justified and beneficial to those who are taxed.

- public safety
  - not sure? i think they would know more about that.
  - emphasize improvements to safety
  - clear and accurate ballot language
  - voters in the county outside city limits, (more votes/lower bond %), costs spent outside jc
  - Don't know
  - get it done. the need is great. jails always get negative publicity. i believe it should be a priority
  - cost
  - not sure, maybe projected lifespan of new building- e.g. bond issue should fund jail for next projected 20 yr needs
  - the balance between expert advice and citizen concerns
  - taxpayers.
  - Where it will be and how big of a disruption to downtown
  - consensus among members so a cohesive, positive message is sent.
  - Safety of staff
  - Safety is paramount. I would urge them to build to rehabilitate and help those move forward in a healthy way.
  - safety of inmates and staff.
  - best use of tax money now and future
  - cost-
  - safety of staff & inmates.
  - safe conditions for all
  - get the facts out
  - this issue has been kicked down the road too long. the jail is needed
  - Cost to taxpayers.
  - safety
  - Clear, unambiguous wording, clarify needs and danger to public if ignoring this issue further.
  - As you all are probably already aware, calling for any kind of improvement of anything related to incarceration is notoriously challenging and even more so in the current political climate. It would be smart to not frame this issue as assisting detained individuals at all. The marketing of this issue should be centered around the safety of law enforcement and staff, potentially saving the city and taxpayers money by reducing maintenance costs, and more. Make this an issue of improving 'law and order' as the people of this state have taken to heart so strongly.
  - inform citizens on how much money we have spent sending inmates to muscatine county over last 3 decades
  - wording. clarity. "here is the issue." "here is the solution." don't focus on the costs.
  - safety and support for staff
-

- what do you get from the money..
- that the new building will have the space and services needed for families and individuals going through the system.
- staff safety
- Give law enforcement what they need to do job effectively
- cost/taxes/who pays + how
- room for growth
- Funding
- cost
- cost to county residents
- There should be money spent on incarceration diversion programs as well as on a new facility.
- This feels like a project that is required but I hate having to vote in favor of jailing people, the measure will have to be clear about the safety aspects of the renovation
- Keeping all parties interests at mind. Staff, inmates and the public. This survey is a great start.
- Everybody in this building is a human being with needs, even those who have earned a spot behind bars. I want the human factor to be the focus - if taxpayer money is being spent, at least spend it to improve the day-to-day operations for both staff and inmates alike.
- do not know
- I think that the jail is supposed to provide a community service. I think it would say how it should benefit the community- there needs to be more to it than housing prisoners.
- Being transparent about how this affects the average taxpayer. Being upfront about the necessity of a new building.
- highlight the ongoing issues with the current facility, and how a new facility would improve the experience for the inmates, and the staff. also, any cost savings from combining county and city police offices.
- reign in some fiscal responsibility because all they do is handout good money to bad causes.
- Cost and effectiveness
- safety relative to other facilities across iowa
- good value for the cost
- the safety of the people of iowa city + its staff
- location close to courthouse and room for inmate needs
- efficiency of use & dollars spent
- Cost and life time
- Explaining how this benefits the entire community.
- cost
- cost implications

- capacity now & for the future & cost effectiveness of a new building.
- not near high population density areas
- everything has a shelf life. need to build a new jail for safety.
- Safeness
- Sound decisions that have the best cost that would not impact tax payers too much
- Safety
- I believe it's important to work with the City of Iowa City and construct a joint law-enforcement facility.
- functional, not fancy. state of the art building to meet current & future needs.
- Education will be essential. Not making it too complicated with wording.
- cost
- ldk
- clear communication & votesrs regarding needs, goals, options
- Jail capacity
- quality of life for inmates
- large enough to handle growth excellent architect to meet needs & construct a building that would stand for more than a few years
- would it be big enough for both events
- inform us with most up to date information on this project.
- Making sure we're ADA compliant and safety of inmates and staff is the top priority
- understanding the rise in crime in the community is crucial to the needs of a new facility (mental health etc)
- where the money is drawn from and if it impacts other civic services.
- make it cost effective. it doesn't need to be leed certified or so green that all the money goes to those things. stick with priorities in question #15
- utilization to avoid duplication
- Cost
- Cost of the building
- staff/inmate safety.
- getting the blacks & homeless off the streets.
- whether or not the sheriff and ic police chief will support ice and other federal agencies in arresting and detaining illegal immigrants who are residing in the county.
- To not be in the center of the city
- Location and expense.

- Cost
- what will be gained, and for how long.
- cost-affect on taxes
- stress the importance in regard to community safety.
- plan & thinking behind the plan
- Conditions of living
- build over capacity so other communities can bring theirs here and we can make money off them to pay down cost.
- prison location not near houses.
- need a cost
- centerized location, for efficient use of manpower.
- Ensuring that good programs are continued or created for the inmates in a new place for them and that they feel safe and supported
- Price and location. Jails need plenty of space and should be far away from typical residencial areas
- location & cost
- Location.
- Refuse to answer
- Sharing the details.
- safety for staff & inmates
- cost for basic necessities.
- safety
- cost & function should balance
- saa
- All the things listed and obviously they need to have a place that they can do their job and be safe. And if they are going to do it, do it right so you don't have to worry about it for a long time.
- treating everyone respectfully and fairly as much as possible.
- safety & rehabilitation promoted
- safety of staff and inmates
- Awareness for why it's overdue to get more voters to agree with the plan
- Just have specific down before the vote
- Asking valuable questions
- Cost
- The current need for a new, bigger space to accommodate staff, prisoners, programming etc.

- this survey is very effective. great idea!
- cost & efficiency of design
- Not sure
- Safety
- thoroughly analyze costs and adequately educate taxpayers on cost/benefit analysis for the local residents/taxpayers.
- near each other is fine, but separate buildings! a tunnel or other connector is fine but if i need to go to the icpd - i do not want to be going to the jail!
- cost.
- I want to know the costs written outright. I would like to be two votes. I want one to be with the options, the first options you don't get to say no, but you get to say what you do want. After that, you can vote for what you want to be put on the ballot. I want to know what I'm committing to. Multiple choice options for what will go on the ballot
- how the project will be funded.
- Cost versus saving
- Build it right the first time (practical) but don't be wasteful on aesthetics to make it look extravagant.
- i'm going to vote yes.
- i am not up to date on this so cannot answer
- don't know
- taxpayer impact?
- cost to taxpayers
- what is the most sustainable option for the longest time duration
- How will it be paid for
- People's safety and the maintenance of Law & Order.
- How many people have the office
- Multi use capabilities
- Don't know
- Cost
- better facilities are not only needed for staff, but could lead to better outcomes for inmates. we are one of the richest counties in iowa, we should have better facilities for law enforcement.
- to not only think of the now need but look down the road a few years and build for that. many people don't want it to come back up "oh now we need more money to expand"
- I don't know
- Security of building



- how is it going to be paid for?
- continued law enforcement by both factions for safety of johnson county residents.
- shared cost
- accidentally answered in #17.
- Good communication with taxpayers.
- Safety is the most important thing for all invokved
- trasparency. how did the decision get made
- design based on evidence/best practices; true/accurate cost explained to voter on ballot.
- space for services & programs
- safety for deputies + staff
- location
- taxes, don't raise my taxes
- efficiency
- safety of the staff and community
- size and safety.
- information presents of arrests far different crimes - dui's, drugs, mental health
- Safety
- costs
- cost savings for inmates housed outside the jail in other county jails, safety of staff
- Cost
- all important
- take all things into consideration.
- Not to raise property taxes
- Cost
- that part of the funding comes from income tax.
- cost.
- Me good use of the dollars and keep it conservative that matches needs
- cost and location
- Staff safety
- Not sure
- this measure should reflect support fir and protection of law enforcement. this facility is simply an extension of law enforcement's mandate to "protect and serve."

- Specifics for how much it would cost
- Make sure there is enough information about the current conditions for the voters to know. I think the employees should feel safe.
- to make sure design & cost are inline so the measure passes
- Cost
- listen to the sheriff!!
- Build it big enough. Everyone builds thing too smal to begin with. You can always charge counties to house their inmates, Build it for the future.
- cost and access to the courthouse
- Separate ballot not attached to anything else that could sway the vote.
- Personally, more windowns and a good scenery.
- Public education on the matter.
- Do it right the first time so when dont haave to do it again so soon
- it should be functional and not extravagant.
- inmates are not to be pampered with un-needed services and equipment. it is not a place people should want to go. no cable tv, no wifi. how will this one be maintained?
- trust the integrity of brad kunkel.
- meeting the needs for the next 30 years.
- again costs - buildings should last more than 50 yrs.
- best location for the building site.
- this is republican iowa - don't need a fancy building. but paying other counties is stupid.
- public meetings
- Cost, safety
- building the needed space with good quality but keeping costs low.
- future needs, i.e. capacity requirements
- looking for future needs and addressing them now
- learn from other counties of similar size and scope. what has worked for them
- include future growth & needs of the county.
- safety for officers. safety of inmates.
- longevity for the future needs
- making sure it will be large enough for future growth
- safety & security of facility for all & society - no jail breaks.

- how this benefits the majority of people who will never enter that building.
- future needs
- cost!
- keeping cost down as much as possible
- Unsure
- To have space for programs to help the people going there better their lives so they can learn how to make different decisions and have the support they need
- Cost
- be fiscally responsible don't go over budget
- nothing! get it done!
- clarity of roles betw. co. & city offices; anticipated conflicts of interest. are there "best practices" examples in other municipalities?
- how this project would benefit the county residents
- time is of the essence
- Have total cost estimate to be very accurate
- it needs to be stated regarding safety and security for johnson county
- don't know

### ***Responses of those whose votes were a stable "no"***

- cost of new jail.
  - \$
  - healthcare for the poor
  - architecture/design
  - See previous comment.
  - i fear a "bigger better" jail will take away attention and resources from people who need them most.
  - Cost
  - first, listen to citizens and create a new way to handle community members who make mistakes. look into restorative justice to reduce the need for jail!!!
  - bos - consider better use of tax dollars! prevention programs & improved social programs
  - what kinds of preventative & anti recidivism programming will be included? what kinds of collaboration will happen w/ other local agencies & relevant university & college programs/departments?
  - defunding the sheriff's office and putting those resources towards the people and orgs in the community doing good work
  - Maybe we don't need to bring as many folks to the jail.
-

- no
  - The incarceration/mortality rates of black people in this town. The amount of money being spent on "ghost cars" for the police department. The amount of money that goes into the propaganda to support the police in this town. How about nothing happening to them when they maced and tear gassed the students? The cops need defunded. Point blank period. Not more money for a jail so they can continue to harass and kill black people. Put the money into rehabilitation and proper education for minorities. Start at the root of the problem which is NOTHING IS FUNDED FOR THE POOR EXCEPT THE POLICE FORCE TO PUT THEM IN JAIL/PRISON TO CONTINUE THE SLAVE LABOR THEY PRODUCE IN PRISON. IT HAS TO END.
  - real cost -who will pay -how will people be assessed. prefer a sales tax hike - not property tax hike
  - change the way you are using my tax dollars or pay for it yourself.
  - 1) Whether the \$3 million fix will rectify any problems. 2) Whether or not there are legitimate alternatives to the current
  - the amount of building a new jail
  - violent crime in johnson county has been decreasing, a new building should reflect that.
  - The citizens have voted this down twice. Stop asking. Be creative. You are acting like spoiled children who continue to nag after being told no.
  - cost
  - Is this really the biggest priority the city needs?
  - If you build this your legacy will be tied to the only form of legal slavery left in the US
  - This survey is being linked to the University of Iowa, so I wonder how people will feel about DEI undersights in the building or programs. You've previewed it, you've used coercion to inform people, and some people will care about that.
  - cost
  - no money for public schools, but money for a new jail!? ridiculous!
  - cost/efficiency/needs tradeoffs with ongoing costs weighed
  - same as previous question
  - not funding with property taxes
  - the city's goal should be a small short term jail, close to the heart of the city (isolation is detrimental), off bus routes so easy visits may occur. a higher capacity jail is a failure on the part of the city. the people want rehabilitative and educational programming. the current system perpetuates a cycle of violence.
  - Show more details on total budget efficiency
  - scaling of planning to meet the needs of the county & entry for decades
  - Consider encouraging the sheriff to not opt to house people in the jail long term
  - Open beds encourages filling them up
  - its other peoples money
-

- Do the jail right so we don't have to do this all over again in 40 years.
  - what can be done to make the jail population as low as possible
  - restorative justice. funding mental health services (no services for people w/ id + mental health co-occurrence in ic??? come on
  - cost
  - alternatives to jail as a method of reducing jail population
  - total impact - what happens to existing facilities, impact on neighborhood of new location, involvement of staff on design (not have "design firm" ignore needs of who will actually work in the building), cost, etc.
  - safety of staff and accused
  - bonds for schools = good bonds for prisons = bad
  - cost
  - change the language thusly! "should we down the sheriff's office and jail for good? [] yes [] definitely yes"
  - Equality
  - QUALITY OF THE BUILDING. WE WANT SOMETHING THAT IS GONNA BE SOLID AND NOT BREAK
  - minimize costs
  - citizens are already paying for a 30,000,000 conservation board. so now to put a jail/sheriffs offices on top of that. poor timing.
  - That how we spend significant amounts of money like this is the best reflection of our true priorities as a community.
  - why
  - reducing incarceration
  - The cost an dsupporting rationale and how would it be funded
  - see above
  - There are ways we can keep our community safe without throwing people into jail cells
  - Money
  - do not do a joint center!!! -bigger project = bigger problems -if icpd needs a new bldg, two projects means better chance of getting a functional building on a budget.
  - More money towards rehabilitation services and extremely less to none towards incarceration and militarization of our police department.
  - Where is money coming from?
  - Taking care of things so that they don't need to be rebuilt.
  - Need for it now vs waiting a few years when the economy is more stable
  - full transparency of cost to tax payers
  - How to inform the voters with facts.
-

- cost
- cost and police reform
- cost & overall purpose of law enforcement
- costs, contractual building agreement, work orders and location. guaranteed no change in costs by contractor during building strong financial backing and proof from contractors
- I don't know.
- What resources will be eliminated, cut or delayed to invest in incarceration of humans.
- If this is the best use of community money. What is this taking from versus what else it could be used for.
- Efficiency and cost effectiveness
- Produce a plan of construction and operation that will not need to be revisited in the near future. Avoid short term cost savings that bring this back up in less than the current structure's lifetime.
- funding
- cost
- cost and need.
- cost & information.
- cost to tax implication
- Taxpayer impact
- don't raise taxes, quit jacking the assessed value.
- preserve to allow detainment without lawful warrant.
- see 17. solon school district presented excellent evidence to the residents for their case for improvement needs.
- i am 100% behind law enforcement however johnson county so is corrupt and not well trained!! if the building was for training then i might be behind it.
- funding source.
- expense
- Make it sensible...
- transparency of all processes
- make sure it is large enough
- Before getting this on the ballot some serious "leg work" should be done to relay the needs to voters. As a voter, if I know nothing of the problem I will vote no
- My property taxes have more than doubled in the last 10 years. I cannot support raising taxes further.
- we do not need a new building

### ***Responses of those whose votes changed to "yes"***

- Rural Johnson county

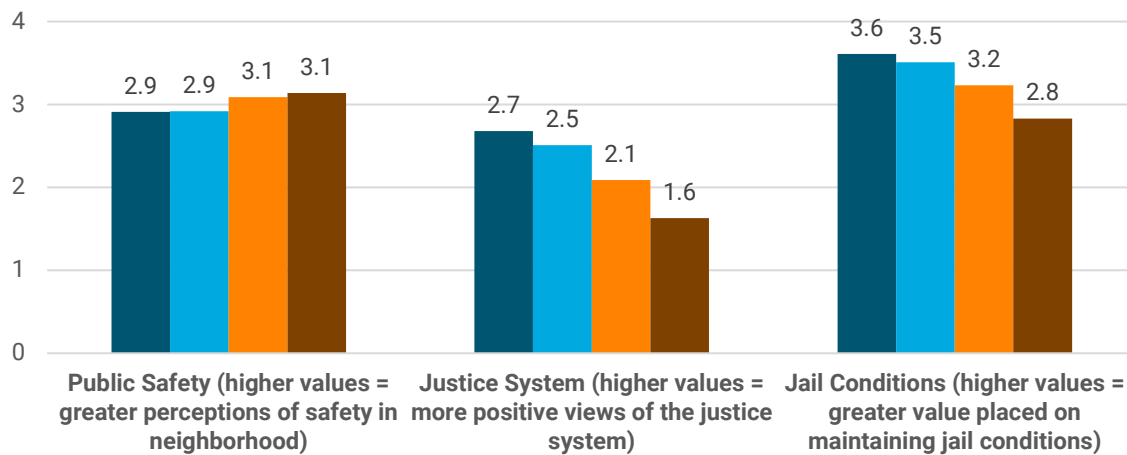
- the wellbeing of inmates
- Public education. Land impact. Avoiding devastation of nature; no more cutting down trees. It's hot enough
- Long-term cost reductions and maximal safety for inmates and staff.
- Who benefits?
- not locate near schools.
- cost of construction
- Cost
- Safety and treatment of inmates and staff.
- most cost-effective way including building on to icpd or using an existing building & making the proper upgrades
- The whole thing
- Don't know
- space for services and programs to offer prisoners opportunity for rehabilitation
- Make it as clear as possible
- Keeping taxes as low as possible
- cost
- Cost from tax payers
- educate voters
- Budget and the rights of people being jailed
- include funding for expanded homeless medical & social services unaffiliated with law enforcement
- That a valid need is being addressed and that the proposed solution meets those needs
- cost of new construction and ways to keep it to a minimum
- How this would better not only the community on the outside but the inmates too
- How much it'll cost and how many it'll hold
- safety for staff
- The staff
- cost
- cost

### ***Responses of those whose votes changed to "no"***

- convey the need clearly; make people aware of the poor conditions and dangers thereof
- language!
- while being concise, giving as much detail about how the new jail & the costs it would incur are necessary & important to keep everyone in the community safe.

## Appendix 5. Perceptions, Concerns, and Priorities, By Initial Voting Block

**Perceptions of Public Safety and Criminal Justice System, by Initial Voting Block**

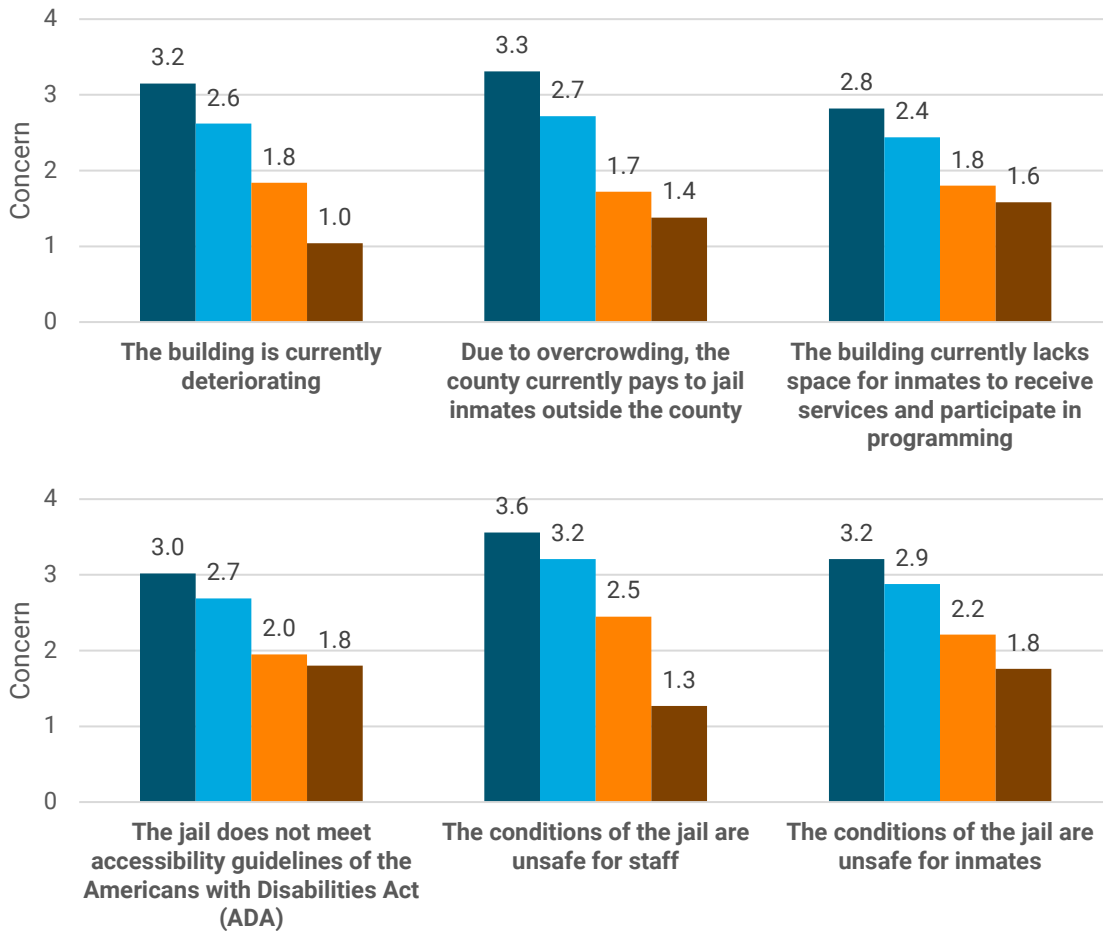


**VOTING BLOCKS: DEFINITELY VOTE "YES" TO SUPPORT | PROBABLY VOTE "YES" TO SUPPORT | PROBABLY VOTE "NO" TO OPPOSE | DEFINITELY VOTE "NO" TO OPPOSE**



## Concerns about Building Issues, by Initial Voting Block

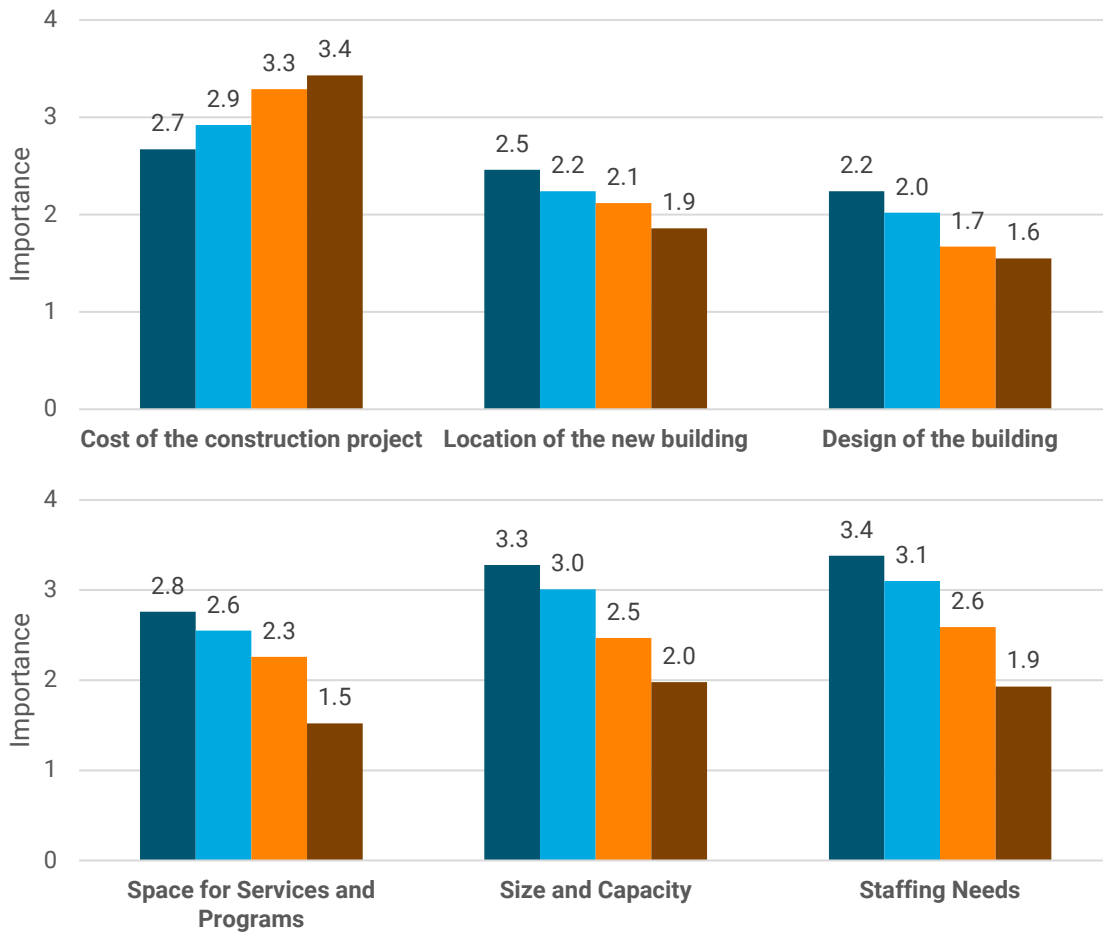
**Survey Question:** How concerning are each of these issues to you?



**VOTING BLOCKS:** DEFINITELY VOTE "YES" TO SUPPORT | PROBABLY VOTE "YES" TO SUPPORT | PROBABLY VOTE "NO" TO OPPOSE | DEFINITELY VOTE "NO" TO OPPOSE

## Importance of Specific Factors, by Initial Voting Block

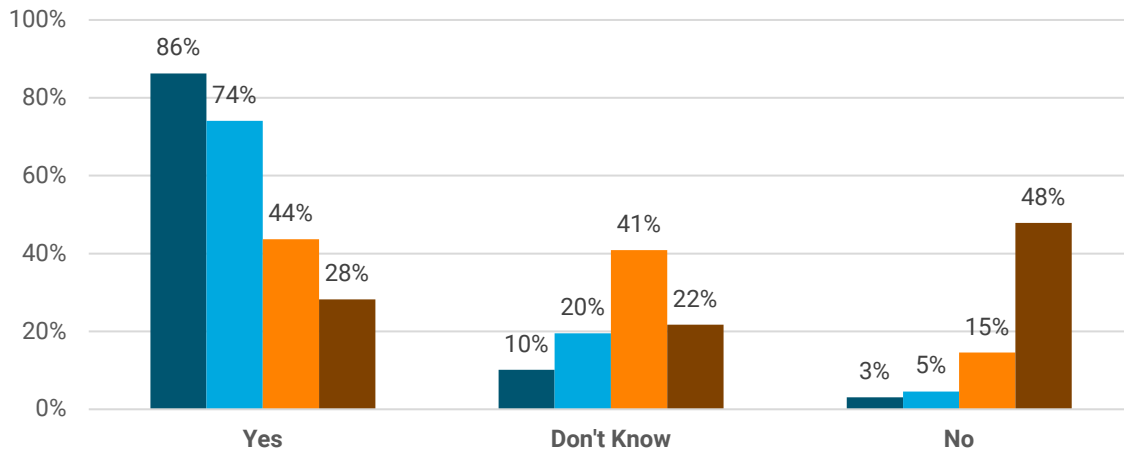
**Survey Question:** How important are each of the following factors when considering how to vote for the construction of a new Sheriff’s Office and Jail Building?



**VOTING BLOCKS:** DEFINITELY VOTE "YES" TO SUPPORT | PROBABLY VOTE "YES" TO SUPPORT | PROBABLY VOTE "NO" TO OPPOSE | DEFINITELY VOTE "NO" TO OPPOSE

## Support for Joint Building with ICPD, Initial Voting Block

**Survey Question:** Would you be supportive of the Johnson County Board of Supervisors exploring the possibility of a joint law enforcement building that shares space with the Iowa City Police Department?



**VOTING BLOCKS:** DEFINITELY VOTE "YES" TO SUPPORT | PROBABLY VOTE "YES" TO SUPPORT | PROBABLY VOTE "NO" TO OPPOSE | DEFINITELY VOTE "NO" TO OPPOSE

## **Appendix 6. Focus Group Moderator Guide**

**MODERATOR GUIDE:**

| # | theme                        | lead question                                                                                                                                      | probing question | time |
|---|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------|
| 1 | <b>Introductory Question</b> | Think if you were at the voting booth today. What one issue surrounding the Sheriff's Office and Jail is the biggest factor in how you would vote? |                  | 5    |

| # | theme                    | lead question                                                                                                                                                               | probing question                                                                                                                               | time |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| 2 | <b>Concerning Issues</b> | <p>I'm going to read a list of concerning issues identified by the Board of Supervisors that were presented in the survey.</p> <p>Which was the most concerning to you?</p> | <p>Why?</p> <p>Why are other issues less concerning?</p> <p>Are there any other issues the board of supervisors should/shouldn't consider?</p> | 5    |

| # | theme       | lead question                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | probing question                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | time  |
|---|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 3 | <b>Cost</b> | <p>Cost of the Sheriff’s Office and Jail facility was a common theme mentioned in the survey where people wanted more information.</p> <p>The current proposed cost is [info provided in FAQ sheet]...which equates to[...]</p> <p>How do you feel about the proposed costs of the facility? (Perception)</p> | <p>In your own words, where does this money come from?</p> <p>What information do you need to feel confident that the facility is worth the price? (Behavior &amp; Decision-making)</p> <p>What information would you need to see to justify the cost?</p> <p>What features, benefits, or aspects of the facility justify its cost for you? (Justification)</p> <p>In what ways should the county present the cost so people understand?</p> <p>In what ways shouldn’t the county present the cost?</p> | 15-20 |

| # | theme                     | lead question                                                                                                                                                                        | probing question                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | time |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| 4 | <b>Programs/ Services</b> | <p>Having space for programs and services was an important issue residents mentioned in the survey responses.</p> <p>Why do you think this was an important issue for residents?</p> | <p>How important is this issue for you, personally? Why/why not?</p> <p>What programs/services are critical when considering space in a sheriff’s office and jail facility?</p> <p>Are there any that you feel are particularly valuable or beneficial?</p> <p>Are there any that are least useful?</p> | 15   |

| # | theme                       | lead question                                                                                                                                                                                                           | probing question                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | time |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| 5 | <b>Conditions for Staff</b> | <p>Conditions for Sheriff’s Office and Jail staff was another issue residents mentioned in the survey responses.</p> <p>How much of a factor is this in determining if you would/wouldn’t support a ballot measure?</p> | <p>Why do you think this was an important issue for residents?</p> <p>Why wasn’t this an important issue for you</p> <p>[Ask if probable “no”:]<br/>What, if anything, about conditions for staffing would influence you to change the way you may vote?</p> <p>Now, think about conditions for the incarcerated. How much of a factor is this in determining if you would/wouldn’t support a ballot measure?</p> | 15   |

| # | theme            | lead question                                                                                                                      | probing question                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | time |
|---|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| 6 | <b>Messaging</b> | What do you think are the best ways / methods to reach and educate people about the plan to construct a Sheriff's office and Jail? | <p>How did you first become aware that the county plans to ask residents to vote on this issue?</p> <p>What messages / messaging would be most effective in educating the community about the issue?</p> <p>What do you think would be least effective?</p> <p>Can you recall a specific advertisement or marketing campaign of ours that stood out to you? What did you like or dislike about it?</p> <p><i>Who would Johnson County residents trust most and listen to?</i></p> | 15   |



| # | theme                  | lead question                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | probing question                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | time |
|---|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| 7 | <b>Vote Preference</b> | <p>You indicated that you would probably [vote yes/vote no] on a ballot measure, and your preference didn't change based on information provided in the survey. Why did your preference not change?</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>After receiving information on the recent survey you, indicated that your voting intention changed. Why?</p> | <p>[If probable yes] What do you think it would take to get others to change their vote preference to "support" the plan.</p> <p>What, if anything, could make you change your vote?</p> <p>*****</p> <p>[If probable no] What do you think it would take to get you, or others like you, to change their vote preference to "support" the plan</p> <p>*****</p> <p>[If changed vote] What do you think it would take to get you, or others, to change their vote preference to "support" the plan.</p> | 15   |

That is all we have for this evening. What questions or comments do you have that you didn't get a chance to say earlier?

## Appendix 7. Focus Group Transcripts

### Community Perspectives on the Johnson County Sheriff's Office and Jail

#### Focus Group Transcript: Group 1

NOTES:

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I: ...and we'll get started with our first question. All right, so if you all were at the voting booth today, what one issue surrounding the sheriff's office and jail is the biggest factor in how you would vote?

R: Do you mean on the referendum or just in general?

I: Just in general. [What's the biggest factor] in how you would vote?

R: [Well...]

R: [Yeah.] There's more than one. (laughs)

R: Well, it seems to me that, you know, the jail is the biggest-is the biggest issue, the big- the biggest thing that needs to be addressed that, as far as I know, regarding the sheriff's office. I mean, I haven't heard of any other-

I: [What about the-?]

R: [-any other pressing issues] that are facing the sheriff's office at-at the present time.

I: Okay. And what about the jail is it that's...?

R: What? It's old.

I: Okay.

R: It's been there forever and it's too small and something needs to be done about it.

I: Okay. Anybody else?

R: I-I would go with- along with that, but the, cost is important. And how it's going to be- I-I- for lack of a better term, occupied, whether it's just a county, whether it's a city, both, you know, or both one and, you know, is the city going to come back and ask for something too? That all plays a factor in everything.

I: Okay. [Respondent] you may go.

R: I think the cost-effective use of the-the taxpayers' money is really important. I should probably give you some full disclosure. (laughs) Well, I used to be a union business representative.

I: Okay.

R: I'm the person that organized and unionized the Johnson County Sheriff's Department.

R: Oh.

I: Okay.

R: So, I'm familiar with the building. I've been retired 10 years, you know, but I've been through the building for various purposes. And I also represent another sheriff's department. So I've seen the Black Hawk County jail, when it was new, that department. And on the other end of the scale, the Poweshiek County new sheriff's department. They had to- (laughs) they vacated their 150-year-old jail. It was right out of a Western movie. (laughter) No literally.

R: I remember-I remember reading about that one. (laughs)

**R:** Yeah, literally. And build a new facility on the edge of town.

**I:** Mmm.

**R:** So, I've got some comparisons to make. And, I was also a mayor and city councilman for 12 years in a small town.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** So effective use of money is really important. You can go overboard, or you can go underboard, too. (laughs) [I mean,] you can go both directions.

**R:** Mm-hmm.

**I:** Yeah. Okay. [Respondent]?

**R:** My bottom line is always what's going cost for my property taxes and how much I'm going to pay. That's kind of where I go with things is the nitty gritty down. I- you can do a nebulous big amount money, but if you go add so much per \$1,000, okay, now what's it going to mean when I pay my property taxes twice a year? And so it's not financially an issue, but it could be for other people. And when this first came up, I will let you know, when they first came up with this whole- a long time ago when I still worked at the university, when they were going to do a big project then and working in conjunction with the po- poor house, and that was bookoo and really fancy thing like that. To my notion at the time- I've only been here since 1982, but it looked to me like the building down there was new. And I thought, why in the heck do you need a new building when it was only 20 years old or something? Didn't they plan ahead? Well, since then, I've seen the cracks, and so I've changed my opinion on that and stuff. But yeah, so basically, it's cost, maybe how- what it's being used for, the people that they put in there and location, [are the three things.]

**R:** [Yeah.] [Uh-]

**R:** [You make] a valid point there on how old it is or how old it wasn't. When I spoke to a few people, that I'd be down here doing this, that's one thing I heard, right is 'Are they going to build it right this time?' Because it wasn't that old and there was things going wrong drastically, quickly with that building, so.

**R:** Yeah-yeah. Same as [Respondent], I would like to explain what I'm doing here and my interest in this. I'm-I'm retired now, but I was an attorney here for 20-something years and I did some criminal defense. So, I used the jail quite a lot myself. I used to visit my clients there. And like you, I've been to a few others, too. I went- the one in Marshalltown, I remember. And I've been the one in Muscatine and the one in Blackhawk County, and they're all, at least Marshall- uh, Muscatine and Blackhawk County are, at least from what I remember, are more modern and have seemed to me to be better facilities.

**R:** Well, we're throwing laundry out. I've never been in a jail, (laughter) but I worked at the prison up there in Coralville. [For, um, yeah... so.]

**R:** [Oh, okay.] Great. Great. Yeah, I did some work over there, too myself.

**R:** Yeah. I remember seeing you out there.

**R:** Yeah-yeah.

**R:** I've never been in jail either. (laughter)

**R:** The night's young. (laughter)

**R:** I did remember, well, I was a member of AFSCME when I worked at the university, and so we would have, when [former sheriff] was there, we got to know him pretty well then. And I haven't met the new guy and stuff since I've been retired, but that's my association with- oh, I should say that's not quite my whole association. I did get involved

with working with the university residence halls as kids who would get PAULAs. I wouldn't see them, I wouldn't interact with them, but I would hear about the results of them and stuff, so that's it.

**I:** Yeah. Okay.

**R:** Oh, and I was on a jury once, okay, so. (laughter)

**I:** Okay. Thank you for full disclosure, everybody. (laughter)

**R:** We felt we must, I guess.

**I2:** Interesting group.

**I:** (laughs) Yeah, it is very interesting. All right, so we'll get further into what you all have brought up so far, but I want to start with one of the themes that came up from the survey that we did, and that's around concerning issues. So, I'm just going to read a list of concerning issues that the county has identified as potential problems. And they also wanted us to present these in the survey. So, I'll go ahead and read those. You have those in front of you right now, just for your reference.

- The building is currently deteriorating.
- Due to overcrowding, the county currently pays to jail inmates outside the county.
- The building currently lacks space for inmates to receive services and participate in programming.
- The jail does not meet accessibility guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- The conditions of the jail are unsafe for staff.
- The conditions of the jail are unsafe for inmates.

**I:** So, which of those is the most concerning to you?

**R:** I-I-I'd go with the overcrowding.

**I:** And why is that a- the biggest concern for you?

**R:** You know, overcrowd people that made a, you know, a little mistake with people make big mistakes, it's not a good thing to mix 'em. And if you're paying to go outside the county, you're taking an employee all day on the road.

**R:** Mm-hmm.

**R:** And I don't know what kind of liability they have if there's an accident out there on the road for the inmate or the employee. You know, that's a ton of money going out the window just to- on road time.

**I:** Okay. And follow-ups to what [Respondent] said?

**R:** Well, yeah, certainly the paying for- to have inmates- Muscatine County Jail is one of the places where people are housed out of county. And the reason I went to Marshalltown was because I had a client who was up in Marshalltown and was from Iowa City too, so.

**R:** Mm-hmm.

**R:** So, they're scattered all over [the state and it's] incredibly expensive.

**R:** [Oh yeah.]

**R:** So, and it-it don'- you get no- you get nothing for it, I mean, right?

I: Mmm.

R: If you invest the money in a building here locally, then there's a cap on it. Whereas if you're sending- so it has to be big enough as well. But if you've, you know, you've got this leak at the moment of funds just going out and you're really not getting any benefit from-from those funds at all, they're just, you know, they go into Muscatine County and other counties and they probably glad to have the revenue, but it's costing us a bunch of money, so.

I: So, is that the biggest concern for you too or...?

R: Yeah, I mean, and that's tied into with, you know, the fact that because it's so crowded, there's no room then for services it says. There's not even- they even have to take the exercise room away. And this is a long time ago, but they had to take the exercise room away because they had to house-they had to house inmates in there. I mean, there's not a spare- a spare foot that's not being used to house inmates right now, so-so yeah. Yeah, I mean, to your point, it can be dangerous- [I mean for the staff.]

R: [Yeah. Oh, absolutely. Yeah.]

R: If you get inmates who are angry and they're on top of each other, and we've been- I think we've been kind of fortunate not to have an incident where a-where a member of staff has been-has been attacked in a serious way over all-over all this time. But they do a good job too. They're very, they do a great job in looking after- in looking the- looking after the inmates and trying to deal with them as humanely as they can under the circumstances, so.

I: Okay. Thank you. Anybody? [Respondent]? What's your biggest concern?

R: I think safety is a major point for both the staff and the inmates.

I: Okay.

R: How you design jail and how you operate it applies to both the staff and the inmates. And those two things are really linked together. And I'm not sure how much, how the operations have all changed since I was over there working with them, but it was just not a good environment. (laughs) Let's put it that way, okay.

I: Yeah.

R: It met the legal standards, but I mean, where did you meet with an inmate at? [There wasn't-]

R: [Yeah, there's one there.] There's one little meeting room. You go in, as you go in, there's the- as you go, you go up the elevator into the second floor, and then there's the glass window where the sheriff's staff are, then there's a visitors' window where visitors can visit inmates, and then next to that is a- is a small room with a- with a door- with two doors where you go in one way and the inmate comes in the other. And they have a- you can turn off the intercom for privacy in there, so you can have a privileged conversation in there. So that's how that- but if there's two, I mean there's only-there's only place for [one attorney and one inmate at a time.]

R: [One- yeah. Yeah.]

R: And so, you have to- you have to wait your turn sometimes. And you know, I cost a lot of money, so that's really not a good thing to have me sit down (laughter) on my butt, really you know.

I: Yeah.

R: The building it just- the operation just needs to be brought up to modern standards. I mean I just-

I: Okay. So-

R: (laughs) They're doing the best they can with what they're going to work with.

**R:** Yeah.

**I:** Right.

**R:** And the ADA is- I mean, they passed the ADA in the 1990s, early 1990s. And (laughs) that's a long time ago [to not be compliant.]

**R:** [Long time.]

**R:** [Mmm.]

**I:** [Yeah.] Mm-hmm. So, safety for both staff and inmates is like the biggest concern for you [if I were just to summarize] for a number of reasons.

**R:** [Yeah.]

**I:** How about you, [Respondent]?

**R:** Well, they're all important as far as I'm concerned, but the overall thing that gets me is just the fact that the building is deteriorating. I mean, something's got to be done no matter what you do, right now. And it seems like that if you can't remodel what you've got, then or you could be throwing good money after that at the same time, and once you've taken that in consideration, then hopefully the design and maintenance and upkeep of a new building will alleviate all those problems. So that's kind of the basic thing you start with is the structure, and then everything else will fall into place if you plan it right.

**R:** Yeah.

**I:** Okay, great. You guys covered pretty much all of the concerns. Are there any of these on the list that you would think are less concerning?

**R:** No.

**I:** Or are they all pretty much valid?

**R:** They're all valid points. I suppose you could take a hundred people and you're going to get a small percentage that says 'We don't really care about their programming', but I think the people that know anything about the situations do care about the programming.

**R:** Yeah, if you want the people-people to-

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** There's-there's a- it's a- there's a int- you know there's quite a mixture of all people in the jail. There are people who were in there for two nights on a sentence for a-for a minor assault or something, and there are people who are in there for- you can be in there for up to a year. You can be sentenced to up to a year anyway. Well, hardly anybody actually serves the whole year, but you can be in there for several months at least under a-under a sentence, too. So, you know, there's quite a mixture of population.

**R:** That's a good point, because I found myself wondering, you know, knowing what I know about the Classification Center, then Fort Madison, Anamosa, and all the different, what amount- how long do people stay in the jail here? Why were they put in the jail here? you know, and things...

**R:** [Mm-hmm.]

**I:** [Mm-hmm.]

R: [You hear about other places-]

R: [After their sentence they-] if they're more than a year, the state gets 'em.

R: Right.

R: Okay.

R: [So their-]

R: [But if,] there's delays and trials, they could be down here, what, three years or something, you know?

R: Well, it's possible, I suppose.

R: Yeah.

R: You know, if it was- if in a [murder- in a murder trial, it takes a long], a lot of litigation before it actually gets to trial.

R: [Yeah, right.] Yeah, yeah.

R: Yeah, they can be there for a really long time, yeah. But after the sentencing, the maximum is a year, as you say.

R: Right.

R: Because then they go over to Oakdale. And a serious misdemeanor is the highest, the punishment for a serious misdemeanor is one year. So that would be, it would be somebody who was-who was sentenced for a series of misdemeanors, one after the other. So, it's just a- [there's a variety.]

R: [That's good information to know.]

I: Yeah.

R: So, if they're going to be there for several months, then programming is useful because you, then you can address the substance abuse or mental health issues or whatever issues they have, [and hopefully they come out-]

R: [I would go far, as far to say,] it's not just useful, it's essential, yeah.

R: Yeah-yeah, absolutely. Yeah.

I: Well, so you're bringing up some other issues-

R: Sorry. (laughs)

R: No-no.

I: No-no that's fine.

R: You're jumping ahead [inaudible]. (laughter)

I: Well, I was just going to ask, are there other issues that the board of supervisors should consider or should not consider?

R: Are we talking still safety or just any issue?

R: Any.

I: I think concerning issues is what we're focusing on. So, are there other concerning issues that are not on this list that you think that the public- that the board of supervisors should let the public know about?



**R:** Well, the last I knew, this is a while back, but I thought the county bought those houses that are right across the street from the current building. And even though it wasn't involved in the bond issue, that they were trying to build the mega jail behind the courthouse. I thought that was sort of in the future of being able to expand the operation across the street.

**I:** Mm-hmm.

**R:** And it would- when I was talking about cost effective, they could raise those buildings and put up an inmate facility over there.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** And, you know, take them out of the old building. Then you would open up the old building to be remodeled for services, for all sorts of different things, for staff, and then just link the two of them with a skywalk but put the inmates on the other side of the street. And I think that might be something that ... at least some of the voters would seriously see that as using some of the old building, the new part linked together that would-

**R:** Mitigate some of the cost.

**R:** -eliminate some of the cost, but eliminate some of the problems too.

**R:** Yeah.

**I:** So, like, it almost sounds like your saying [location is maybe a] concerning issue.

**R:** Mm-hmm, yeah.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** [That's what I am saying.] Yeah, I read online that they talked about, I don't know if this is when they were both going together, they were going to go down by the airport.

**R:** Where the [city buses] are [or used to be?]

**R:** [Right.]

**R:** [Yeah.]

**R:** I don't know, [somewhere some old airline...]

**R:** [But that used to be] a city dump, and they're not sure that would-

**R:** And somebody said- yeah...

**R:** -support the footings and all that other stuff.

**R:** Right, so.

**R:** Oh.

**R:** Hmm, yeah-yeah.

**R:** And, you know, that's the question. Do you want it closed into town, into the courthouse, where you don't have to travel a wide ways to get them there? Does that- would that pose a safety issue, like you said, even then? Or do you want it, "NIMBY"?

**I:** What-what's NIMBY?

**R:** Not in my neighborhood. (laughs)

I: (laughs) Oh, okay. [Not in my backyard.] Okay.

R: [Not in my backyard.]

R: Not my backyard really, [is what is stands for.]

R: [I would go also-] expand on your location area.

R: Yeah.

R: Iowa-Iowa City Police Department has absolutely no room. I mean, they're basically using closets for an office.

R: That is my concern, you know, [what happens in the-]

R: [Yeah.] Are we going to get tacked on with that right away afterwards? Put it- I'd like to see them both go together.

R: Me too.

R: Yeah.

R: Yeah-yeah.

R: I mean, maybe sheriff, police, jail, however you want to term it, split up the old building when they remodel it, however this is done. But let's not do this twice. Let's get it over with and do it right.

R: That's interesting because there has been discussion, I don't know if you've seen it in the press, but there's been quite a lot of discussion over the last month about that very issue.

R: Mm-hmm.

R: And the Iowa City Council, a lot of the members were not very keen on mixing the Iowa City Police Department activities with the Johnson County Sheriff's Department. There was one vote that was about investigating a combined effort-

R: Right.

R: -and it was four to three for continuing to consider it, but it was very-very lukewarm. And I think that the- what I- the impression I got was that then the sheriffs sort of said, 'Well, if that's the kind of support that they're-that they're offering, then we'd- we're better off doing it on our own.' So.

R: Right. They're not going to buy into it now and...

R: That's-that's what- [that's-that's where that was...]

R: [I'm not really aware of-] I'm finding the jail service departments I worked with, you know, Lee County, Clinton County, some other places, that where they have the police department, the local police department is part of that operation. I'm not sure, maybe it's, I don't know how rare that is.

R: Yeah, that would be something to-

R: Yeah.

R: -that would be something that the supervisors, since that was a, the supervisors could look into.

R: I've always seen them as standalone operations.

R: Yeah, yeah, me too really.

R: [Because they think they serve a different kind of population.]

**R:** [Well, they are but their- I was-] they used to have cells down there, city-city hall, whatever you call it, civic center. They don't anymore, so they're already kind of meshed, you know.

**R:** Yeah. If I could with geo-location, I've always thought that it would be possible to have a smaller jail- one jail area close to the courthouse, like it is now. For people who are awaiting trial, so that they have access to- attorneys have easy access, they have access, they can go to court for their hearings, and they're right there. And then have another facility that could be further out for those who are, actually have a sentence and need to be there for a length of, you know, considerable length of time.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** So that was a thought that I-

**R:** So then what would the staff be? Where would the gen- sheriff's office and staff be?

**R:** Well, the sheriff's office whichever suited them best, I suppose, but yeah.

**R:** Okay, because I mean, [sheriff's don't do-]

**R:** [But then you have- you've got two buildings,] so that might be more expensive. [I don't know.]

**R:** [Sheriff's main feat-] I mean, visible function is law enforcement.

**R:** Mm-hmm.

**R:** But there's other things that go with it. I mean, there's other things you go into the sheriff's office for.

**R:** Oh, sure, right.

**R:** And the only one I know of is to get a permit to carry a gun and stuff, but I mean, there's other things that you go in there just for basic information and stuff.

**R:** Right.

**R:** So, the question then would be, where would the offices of the sheriff, the deputies, the staff and then...?

**R:** Right.

**R:** And then you'd have staff-staff for the jail too, and so, you know.

**I:** Yeah.

**R:** It-it is good to have that central, you're right. I mean, there's- they have another func- there's a civil function that the sheriff's office has that- that's separate. I mean, I used to go down there a lot too, give them my paper so they could serve them on whoever I was needed serving, so.

**I:** Mm-hmm.

**R:** Different-deputy sheriff's operations can, you know, the last I knew, Johnson County was only hiring deputies.

**R:** Yeah

**R:** They didn't have correctional officers. And I've seen other operations, the sheriff's department were, was a jail, and they have a correctional- the have correctional officers who are not full deputies, okay. And basically, they're the jailers, okay. (laughs) That's what they are. (laughs) So, I don't think Johnson's-

**R:** You know, I-

**R:** -last I knew, they didn't have any COs.

**R:** Thinking of the people that I know who worked in the jail, yeah, I think you're right. I think they [were sometimes-]

**R:** [We just had a long standing...]

**R:** -that they could move from being in the jail to working in the courthouse or working elsewhere, yeah-yeah.

**R:** Everybody had to be a deputy.

**R:** I think you might be right, yeah.

**I:** So.

**I:** So, the cost of the sheriff's office and jail was a common theme that was mentioned in the survey, where people wanted more information. The current proposed cost is \$80 million. How do you feel about the proposed cost of the facility?

**R:** It depends on what you get for that \$80 million. (laughs)

**I:** Okay

**R:** Yeah. (laughs) I was gonna say, it's hard to conceptualize if you don't have a physical building there to see-to see what's going to be entailed in it to justify that \$80 million. It's just a fund, you know.

**I:** Mm-hmm.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** And sometimes if you've got the building and then you can say, 'Okay, this is where we're going to do this, and this is what we're going to do here.' And you can go, 'Okay, I can see where the money is going to go.' Gives you a much more concrete, perceptual thing to-to latch onto, rather than some nebulous \$80,000, as far as I know, is that, you know justifiable? Is that a good? Or is that a pie in the sky ask for what you want and settle for less?

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** You know, you don't know. I didn't see the, I haven't read the report or anything like that. I mean, I just filled out the survey and says, 'Okay, I'll-I'll do this.' And then I didn't know it was coming to focus group (laughter)

**R:** How does it compare to what the University Hospital does?

**R:** Yeah, yeah. Well, that's a good point, yeah.

**R:** There's- I'm not sure \$80 million can go very far over there on that side of the river. (laughs)

**R:** They do seem to spend an awful lot of money on buildings over there, you don't know.

**R:** That's what I'm talking about.

**R:** Yeah, I think it's hard to get a perspective. I mean, I don't have \$80 million. I don't suppose you guys do. I don't have \$80 million in my bank account.

**R:** Not anymore, no.

**R:** Not anymore, no. (laughter) So, you know, you just see this number, it doesn't really mean anything unless you have some context for it, right? I mean, as you say, there's one context. What does it cost to build a-a medical clinic, for example?

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** You know, that be one thing of- that's something that's comparable maybe that can give you some idea.

**R:** Yeah. Is that \$80 million, you know, new land? And is it going to address every issue we got on these sheets? And is it going to last more than...

**R:** [20 years.]

**R:** [20 years?] And start complaining about it? Yeah.

**R:** Yeah, yeah.

**R:** That's what I was thinking about too. Is, in this day and age where you need to think more about sustainability and...things, I mean, even in the past 20 years, look how the internet has just gone. And I've seen university buildings where they've got to put in new- my husband, to your point, engineering building, they put in this fiber optic- bleh, 10 years later, they had to put in something else, they had to put in something else. So those are some things that you kind of would like to know that it's part of their concept to where they can- not that they can plan on it, but that they've got, 'Okay, we've got the conduit, we've got the whatever, that we can do,' without major breaking out walls to do it, because that does include the cost. [I mean,] that increases the cost.

**R:** [Right.] And following up on what you're saying, try to make it as modern as possible so that you- you're not-stuck-trying to catch up as soon as you built it as well.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** Yeah. As much as you can. I mean I, I know I worked in Currier Hall, okay? That building's a 150-105-years old now, you know. And it's got conduit going down it and everything. It's not in-it's not in the registry, so you can't do anything with it, but you just see what they've had to, "cobble together" to just keep up with the times.

**I:** Mm-hmm. You mentioned people need more context. What- how could the county frame a message that people would understand? Do you think about how much this would cost, that would resonate with people?

**R:** Well, first of all, I'm thinking about [Respondent] and [their] talking about [their] property taxes, if you could get an idea of how much-how much it would cost, and you know, an average-an average household in increasing property taxes that would be certainly one thing that would clarify it, I think.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** [I think that's...]

**R:** [And maybe comp-] you know, people would, you know, if you said, well, the jail in Des Moines costs this much, and we went- I'm not sure that that would-I'm not sure that would really help much would it. I don't know.

**R:** That idea about building an inmate facility across the street, then you could make the message of its expansion of the current operation, rather than [all new off the ground.] That-that might have some legs to it, I don't know.

**R:** [All new one, yeah.]

**R:** Yeah, I don't know, but I'm not sure whether the-the old building is actually, yeah, I don't know if it's worth spending the money on it or just knocking it down and starting again. I don't know what it'd be more financially prudent, but yeah.

**I:** [Respondent], you mentioned some- a lot about making sure it's up to date and modern. I think you mentioned that too, [Respondent]. What specific information would you need to feel confident that the facility that they're going to build is worth the price? And this is for anybody. (laughs)

**R:** I'd like to see-I'd like to see the-the drawings of the building, you know, what it's going to look like. I'd also like to see the inside, make sure it's going to be functionally safe.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** I think another thing that might help is whatever contractor you're going to use to prepare- to build a jail, I think there are companies out there that [specialize in building-in building jails], and that's probably who you're going to end up with.

**R:** [There are-there are.]

**R:** So, letting the public know the history of the possible competitors for bids and their track record and whether they've had successes or any failures of being open about that would be helpful, I think.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** That could be a positive. If you say, 'We've got the best guys in-in the Midwest building our jail', then you know that could be a...

**I:** Yep.

**R:** The style of operation might make a difference. [Whether it's a pod system or-]

**R:** [Absolutely it would, yes.] Yeah.

**R:** Oh yes.

**R:** -four inmate rooms, or, you know, you can do it different ways.

**R:** Yeah.

**I:** Mm-hmm.

**R:** And some of that might make a difference to people if they'd understand, [how it's supposed to operate.]

**R:** [Yeah, if you can show- that's what I was going to say.] If you can show... I mean, is there a possibility that, 'Okay, here's this design, you know, where we do let's say pods with a central place here that one person, or we do in a-in a row' you know. How does that impact the design of it? How does that impact the cost? I don't- ideally, if you had more than one design to-to look at, you know, 'This would be a possibility, and we could do it this way or make it with different price tags on it, you know, if we did this, without this.' But then, too, to bring into another thing is I think people would know, 'Okay, who are we housing here?' You know, I think some people in Iowa City, especially out where I live in eastern Iowa, east side Iowa City, you know, with me, I feel pretty safe out there. You know, I do have some inner knowledge of what happens at the university, you know, through the students and stuff when I worked here and how, you know, what they're-what they're involved with is mostly what I said, PAULAs. Which just, you know what that is? Yeah, okay. I don't have to explain what PAULA is, but I mean, and the fact that a big part of the culture downtown is drinking.

**R:** Mm-hmm.

**I:** Mm-hmm.

**R:** And it's, you know, that's the thing where I'm just thinking, does anybody know? Do they get down there? Do they go to the city? Does the university handle that? You know, so it's kind of, we've got a blend of three different law enforcement areas that's here that, do they overlap? Are they completely different? Kind of things that I honestly don't know.

I: Okay.

R: [Yeah. It-]

R: [Yeah. It's] kind of an educational thing, I think too.

R: Sure.

R: To let people know what county handles, that's different from what the city handles. And the kind of people that you're going to see there. Are they hardened [criminals? Are they drunk and disor-? Are they civil things? Are they, you know, a spouse abuse? What do you have?

R: That would be, yes.

R: To all of the above, right.

R: Yeah.

R: I found that out. I was really interested in that.

R: Although, as we discussed earlier, if you have a two-year sentence and that's an aggravated misdemeanor, that's not even a felony and you end up in prison.

R: [Right-right.] Right.

R: So, the people that are in the-in the local jail are, at least the offense that they're in there for, is going to be a low-level offense.

R: That's an educational thing, too.

R: But picking up on what you said, you're talking about the flow of inmates. Are they flowing from arrest by city police? Are they flowing by, arrest by Johnson County sheriff's deputies?

R: Yeah.

R: Are they flowing [by university] police?

R: [University police.]

R: I mean, what- I don't know [what those numbers were like.]

R: [The only jail we got.]

R: (laughs)

R: City and Coralville and University, they don't have a jail.

R: Coralville, yeah.

R: They don't have that, yeah.

R: Right. The-the city police and the university police mostly work together and work in the Iowa City area.

R: Oh.

R: Yeah.

R: And of course, the-the university police concentrate more on the university, but you do see them out in the neighborhood sometimes. The sheriff's department, the deputies, they police the rural areas of Johnson County, and those towns, like Rock- Lone Rock would be one. Um... I'm trying to think.

**R:** Solon. (laughter)

**R:** Solon, that's another. The place, those places that don't have a- their own police force, they contract with the sheriff's department to provide policing for the- their towns.

**R:** Tiffin's still doing that, too.

**R:** No, I think- oh, yes. I think you're right. I think you're right.

**R:** Yeah, they're still- they're looking [into having law enforcement.]

**R:** Yeah,[ they're looking at it,] but.

**R:** That's why they wanted new census, and they're not getting it.

**R:** And North Liberty, North Liberty started its own police force about 10 years ago.

**R:** Something like that, yeah.

**R:** Maybe more.

**R:** Used to just have two cops 10 years ago.

**R:** I organized them too. (laughs)

**R:** Oh, you did? (laughs)

**R:** But they got a brand new sheriff's- or police department.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** They built one.

**R:** Yeah.

**I:** So what features, benefits, or aspects of the facility would justify a cost or justify the \$80 million cost for you all?

**R:** It's got to-it's got to be the no more transporting out of county and having to pay whatever the receiving county decides to charge us.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** And I don't know if that's contracted or arbitrary so, we got to get rid of that. We got to, make sure we're not overcrowded. That we're still... too. Keep those inmates here. Don't be overcrowded. And that leads to all the rest on this sheet.

**R:** Right. I think having the capacity to try and do some work on rehabilitation, I think, is important, too. When people are crowded in the space that they are without any room to move, that's certainly-

**R:** There's 90 people or whatever their day, and you got room for one attorney. I'm guessing you're not the only one going over there, you know.

**R:** That's right. Exactly

**R:** The counseling services, things like that, too.

**R:** Yeah.

**I:** So that's kind of segues into my next question. You guys are doing very good here.



**R:** Anticipatory, aren't we?

**R:** Yes, you are. Having space for programs and services was an important issue that residents mentioned in the survey responses. Why do you think this was an important issue for residents?

**R:** Reduce recidivism.

**R:** Yes.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** Right off the bat, if you don't get these people, re- I mean, is a jail just an incarceration, or is it a rehabilitation center? And some people think just put them there and forget about it. Well, then all you've got is just people going back out, they don't have the resources to do what they want to do, they're coming- the next thing you know, they're right back again. They can't get a job. They don't have any training. And so if you- to the point that you can find and pinpoint those things and work on counseling them if they have substance abuse issues, [job training]-

**R:** [Mental health issues.]

**R:** Huh?

**R:** Mental health issues.

**R:** Mental health issues, you know, things like that.

**R:** Yeah. Another thing is work release too. They try to run a work release program down there where inmates who are being sentenced or to be waiting for sentences, I guess, too, they will be allowed- if the sheriff's departments think they are reliable enough and can be supervised, they can go off and stay in their jobs while they're still- while they're doing their jail sentences. So, they leave at whatever time they have to leave, and they've got to be back right at specific- at right after work. But they have a problem doing that because of-because of staffing issues sometimes.

**R:** And if they're housed out of county, that's off the table.

**R:** Well, right. Yeah, absolutely it is. Yeah.

**I:** Okay. So how important of an issue is making sure there's space for programs for all of you?

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** In the long term, I think that's real important.

**R:** Yeah.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** I mean, unless the attitude is just we're going to incarcerate, that's it.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** You do have those people that say, 'Hey, bread and water', you know, and you're never going to convince them.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** And they kind of got to- the county's got to convince the marginal people, the people in the middle, you know.

**I:** Mm-hmm.

**R:** And they got to do a lot better than they did the last couple of months.

**I:** And so you're saying there's- there are going to be people that are definitely voting yes, and people that are definitely voting no, and you think they need to focus on the people that are kind of in the middle undecided? Is that what-?

**R:** I would.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** Yeah, yeah.

**R:** I imagine there are people that say, 'No, I'm not going to pay that.' Or people that say, 'I can't afford that.'

**R:** Yeah. Yeah.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** I mean, things are getting tight. I have a daughter that lives in North Liberty and you know, she's seeing increases in cost of things.

**I:** Yeah.

**R:** And she's not working as much as she used to. Her husband isn't either. And so, I'm glad I'm not working anymore. I'm retired.

**R:** Just one little thing that you- that popped into my mind from a conversation just a minute ago. So, we're talking about PAULAs. So a lot of people get arrested, and then they get, really for their own safety, they get arrested when they're drunk at two in the morning-

**R:** Right.

**R:** -clowning around town. And then they get released the next morning. They go see the magistrate, and then they get released the next morning. And they either plead guilty or they can set a trial. So, in a way, we keep- one of the jails' functions is to keep those people safe, from their own folly, really. But keeping them safe and making sure that they don't end up in worse situations than they might otherwise, wandering around the streets, drunk, or high, or whatever.

**I:** Mm-hmm.

**R:** Yeah. So that's a function of the jail that people don't maybe consider, is it-it has a safety function for the general public.

**I:** So if we continue thinking about programs and services, what are the critical programs or services that the county needs to consider when thinking about what is going to go into the sheriff's office and jail facility?

**R:** It depends on how long they're there.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** And like [they] said, if you're just there to "dry out" for want of a better term, that's an overnight thing. I mean, and then it's probably the responsibilities of some other functions, if not university counseling services or whatever, to find out these- you know my perspective underage kids are doing this. And so that's not really the purview of the sheriff's office or anything there.

**R:** Work-release would be nice.

**R:** What's that?

**R:** Work-release would be nice.

**R:** Oh, yeah. [Yeah, yeah.]

**R:** [Yeah. I think that the-]

**R:** [Having a good] work release program.

**R:** Yeah, you know, with people who have you know, short-short-term sentences, and by that, I mean a couple of months or something, you don't want them to lose their jobs.

**R:** Right.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** And then they're in a worse situation than they're going to be out [committing crimes again in order to get by.] So yeah, work-release is certainly important, I think.

**R:** [That's what I was saying, yeah.]

**R:** [Yeah.] And mental health counseling.

**I:** Okay, yeah.

**R:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. And, I mean, a lot of-a lot of-a lot of the problems are rising. One area I noticed a lot was with domestic violence. And the substance abuse [is so closely tied with the-]

**R:** [Substance abuse, yes, yeah.]

**R:** [Mm. Yep.]

**R:** -especially I noticed it with the domestic violence that, that's really absolutely necessary. And there are local- there's a local organization on the south side of town, and I don't know what it's called these days. It used to be MECCA. And they did some work with, they do some- they have some- do some work with, they do some-

**R:** Domestic violence?

**R:** -no, no, no, I'm not, the DVIP is the domestic violence.

**R:** Intervention.

**R:** That's for victims. But there's a...

**R:** They do the OMB class and things like that, right?

**R:** Next to the county attorney's office, yeah.

**R:** Yeah, yeah.

**R:** I think it is-it is MECCA. Isn't it? I think.

**R:** Well, it used to be, it'd be taken over by somebody else.

**I2:** It changed names

**R:** And then it's been taken over by somebody else. But, you know, they used to work some with the jail, but I don't think that there was a place where they could go and hold meetings or anything in the jail, because it just wasn't the room for them to do that.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** Right. Okay.

**R:** And you can't have it- you don't want people in jail wandering around the street. (laughs) that's just so.

**R:** So I know you're asking us stuff like this.

**I:** Yeah.

**R:** And I know they've talked to the staff down at the jail and stuff about what they need.

**I:** Yeah.

**R:** Just out of curiosity. Has anybody talked to any of the inmates?

**I:** I don't know the answer to [that off the top] of my head.

**R:** [ Some will give] you a line of bull the whole day, other ones are going to give you really good answers.

**I:** Mm-hmm.

**R:** Yeah, sure.

**R:** Yeah, that might be another one they want to chat with.

**I:** Yeah, okay.

**R:** Some of [their regular customers, you know]. (laughs)

**R:** Someone [who's been on that side of the booth.]

**I:** Yeah. Okay.

**R:** Or maybe not so regular. (laughter)

**R:** Maybe that's one of the things you could put on the survey. 'Have you ever been in jail?'

**I:** That was on the survey.

**R:** I think it was.

**I:** It was.

**R:** Okay, so there you go.

**I:** And I don't remember the response to that. But that's a very good point. You're suggesting, you know, aside from the survey respondents that we're talking to, who some might have been in jail, although, I'm guessing we didn't have a lot of people that answered yes to that otherwise, we probably would have a focus group with them.

**R:** Yep, that's unfortunate.

**I:** But that's a good recommendation.

**R:** Those people that have had some experience dealing with...

**I:** Yeah.

**R:** You know, I mean, you guys, of course, from this end of it, but from the other end of it, you know.

**I:** Mm-hmm. You've all mentioned a lot of different services. Are there any that were mentioned, maybe some that weren't mentioned, that you feel are particularly essential? I know you said there was something that was absolutely essential, and I think it was the MECCA program. Maybe not? (laughs)

**R:** I-I'm not sure what I said, to be honest with you. (laughter)

I: Okay. (laughs)

R: I-I think it was the drug abuse, or the substance [abuse you were talking about.]

R: [Oh, substance abuse.] Yeah, I was talking about the substance abuse [connected with domestic violence.]

R: [Domestic violence things like that.]

R: But even domestic violence [programming would be a great thing, too.]

R: [Yeah.]

R: [Coordinating program.]

I: Okay.

R: One of the real particular problems a lot of those offices have are medical issues.

R: Yeah.

R: I mean, yeah, there might be a nurse on duty...

R: Maybe.

R: Maybe.

R: Maybe.

R: But the medical end of it is something that should be looked at.

I: Yeah, okay.

R: Because they come in there with all sorts of literal medical problems.

R: Right, yeah.

R: Prescription problems and all sorts of things that need to- Linn County struggles with that a lot.

I: Okay.

R: That's always been for purposes-attempt to (laughs) That's been a real problem up there with medical services.

I: Mm-hmm.

R: I have never thought of that. That's a good point.

I: Yeah, that's a good point.

R: Yeah. Oh definitely, yeah.

R: To have something go and test staff.

R: It can cost a lot of money, too.

R: Yeah.

R: If you don't have anything in-house to do some simple things, your only option is to assign a deputy or [two to take-]

R: [Then they...]

R: [Over to the university emergency room.]

R: [-over to the hospital.]

R: And they're sitting there.

R: Sit there, guard them. It's-it's expensive.

R: Saw that. Mm-hmm.

R: Yeah, yeah.

I: Okay.

R: That is a good-

R: And it's usually over time.

R: -good point. I forgot about that.

R: It's usually over time work, so.

R: My husband, you know, saw that with dialysis, well, that was the correctional thing. But when you go over there at the emergency room, where you spend over there a time or two, and they're coming in with someone, and they've got officers or somebody with them, so.

R: Well, the pie in the sky dream, at least out at IMCC, '07, they opened up the medical wing.

R: Yeah.

R: Mm-hmm.

R: Half medical, half [really, extra] security living.

R: [Classification center?] Mm-hmm.

R: They were going to do dialysis there, instead of taking them to the hospital, it never happened.

R: Really?

R: They were going to do everything there, almost everything. And they do basic doctor visits. If you're sick, you get a hospital bed. They have never done the dialysis. They didn't have the people. They didn't have the money for the machines.

R: Oh, yeah.

R: They had the building. But nothing to-nothing to staff it with or you know [the mechanical needs of it.]

R: [Yeah.]

R: [That's another concern.] I think that we've talked- just thought about some, to come up with something over going to do it, and then you don't have the staff for it.

R: Right.

R: So, then you've got an empty facility there that somebody- we've paid for. And it's like, 'Wait a minute', you know. (laughs) So you've got the need, you have the people to fill the need, to work the need so that you can use it. Because it's like, nothing's more frustrating than it's like, 'Excuse me, you built this great big building, and half of it's empty.' [You know, something like that.]

R: [Right.] So, you've got a real good point there. I see that at the university.

**R:** Mm-hmm.

**R:** Like I said earlier, they've always got plenty of money to throw a building. And somebody rich is willing to throw some money at it and have their name put over the front door. So they can always- but they're having ongoing staff, so that the services are available, that whatever the building is there for is a lower priority, it always seems to me.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** That might be a question that people will ask. Is this going to increase the staff of the Sheriff's Department?

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** And, what's going to be the cost associated with that?

**I:** Okay. And where does that money come from? Is that kind of-?

**R:** (laughs) Where does that money come from?

**I:** Okay.

**R:** Yeah.

**I:** All right.

**R:** I mean, you still got to clean the building. And you better have the best custodial staff you can get.

**R:** You have the best custodial staff. They stay overnight there.

**R:** Oh, I've always said 'You've make friends with custodians and maintenance workers.' (laughs)

**R:** Oh, at the university. Down here is the people that are housed there, the inmates are your custodial staff.

**R:** Oh, well, I guess if they're-they're get- well, there's your work release program right there. (laughter)

**R:** (laughs) Well sort of.

**R:** No, not really. (laughs)

**R:** You get what you pay for it, if you don't pay for it.

**I:** Do you think there are programs or services that are least useful and that maybe should not be considered? Or?

**R:** You know, there aren't- there are hardly any services now. So, it's hard to say that there are some that we have that we don't need, you know, so.

**R:** We had a lot of services out of the prison. And it all comes down to who's running it. Some people do a wonderful job with it, some people don't. One that I thought was very beneficial, which I don't think it would work on a county level, is the victim impact. You [brought victims or relatives of victims] out to talk.

**I:** [Yeah.]

**R:** Wow.

**R:** I don't think that would work on a county level. But for your other stuff, you got to have somebody that knows what they're doing and you got to be able to follow through. You got to have an objective and a way to measure that objective.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** Yeah. And the people providing services don't need to be employed by the Sheriff's Department. They could be people like the substance abuse center.

**R:** Absolutely.

**R:** You know, you have them [come to the jail.]

**R:** [Coordinate some programs you already have] here in the county and you know maybe contract with them to do the things that on an as-needed basis or something, that does reduce costs because then you don't have duplication of staff and you're just using them when you need them. Now, contracting may be a little bit more expensive, but it's, you know, just as you know, that's the thing.

**I:** Yep.

**R:** It's back to a space issue. (laughs)

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** Because where are those people going to meet. How are they going to-?

**R:** [But then you won't have to...]

**R:** [You know, if you had a room big enough,] since this side is even, you know, rotate that room once a week amongst providers. [And like I said, it could be outside providers.]

**R:** [Yeah. It doesn't have to be barricaded] just for one use.

**R:** Right.

**R:** Cause then you can have four meeting rooms [and could-]

**R:** [Once a week] is better than no times a week.

**R:** Also, some building a room into a building that's just a room like this with a table and some chairs and stuff is a lot cheaper than building a cell that has the-that has the reinforced steel this and concrete that and has to be secure.

**R:** Yep-yep.

**R:** So, you know, the cost of-cost of- it would seem to me that the cost of providing room for services is going to be lower than the cost to actually build cells to house-to house inmates, so.

**I:** So, you're kind of segueing into the next theme that I was going to talk about, [which is conditions for staff.]

**R:** [We did it again.] (laughter)

**R:** [Yeah, we did.]

**R:** [We're so good at this.] (laugh)

**I2:** We don't really need to be here at all. (laughter)

**I:** Yeah.

**R:** No you're keeping us on track.

**I:** We should just leave the room and let you guys go with the recorders. (laughter) So, conditions for the sheriff's office and jail staff was another issue that residents mentioned in the survey. How much of a factor is this in determining if you would or wouldn't support the ballot measure essentially?



**R:** Come again on that one?

**I:** How much of a factor is staff conditions as to whether or not you would support the ballot measure?

**R:** What condition?

**R:** [Safety issues?]

**R:**[ Safety issues?]

**R:** Well-

**R:** That's kind of the whole idea.

**R:** Yeah. Also, you just think about it's a workplace for sheriff's deputies and the-

**R:** [Yeah.] Support staff.

**R:** -support staff and the investigating, you know, for their police work, their investigators and the people that run the 911, you know, the communication systems and a bunch of other people. So, if you have good conditions, then you're going to probably- going to- you're at least not hindering your ability to hire good staff by having poor conditions, right?

**R:** Right-right.

**R:** And you don't- you want to have good facilities for-for just general employees so that they- so that you can recruit good people.

**R:** From a clerical standpoint, nothing so disappointing and frustrating as to come into a bar effort that is not, that you have not been consulted on, let's put it that way. That's another total thing.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** I see this a lot. 'We're going to plan this. We're going to do this.' And they have no idea how it's going to work for the people that are going to be there. And in that sense, it is very important to get those people insight in it. Many times, those people are not even consulted when you go to plan something.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** Ask the clerical. 'What makes your job enjoyable?' Ask the custodial staff. Ask the deputies. Ask the detectives. They're the ones that are going to be in there day after day, year after year. And if they're not comfortable, if they don't have adequate lighting, if they don't have the adequate computers or resources there, then their life is miserable. And you're going to have turnaround.

**R:** Turnover, yeah.

**R:** And let me tell you, when you have to train somebody else to do it, then that takes that time away, from what you could have done.

**R:** Oh, I don't even know how many staff they have down there.

**I:** It's on our quick fact sheet, I believe. Maybe not.

**R:** What was it in there?

**I:** I think it was on the survey.

**R:** Oh, there's something on the back here.

I: Is there?

R: Oh, huh.

I: No, well, that's the answer to your question about the resolution. (laughs)

R: Oh, okay.

I: I used to know the answer. I'm not going to quote the numbers because I'm not going to remember numbers.

R: If you have a staff X number there, you get a brand-new facility, everything's perfect. This county is doing nothing but growing, which means, more staff. Which means now your workplace is in half. Do you want to plan for 10 years from now? Or do you want to plan right now?

R: Yeah, that's the thing too.

R: Yeah, you have to plan for an extension.

R: Oh yeah. Yeah.

R: You have to. It's much easier to do it right cheaper and easier to do it now-

R: You would think so.

R: -than to try and build an annex 15 years down the road and, you know, that's more expensive and it's also, you know, [not as good.]

R: [Although,] AI is going to take over all those jobs.

R: Yeah, right.

R: Not going to need them.

R: Work conditions matter. I've seen departments that have had real problems with turnover.

I: Okay.

R: You know, somebody wants to be a law enforcement officer, and they hire them. They send them to ILEA and then two years down the road, well, now there's another better job in the next county or the city or so thanks, I'm out of here. (laughs)

R: Yeah, yeah.

I: So, good conditions are almost an incentive to work somewhere, essentially.

R: Oh, yeah.

I: And why would they get good deputies, if they have a bad building?

R: Certainly, it's an incentive to leave.

I: Okay.

R: Yeah, bad facilities are incentive to leave, that's for sure. And you invest a lot of money with people up front when you're training them and getting them ready and they're getting to know the job in the first two or three years, and then if they don't like where they're working, then you're losing a lot of money.

R: 'I'll take my certification and go.'

R: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**I:** Mm-hmm. Sounds like most people are in support of good conditions for staff.

**R:** I've never heard of anybody not in support of good conditions.

**I:** Yeah, I'm trying to refrain-

**R:** They may not pay for it, but they're in support of it.

**R:** Yeah, that's the problem. Is how-hoe much of...

**R:** So, much of that relates to leadership, though, in each department. I've seen good sheriffs and I've seen bad sheriffs, so. The officers working for them sometimes are, you know, put together and other times they're an opposite ends of the whole, so.

**I:** Yeah.

**R:** Yeah. From my experience here, we've been lucky. And well, [name] was really, had a really good relationship with his workers. I think the current one also has continued-has continued that, yeah.

**I:** Mm-hmm, okay.

**R:** Now think about the conditions for the incarcerated. And how much of a factor do you think that is for determining whether or not someone would support the ballot measure?

**R:** I think this group seems to know enough about the inside that it's important to us.

**R:** Right.

**R:** Go down two blocks and find ten people, I don't- may not be quite as important to them, you know.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** I think [they're] right. I don't think that's going to- that's not going to be a big selling point for [the general public.]

**R:** [Right.]

**R:** [I'm not-] the one here that's the outsider in that sense. And so, speaking from my point of view, you know, my association or whatever information comes from basically what you see on TV about what's housed in a cell. You can hear things and stuff about how the cells would be configured and how that's good for staff, you know, kind of thing, over your head kind of thing because you don't really relate to it. And so, I don't-I don't think that it's something that, from my point of view, that they think about on a day-to-day basis or, you know, very often. Unless they have somebody, who's involved there or what they see on TV or something. They see in the media about it. Or if something happens somewhere that 'So and so in this cell hung themselves because they didn't have enough of this', and stuff. And then you go and- or you see a show and they're going, 'Okay, there's a toilet there, the sink there, and a bed there, and okay, no privacy. What happens?' kind of things. I mean, I'm digressing and stuff, but still, it's not the first thing that I'd say the general public thinks about. I think that, you know, when you see things where they've gotten out because things have deteriorated, THEN they commonly, they care about it and stuff. And so especially things that, where you think of maximum security- supposed to be very secure and he dug a hole, and he got out and kind of things. Then it does come to the forefront, but it's not in anybody's life on a day-to-day basis.

**R:** What's the old saw? 'If you don't want to do the time, don't do the crime.'

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** Yeah. (laughs)

**R:** I think, I mean, I think a way to approach this, if I was sort of doing PR for the jail idea, is the thought that it's not the general public here and then this group of people here who are people who are in the jail. People who are in the jail are part of the general public. It could be your brother, your sister, your daughter, you know, it could be you. You don't know, you might go on a toot and end up with an OWI and end up in the jail court, and you know, it's not that hard to do. So, I think there's some- you know, if I was going to, again, like I said, if I was trying to sell this idea, that's what I would push is that, 'Yeah, it's for you.' This jail was maybe not you, but your neighbor or your auntie or who knows.

**R:** There's something- I think that's a significant point. You know, you may have known somebody who's spent some time as a "guest of the state", (laughs) which my brother-in-law did, anyway, you digress. But then you can put it in a personalized standpoint as to how then too, you know, this kind of has effect on how it will affect them coming out, when they leave, you know, you're not going to.

**R:** How many of us haven't been two blocks or 15 minutes away from spending a night there for something, you know? (silence) Okay. (laughter) [And it can affect coming out, but again, who you're with,] you know.

**R:** [Okay. I'm sorry but- (laughs)] I don't think I have anyway.

**R:** [Again out there at the prison], you got the-you got the cells, two-two to a cell, very tight. I mean, about the size of this table and there's blind spots. So, it's dangerous for them, dangerous for staff. Then we have the dorm style rooms, not quite as big as this room, maybe for four. They are now eight in there.

**R:** Jeez.

**R:** And you try to deal with that during COVID, you know, to 'Stay apart.' No way, you can't. (laughs)

**R:** There, put it in forms and if you had a kid that went to the university in a dorm room, and how well did those two get along? I can tell you not very well at all, you know.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** Well, it comes back to services, though, too, for the inmates.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** Because how many times do you see a family member that's talking about so-and-so, their relative that's in jail, 'Well, if he just would have had some support.' [Something done here and there,] he wouldn't end up in jail, but.

**R:** [Mm-hmm. He's back again because...]

**I:** Okay. All right. We've got about 20 minutes left. I just want to shift the last part of our question- I have two questions left. This next one is about messaging. What do you think are the best ways or methods to reach and educate people about the plan to construct the sheriff's office and jail?

**R:** [I think the staff needs to talk to-]

**R:** [I think I liked [Respondent]'s point] that you need to show them something.

**R:** Yeah. You got to show them something, right.

**R:** Not just some nebulous dollar amount, \$80 million or whatever. I mean, they-they need- people need to see what it is we're talking about.

**R:** Part of this, what got that, the other bond of referendums defeated, was, okay, they got really into the details of how they were going to carve off the hill behind the courthouse and they were going to do this and do that. And a lot of people looked at that one and, 'Oh, I don't think so. That's silly.' (laughs)

**R:** It is overambitious to me.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** It was just presented out there. And it was like, when I saw it, it's like, 'Gosh,' kind of thing

**R:** Yeah. So, yeah.

**R:** Now, specifically, how to get the message out in this day and age, it's got to go out all sorts of ways. I mean, through the news media, through newspapers, through Facebook, through- I don't know, every sort of way you can think of, even though nothing more, you know, [it's going to take more.]

**R:** [Well, they can do all that,] but are you going to read it? Are you going to listen to it when it comes on the news? I don't know. The way I got interested in it was talking to deputies, talking to the sheriff, you know. Maybe they need to go to, you know, the only thing I can think of is a PTA meeting, that's not what I want to say. You know, civic clubs, whatever, and talk to people about it.

**R:** You can do it that way. Yeah, that's one point. [Or meetings-]

**R:** [Certainly, having public discussion is a...]

**R:** -discussion points where people can give back and forths too.

**R:** So, right.

**R:** I'm not throwing it all on the sheriff either. It could be deputies. It could be supervisors.

**R:** It could be the supervisors, yeah.

**R:** Yeah, all of them, you know.

**R:** So, public meetings is a- certainly a...

**R:** Good point too.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** What we're talking about selling the idea or promoting the idea of a jail, one thing we haven't discussed that helped doom the last referendum was this idea that if you build a bunch more jail cells, then the judges are going to be throwing a lot more people in jail for reasons that they don't need to be there.

**R:** Yes. [That is a concern, you know,] if you build it, they've got to fill it.

**R:** [That was a-that was a- that was a] big concern on the last...

**R:** Well, we didn't have these programs out there. They're at least trying to...

**R:** What's that?

**R:** They got these programs. They're trying to prevent that. Outreach, whatever you want to call it, programs.

**R:** I've seen a difference with the county attorney's office, for a start, with the marijuana.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** When I first started practicing law in Iowa City, they were pulling people over, any excuse they could find, any broken taillight they could find, and then trying to search their cars and finding tiny seeds of marijuana and throwing them in pri- throwing them in jail for that. And the county attorneys stopped prosecuting those-those kind of minor things, certainly as far as drugs go.

**R:** Right.

**R:** They moved away from that. They put more people on ankle- home arrest with ankle things too. So, they've made efforts to try and- one, by not housing people in the jails, number one. And number two, prosecuting. Being a little less harsh, prosecutorially, so that you're not throwing so many people in jail. And that's where the change, I think that needs to be emphasized.

**R:** Yeah, to emphasize the fact that the ones we are putting there-

**R:** Need to be.

**R:** -are the ones that need to be there. Not the, you know, like you said, for the micro-milligrams of this, or they're in there, and I don't know if this is even an issue here, the people that are in jail because they can't afford bail, that kind of thing. [Because that's-that's an issue in the (inaudible)]

**R:** Yeah, well, [that is a bit of an issue, yeah.]

**R:** But, I mean, to the point that you can say that these are people that, you know, for whatever reason, you know- and that, no, you're not just, like you said, throwing people in there. That can raise awareness and say, 'Okay, you know, I can see the need for that.'

**R:** Yeah, and that's up to, you know, some of that is up to the judges too. I don't know how you deal with them. They're not part of them. They're not really part of the system, they're independent. So, their-their consideration is not really, 'How full is the jail this week? Can I throw- can I put this guy in there or not?'

**R:** Right.

**R:** They're going to do what they think they ought to do, and it's not going to have an effect on how many people end up in the jail or not.

**I:** Right.

**R:** So, those were some of the issues that caused those last bond referendums to fail, was design of the building, and the issue of how many people are going to get arrested, and location, and everything else. I mean, they need to go back and revisit for reasons why they failed.

**R:** And a good thing to do is community outreach. And you've got different places in town, in Iowa City anyway, and then you want to go also out to the other areas in the county, because you're not just Iowa City. Because you're going to have to get north of Lone Tree, and these Tiffin, and others to buy into it too. And so, I guess they just investigate every avenue that you can have. And one important thing too is to, as many people as you can get to a meeting, you know, to come to different things, to see it, to see what it is, however you get that out.

**R:** And it doesn't always have to be a meeting, meeting.

**R:** It can be virtual.

**R:** There's a, what Legion out in Oxford. It's-it's always full, it's the only game in town. Deputy's patrolling out there. Pop in, start talking.

**R:** Informal, [just, here we are.]

**R:** [You know, that's where-] that means something to those people, and that's where they're going to get their change. Go to The Moose, go to The Eagles, go to whatever. Go to the union meeting.

**I:** Can-

**R:** Personal contact is where-

**R:** [Yeah, yeah.]

**R:** [That's it, yeah.] City Fed.

**R:** -to win a vote-

**R:** Absolutely.

**R:** Is it still Iowa City Fed?

**R:** -three to four [contacts with each voter.]

[Federation of Labor.] Iowa City Federation of Labor.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** You know what, it's an interesting thought. You know, you, when you have elections, whether two candidates or more, vying for a seat or someplace, everybody goes door to door, right? But they don't do that for a-for a- they wouldn't do [that for a referendum.] not normally, anyway.

**R:** [Bond issue.]

**R:** Not bond issue, referendum, [I don't know. That's a] consideration.

**I:** [So, are] you suggesting they almost need a campaign strategy?

**R:** [Yeah, almost, yeah. I guess so.]

**R:** [Oh yeah. It wouldn't hurt.]

**R:** [Yeah.]

**R:** Yeah, right.

**R:** Should get a kind of a campaign going and how you do to get the name out.

**R:** Mm-hmm.

**R:** Yeah, yeah.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** Because, I mean, as far as the cap... Okay, I didn't know anything about this until I happened to catch- 'Okay, he dropped out of it', and it was like, Kunkel said, 'We're not going to do this anymore.' It's like, 'I didn't even know they were going to do it,' you know, kind of thing at the time. It's like, 'That was news to me.' I mean, yes, I heard that they needed to do all these years and stuff, and I'm going, 'Yeah sure...'

**R:** He says it, but I'm pretty sure he'd rather have it the other way. So, if there's a chance to do that, he would.

**I:** So, you're talking about the joint referendum, specifically?

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** Yeah, well, it was just any of it. I mean, I'm just thinking of how I get my information and stuff.

**I:** Okay. Yeah. So, it's kind of like that shock value news bite.

**R:** And that sparked interest in it because I said, 'Okay, it's coming up again.'

**I:** Okay. How did the rest of you hear about this?

**R:** There has to be a return on investment message in there, too.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** Because they're asking so much for money. Well, what's the return on that from the taxpayer?

**I:** Mm-hmm. Okay.

**R:** And you not going to go over budget!

**I:** (laughs)

**R:** What? What a concept! (laughs)

**R:** Well... (laughs)

**R:** Yeah, I don't see it. Sorry.

**R:** I make book on that one. (laughter)

**R:** You kind of brought up the idea of getting information out kind of campaign style. I don't know- those were not your exact words. I didn't want to put words in your mouth.

**R:** That's pretty... I guess.

**I:** But can any of you recall a specific campaign or advertisement that the county did that has stood out to you?

**R:** No.

**I:** No, okay.

**R:** No, not really.

**R:** No.

**R:** No, I don't- Did they- did they have- the last referendum, did they actually have yard signs to vote? Well, no there was-

**R:** Well, they have yard signs, once in a while.

**R:** Once in a while, yeah. There was something in the last election about water quality in Johnson County. I don't remember what it was exactly.

**I:** About the conservation bond?

**R:** Something, yeah.

**R:** I think it was a conservation bond.

**R:** Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. I think there might have been some yard vote, yes, and yard signs. I mean, I think I remember that. Do I remember that? I don't know.



I: You remember that correctly, yes.

R: Oh, good point. Put out a yard sign, 'Vote yes on this.'

R: That's just a small step in that direction, but it's...

R: That's an aspect of it.

I: Okay.

R: Why does the conservation bond get such big support? That is kind of...

R: I don't want to drink dirty water.

R: Well, I- yeah, I mean...

R: Especially for parks and recreation and trails and that kind of stuff.

R: Yeah.

R: Okay.

R: Yeah. Well, a lot of people use those, you know, around here. We have a pretty young population that like to get out there and hike around and do [those kind of outdoor things], you know, so.

R: [The older population like it for bicycles.] I know a lot of people in their middle age, early retirement age, they used to use it for bicycling.

R: Yeah. Yeah, they're out there bicycling.

I: So, that's what you said, people are using those kind of services, but maybe people don't see the jail as something they're going to use.

R: That they're going to benefit from, right.

I: Yeah.

R: So, you need to figure out a way to say that you are benefiting from this, right?

R: You also don't want to use a hospital, but by God, I want one.

R: Mm-hmm.

I: Yeah, okay.

R: Yeah.

I: Okay.

R: You want it there when you need it, like a lawyer. (laughter) When you don't have one, and you need one, you want it to be there. I mean, when you have a problem, you know, the sheriff needs to be coming out there, you know, and say, you know, you happen to know you're living the country, and you're hearing gunshots, and you don't know why. Who are you going to call? County.

R: Yeah.

R: You know, they may be out there hunting, but you don't know. You're hearing some, you know, children crying, or you know that so-and-so's neighbor's doing something, you know. Those are the kinds of things that will relate, because you're-you're not necessarily just talking about putting somebody in jail. You're talking about a service of

someone will come, and would have the authority to do something to get other help there, or something like that. I mean, don't- isn't that what the county dispatchers, or a 911 call centers I mean, is there?

**R:** Mm-hmm.

**R:** I mean, that would be incorporated into, that would be incorporated into the [justice...]

**R:** [The building.]

**I:** [The building.] Sorry

**R:** That is something that they can relate to.

**R:** Right.

**R:** So, they built that new emergency facility. Communications has all been moved out to Melrose.

**R:** [Okay, so it's not there anymore.]

**R:** [Oh, it has.] It's a separate facility, now. I didn't know that.

**R:** It's all out there now. It's all incorporated. Then they're together with the county and the city.

**R:** Okay. See, that's... really?

**R:** Yeah.

**I:** Who do you think should be delivering a message that residents would trust and listen to about this?

**R:** Sheriff.

**R:** The-the [sheriff himself.]

**R:** [The sheriff himself].

**R:** The biggest advocate.

**R:** Deputies.

**R:** The deputies.

**R:** Obviously, you know, the supervisor should get involved. It probably wouldn't hurt if they could get the city police chief. I'm sure he's on board with something, you know. Get another, the other town, North Liberty, it's all one, whatever, on it and then, to do it right. Not so much a campaign manager, but-

**R:** Coordinator?

**R:** -a union rep that's trying to organize a place. That's what they're doing here. They're trying to organize to get the vote.

**R:** [Run it like an org-]

**R:** Yeah. Yeah, [that means you got] to make individual contacts.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** I think the board of supervisors too. Obviously, they've been elected so, they have a-they have a-a base of support in the county. So, obviously those...

**R:** Smaller towns and their councils-

R: ...those people

R: Yeah.

I: Okay

R: -to reach out to their local population there.

R: Right.

I: Okay.

R: That way, you don't have, you know, you've got people closer to these- those people who can say, 'Okay, this is how we would benefit from it.'

R: I'll go back one more time. It-It It'd be hard to find the right ones, but the ones that have used the facility. There's somebody out there saying, 'God, yes! You guys need to improve, because I stayed there for six months, and it's not good.'

R: Mm-hmm. Yeah. Personal stories are really strong motivators, aren't they?

R: They have to be really mindful of what they're going to build. I mean, that was the downfall on the last one.

I: Mm-hmm.

R: Mm-hmm.

R: That was just, you know, it was just too extreme. These were pretty practical.

R: Too grandiose, you think, [Respondent]?

R: Yeah, I think it was. Yeah.

R: You know, maybe not even just showing what they're going to get. Get more photos and news items inside the jail and show those cracks, show those leaks. Blot out the face and show how many people in one room and that line of attorneys that has to go in to use the closet to talk to their client. You, know is that the same room they're doing interrogations in?

R: Uh, good question. No, no, no.

R: Okay.

R: The-the-the interrogation rooms are downstairs.

R: They're by booking, I think.

R: Because this is not going to go planned or to go on the ballot until 2026, right?

I: Yeah.

R: So that gives you a year to have stuff.

R: Which is not a long time, when you-

R: When do you think the ballot will be...

I: I'm not sure.

R: June?

**I:** Something like that.

**R:** Next summer, for sure. So, they'd have to have-

**R:** They'd have it written to know the proposal, what's going to be, and then they can present it. So, they're not going to have a lot of time. So, it's between now and then they've got to... that's a pretty strict time to come up with that. I hope- do they have a building? A concept?

**I:** Yeah, if you look at the Board of Supervisors meeting from August, I believe Shive-Hattery showed a rendering.

**R:** Okay.

**I:** So, you can [look at their meeting minutes if you want to look at that building].

**R:** Okay. [Cause I'm not sure that I've seen...]

**R:** Well, the only place I heard of is for a spot was down there, I think you said kind of across from the airport. Across from-

**R:** Riverside Drive.

**R:** -Village Inn or whatever you want to call it there.

**R:** Alexis Park.

**R:** It used to be a city landfill years ago. So, they're not sure what's underneath it, if they can actually build. But, you know, we got, what's that, Pearson sitting empty?

**R:** True.

**R:** Huge land. I'm not saying that building, but that land, maybe. A lot of empty land we can use.

**I:** Alright.[ I'm going to...]

**R:** [That's right next to the interstate.] You can go anywhere in the county from there.

**R:** Yeah.

**I:** I want to get you guys out of here on time. So, the last thing we're going to talk about is voting preference. And you all might be surprised, but you all seem that you're in support of the jail, and learning information on the survey didn't change your voting preference in a later question on the survey. So, you all were like stable. Yes, votes. Why did your preference not change?

**R:** [I saw a need for it in the first place.]

**I:** Okay.

**R:** [For me, I've seen-] I've seen the inside of other places. I see, hear people come in, you know, heard of some had stories to tell, you know.

**I:** Mm-hmm.

**R:** I've talked to former employees from down at the sheriff's department, and they convinced me, you know. Yeah, I'm concerned about my property tax thing, too, with all of it. (laughs) So, I wanted to be right there, 100%.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** Yeah, and me too. With my job, I mean, I've been aware of the need for a new jail for years and years, so and for a lot of different reasons. For inmate safety, for the staff there, for the attorneys and for the operation of the justice

system. I mean, there's all lots of reasons why. So, I mean, I wasn't going to change my mind, say, 'No, we don't need one!'

I: (laughs)

R: I've been down there and worked with them and people there, and seen the building and seen other jails, sheriff's departments, and operations, and that needs to be brought up to 21st century standards. [Just simply that.]

R: [Oh, yeah.] They have a great staff down there who really care about their jobs. And it's a shame that they don't have the facilities to match their dedication, really.

R: Well, I see some little counties out there doing, it's a much smaller scale, but doing really nice facilities and operations out there. And then I look down there and go, 'Ugh, for a county this size, that's-we should be ashamed.'

I: What do you think it would take to get others to change their vote to a support?

R: The outreach. The personal outreach. Again, I think- and they needed to see the building. [They need to see it.]

R: [Uh-huh.] I was going to say what changed- what really brought me home to it was, because I worked at the university and we used to park down there and I'd see that building, you know, for the longest time and I thought, 'Oh, that doesn't look too bad.' And then I started seeing the cracks and things like, 'Okay, obviously something's got to be done.' And then they kept talking about this isn't renovatable. This isn't remodelable. This isn't changeable or anything like that. And so, I thought, well, this kind of sets it that it's got to have something done to it because it got to, have to have a place for the county sheriffs, for law enforcement to be, if nothing more. [inaudible]

R: And you said they took away the recreation area?

R: Oh, yeah.

R: And I don't think they've ever had an outside one, have they?

R: Oh, no, no, no, no.

R: [Oh no, it's parking all the way around here.]

R: [No, you're stuck in those tiny little room for, days, 44...]

R: [University owns the parking lots.]

R: [You can't just put a-] you can't just put a guy in a room for weeks and expect them to come out? A-okay. Bright and cheery.

R: But to sell the place, I think [Respondent]'s point to is, the other thing is, to change people's minds is the financial side of things. It's going to be cheaper in the long run to build this new jail properly and do it well, so that we can keep our-keep our jail operations here in Johnson County and not be spending money in other counties every...

R: Money. How much is it costing us?

R: How much money, you know. [Just wasting money]

R: [How much money is going out NOW]

R: [The money is]- what it's costing them. [Respondent]is going to transport me to Marshalltown or wherever, that's a full day. If he wasn't transporting me, he could be working in the jail or on the streets.

R: Right.

**R:** Dollars and cents. It costs X number money a day to take this person there. It costs X money a day to house that person there or something. And you're coming down to, okay, this all adds up to this. Had we not done that, had we done something different, even 10 years ago, 'Hey, this is how much money we would have saved by doing this. This is how much money we will save in the future.' So, you're actually, this is some cost-effectiveness of what you're doing.

**R:** [Return on investment.]

**R:** [Well, and..] [Respondent] is driving me into Marshalltown. And [Respondent] hits the patch of ice, goes off the road, I get killed. You got my family living scot-free and money from the county for generations. (laughter)

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** Yeah, there is other-there is other factors, you know. The cost of the vehicle, the cost of him, his time lost. He's not here doing something else where he could have been here, you know, that's costing here. And to think- I think the board, you can put it in dollars and cents, then that is going to make a concrete, something for me, that resonates. Okay. 'Oh, well, it costs...' How much is it costing you? And, you know, what kind of resources is this taking away from something else?

**R:** I don't think people are aware how much travel there is and how far people go. I mean, Marshall County is a long way to go to transport something.

**R:** It's not just an hour up. It's an hour up and [an hour back,] you know. For whatever you had to bring them back for, and then maybe you're taking them back again.

**R:** [And an hour back.] Yeah, yeah.

**R:** And so those kind of concrete rather than nebulous things resonate more. I'm just speaking from my personal point of view, resonate more with me. I can understand the overall picture, but to break it down, as I tell my husband, 'I deal with the microeconomics in our house. You deal with the macro.' I wonder what it costs day to day kind of things, those kind of things. And so, 'Okay, this is what it costs to do this, but this is what you're going to get back for your investment.'

**I:** Okay.

**R:** All right.

**I:** That's all we have for tonight.

**R:** Wow.

**R:** Sorry.

**I:** If there is anything you didn't get a chance to say that you want to throw out to the group, now's the time to do it. Otherwise, we really thank you all for attending. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and all your responses. We really appreciate your willingness.

**[End of focus group.]**

### Community Perspectives on the Johnson County Sheriff's Office and Jail

#### Focus Group Transcript: Group 2

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**I:** All right, so think if you were in a voting booth today, what one issue surrounding the sheriff's office and jail is the biggest factor in how you would vote? And we're just going to go around the room, give everybody a chance to tell us what their biggest factor in how they would vote would be.

**R:** How we would vote on what?

**I:** On the referendum for the new jail.

**R:** Can you-can you say a little more about it, or...?

**I:** Like what do you want to know?

**R:** I mean, is there going to be more detail on the- when we vote? Like it gives them amount of money, and all that?

**I:** Yes, yes, they'll have that. They haven't written the referendum yet. So, they are conducting focus groups to learn more about what people need to know in order to write the referendum. So, based on what you know right now, this is kind of where the question is, if you had to go vote today, how would you vote on the issue?

**R:** So, are you talking about the entire picture of what happened- transpired here within the last week or so of where the vote for the city council?

**I:** Mm-hmm.

**R:** Can we weigh that into it as well?

**I:** You can, but that's not really it. Sure.

**R:** [It's-]

**R:** [Well,] it kind of does.

**I:** Sure, yes.

**R:** Because it's going to hit taxpayers in the pocketbook pretty hard having two facilities versus one.

**I:** Okay. So, let's start here. (laughs)

**R:** If the city decides to do that.

**R:** Right. Well, the city's already said that they need a facility also.

**R:** It's so complicated.

**I:** Yeah. Okay, this is a quick question around the horn. (laughs)

**R:** Can you repeat what you asked- specifically what you asked? Yeah.

**I:** Yeah.

**R:** About the county's facility. The county's proposal

**R:** Yeah, you're talking about the county, yeah.

**I:** So, if you were going to vote today on whether or not a referendum should be passed to build a new Johnson County facility, sheriff's office and jail, what is the biggest factor in how you would vote?

**R:** For me, I would need to know specifically like what exactly it would be used for, like a number of beds versus services. Like whatever would be- kind of thing specifically is going to be used in a-in a potential new facility.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** Money probably, how much it would cost would be second for me.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** Yeah, I would say cost is a big factor, I mean, certainly not the only one. And location.

**I:** Okay. Okay, [Respondent]?

**R:** Cost to taxpayers is going to be number one for me.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** I would want to know what's going on with the transferring inmates to Muscatine and other-other places. If that's still the same, still going on, has that been taken care of? You know, I think a large driver of arguing for a new facility, was it didn't have capacity, but I saw a large part of that is being because a lot of people had to be sent to Muscatine or elsewhere and I'm wondering whether they're still doing that. I would vote no currently.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** The biggest issue, whether it be two facilities for PD and sheriffs or one combined facility.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** How necessary is it?

**I:** Okay.

**R:** I think for me, I'd be most concerned with what all services for anti-recidivism would be involved in the location. Kind of feel like a larger and more modernized is inevitable, but what services are being provided there is really critical, paramount is, that's pretty important.

**I:** Okay. All right. So, in the survey that you were sent, the Board of Supervisors identified some concerning issues that they have about the current jail facility. And so, I'm going to repeat that list for you all here. And then as I read the list, I just want you to think about which is the most concerning to you. So, I'll go ahead and read the list and then I'll open it up for opinions. So, the first one is...

- The building is currently deteriorating
- Due to overcrowding, the county currently pays to jail inmates outside of the county.
- The building currently lacks space for inmates to receive services and participate in programming.
- The jail does not meet accessibility guidelines of the American Disabilities Act.
- The conditions of the jail are unsafe for staff.
- The conditions of the jail are unsafe for inmates.

**I:** So, of that list, which is the most concerning for you all? And just feel free to answer outta turn, we're not going to take turns. (laughs)

**R:** I would say the second one, because that turns into a financial question. If we're on a regular basis, shipping three units out to Muscatine or wherever, we're spending the money anyway. So, I want to know how many inmates ship



out and how often. Like, is it always overcrowded? We always have to ship people out or is it only like a few times of the year we have to ship people out? But that becomes a dollar and cents, the one that's more objective than some of the other things.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** Of the list that you read; my greatest concern is inmate safety.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** Mine will be staff safety.

**I:** Okay. How about some others?

**R:** Actually, safety is both, really by rights.

**I:** Say, like, explain what you mean by that.

**R:** It-it- both for the people who work there and for the inmates.

**I:** Yeah.

**R:** A lot of those items' kind [of fall under the same umbrella.]

**R:** [There connected, yeah.]

**R:** [There is- fall under the same umbrella.] So, if it's not a safe place for workers, it's not a safe place for the inmates either. And vice versa.

**R:** But not being ADA compliant is a big one for me. I feel like that is definitely a part of that or kind of leads into that as well.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** So, I guess... safety is an issue for me too, but, and I think I wrote this somewhere on the survey that I would have to have some specifics about that, you know, to be persuaded that it's unsafe. Like, I would need to know, well, have there been some incidents, like, some problems with safety or like, in what way is it not safe?

**I:** Mm-hmm.

**R:** Like, just, don't just say it's unsafe, but...

**R:** Yeah, it's unsafe because it's overcrowded? Or because of some kind of physical deterioration of the building or what?

**I:** So, you need concrete examples?

**R:** Yeah. And the same with, like, overcrowding and paying. I mean, I just think we need to see a dollar amount on that. How much are we paying to jail inmates outside of the county versus how much would this new facility cost?

**I:** Okay.

**R:** As I understand it, there was an architectural and civic engineering study done maybe like 10 years ago, and they said that the jail was out of date by 10 years, and I think that was pretty thorough, if I remember, but like, the last time I went to try and look it up, I couldn't find it anymore. I don't know if it's currently public, or if I have to, like, really dig-

**R:** Or maybe got scrubbed?

**R:** Yeah, I don't know.

**R:** But maybe trying to put some details from that out into the public space might help?

**I:** Okay.

**R:** Yeah, and “out of date”, what does that mean? Is that just a buzzword or is there something, you know?

**R:** You know, I- from what I read, and I don't want to speak like an authority on the topic, but from what I read, the jail is, like, materially unsafe.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** That's different than out of date.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** Leaks, cracks.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** But also, you know, the metal structure...

**R:** Structures rusted away.

**R:** Also, the way, like, jails- the way jails are built, can be built to, like, the protocols of the day. So, if it was built in the 80s, then it was kind of built to a different way that we handled people, and so now we handle people in different ways, and it's difficult for the officers to remove people and take care of people.

**R:** There's also an issue- a friend of mine has been a prisoner in our current jail, and he was very candid about the deterioration of the actual structural facility itself being hazardous and risky, and if that's true for him as an inmate, there weren't even enough beds when he was there. That means it's unsafe for staff. And I'm going to kind of hit, again, a lot of those things are going to be inevitable upgrades because of OSHA and the ADA standards that are required regardless. If a jail is built, those things are going to be met. Making sure that it's absolutely state of the art, yes, I'm highly, highly interested in that. But whether we actually have space for services and programming and resources so that it's not all on Oakdale to do all that, because Oakdale can't take everybody downtown, is really, really critical. The shelters over on the south side, they can't handle everybody that's in a prison too, I mean, they're imprisoned. So, it has to be in more than one location. And so again, like I'm going to go back to that probably over and over, the services and the programming that are available are the only thing on that list that is optional. That's the only thing that could potentially be up for debate about, 'Well, we don't have federal funding.' Everything else on there is absolutely required to the highest levels, so.

**R:** You mean legally required?

**R:** Legally required. By OSHA and human rights standards, everything else has to be done, and they're non-negotiables. But services and programming being available on site to prevent like people being imprisoned over and over, like anti-recidivism things, that's optional. They don't have to do that. It's best practice, because you want people to be able to go back into the community with a-with a new opportunity. You don't want them to be stuck in that trap forever, so. I'm probably going to hit that over and over sorry.

**I:** No, that's okay. (laughs) We are going to talk about that [a little bit later], so hold those thoughts.

**R:** [Okay]Okay.

**I:** Why are some of the other issues less concerning for people? So, you might think that the overcrowding and paying to move inmates to jails outside the county is really important, but maybe you don't care about some of the other things. Does anybody like have strong feelings about that?

**R:** Well, I think it's whether you agree that there just needs to be a new facility or not, because if you agree there needs to be a new facility, then a lot of those problems are- the new facility is built to solve those problems. As [Respondent] was saying.

**I:** [Okay.] Yeah.

**R:** Yeah, cause if it was a new facility, it's going to have to be up to code ... [and all of that stuff]

**R:** [It has to be.]

**R:** And-and the current proposal is making sure that we have beds built up to the future.

**R:** ADA beds, et cetera, et cetera.

**I:** [Respondent], I just want to circle back to something you said earlier. May- you may have hinted that there are other concerning issues, because you said, "Of the list that I read." So that actually is one of my questions. Are there any other issues that we haven't talked about here that the Board of Supervisors should consider, when thinking about how to present information to the public about this plan to build a new jail?

**R:** Go for it, but I had one. (laughs)

**R:** Again, my concern is specifically the two facilities versus one facility.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** And that has not been clarified. It's still, as I understand, up in the air, and everybody's kind of, seems to, you know, we're not playing on the same sheet of music that way, so. That's a big one for me. And my, I- we can talk about it in more detail, but my concern isn't even necessarily money, it's actually whether it's two or one facilities, and I think that's kind of a [deep topic.]

**R:** [What's-] What is the big issue with that?

**R:** Well, can I answer that? Going along with that, it was a three to four vote, and that's when everything changed. And the Iowa City Council voted three to four, four for, three against. And what happened was then the sheriff's office decided all of a sudden, just out of kind of nowhere, that this is no longer an option because the city doesn't seem to be as interested. That's the way I took it.

**R:** Yeah. I think he said, like 'If it's going to be so conflicted and divided, like I don't even want to [deal with this] because it's just going to make the entire process harder.'

**R:** [Right.] Right.

**R:** Yeah, so that's kind of what it's at right now.

**R:** He said he "read the room" and didn't like it whatever that meant. But it's not really his decision, right?

**R:** Right, yeah.

**R:** That's the Board of Supervisors' decision.

**I:** Yeah, yeah. So, there was a resolution passed last week by the Board of Supervisors. They're not going to pursue a joint facility with the Iowa City Police Department, and as far as they're concerned, the issue is closed.

**R:** Okay.

**I:** They're just going to pursue a referendum for the Johnson County Sheriff's Office ONLY. So that answers your questions about that.

**R:** I was out of the country and missed that, so that's been decided by the county?

**I:** Oh. Yep.

**R:** Just recently.

**R:** Do-do they realize, though, that a joint facility had the 60 percent that it would need to pass?

**R:** Yeah, that was under discussion, yeah.

**R:** And if it wasn't a joint, it drops down below 50.

**I:** Right. So, if they only go for a single facility, they only need 50 percent of the county vote to pass that. They need a higher threshold if they want to pass a joint facility, right.

**R:** Right. And it was, from what I heard, even though they said- wrote it was 60-50, that doesn't make- the math doesn't- it doesn't add up.

**I:** Okay, I guess I'm not-

**R:** It says on the sheet here; the safety issues are largely with water and sewer pipes and things- and air ducts and all that sort of failing here.

**R:** Oh, I haven't looked at that part yet.

**R:** First, the poor air quality and mold. How much would it cost to fix the stuff in the existing jail like this? And if we do get a new jail, what happens to the jail we have now is going to be torn down? I mean, I hate to see buildings wasted, but will we have, like, two jails?

**R:** The thing is how will you use that area?

**R:** I think there was a study done already from a contractor or something that we put out approximately a bid on what it would cost to fix it, and it was a considerable amount of money.

**R:** Like what? 10, 20, 30 million?

**R:** It wasn't quite that much, I don't think, but it was more than taking it, it was kind of like taking a sow's ear and whatever that saying is.

**R:** Making a silk purse. (laughs)

**R:** Yeah. (laughs)

**R:** Even if it was fixed up, it wouldn't have enough beds and it wouldn't be ADA compliant.

**R:** Yeah, it's still, the other things are so immense that it didn't- and I meant to look that up before it came in here, actually.

**I:** So, you had a point, another concerning issue?

**R:** I did. So, the survey, and I don't know who created the survey itself, I don't- maybe it was you guys, I don't know. There was- there was a tone, kind of an underlying tone throughout the survey that wanted to promote a new jail or prison as sort of a shining glory of the county and a point of pride, and- and- and I found that to be really kind of vulgar and voyeuristic, and it shouldn't be a tourist attraction. It's a place for creating stability in the community and

opportunities for growth and change and healing and-and and all these things but promoting it in a way that it should be some sort of thing that we should be excited and proud of and bragging about is, it was a bit horrifying to me, honestly. And there was- I don't-I don't- I'd have to have the survey to pull those sentences out to kind of point and say, 'Right there', but that tone in general, I would not want to see, like used in public promotion for a project like this.

I: Okay.

R: So.

I: Thank you for your thoughts on that. I just want to keep the conversation on track, [so did you have-]

R: [Can I just ask a clarify- oh sorry.]

I: Did you have other issues that were not listed on this list?

R: No, not really, no. Just the way it was written, like that was an issue for how it was promoted as far as I don't want it to be a tourist attraction, so don't do that, so. (laughs)

R: Yeah. Okay. (laughs)

R: So, I have a clarifying question, and if I'm confused, probably other people in the public are confused too.

I: Sure.

R: But so, so if the county is going ahead and they're making their own jail, what happens to the people that are arrested by the Iowa City Police Department then? Like is the current jail- do they currently go in the Johnson County Jail?

I: I'm not an expert on jails, I'm just moderating the focus group, so that might be information that you would want to know from the county.

R: Yeah, I guess, yeah.

R: I've never heard of a city jail, so I assume that anybody arrested in the county goes to the county jail.

R: Yeah.

R: Goes to the county jail.

R: So, what does it matter if it's a joint-? I mean, it's just funding then?

R: Well, I think it's more the police department and the county sheriff would actually physically locate it and have their dispatchers in one big building. Doesn't Linn County do that? Don't they have a joint?

I: I'm not sure.

R: They might have a joint facility up there.

R: Yeah, I don't know.

R: But they definitely, Iowa City PD, the arrests do go to the county jail.

R: Okay. So, I don't know, I guess if we have all these questions, maybe there's a lot that needs to be clarified.

I: Yeah. And that's, I think, what the Board of Supervisors wants to learn with these focus groups. So, that's why we're here tonight. So, I'm just going to shift the topics a little bit to keep us moving because we only have 90 minutes. Cost of the sheriff's office and jail facility was a common theme mentioned in the survey where people wanted to know more information. The current proposed cost is \$80 million.

**R:** How many?

**R:** [\$80 million.]

**R:** [Eight zero.]

**R:** [\$80 million.]

**I:** \$80 million. Yeah. How do you feel about the proposed cost of the facility?

**R:** Have a little standard for comparison.

**R:** Yeah, it's a big number. That's about all my context for it. Yeah, you know.

**R:** But that was done by an architecture firm that does that kind of work so, I'm assuming that that's probably the reasonable number for this time.

**R:** It comes up to \$500 per person in the county.

**R:** I guess-I guess what I would say is that ultimately, like everybody's saying, we have no frame of reference. \$80 million is \$80 million. You hear all these numbers being thrown around for projects, if I tried to have some sort of positive input, a question would be, 'Okay, so that's the budget for the facility. It would be a shame if we spent all this money on the facility and then we stumbled on execution.' So, I know that it's a separate issue legislatively to talk about staffing and to talk about programming and to talk about all these things, but it's not a separate issue. And so, I think maybe having some idea on the back end of how they're going to support this would make me feel like it's, at least we're like trying to justify spending all the money and following through with it.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** Until they can't maintain.

**R:** Exactly.

**R:** Then is the \$80 million, what would fall on the citizens to fund, or would there be federal funding to help cover some of that and we would only be doing part of that \$80 million? So, like how much of that \$80 million is really on us? And right now, that's a little unclear.

**I:** So, I guess that's a good question for the group. Where does everybody think that the money comes from for the building?

**R:** You'd have to assume at this point it's going to be on taxpayers because I haven't seen anything out there that says that they're going to be looking into grants, even though I know that there are grants out there. That they're going to look into grants for part of this thing, nobody said anything about that. Anywhere that I can see.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** Even with grants, how many- grants bring in what, cover 10 million of that? That's- [I don't think it would be as significant.]

**R:** [Yeah, I don't know.]

**R:** Even those are paid for by somebody.

**R:** That's my federal taxes.

**R:** I think it just sounds like a lot of money and that's just kind of my gut level reaction. I wonder if there's, like have- are there alternative proposals? I mean, let's say you're building a house, you can build a rudimentary house, you can

build a super nice house. You can kind of pick and choose how far you want to go with as far as money. So, I'd want to know like how did they get at that specifically and could it be less and still fulfill some goals or?

**R:** What does it cost to not build a new jail? ... transferring prisoners to other places. There's this talk about liability. There's deterioration in the building, which means you have to fix it.

**R:** All the inmates who have to go through the old defunct facility.

**R:** There was a little blurb that I remember in one of one of the write-ups and stuff on one of my news feeds that came in and I think they had said that it made it cost-prohibitive to fix the old jail. Cause that's the way they were standing at that time and so that tells me that okay, you must be going to be spending millions of dollars to fix this old jail, if you can't fix it, you know, decent enough, but they didn't give enough information (inaudible)

**R:** If they're going to tear it down, that costs a lot of money too. You know, if it's truly not usable space anymore, they'll tear it down. I know that argument was made when the school district quit using Roosevelt Elementary and they built a new school and they said how the building envelope was so inferior and all this stuff, but yet after they built the new elementary school and were not using Roosevelt anymore, well, they actually did use Roosevelt, you know, they were just using it for something else. So, it kind of made me wonder how terrible was it really. So, you have to think about, I mean, I don't know in the case of the jail if that's true. Maybe it's really in worse condition than that school was, probably was, but.

**R:** I've physically been in there myself, not as an inmate, but I have been in there and it's bad.

**R:** So, is it a tear?

**R:** I promise you, it's really, you would not want, [you know, that's my...]

**R:** [Is it a tear down?]

**R:** Yeah, it's a tear down. And you can tell that it was like built in the 80s with 70s architecture and materials. It's just all fallen apart.

**R:** Roosevelt?

**R:** No, we're talking about the jail.

**R:** Oh, the jail, oh.

**R:** It's just all fallen apart, yeah.

**R:** It's got huge cracks.

**R:** It's really, really, really bad.

**R:** So if it's truly a tear down, then we also have to think about the costs.

**R:** If it is a matter of finances, and they were to tear down the old jail, the county could make a cold buttload of money by selling that property. It's right on prime real estate.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** You know, there'd be some kind of 12 story skyscraper for student apartments there.

**R:** Ugh, not another one of those. (laughter)

**R:** I had a friend who worked at a hydrological lab, and he said that that area needs hydrological like civil engineering work too, so it might be an opportunity. Because honestly, I hate driving past that because the roads are all messed up and-

**R:** Mm-hmm.

**R:** -you know, it just feels like that area can be used for something else, so it might be an opportunity to have it.

**I:** Okay. What information do you- would you need to know to feel confident that the facility is worth the price, that they're proposing?

**R:** I think what's been said, maintenance, what services are going to be offered, and yeah, just justification. I mean, not necessarily a line item, you know, list or anything, but more context than what is [...] currently out.

**I:** [Okay.]

**R:** I think people also need more information about whether it's going to be long-term, short-term, like what kind of duration of stay they expect inmates to be having, because there are prisons where it's kind of just short-term, but until they get processed and sent somewhere else in state, like Anamosa or Oakdale, or are they intending it to be a more long-term facility, like Anamosa and Oakdale, you know.

**I:** Okay, so-

**R:** There's no- I'm not seeing conversations. Maybe it's been had, I don't know. I'm not seeing it. Like, it be real cl- like, honest I've not read it, but I think more of that kind of info would be good for people to see, too.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** I guess whether the scope of the county jail, because I-I think that they probably assume that everybody understands the difference between, like, a county jail and a state prison and, you know, federal, state, all of this, and where people go.

**I:** Right.

**R:** Right.

**R:** I guess maybe just convince people that, like, 'Hey, is the-' is scope of the facility actually changing or not?'

**I:** Okay.

**R:** Yeah. How long do people stay there, typically? I mean, I know somebody who is in a county jail in Woodbury County for 60 days. I mean, that's not incredibly long-term, but that was a long time.

**R:** There's a certain length of time they can stay in a county jail before they have to be transferred to a prison.

**R:** Do you know what it is?

**R:** I thought that they could stay up to- just short of one year in a county jail, and then they had to be transferred to a prison.

**R:** And then if we're talking about a city jail as opposed to county, like, there's a whole other level to that.

**R:** I think so. I don't know on that. I haven't been to that county jail, but I have been to the prison in Fort Dodge, where I've been inside as a guest of one of the guards there, they took me on a tour through there. You don't want to go to a prison at all, from what I saw.

**R:** Mm-nmm. Mm-nmm.



**R:** Speaking as a former flaming liberal, a lot of people in this city are going to want- have the idea, if we build it, they will fill it. They're going to have the idea that we build this huge new jail, there's going to be a lot more arrests going on.

**R:** Just- I just wrote something down, just curious before I came here. I know this is a long period of time, from 2016 to 2024, arrests have gone down from 5,465 to 2,700.

**R:** I didn't hear the first number?

**R:** 5,465.

**R:** Wow, that's like less than half.

**R:** Cut in half.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** This is cut almost in half.

**R:** Why is that? Do you know?

**R:** They didn't go into that part of the detail.

**R:** That is very impressive.

**R:** But I wanted to see that specifically for myself, because [that could sway-]

**R:** [When-] I'm sorry, when did that second statistic?

**R:** It was from 2016 to 2024.

**R:** So, the south side has some new shelters that focus on mental health and drug detox, and that's taken some pressure off of the prison system and the hospital system. And I would imagine that some of that headcount is going into those shelters.

**R:** Probably.

**R:** Which is far more appropriate, because they're not prisons. They're detox and-and like recovery centers, so.

**R:** Has there been any research on projected population growth in the county area?

**R:** Oh, I didn't write that down.

**R:** Because it would be nice to see a comparison of projected population growth against arrests.

**R:** Our-our-our population is increasing. It has been increasing over that same period of time, and it's projected out to increase.

**R:** I think Iowa City is going to blow up, so, yeah.

**R:** [Yeah.]

**R:** [Yeah.]

**I:** In population. [(laughter)]

**R:** [Yeah, we'll blow up North Liberty.]

**R:** [So-so glad you clarified-(laughs)]

**R:** So-so, I-I- I've lived here-I've lived here for coming up seven years, and it reminds me of Salt Lake City in the 90s and early 2000s, which is where I grew up. As it was ramping up to become just one-

**R:** Just huge.

**R:** -huge. That metro area has just boomed. I remember kind of what it felt like and what it looked like, and what was going on in the city, like as it was taking off, and I think Iowa City is eventually going to connect with Cedar Rapids, and it's just going to be huge.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** I'm surprised Swisher has been blowing up slightly. You think that with Solon, North Liberty, and Tiffin that-

**R:** They're filling it out with houses.

**R:** -Swisher would be the next one.

**R:** They're filling it out.

**I:** So, what features, benefits, or aspects of the facility would justify a cost for you? So, we were talking about what information you needed, now we want to know what features, benefits, or aspects would justify the cost of the facility.

**R:** You're talking [about 80 million,] right?

**I:** [Mm-hmm]. Yeah.

**R:** Especially like additional services, like what you said... yeah.

**R:** I don't want to beat a dead horse.

**R:** [No. That-] Mm-hmm.

**R:** [No. That-] that's very important.

**R:** Mm-hmm.

**R:** I mean, I- because you can-you can change a lot of stuff that happens to different individuals, and many individuals actually, if the programs are working like they're supposed to.

**R:** Yeah. Any educational services, addiction services, you know, that kind of stuff, what's available there? Yeah.

**R:** And I know everything that exists out in the private space and grant space and donor space is under a lot of stress, and they're doing better, but like they're still under a lot of stress, so it would be nice to see, you know, in-house services with the county.

**R:** I also think there needs to be- and Iowa City and Johnson County is already really good at training their officers for psychiatric crisis management, like on the scene, like walking into a situation and learning how to recognize this isn't just a criminal thing, this is a psychiatric thing and very specific and acute training for that, but there needs to be more of that. And there needs to be more publicity about that to the public. I don't want to get into the whole like all cops are bastards thing, because that's not my spin. That's not where I'm going, but I do think that more of the public needs to know how heavily Iowa City and Johnson County do focus on those things, because we really stand out across the entire Midwest.

**R:** Don't they have a full-time on-staff psychiatric psychologist or whatever that wears a uniform?

**R:** I don't know. [I don't know.]

**R:** [They do have-] they do have a 24-hour crisis manager.

**R:** Okay.

**R:** But they- I think it's probably more than one, like it's probably a couple.

**R:** 24 hours is-

**R:** I think the-the JOCO Sheriff's website says they have like one person's on-call for like severe psychiatric-

**R:** At a time, but there's more than one person.

**R:** Okay. Okay, got it.

**R:** I can't imagine, because that would be like 24/7.

**R:** A lot of people work terrible jobs.

**R:** (laughs)

**R:** Like we have a crisis management team that can be called into situations, and there needs to be more of that.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** And to- [just diffuse] off of the police in general.

**R:** [Yeah, I-] And then someone may be sent to the hospital instead of jail.

**R:** Or [just managed on the spot.]

**R:** [Just managed on the spot]

**R:** Like it could be diffused on the spot, if it's like- yeah.

**R:** Yeah. Well, I know a situation where I called-I called that crisis team for some- another family, and they worked for an hour to persuade this person to go with them willingly. I was really impressed and then he ended up in the ER [in the psych unit.]

**R:** [Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. And that's sometimes] Yep. And sometimes the best scenario. Yeah, yeah.

**R:** Oh, that's what he needed, yeah. But he didn't need to go to jail or to be beat up or something like that.

**R:** Right, and we need more of that, because sometimes that's the best scenario.

**R:** Yeah. [I feel like- Oh]

**R:** [And to have that-] and to have that present in the facility. Right, because the current jail, the conditions of the current jail make providing like those mental health services to detainees, you know, so, somebody two in the morning is in a cell and they start freaking out. Like the current conditions of the jail make it really hard for services to get in there and help that person safely. So, like having you know more modern setups and everything I think would be a big improvement.

**R:** So-so, the question is basically, it kind of sounded like from a skeptical point of view, it kind of sounded like, 'What do we need to tell people? Or how do we need to- like how can we persuade people that \$80 million is the right amount of money?' You know it doesn't- it seems like that's kind of backwards. Like what would-what would we get for \$60 million? What would be missing, let's say, that we wouldn't have- I mean that we could have in an \$80 million facility, or I don't know, I guess it just...

**R:** [I'm not sure-]

**R:** [I under-] I understand what you're saying, like itemizing out what all would be included is a good way to go about it.

**R:** Yeah, and just saying- and having that be in the referendum, not just like something that's said, but, you know, if I'm going to vote on \$80 million, I don't want it to just be like a blank check, 'Trust us, we're going to do these things.' I would want to know what exactly, like that there would be some commitment [or some-some legal obligations to- to] structure it in a certain way.

**R:** [Some transparency.]

**I:** [Yeah.] So, what ways do you think the county should present the information so that people understand?

**R:** They need to have full disclosure on this.

**R:** Yeah. I guess that's kind of what I'm saying, yeah.

**I:** Like when you say full disclosure, [describe what that means to you.]

**R:** [You know if- full disclosure, okay,] we're going to spend this amount of money for the facilities and office space- or whatever, we're going to spend this much for mental health services, this much for other services, X, Y, Z. And they need to break it down like that, really, by rights, for people to make an actual educated decision. That's where my money's going to [go, whether I like] it or not. That's where my money's going to go.

**R:** [And how much...] And how much will it cost to maintain staff in the future years as compared to what's being spent in the current jail?

**I:** Okay.

**R:** Yeah. Yeah, I think if-if you would say, 'Well, like talking about all these- having all these services and space for the services, that's going to cost, let's say, \$80 million.' I mean, I don't really know if it's necessary to spend \$80 million to get that or not, I don't- I have no idea. But- or- 'So, if we build a jail without that, it would cost such and such amount of money.' And so, people can kind of see what's the additional money going for and evaluate for themselves if-if it could explain

**R:** What kind of services are being- I mean, this is a new angle for me, personally. I don't think of the county jail system as being a real big service provider. I think of them more as being a temporary holder of people. If its long-term they go to a reformatory or-or somewhere else. So, what are the services that we're talking about providing?

**I:** So that's a good question because a lot of people on the survey said that having space for programs and services wasn't an important issue for the residents.

**R:** What was [or was it not?]

**R:** [Was or was not?]

**R:** [It was not.]

**R:** [Was or was not?]

**I:** [It was, yeah.]

**R:** [Okay.]

**R:** [Okay.]

**I:** So having pro- space for programs and services was an important issue that residents mentioned on the survey. And I don't know. So maybe what are your thoughts on why people thought that that was important?

**R:** Well, I think you're asking, like, what kind of program and services...?

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** I think they should lay out what they intend to provide as far as services because I don't-I don't see the Johnson County Sheriff's Department as a social services agency. I see them as law enforcement. And so, the-the programming and services, I think they should lay out exactly what they intend to provide and what-what that's going to cost. I don't- that's not resonating with me because I don't know what they're talking about.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** [Well, we are talking mental health.]

**R:** [According to the survey]-according to the survey, I think maybe draw a distinction between spaces for services. Because really, we're talking about, like, the building itself and not necessarily the programs they'll bring in. They'll probably go to, what is it Oakdale? They'll probably go to some of these, you know, outside services and then, you know, bring people in to give those services within the county jail. So, if you're there for six months and you want help writing a resume, going back to school, if you have a mental health issue and you need to see a therapist or psychiatrist, they'll bring the people in. And if I remember correctly in the survey, it really hammered that it's more about having the space and capacity for those services. Because right now in the old jail, they don't have the actual like physical space to conduct those things, from what I understand.

**R:** When you say programs and services for inmates, I think of people coming down from the parking ramp department giving pottery classes or something. (laughter) So I think- you've got to tell me what programs and services are. I know it's not something that's silly, but that's the first thing that comes to my mind.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** Cause some people are going to- like some people, I assume, like [Respondent], are going to think, 'Okay, so we have, what, three big rooms with some tables?' And then other people might think, 'Okay, yeah, you know, pottery and painting and aerobics or something like that.' So, maybe some more detail would help people understand.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** And-and people do need to have recreation opportunities, but what is that going to mean and what is that going to look like? So that's a legitimate concern.

**I:** [Mm-hmm.] Okay. So, you're kind of leading into my next question. What programs and services do you all think that are critical when considering space in a new sheriff's office and jail facility?

**R:** Mental health.

**I:** Okay. Got some others?

**R:** It may sound kind of corny for there, but they do have- need someplace that they can do exercise and stuff like that, safely.

**R:** Mm-hmm.

**R:** Because they can blow off a lot of steam if they're on that edge or whatever. You'll be surprised at how much that can take out of a person and just calm a person down.

**R:** Mm-hmm.

**R:** Someplace with plants and sunlight, maybe. **R:** Yep.

**R:** Yeah, natural light. It's very good for mental health.

**R:** And I think for people that are withdrawing, if there are any addiction services, if they're coming down on something, just making that, [as smooth as possible, yeah.]

**R:** [Yeah, I'd like to see] a good medical facility.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** You know, especially I am a proponent of needing new facilities. So, I would like to see them really hammer that, you know, medical facilities and psychiatric services are, you know, on site supportive.

**I:** Included with the plan?

**R:** Your medical, dental, psychiatric care. I also think having appropriate places for them to have visitors, whether that's community members or lawyers or family members, because currently that's not [a realistic-]

**R:** [They just have the phone now, right? Is the only way to....]

**R:** [No, they can] have people at our prison downtown can have actual human visitors in the building. But my understanding is, is that the space for that is not...

**R:** Okay.

**R:** Hospitable isn't the right word. Like, I mean, but it's not really safe and it's not really realistic and it needs to be a healthy place and easily accessible and....

**R:** And conducive to human relationships.

**R:** Like family reunification. Like if somebody is going to be there six months, family reunification is probably, needs to start sooner rather than later.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** And especially if there's children involved, right? And you don't want to wait six months or a year before that process starts. So, in addition to like the health care and education and vocational and like there's all kinds of social services things that should be happening sooner rather than later.

**R:** That is true. And if you're an infant or a toddler something, your mother goes away for six months. You're going to think you're abandoned. You can permanently mess up- people up.

**R:** Absolutely. The damage that does is irreparable sometimes.

**I:** Okay. Are there- any of the services you feel are particularly valuable or beneficial? Of the ones that have been named, maybe some that have not been named?

**R:** You mean of the ones we have come up with? Or that you?

**I:** Yeah, or some that haven't been mentioned yet. Maybe what are the most critical?

**R:** Probably like detox with, you know, medical sup-medically supervised withdrawal. I don't know how that happens now.

**R:** Yeah, I'm not sure on that, but I know that if it's somebody that gets triggered while they're in the jail or something like that, that takes a whole different type of ability to deal with that.

**R:** What do you mean by triggered? I'm not sure I understand what you're-

**R:** Like people with PTSD.

**R:** Okay. Yeah. Okay. I get that. Thank you.

**R:** Because if you don't deal with that the right way, you can cause irreparable harm.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** And I've seen that happen at this one, so.

**I:** Are there some services that are not useful to be included in a facility?

**R:** Pottery making. (laughter) We are all against pottery. (laughter).

**R:** I think it's really difficult to draw a line until you actually see something cross the line and you're like, 'Okay, this is getting ridiculous.' But honestly, I'm- I think the more the better for people who are institutionalized, you know, just, I think given every opportunity to improve themselves and engage their mind and, you know, not-not necessarily- I don't want to say like have a positive experience because obviously you're in jail for doing something antisocial [for other people's-other people's safety.]

**R:** [Yeah, it's supposed to be unpleasant.]

**R:** Make it-make it as most positive as you can.

**R:** But, you know, I-I think a real emphasis on services is super important, yeah.

**R:** Even prison- I think a lot of us would agree. Even prisoners are entitled to some basic human rights, including like quality of life to some degree. Like what- like how that's defined is debatable, but me, the least religious person on the planet, like spiritual services would be really incredibly valuable for some people probably.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** Does our prison have space for that right now? I would guess not.

**I:** No.

**R:** I would guess not. [So-]

**R:** [Respondent-] You know, [Respondent] is a little quieter and he was going to say something. You had your hand up.

**R:** Well, no- I'm not quiet by nature, I'm going to speak up.

**R:** In this group you are. (laughs)

**R:** But I think-I think there's just a lot of, somebody mentioned the term transparency. I think there could be a lot more transparency is exactly what's proposed, the physical layout, you know, what the program is going to be, what's going to be available for, you know, different services and whatever, so, you know what you're actually voting on. But one thing I would like to know is how long does the average inmate actually spend there? Because they're- I have a feeling

it's a pretty short term. So, if most of them are in there for a short term, there's not going to be time for like a Kirkwood type people coming in for continuing education or-or something like that, you know. How long are they actually in there and what's realistic to provide as far as services? Also, there's mentioning of the average daily population is 86, they want 140 beds. So, what- what's driving that projection? Are we expecting more arrests just because the county's growing? You know, where-where are those-where are those bed fillers going- expected to come from?

**R:** I think it's people who are currently being sent to Muscatine or somewhere else.

**R:** Right.

**R:** I'm not sure there's that many anymore because, as has been pointed out, the arrests from 2016 to 2024 went down by 50 percent.

**R:** [No, that wasn't?]-Yeah, it was-it was arrests.

**R:** [It's 5,400 to 2,700]

**R:** But we were still filling the jail to capacity and over it's safe, what they call safe capacity

**R:** Nonetheless, I'd like to know some of those things. And I just- I-I feel like we're in a sense asked to buy a pig in a poke or vote on something without having a lot, with missing a lot of information on the details.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** I agree totally with that. That's my biggest problem.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** And to [Respondent] point, actually, are we expecting the average length of detention to increase since we're not busing people away? Or is this going to act- are we going to start bringing people in? Because this also could be a source of revenue. Right now, we pay other people to take our inmates, [but if we build over capacity,] now we have capacity and perhaps this could be somewhat of a revenue source in terms of relieving pressure in other places.

**R:** [Yeah, good point.]

**I:** Mm-hmm.

**R:** Or to bring out left-wing conspiracy theory, will INS try to use this place for holding them, for illegal immigrants?

**I:** Okay. (laughs)

**R:** I'm not saying that will happen, but I mean somebody in town is going to be wondering that. If you have 140 beds here and with ICE stepping stuff up.

**R:** If you build it, they will come, yeah. Of course, of course.

**R:** [Yeah.]

**I:** Yeah. I want to keep moving the conversation on, so we don't run out of time. Conditions for the sheriff's office, jail and staff was another issue that residents mentioned in the survey as an important issue. How much of a factor is condition for the jail staff in determining if you would or wouldn't vote for- to support the measure?

**R:** It's a big, big thing for me.

**I:** Okay. Why is that?

**R:** Well, I mean, I think, you are talking about safety of staff?



I: Mm-hmm.

R: Yeah, I mean, these are the people that stand between us and chaos some of the time. And I'm all for supporting them and giving them safe conditions to work in.

I: Okay.

R: I agree with that. Happy staff mean that they're probably going to perform better.

I: Okay.

R: Better retention. Because we're going to have to plus up staff, so we want to make sure you hang on to them.

R: Yeah. And we need to be attracting staff, and we need to be attracting staff of a certain caliber, so.

R: And again, to specify safety, like on this sheet, it sounds more like it's the like kind of the health conditions of the building and how that's affecting staff. Whereas when I first heard about this, 'Oh, it's unsafe,' I thought they meant maybe staff weren't safe from violence from inmates or something like that. [Like you have to be-]

R: [Right.]

R: [Well that too, but...]

I: It's both.

R: Well, but they need to be clear about that and what would be changed. I mean, obviously a new building, you know, would fix the HVAC problems and all that. But like how would it be structured differently to be safer in other respects?

I: Okay.

R: Maybe somebody from the sheriff's office, like a corrections officer, was able to give some public information on, you know, 'Hey, our-our techniques for holding people have changed and here's the new layout and here's how it's improved.' That could probably- could jazz some people up.

I: [Okay.] Okay.

R: Yeah. 'Here's how it is now. Here's what we would like to do.'

I: Now think about conditions for the incarcerated. How much of a factor is this in determining if you would or wouldn't support a ballot measure?

R: Absolutely. And the same argument.

I: Okay.

R: The same argument.

R: By putting them into an unsafe, unsanitary, inhumane place, you're basically treating them like an animal. What are you going to get on the other side?

I: Mm-hmm.

R: There's a question with jails in general. Is the purpose rehabilitation or deterrence?

R: I think you can have [both.]

R: [It's both.]

R: [Both.]

**R:** Its both. But along with what, [Respondent]- yeah, well I'll-later. Go ahead.

**I:** Go ahead. No.

**R:** I'll wait. (laughs)

**I:** (laughs) And we might get away from what you're going to say. Okay. What, if anything, about the conditions for staffing would influence you to change the way you would vote?

**R:** What's that question again?

**I:** What, if anything, about the conditions for staffing would influence you to change the way you would vote?

**R:** Testimony from current staff. Like, 'I went there, and I got asthma from the bad pipes.'

**I:** Okay.

**R:** Yeah, specifics again.

**R:** [Yeah.]

**R:** [Did they even ask-?]

**R:** [Transparency and specifics.] I think that's the key.

**R:** Did they even ask their employees, you know, what they thought as far as needed to be, really needed to be done to make it successful?

**I:** I'm not sure, but that could be maybe some information you'd want to know.

**R:** I'd be curious to see what that-that is, what the ones that actually work there are saying.

**R:** I recall from the survey it referenced OSHA information about reported OSHA injuries.

**I:** Um...

**R:** Or maybe I read it in a news article.

**I:** And it's probably a news article.

**R:** [I don't think that was in the survey. I don't think it was in the survey.]

**R:** [It might have been a news article.] Okay but I do know that at some point there was some information released. It might have been in a news article about how many OSHA reportables they had, and it was staff members getting cuts on, you know, the old, you know, structure. Just stuff where, you know, I was reading the OSHA summary, and I was like, 'I wouldn't want to work there.' (laughter) Right? Like I would not want to work there, 'I'd be like no screw this.'

**R:** But based on the leaky pipes and the busted-out HVAC and the crumbling concrete and bricks, I wouldn't wanna- I wouldn't want to work there. Like just based on that.

**R:** Well, I have also heard about sewer gas smell...from different ones.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** They're in the jail. So evidently that's part of that inhumane (laughs) part of that. But yeah, that seems to be an issue.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** And that affects everybody. You can't really [separate the staff and the inmates.] Like it's just in the building.

**R:** [Right, that's...yeah. It's staff and the inmates] Yeah, it's in the building, so.

**I:** So, kind of leading up to my next questioning, you guys have all been talking about like more information, more transparency. What do you think are the best ways to reach and educate people about this plan?

**R:** Local news? I mean that seems kind of...

**R:** Social media.

**R:** Junk mail.

**R:** I was about to say mail; I'm kind of old fashioned that's why I say mail. I-I get most-most of stuff from mailers and like-stuff yeah.

**I:** How did-

**R:** Social media, the Nextdoor app, putting it out there. I think I follow some local government on Instagram. I know that's probably where I would see something like a you know, five slide explainer about some architectural drawings. 'Hey, here's the new jail.' Something like that.

**I:** Okay. [Respondent], you seem maybe skeptic. I don't know? (laughs)

**R:** No, not at all. I'm just he's talking about methods of communication that don't resonate with me.

**I:** [Yeah, right.] (laughter)

**R:** [I agree.]

**R:** [Well what about me?] How do I get my information?

**R:** Old people wins the vote.

**R:** [I don't-]

**R:** [Could you in theory...]

**R:** [You might be] like me, because I have no social media accounts.

**R:** Neither do I.

**R:** I don't think there's one right answer. [ I think they are going to have....]

**R:** [What I want to see] I google it.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** A lot of young people involved with social media, if we had old people involved go with junk mail or maybe something at the library. I don't know.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** Yeah, that's a good- presentation at the library and then it would bring out the supporters and the skeptics.

**R:** Take out that art space for a moment.

**R:** What art space?

**R:** There's like some art spaces where, you know, artists can put up a little corner of their works and stuff like that. You know, take out one of those little art spaces and do a thing about the new-new jail.

**I:** [Respondent] you-

**R:** I think it'd be good to be interactive, like a Q&A kind of session because we have a lot of questions ourselves.

**R:** [That may be-]

**R:** [That would be-]

**I:** [Respondent] you were going to say something? And people are talking...

**R:** I don't think there's more- I don't think there's one right answer. I think they're going to have to hit it from all directions.

**R:** Right.

**R:** And the-the leadership that I've met in person or charismatic enough that they could potentially like do a really good job having those conversations publicly and doing sort of podcasts or meetings at the library or the rec centers or the neighborhood associations and or having little broadcasts like webcasts or ... there could be links with QR codes on the mailers that go out for people that are Internet savvy but don't really even know where to go because they don't want to deal with Facebook, cause I don't blame you. But there's all- I mean, it's not going to be like a one thing. It's going to have to come from all directions.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** It's kind of too bad. They used to have just nothing but a city council or a supervisor's channel on TV. I used to watch that all the time because that was in real time and you could see if they were telling you the truth or not, pretty much.

**R:** Maybe you could offer tours of the current jail to journalists and the public. I'm disappointed they didn't initially to have this focus group at the jail because then we could see what we're talking about.

**R:** But I do think hitting neighborhood associations and PTO meetings at schools and, and, and like and offering. Like they might say no, but they might say yes, you know.

**I:** Okay. How did you all first become aware of this issue about the jail and the-the plan to build the jail? Do you recall?

**R:** Well, there's this isn't the [first time that this is come up.]

**R:** [Mm-hmm.]

**R:** [Its an ongoing.]

**R:** [Right. It's already failed twice. So...]

**R:** Yeah, so that's why I think the county really needs to maybe tailor their approach a little better to either- like 'It's the current set up or it's our \$80 million plan.' And it doesn't seem like anything else is being discussed, really. So that's kind of what I'm-well, maybe the refurbishment was discussed and discarded for good reasons.

**I:** Okay. What types of messages would be most effective in educating the community about the issue?

**R:** I think [Respondent] brought up a good point about showing them what the current conditions really are. Because I mean...

**I:** Okay.

**R:** I mean let's listen to the Daily Iowan and take photographs of what are claimed to be leaking sewage and water pipes.

**R:** I think more of that. Much more.

**R:** Yeah, because my only picture I keep seeing was the share of pointing up at the roof or something like that and he couldn't see nothing of what he was pointing at.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** Also, the architectural and civil engineering report where they recommended that the building be tore down and replaced would be good to see.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** And again, I just want to emphasize it's not- I mean, I agree with all that. That's convincing people that the current jail is unacceptable. But there's a second piece of this, you would have to persuade people that this \$80 million plan is necessary. That it's not too expensive, that we could have some other plan. And I honestly, I don't know the answer to that. I honestly don't know what I would think about it. You know, is there a 60- I'm just throwing out a number, is there a \$60 million plan that would cost less, you know, cost a lot less money, but maybe it would solve a lot of these problems.

**R:** What do other local jails cost?

**I:** Okay.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** I saw when I was trying to look up and find the average time that somebody stays incarcerated, I did find, though, that it's anywhere from \$50 to \$2,000 a day to house an inmate either in county or city jail. Because there are some cities that do have jails. I didn't realize that.

**I:** So, thinking more about messaging, can you recall a specific advertisement or marketing campaign of the county's Board of Supervisors that stood out to you?

**R:** No. I don't think I've ever seen one on any issue.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** I've only heard, like, as part of a general conversational flow at, like, neighborhood meetings or something, but not...

**R:** I've had to seek it out. I've never really just kind of, 'Oh, there's that.' I had to be- hear of an issue and then reach out for the information myself.

**R:** I don't- I haven't seen any flyers or anything about it, because that's the only way I would've, unless I heard it by word of mouth.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** Can I have a quick question? There-there were percentages given about people that were going to approve the joint facility. Did those percentages, where do those percentages come from? Do they come from your survey?

**R:** I think it's the percentages are like the threshold. Like, so in some situations, over 50% of the voters have to approve it, and in other situations, over 60%.

**R:** No, I'm talking actually how many were going to approve it. There was some mention that like 60 % actually would approve it

**R:** [Right. There was 50 and 60.]

**R:** [Oh, that the survey...]

**I:** No. You're- I think you are conflating two of the things.

**R:** We're ships passing in the night here.

**I:** Yeah. (laughs)

**R:** There's some studies have said there are so many people that would support it. Did those percentages come from your survey?

**I:** Those came from our survey.

**R:** See, I think that's- (laughs) I think that an issue. Because I made a lot of comments on your survey, because it seemed to kind of all direct to, 'Here's why we need this.'

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** And one of the things is, 'Now that you're aware of this, would you approve this?' And I said, 'I'm not aware of it. [It hasn't been shown to me yet.]'

**R:** [I had exactly the same reaction.] 'Now that you know this isn't safe, would you?' Well, you haven't convinced me it's not safe.

**R:** Yeah. If I'm the county board, I would be very suspect of the actual numbers that are supporting it currently. I think they need to be more transparent and get a lot more information out.

**R:** Did those- these are the same ones that you had with 60/50? That was from AI that I got them from.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** AI?

**R:** Well, it's got to be right then. (laughter)

**I:** Yeah. It just depends on what source is pulling those from. (laughter)

**R:** Well, if you're a fan of AI, it's supposedly that...

**R:** I think it's very useful. I think it's very useful.

**R:** Its useful but not totally reliable.

**I:** The 50 and the 60, I know, are the thresholds you have to get.

**R:** Yeah.

**I:** But I remember those are not the numbers of approval that was in the data for the survey, so.

**R:** But the way it put it, it added in there, a little bit different, that joint facility had 60% acceptance rate. Without it being a joint facility, it went down to 50%.

**I:** Huh, I'm not sure. Might need to [Google that again.]

**R:** [I really hope there's a nail in the coffin on that.] I really hope there's a nail in the coffin on that issue.

**R:** On what issue?

**R:** With two facilities versus one.

**I:** So, continuing on with the messaging thing, just keeping us on track, who would Johnson County residents trust most about this issue and who would they listen to in order to receive the information?

**R:** About the jail?

**R:** Yeah.

**I:** [About the plan?]

**R:** [Anybody but the sheriff.]

**R:** Anybody but the sheriff.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** Yeah, I would-personally....

**R:** He's got to stay out of it completely.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** His opinion's already been said when he shot down the idea of a joint facility because it got a four to three vote, in my opinion.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** As a human being, I really like Officer Kunkel. Like, he's a really great guy and I've worked with him on committees. But as a community member, knowing how the community thinks about law enforcement, I agree it has to come from somebody other than him to give it more credibility.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** And I'm sure it'll be collaborative kind of behind the curtains, but whether it's the Board of Supervisors or City Council or whoever-leadership in the community other than him is really going to have to step forward. I agree with that.

**R:** What about a joint, sort of like a joint group where you have City Council, you have people who represent community services, and then you have some sort of a law enforcement liaison, maybe not the sheriff because obviously he's the guy who owns the facility and is fully working there it's his job. Maybe somebody else from law enforcement, maybe somebody who works in corrections and can speak with some authority on-on the subject of that. And having them all come together and jointly present some of that information.

**R:** Can you talk the Inside Out program?

**I:** Say that again?

**R:** There's an NGO around here called Inside Out that tries to help inmates readjust to society, maybe they'll be able to speak about the issue.

**R:** Personally, I think-I think the driving issues for a lot of people, maybe it's just my age group, but it's safety. Safety of staff, safety of inmates. And that's where, from my viewpoint, if on-the-ground deputies could, I don't know if they're allowed to do it, but if they could tell anecdotal stories about issues they have and how they're hoping to improve that. And even from the viewpoint of the inmates, you know, have some empathy for them as deputies, that would go

a long ways with me. I think Sheriff Kunkel is too political to do it. I think he's already made his point and his points already, but I think somebody kind of like a more common type deputy.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** And those are the closest people to what's really there.

**R:** Yeah, they're on the ground. That's my personal perspective.

**I:** Okay. Thanks for sharing that.

**R:** So, we're all saying, not the sheriff. (laughter)

**I:** I'm glad you clarified that because I think some people could think, 'Well, the deputies are just an extension of the sheriff,' maybe so.

**R:** Not necessarily

**R:** It depends on their role.

**I:** Depends on their role?

**R:** Well, and it wouldn't be just them. It needs to be a joint effort.

**R:** Okay.

**R:** Stories are more convincing than statistics. I mean, it shouldn't be, but they are.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** I don't want Sheriff Kunkel knocking on my door (laughter).

**R:** He would be horrified to show up at my house. (laughter)

**I:** Okay, so part of the survey that was sent out, asked about your initial perspectives and how you would vote, then asked some knowledge-based questions to see how county residents understood like factual information about the jail. And then provided concerning issues that were identified by the Board and then asked again how they would revote, or you know how the respondents would revote. So based on that, I think most of this group might have indicated that they would vote no on the ballot measure. Or maybe a preference changed based on the information. Thinking aback- thinking back to your survey taking experience, why or why not- why or why didn't your vote behavior change after being presented information in the survey?

**R:** I- well, I had the same kind of reaction that [Respondent] did, I think, to the survey. I felt like it was, it wasn't just a survey about opinions, but it was a survey to try to persuade you of a topic or of a position.

**R:** Yeah. I agree.

**R:** [It was just a could questions.]

**R:** [But also-] yeah, and then it said 'Now that you know about blank...' when actually didn't really present any information about that.

**R:** Right.

**I:** Okay.



**R:** And so, I'm not like a person who's totally opposed to the jail, but I mean a new jail, But I feel like I- it was kind of patronizing, the survey was. And it was, you know, assuming like, 'Okay, well, you wouldn't know any...' You know, like, 'We're just going to state this, it's unsafe. And then that means that now you know it's unsafe.' You know that's just-

**R:** It's impression, it's pretty clear that-what they wanted from us.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** Mm-hmm.

**R:** There's at least two that I can think can kind of vaguely remember. And I would have to go back, I think I got it- I left it at home, because I had copied mine off after I took it just to make sure that if I read it again and see if I'd still vote and I'd still vote the same today is when I took the test, so- or took the survey.

**R:** I feel like I'm more open to voting for it now. After hearing other people's thoughts on things because I hadn't thought about things like programming or, you know, what we can offer inmates, and I hadn't really thought about those kinds of things. I think it's more important for me now than it was, more of a factor. And I think just our discussing the transparency issues, if they would come to us with transparency, and just lay it on the table, very exactly, you know, here's what we're proposing and why with good support. I think I would be a lot more open to supporting that now that I was, but I still need to have some transparency.

**R:** Yeah, and I feel like I need that too before I would make my final decision about how to vote. Like I'm kind of up in the air. [But I would...]

**R:** [Both- yeah, both-] why the old one is bad and what's our \$80 million getting us specifically that the old one doesn't.

**R:** Yeah, I mean I'm pretty convinced the old one's bad.

**R:** Sure, sure.

**R:** I think we all are, yeah.

**R:** Yeah, but is this the only other option? You know this \$80 million, is there another option, is kind of important for me to know. And how are they spending that? How necessary is that large number versus some other number? I don't know so, I think I've said that before I'm sorry.

**R:** I was going to vote yes, regardless, but like, knowing that it's failed a couple times already. I think it's like all the conversations we've had here are really, really critical to get it to actually happen and enough people to vote yes, it can happen.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** So, people don't know enough, and they need to know more.

**I:** What do you think it would take to get other people to support?

**R:** I'll get my magic fairy wand (laughter). .I don't have a miracle answer.

**I:** No.

**R:** The tooth fairy could help.

**R:** I'm sorry what?

**R:** The tooth fairy could help.

**R:** I mean, you never know. I- the amount of publicity, it would take and because we don't all sit in front of our televisions watching the six o'clock news anymore, it's really, really hard to reach all the dynamics.

**I:** Yeah.

**R:** And we have everybody who's like addicted to Facebook and TikTok to people who are still reading the New York Times, all day on Sunday because that's their favorite thing. I mean, the whole gamut and I don't-I don't have a miracle. I'm not-I'm not the best one. I haven't done studies on that, so yeah.

**R:** I just think a different approach other than, 'Okay, we have this idea for this \$80 million facility and how can we persuade you to vote for that' versus more of a collaborative effort. Like, how did-how did they come up with that? Who came up with that? I guess.

**I:** Who came up with the-the number or-?

**R:** [The 100- what was it \$160 for two? Something like that?]

**R:** [Well, the whole plan.] Yeah, the whole plan. It seems to me, maybe I'm wrong because I don't know, but it seems really top down, instead of like getting some community input and...

**R:** Have they publicly released like the actual proposal?

**I:** Yeah, so if you look at the Board of Supervisors, August meeting notes, they Shive Hattery, and another firm presented their cost estimate [essentially for the facility so it's....] **R:** [Yeah.]

**R:** [Yeah, like their bids, yeah.]

**R:** Some of those websites are not very user friendly.

**I:** Oh, that's good to know.

**R:** So having been a public educator, some of those websites really suck.

**I:** Okay. Like the county websites are hard to...

**R:** It's hard to find the things and it's hard to interact with them sometimes and things are not labeled like really clear. They're labeled with weird coding that I don't know, like I don't know what to look for. And so sometimes things need to be designed so they're more pedestrian user friendly.

**I:** Okay. Yeah, okay.

**R:** Yeah, another thing I heard, we haven't talked about here, but I heard in the news or somewhere is that they want to have like 12 to 15 acres. I don't know if that's correct or not and that they buy this in Iowa City and I just if that's true, I wondered is that much land-

**R:** I thought they already had the land.

**R:** I don't know. I wonder if that much is really necessary, and yeah.

**R:** I don't know the location of where they're supposed to be.

**R:** I think they said they don't know yet. [yet...]

**R:** I thought they already had the land.

**R:** Or they're keeping it secret because, you know, they're negotiating. I don't know

**R:** Maybe I found out some way I wasn't supposed to find out. (laughter) [Oops.]

**R:** The idea was supposed to be south of town. Wherever it is, it'd be important to me that there'd [be hourly bus service.]

**R:** I was going to say that too. There has to be bus service to it.

**R:** A lot, I mean that way people can visit the inmates and that way the inmates also can have work release during the day.

**R:** Right. Or people can volunteer there or people who work there might want to take the bus to their job, you know.

**R:** So hourly bus service would be important to me, including on Saturdays.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** I guess it was \$106 million for a joint. \$106 million for a joint.

**I:** Oh, okay.

**R:** Not that that makes a whole lot of difference.

**R:** Well, there's a big difference between \$80 million and \$106 million. I'll take the difference. (laughter)

**R:** Well, you know, the funny thing is, and if you're-if you're kind of short-sighted, you would say that I want to build my own facility over here because I didn't get the right number of votes over here. But now wait, if we do this together, I've got this pot of \$10 million that I can use for something else. I could use that for all these programs.

**R:** You also put all your eggs in one basket.

**R:** Exactly.

**R:** There's some risks associated.

**R:** Well, with law enforcement centers, yeah, because...

**R:** And also, with construction of the project. I mean, I don't necessarily want to get into the debate about that. (laughs)

**R:** I think a lot of people would do... I mean, people I know who are opposed to this, their argument is always, 'Well, what else- what better could we do with that money? Or could we spend half as much money and then spend the rest of the money on something else?' You know, that's a bigger priority to them.

**R:** I think if you, if somebody saw a video, like a real video of how bad it is in the current one, and you had some deputy saying, 'Hey, I was trying to save an inmate's life and I cut myself on this old piping.'

**R:** Yeah, it's rusty.

**R:** And you got people saying, you know, 'My lungs are all fuck-' excuse the language, 'My lungs are all messed up, you know, from the mold.' [I think that would definitely kind of] convince people, it's like, 'Okay, we just need a new one.' [Like it's...it's a crisis.]

**R:** [Well, I think they found asbestos and stuff too.]

**R:** [And show this bad pipe, wherever it is too.] **I:** All right. So those are all the questions that I had for this evening. What questions or comments do you have that you didn't get a chance to say earlier?

**R:** I don't know. I think it was a very good conversation that if nothing else, us walking out of here, we still probably had a lot of questions, but we're probably a lot more informed over all of the whole thing of what information we know at this point.

**I:** From each other.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** Right.

**I:** Yeah.

**R:** And then there's all the information we don't know that we need to be shown before we can make a decision.

**I:** Right. And I think your feedback is helpful so that they- the Board of Supervisors can use this to inform people, in a way that you need to be informed to make a decision on how you want to vote. So, I'm going to stop the recording.

**[End of focus group.]**

### Community Perspectives on the Johnson County Sheriff's Office and Jail

#### Focus Group Transcript: Group 3

NOTES:

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**Interviewer:** This first question, I am just going to start here and go around the room. So, I just want you guys to think about if you were at the voting booth today, what one issue about the sheriff's office and jail, if they were to do a referendum, what's the biggest factor in how you would vote for or against that referendum?

**Respondent:** Biggest?

**I:** Yeah

**R:** Cost just bubbles up to the top for me.

**I:** Okay, all right.

**R:** Can you elaborate the biggest factor?

**I:** Just what [comes at the top of your mind?]

**R:** [What are we thinking of when voting on that?]

**I:** Yep, like if you went into the voting booth and you saw that on your ballot, what would pop into your mind?

**I:** I'm immediately thinking of ICE, and ICE detention, because I know Lynn County has been holding, I think, 30 to 40 ICE prisoners for, well, prisoners for ICE because ICE doesn't have detention areas in the area. So that's just what I'm thinking of immediately because I know it's happening in Linn County. I don't know what the county's position is on that, but.

**I:** Okay. [Respondent], do you want to go?

**R:** Um, I think part of it would depend, I think, on how the question was worded when I went in, but I know the biggest issues on my mind when I think of, like, needing to replace a jail are the conditions for the inmates and the staff. Is it safe for them? Is it, if there's, like, issues with mold or something, is it harming everyone who's in that building just by being there?

**I:** Okay, Alright. [Respondent]?

**R:** I've done some reading just the last few days about the recent split between the two, the county and the city. So, my main issue would be coordination of efforts between county and the city. How coordinated are they? How willing are they to work out some-some, probably small details, which are- which seem big, but how coordinated are they and how willing are they to work with one another?

**I:** And by the split, you're talking about the county's decision not to also pursue a joint facility with the Iowa City Police Department?

**R:** [Right.]

**I:** [Is that, okay.]

**R:** They both kind of parted on not so equal terms as I-as I read it, which was a newspaper article, I guess, and one of the county people, they just walked out of the meeting.

**I:** Oh, okay.

**R:** And that's what I was going to do the paperwork with.

**I:** Okay. And just so everybody's on the same page, the county did provide us some information. They did pass a resolution that they are only going to pursue planning for and building a jail for the county sheriff's office and jail facility. So, the Iowa City Police Department would not be part of that facility.

**R:** Okay.

**I:** That's, we have a little fact sheet here that's listed on the fact sheet.

**R:** Is that the final word?

**I:** That's the final word. Yeah. And [Interviewer 2] has a copy of the resolution, if anybody's interested afterward, but we probably won't spend time like talking, asking questions about that necessarily. Like if it comes up organically, that's fine. Like what, so. [Respondent] is that how you say your name?

**R:** Yeah [Respondent],

**I:** [Respondent]

**R:** So, I agree with [Respondent]. I think employees and whoever's housed in there, are there for many, many hours in a day. So those conditions are important to me. I see it says, there's failing HVAC. I've had somebody going there before and said that he spent the night, and it was very cold. So. There will be.

**I:** Yeah. For the inmates.

**R:** Yeah.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** But also, employees.

**I:** Okay. And [Respondent], how about you?

**R:** I would say the condition as well. I think that's very important, and also probable cause. Making sure that no one isn't wasting time and like the gentleman [respondent] said, money and you know, costs.

**I:** Okay. Okay. Thank you for your thoughts on that. So, for the remainder of the focus group, I'm just going to ask questions. We won't go around the table like that. Anybody can just jump in and then feel free to, like, respond to other people's questions. I'll just kind of keep an eye on the time and like kind of help facilitate the discussion as needed.

**I:** So, everybody has a handout here of the concerning issues that the board of supervisor's kind of presented in the survey that you took. I'm going to read this list of concerning issues that were identified and just want you to think about which was the most concerning to you. So, the first identified issue is that the building is currently deteriorating. Second, due to overcrowding, the county currently pays to jail inmates outside of the county. Three, the building currently lacks space for inmates to receive services and participate in programming. The next one, the jail does not meet accessibility guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The conditions of the jail are unsafe for staff and the conditions of the jail are unsafe for the inmates.

**I:** So just from that list, go ahead

**R:** That we find unsafe?

**I:** So, I think it's a global word for unsafe. It could be physical safety, emotional safety, just think of it in the broadest sense.

**R:** Could-can you also tell us- I'm sorry I missed it. Who made this list? Who was this written by?

**I:** So, this is the list of concerning issues that was developed by the board of supervisors and their criminal justice coordinating committee.

**R:** Iowa City?

**I:** Johnson County.

**R:** Johnson County?

**I:** Yeah, the county.

**R:** You know, look at this list. It's- if you ask me to prioritize these one through six of them here. They're all ones. I mean, it's just very- there's no doubt we need a new facility. It's surprising that there haven't been more lawsuits. I'm not sure if there have been but, for safety and ADA.

**I:** [No, I am not aware of.]

**R:** The ADA one sticks out to me as a huge issue.

**I:** And why is that, per se?

**R:** That's just a basic violation of human rights, I think, in this country. ADA is so standard. I mean, I- just, my mom works in that field. So, I've had a lot of development with it growing up. And I have also had a lot of friends who rely on that for just existing in the world. Yeah, that's why.

**R:** I think also that might be the easiest way to open up the county to lawsuits. Because it not being ADA compliant is probably one of the easiest things to prove in court, and it's a violation of federal law. So, that could end up costing the county a lot of money down the road if you have more people that are being kind of denied those rights. It's why like in corporations, you know, if you are someone who needs ADA compliance going like hinting that you might if you don't get an accommodation, you might have to go to HR or get a lawsuit. The company will a lot of times try and mitigate that right away. So, the fact that the county isn't doing that is concerning just from a 'how much could this cost taxpayers' standpoint.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** The overcrowding flow- excuse me- flows over into each of these other things too. I mean, whether it's housing inmates outside the county or safety for them or the staff, it's just they're all meshed together.

**R:** Well, I was thinking of the overcrowding also looking at the capacity. It says that the new jail is planning on 140 beds to accommodate growth. And I'm curious what they think that growth is coming from, like, 'what is causing the overcrowding issue in general?' is I think also just a question I have, not that there's a good answer for it.

**I:** Yeah.

**R:** That's what I was saying about the probable cause, making sure before an inmate even enters into the prison, maybe with accommodations, the ADA, that they can solve the issue maybe at home, or, you know, not let the prisoner or the person that needs to be in jail stay too long past their right.

**[I:** Yeah.]

**R:** You know that they could add to the cost of things too. Because you're overcrowding people that may be innocent, or they don't have the issue quite solved, where they could have been solved with maybe a couple to a few officers trying to really dig into the problem for just throwing them in jail.

**I:** Okay. So, too- maybe not to oversimplify what you're saying, but make sure that who's in the jail [deserves to be in there.]

**R:** [Deserves to be there.] Yeah.

**I:** Okay. And not putting people in there that don't deserve to be in there.

**R:** Yes. Because that can cause an overcrowd-overcrowded situation as well.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** Would that be determined by documents?

**R:** Yeah, like safe access. Sure. Like safe access someone has with special needs. Yeah. They commit a crime. They can say, "well, this person needs to be in a psych ward" maybe, versus jail because they don't mentally- they don't have the capacity of really determining that stance if they really harm someone or did a terrible act or something, because they have a mental or a special needs situation going on.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** That should happen judicially I'm thinking, by others above saying yes or no, this person deserves to spend time in the facility, or they're put in just overnight or something, that also has parameters around how long they can stay.

**R:** Because that can get a lot of information too, by that person spending the night maybe in jail where they can- the officers or whoever put them in there can gather information on this person to see if that's where they need to be.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** And I noticed some one of the concerning issues here is that the current building lacks space for inmates to receive services. And so I'm wondering then if the new building being bigger would allow for potentially better evaluation services on the part of the jail, because they are the ones who see the people there a lot more, and they just- if they're able to have better evaluation services, whether that's more room to have psych evaluations for the inmates or something like that, that could also be beneficial and helping make sure people are in the right place, there for the right amount of time, because it could also, I mean, even just with the judicial system maybe help things move along [more quickly] if the staff at the jail is able to properly evaluate the inmates and pass that information along.

**R:** [Oh, yeah.]

**I:** Okay. [Respondent]? Sorry.

**R:** Picking up from that so it's a slightly different area. I did see that average population is 86 and they want 140 beds for the next 20 years. But I think I wonder sometimes they want extra beds because you can house inmates from elsewhere and make a lot of money. That's one way to have some revenue come in, because now if they're paying to house our people elsewhere, make some money back.

**I:** Oh? Okay.

**R:** I mean I don't know if that's an underlying strategy or not.

**I:** It's an interest thought.

**R:** Looking at these numbers here, seem to add up.

**I:** So (laughs) in a way.

**R:** How we know in 20 years what the population is going to be.



**R:** Yeah.

**R:** Yeah. On that like they're focusing on the beds in the capacity on the new proposed location, but that doesn't really talk about information for, like, other services that would help people who are there overnight who don't really need to be there- to help, including the space to get them the services they need. The ADA accountability that increases the size- that doesn't really involve the number of beds. So, I'm really curious why they just keep why that's like the one number the 140 beds compared to the 65. I'm really just wondering why that's the [number that they choose to advertise.]

**R:** [Yea if you were to do other stuff] and make it a leaner operation. This is a lot of it.

**R:** Yeah.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** I just moved to this area in 2016, so these previous bond issues were before my time. I don't have any history or any information on that. I guess I'm just surprised that it's been that long that there wasn't- I don't know you folks that have lived here. Does that ring any bells for you about? I know we've changed sheriffs, I'm sure.

**R:** It's been happening for years, because the building is currently deteriorating. The current building has been deteriorating. You've heard that in the last at least 10 to 5- maybe 20 years. I don't know what, you guys know more about it because you got documents in your head, but it's been deteriorating for a long time and nothing's [been-nothing's happened except] for the coordination of the community facilities that are keeping people in poverty-jail, before they enter jail. So that's a good thing, I think.

**R:** [Can I ask-?]

**R:** Can I assume that the sheriff's department is having to use multiple facilities now for-for their other operations, that this would bring things together? I'm just assuming this is so outdated that they probably have, I don't know what, but at different locations.

**R:** What does that say in the seeking service section their current diversion efforts underway? Is that kind of what you're talking about?

**R:** I was just thinking more of the of the day-to-day operations that the sheriff's department has to have, whether it's whether it's vehicles or equipment or whatever that that's probably happening, and that there's expenditures out there too that you just have some efficiencies when you're able to bring things together. I don't know that for a fact, but I assume that.

**I:** [ I think you're on the right track, but I don't say.]

**R:** The diversion process- the diversion process is what I was talking about.

**R:** [Yeah, keep people out of. Yeah.]

**R:** Which means they don't recommend the jail. It's a good thing.

**R:** So maybe I've been living under a rock for the last 20 years (laughter) but, am I the only one who doesn't know much about this jail? Because I've asked a few people and they're like, you never hear in the news. I mean, I understand sometimes why you don't want to draw attention to yourself but that rectangle, that cube, whatever that space over there, it's like almost like a mystery to me. And so, these bond issues, I don't recall anything about that. If you ask me what's in the news of the capacity, I had to look that up. I don't know anything about that. I don't know if other people have been so aware or keeping up with that with the news and latest developments.

**R:** I have not heard anything about it prior to this summer, really. and that was the survey. And I think I don't know I heard one or two other things about it in the city or county when they're having discussions. but prior to that, nothing.

**R:** I believe I recall seeing, maybe the sheriff taking a walking tour through the building? Did I see something about that on TV, I believe? Just pointing out, you know, cracks and mold and things like that. So- and that was that was probably sometime this summer, I believe. That- I think was when they were still having the facility talks with the city, so prior to that time.

**I:** Okay. So, it sounds like all of these concerns seem to be equally important to most people. Some stand out. Are there other issues that aren't on this list that the board of supervisors should consider maybe talking about more with the public?

**R:** If I were to read this. I would have some questions. The ADA not meeting ADA guidance? That's pretty specific. The others: unsafe for staff. What does that mean? Unsafe for inmates. What does that mean? Who's saying that? Where's that coming from? Is that from a group like us, a focus group? Is that from the building inspectors? Is that from other people that know about the inmates? There's a lot of questions and it's not it- a- it's not a, an incorrect statement but it's- it's- it's needed that- more information is needed to [understand.]

**R:** [Specifics.]

**R:** Yeah, the specifics and I think all of these- I've been in the community for a long time. All of these were well known years ago. It's still here. We're still here. Somebody's hired you guys to do a focus group. What's going on? You know, why is that? Why is this so difficult for people to understand? Why is it so difficult for the county to make the public aware of these things? If nobody knows- it's been in the paper. It's been in the news, and it's not just a few years ago. This is 10, 15, 20 years ago. I think. And I'd like to get some information from you guys at some point about whether or not that's the case, because I think I think this has been a hot issue, on the hot plate for a long time.

**I:** Yeah so, they've had [failed referendums] since 2012 and 2013 and so part of the survey and focus group is to gather information so that they can ensure that this referendum that they're planning doesn't fail essentially. So, they have an agenda.

**R:** [When was the first one?]

**R:** So, if there were specifics on them- here are some, here are some specific instances that occurred that-that inmates were injured or harmed. Here are specifics for when staff- there were difficulties that with staff, or staffing difficulties as far as that goes. So, specifics to get people more interested.

**R:** Statistics. What are the statistics of each category, so people have a sort of base. I've been in Johnson County Jail. I've been in Linn. I've been in Marengo and I've been in Washington. Not that I'm a bad person, but association. And do people- individuals go to jail for luxury? Like you have that question too. Like, you- I understand the ADA but are we speaking. Yes, we want people to still have moral situations where they will be accommodated in a healthy way. Like asbestos. I think is called asbestos. You know I've been to people who go to the jail, and they have a big sign, "beware of asbestos," and people have rats, and these jails have these things. So, not only for the inmates but that would be unsafe for the sheriff. The sheriffs too, you know, because they're- they're going and breathing this stuff in, and they go home to their families and their health is declining because of certain issues of old buildings- mold, things like that. So, you have to look at that. We want people to stay out of jail but are people really mentally stable to know okay if I go to jail I-there this is not a luxury for me.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** I think also I'm- I'd be curious to know what the county is planning to do to make the average voter aware of this. So, for example, if it hadn't been for the survey I wouldn't know and if you just put it on the ballot, a lot of people won't do research, don't do research beforehand. They don't even know these resolutions are on the ballot until it's on there and they have the ballot. So, what are they doing to like let people know of these issues and you can do you there's a lot of ways you could approach that. They could focus on how much money is the county losing every year paying to ship these inmates out of county and how much have they paid in the last 10 years in total. And to compare that to the cost of a new jail. You could also talk about for people on both sides of the political spectrum depending on who they are more in support of how it's unsafe for both the staff and the inmates and give specific instances. Talk about asbestos and how that can harm people. Talk about how long-term exposure to mold can affect [your brain] like, stuff like that. If they if they can find a way to get that out to the public, I think that's going to go a long way towards helping that resolution pass because most people are going to know all of this and all they might see when they get to that resolution is that price tag. And that might be a deterrent for a lot of people if they don't know everything behind it.

**R:** [Oh, yeah.]

**I:** I think your point segues into two different topics I want to ask about so messaging- I do want to ask you all about that a bit later on. But you also mentioned the cost. So, the cost of the sheriff's office and jail was a common theme that people-other people mentioned in the survey as being an area where they wanted more information the current proposed cost is 80 million dollars. How do you feel about the proposed cost just hearing those numbers?

**R:** I know nothing about what you're saying. 80 million doesn't mean anything to me except when you say 'here's what that covers' you say that, staff and- that doesn't say anything about what programs that's covering what-what [services that's covering] I mean lots of other things you could spell, out you could delineate what's- that- what's a part of that 80 million. 80 million is a big figure. 80 million would put us all under (laughter). I mean, we need to know more about the 80 million.

**R:** [So, true.]

**R:** Alongside a comparison to what it would cost to keep the current, or [update the current facilities] in some way, so then you've got some kind of basis for comparison rather than just the raw numbers, if you will.

**R:** [That's GOOD. That's awesome, yeah.]

**R:** [Yeah, yeah] like she was saying tell the people about what's causing us to send inmates not only that what's causing us to keep these things to maintain the [old equipment]. Probably cost us way more it would cost us to apply a new-new jail 12 years ago 13 years ago.

**R:** [Yeah.]

**R:** [Yeah]

**I:** Okay.

**R:** I also want to know, that 80 million, how much is that per taxpayer. That was something I thought was nice with this last year's, the water resolution. They were like, "per year it's going to cost each taxpayer-" was like a dollar or something. That's a lot more digestible for people than 80 million, especially because I'm looking at 80 million- I'm like, that's the minimum cost. This is a government thing, it's going to be more than that, so that's why I think having that, like, and also 80 million is just such a big number for a lot of people to process that I do think if I could see like either a breakdown of how much the different stuff is going to cost, or be like "it's going to cost approximately this

much per taxpayer per year” instead of being like “it’s going to cost the county as much as like”..... no, it’s going to cost you individually- it’ll cost you this much.

**R:** Good thought.

**I:** So, to build on that, so what information would you all need to feel confident that the facility is worth the price?

**R:** I want more information about I- keep focusing on the beds number, because that’s like, what they’re advertising. The first thing here is like, 140 beds. I don’t- I don’t care about beds. I want to- because the issues are talking about the conditions and adding services and making ADA compliance which increases, yes, the space and the cost, that makes sense. But 80 million dollars just increase- add 60 beds doesn’t make sense to me. I want to know more about specifics of what, like, what ADA combinations are they going to add what facilities are they going to add that might improve the quality of life being makes there. I want like, what other facilities are-are, is that money going towards what other space is that [money going towards.] Yeah that-that’s help that’s helping the inmates whether they’re there for a night or-or multiple nights, you’re helping them get back but get out quicker.

**R:** [Rehabilitation.]

**I:** Okay.

**R:** I heard that the 80 million I thought part of it will also be the location of it. For the cheaper land. Where it is now, that’s probably prime property, and is there some politics behind ‘let’s get out of there, this land is valuable over here’? I mean, I don’t know. I’m just thinking. And also, because the police, city council, and what reforms Johnson County, what are their politics and what’s at stake here for each of them? Because I would say police does not want to join up with Johnson County. Right? that my understanding understand they want their own separate facility so why is that, is it-yeah politics.

**R:** What’s come on- what’s come onto the table the last 10 to 15 years since they first started talking about the joint facility. We are talking about a joint facility it’s always been at the table until now, I think.

**R:** That’s a great question. Why separate Iowa City County from the sheriff department?

**R:** You know I’ve got the same issue (laughter) I-I because-because there was a discussion going on, it was going to be possibly joint, and then, NO. And that just threw up flags for me, I guess. I know this is an area that, okay, the county supervisors have said no. I would really like to [see more information] about why it’s a no, I and I would really need to feel-to see that answered- have an answer for that before I was in checking a box on a ballot someplace. I, that’s-that’s significant I mean. Yeah.

**R:** [WHY?]

**R:** We have we have a very-very strong-willed council, which is good, for us, I think. But some of those strong wills also have short fuses, and that goes for us and the county people too. And when I read this thing about somebody in the county walking out of the meeting, it’s like, he said “I’m done.” That’s not good. I don’t think that’s-that’s not the spirit of working together. Whatever you’re talking about. Yes. You just can’t be that bad. And that’s why I said my first statement about coordination. You got to work together on this. It shouldn’t- it’s not rocket science and there shouldn’t be- you were talking about both sides of the political spectrum that’s-that’s a hot issue right now, and things are up. But it’s not- we’re not talking about housing black people, white people, orange people. People live on this side of the river people live on the other side. We’re talking about, how do we take care of people that need to be jailed in our county, and it shouldn’t be a political spectrum. It should be more of an open community type effort, and I don’t- I see it maybe-maybe that’s what’s divided us or something. The county, I know the city worked with the-the the diversion programs more, GuideLink? Guidelink. More than the county, I guess. That’s my uneducated opinion, but

that's a good thing that the city is working with the diversion, but the county can do that too. I mean, they can all work together. We can all find common ground you know we don't need to separate ourselves.

**I:** Okay

**R:** I guess I want to know more- so they- I find it interesting that they have the conditions of the jail are unsafe for staff and unsafe for inmates, it's two separate points. So, I want to know, are the safety risks faced by the staff versus inmates, are they different? Because they have some of the stuff in this in the fact sheet under safety services programs, that seems to be stuff that affects both. But the fact that they are separated makes me wonder if there's other safety concerns that led the county to separating out those two issues. And then also I think the thing I think would I want to know the most before I checked yes on something is how much is it going to cost me. Not how much is it going to cost the county, how much will it be costing ME. And knowing how some of my family members are, I think that would probably be one of the biggest things for them is how much will it cost them individually.

**I:** So, we talked about information that you would all need to make the facility worth the price. What about features, benefits or other aspects of the facility. What-what would you-what information about those things would you need for it to justify the cost? So, think in terms of features benefits or other aspects.

**R:** I mean, I want to- I want to know, like, are they hiring more social workers to help people get out faster, is there going to be like any outdoor space for people who might be there-held there long term? Like, more specifics about like, are they going to be- is some of this money going to working towards like, the diversion programs? Are they just going to be throwing everyone in the now bigger jail? More specifics of like-like outside of the bed capacity, like what else are they adding that-that would make that money worth it.

**I:** Okay.

**I:** Yeah. I'd like to know the specifics of what type of services they're looking at. Are they adding more mental health professionals to help make sure their evaluations, maybe a better clinic or care facility on site for inmates who are injured? Also, like things like, what type of meeting spaces will there be for- will there be for inmates to be able to talk to their lawyers in a space that is secure. And depending on what they're meeting their lawyers for and how long, that might be not super uncomfortable for everyone involved. That would negatively impact what's likely an important meeting if they are meeting their lawyer. **I:** Okay.

**R:** Thinking also going back to the issue of finding comparatively the cost- with replacement the cost, without replacement projecting both of those out for five years here's the cost if we don't- we don't provide the folks with a new jail, the cost for five years- because there's maintenance costs again. And that's going to be in the cost of housing folks in Muscatine County and other counties. And here's the cost of if we do produce a new jail and I'm-I'm not always in favor of things just because of money, but also because of the way it's bettering our community. So, what are aspects of a new jail that could be better for all of us? Not only county staff, but community residents and people that are in the jail now, which are going to be people out of the jail in a few months so how is it going to benefit all of us?

**R:** I think that'- that's significant because, as you were saying that I was seeing a headline that says, "Johnson County opens their new jail." And so, somebody, you know, in the next county says "wow, that's great, they've got a new jail." But how-how does the out of the-the people in the county feel about that? What's-what's positive about that here, other than just a shiny new building, if you will. Right?

**R:** Right, a new building- an 80 million building- a new jail. Or, is it considered something about benefiting the community

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** And kind of tying that to what we're just talking about with what services we'd like more information on, what are they providing to inmates to help- is it recidivism? Is that the word you brought up?

[I: Mmm-hmm.]

**R:** -to help lower that? Which with, if people are less likely once they get out to recommit crimes, that's going to lessen the burden on the taxpayers both in terms of having to like post in terms of having them in the jail as well as any associated, like, state-covered legal fees or something. So what are they- maybe, what services are they doing to help de-like lower the risks of recidivism amongst their inmates.

**R:** I don't care about the beds. I want to-care of- I care about how the 80 million dollars is going to make- help the community help people stay out of jail.

**I:** Okay, you guys talked a little bit about different ways to present the costs so that people understand- there were talks about showing comparisons, there were talks about, you know, breakdown, as 'what it's going to cost to me, the individual.' Any other thoughts on that?

**R:** Delineating all those costs. Yeah, I'm sure somebody, somewhere, has a delineation of all the costs which add up to 80 million. What is that delineation? What are the things that are important for us to know? And I think it's important- we've already talked about a few of these- maybe there's some other specifics which you can also have delineated. I think it's-it's important that you talk about- that you bring up key issues. ADA non-compliance, that's a big one. That needs to be delineated. Asbestos. We know more about asbestos. I mean that's-that's a big one too. Everybody knows about asbestos, and what asbestos does. And we- we're afraid of that, so that's like- that could be a key to- to selling the jail.

**R:** And making sure that structure, you know, that-that that's the point of the outline of housing these people. If you have a infrastructure that's built on leaking water and sewer pipes and HVAC problems, you have nowhere to put the people. I mean, regardless of the cost. The cost is the key factor- one of the key factors- but if people don't... don't comply to the law, they do have to go to jail, like, because that's just the law of the land. You don't obey the law, you have to have a facility, or somewhere to put these people unless they just stay out of jail. So, this is a good key point to have a solid infrastructure to house these people and make sure that the staff and the inmates are definitely secure on quality of air, and things like that. That's important, because of these people that really are committing crimes, it's not only going to cost money, it's costing family members. Losing their dads and moms and kids and lives and souls too. So, it's not necessarily the money people have to pay for these funerals- they have to pay for people's bad choices in life. So that that's a-a very good idea to make sure that the infrastructure of the building is safe, and I think that's why they brought that up, because it's deteriorating. And if you have a deteriorating building, there is no way for- we're not talking about people that shouldn't go the people that should be housed, they do still have to have some nice space to facilitate the-the criminals.

**R:** I mentioned this before, but seeing just how much it's going to cost each individual taxpayer, especially in that resolution wording, would be very very nice. But also, I mean, if you're doing a full cost breakdown of where this 80 million- what's going into this 80 million? Having a separate list of 'this is how much it would cost to replace all these things to fix the current jail'.

**R:** Yes.

**R:** Maybe not now, but in the future. Because if it's deteriorating, you will reach a point where you either have to fix or replace all of that stuff or you're going to have to condemn the building and build a new one anyway.

[R: Exactly.]

**R:** So, I think being like, "listen this might seem like more upfront, but to fix everything in the new building, it's going to cost us more money" or you're- it's just going to be patchwork, and it's just going to keep kicking the can down the road until we will be forced to make a new building. But at that point, if we wait till that point, it might be even higher not just because time has gone on but because at that we would have to then move all the inmates somewhere else for like a year or so while we build the new building because the old one is condemned and they can't be housed there at that point **R:** Exactly. **R:** And that's exactly- that's great, because I- what I wrote down was 'shelf life.' When we buy things, they have a, you know, "best if sold" by or "best if used by," and our current facility is apparently past that point. And I'm not sure how you bring that home in a, to people asking to spend a lot of money to replace it but-but that's a fact that it's' it's past its usable life.

**R:** Mmm-hmm.

**R:** Yeah. then you go back to- to-, well, any marketing program. You got features and benefits. Yeah. What's the feature, and what's the benefit, and who does it benefit? And so, I mean, that is part of that communication program that's got to go out there.

**I:** Okay, yeah.

**R:** Just a side point- it says, 'number of beds,' is that the long-term people? Because I know they house people overnight, ten people to a big space, also. So, I don't know if that's accounted for in here somewhere? And we're talking about mold- whenever I drive by the facility, all these years, I'm like "I think that building has mold in it." just means, of that I know nothing else. But when I drive by a building and it looks very questionable quality, yeah. That's- if I know nothing else that much, I can tell you is like my impression driving by it and then of course what's going on in there. Like, because we don't really hear much about it, right?

**I:** Yeah.

**R:** Pictures are going to be important. If you're trying if-if the [goal is to say] this building has these defects, then [pictures] and that's what sticks with people.

**R:** [Make a point.]

**R:** [Worth a thousand words.]

**R:** Yeah, I think on the other hand, if somebody delineates the words and spells it out, people are going to people can dissect pictures. They can say, "oh, that's okay that people don't have contact in the jail system. We don't need them. We're doing okay." People that HAVE been there will say, "well, that's not- that didn't look too bad". "That looks bad. I'm an engineer, that looks horrible." I don't know that that might be- I don't know. That might-that might lead to people saying-throwing questions up. I'm not sure.

**R:** You- at the risk of showing my age, more than it's obvious- about 20 years ago I was part of a-was on a church group, and we were hoping to build a new addition. And we're trying to sell that need to the congregation. And we were fascinated by the fact that people are as-as informed as they choose to be. They- you have to get it out in front of them over and over in more than [one way] and it was just fascinating to see how some people would just- they chose not to be informed.

**R:** [Yeah, yeah.]

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** Yeah.

**I:** I want to segue into a discussion about programs and services. So, having space for programs and services was important, we've all mentioned that briefly here. I just want to dive a little bit deeper. Why do you all think this was an important issue for residents?

**R:** Because it can make the community safer. If people are getting the proper treatment- like, especially if there's like, a mental health component to why they committed that crime, if they're getting proper treatment for that, or at least getting the tools they need to be able to handle it themselves, that decreases the chance of them repeating the action, which can help make the community safer for everyone. And it's just, I mean from what I understand, the goal of jail is not just to punish, it's also meant to rehabilitate. And you see this a lot more- I know the prisons are with more, or you have more longer-term inmates, but even when you have these shorter-term inmates having those services, I think that you have to have that in- hand in hand with the idea of punishing them. Because otherwise you do just increase the risk of them becoming repeat offenders. That's why I think those services are important.

**R:** I think of- I have a question about definition. What services, what-what programming, what are they trying to accomplish with these?

**I:** Okay.

**R:** Again, blanket terms that really don't- everybody has a different perception in their head of what these mean.

**I:** Yeah, and I can't answer that but that would be a good question.

**R:** The 80 million, does that include diversion programs like we're talking about? Does that include services that are meant to rehabilitate, so to speak? Is that- what do people need for rehabilitation? Some-some people consider that to be important, I do, but is that part of that 80 million? Probably not, I would say. There's probably other programs, you know, all the all the-the diversion programs here part of that 80 million? Probably not. I would say I don't know, I guess.

**I:** Yeah. So, I guess my lead question, I probably glossed over, the word but is specifically having space for [programs, services]. But thinking about this, what programs and services do you all think are critical when considering the space in a sheriff's office and jail?

**R:** [Physical space, physical structures?]

**R:** Like, addiction help services. I have a family member who has been to jail- not this one down here, but on more than one occasions due to multiple DUIs. And he'd get off drinking while he was there, and then get kind of right back on it, because they didn't- it was just, he didn't have access to alcohol while he was there. There was nothing to really help him continue that or learn how to manage that. So, I think in general addiction issues, because I imagine a lot of the shorter-term ones, you probably see there are people that have some form of addiction, even if it's just them being drunk and disorderly and they don't know how to manage their alcohol. Things where it's like, just to deal with addiction or substance abuse in general. Mental health stuff to help with whatever might be going on, just, access to a counselor while they are there.

**R:** Yeah. To go off of [respondent]'s point, you mentioned, like longer-term facilities where rehabilitation is more, like, commonly becoming a thing. But I think it matters even more in these short-term facilities, like, people who are going for multiple DUIs, people who are there for petty theft because they are stealing food or whatever, having like- yeah, mental health counselors-counselors. Addiction counselors. People to organize like in like in group- if you're there for multiple days, in-group like AA or NA meetings, that sort of thing. Something like social workers if people are struggling with food insecurities. Maybe that-they can help them while they're in there to familiarize them with what resources exist outside of there. Like, people who are there to both help while you're in jail with addiction with



whatever problems you may face in your life and then guide you to where you can continue getting help and the services that exist outside of jail for you. To prevent people from being repeat offenders.

**R:** Are jails-the jail building itself. The jail facility itself. Are they a typical location for diversion services? I-I don't know.

**R:** I think diversion typically happens away from the jail. So, we're talking about something that's like, you're gang and DUI, you're going to get arrested for that. But you still should have- if it's, if it's your second third DUI you still need support for that. You still need help of how to manage your alcoholism or addiction to whatever substance, and then someone to guide you of how you can continue getting help outside.

**R:** I guess that was my-my thought was I mean is-are we trying to mix two things here I know

**R:** I think-I think they're both components, they're both components.

**R:** But with the jail building?

**R:** The jail building is- well, it depends on our definition. Because it's not just a jail building, it's also a number of other services which, preventative and diversionary, I think that's all part of the jail. Are we just spitting out people spend 13 days in jail? Or the 30 days without any- any chance of rehabilitation? Or are we educating our people that might need education on a voluntary or mandatory basis, are we educating those people? Giving them what they need so they won't re-re

**R:** Reoffend?

**R:** Reoffend. Yeah, thank you

**R:** I think of I think of rehabilitation as a spectrum, where a lot of that spectrum does exist outside the jail. You have- let's say you have 16-year-olds, who get arrested for stealing from Walmart or whatever, that is a situation where if it's determined that, oh, a social worker would be better deal in this case, maybe they're dealing with food insecurity at home. Maybe they can get moved temporarily to a foster home, or some kind of adoption home in the area, just temporarily. If they're dealing with home issues, that is the case where that can be dealt with entirely outside of jail. If you have someone who's committing multiple DUIs, I agree that there's a period of time where they should be put in jail for that, but then they're not on the extreme end of the spectrum. They still need help to- when they get out, to not reoffend. And I believe that's part of the spectrum that exists inside this jail building but....

**R:** Really? Okay that surprises me.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** I think yeah part of it is also, it can be- when you are in jail, it can be hard- if- it can be a little bit more difficult to see those different services if you need to leave the jail, because then they have to organize transport all of this stuff. But if those services are offered in the same building, it's probably going to be able to be easier to be able to set it up so these- the inmates can actually take advantage of those services if it's in the same building. Because then you're just moving them basically from one room to another instead of having to move them to a different location where that involves, like, transport and everything like that.

**R:** Okay and-and most of those- are most of the diversion programs, most? The majority, maybe? Are they county services or [city services?] That is where I am kind of....

**R:** [City, city services]

**R:** I believe they're city services. Well, most of the ones that we know of here in Iowa City.

**R:** I would say some of them- like, just- they talk about diversion here on the last page, and some of them are just generally referring to like, healthcare or mental health providers, so in that case I think it's more like, a general, like, "oh, this person doesn't belong in jail, they need to be- go to psych ward, or go to the hospital for x number of reasons." I think that's- more of the medical side can be outside of- yeah, can be more county-based. But I- yeah. I think most of th-the social worker, that sort of... is probably, of course, more city-focused.

**R:** The transportation issue is huge, you know. It-it takes time, it takes people, yeah. So that, I mean, that's a big deal.

**R:** How much of that is going to be provided within the facility? How many people is it going to take to-to allow these people to split off and go to an AA course? Yeah. That might be more-more personnel. There's a lot of questions, that somebody would have to answer. But-but we-we have ideas from our point of view. But I'd want to know what that 80 million includes.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** Yeah, and does it bring in-would it add the space, again, to bring in some of these services that-that may be a significant issue for people walking into the ballot, with a ballot in their hand. Very significant.

**R:** In the space of people that have not had the significant amount of- maybe three OWIs, or four or five, versus someone who stole from Walmart. Two totally different categories. So, you go with someone that has a minor misdemeanor goes in with somebody that's gonna have several offenses, and they are assaulted. Now their level of their-the held two different type of category of people in the same space as well. So now you got more costs, because, you know, you take time away from someone else that may need attention in a prison or jail, they have to go assist someone who didn't necessarily have to go through that situation because of the-the same inmates being in the same space inside of the-the jail as well. So, there's just a lot of factors to that too, when it comes to rehabilitating individuals, too.

[**R:** That's a good point.]

**R:** And having that space to accommodate those two different type of categories who held the same space in one.

[**R:** Yeah.]

**R:** They put a misdemeanor crime person in with the more offensive inmate, and that's... should be a facility issue too.

**I:** Thoughts? [A lot of nods]

**R:** [I think that's] a good point, especially if... I'm not sure if the county jail also holds people that are awaiting trial? I know that that's the case in some counties and everything, because it's easier, but like, in that situation you might have someone who is- didn't commit the crime they've been accused of but can't get it out on bail being held with someone who... like- being held in the same space with someone who may have been brought in for like an assault misdemeanor that could cause issues as well.

**R:** [Exactly.]

**R:** So, I think a larger facility how they're looking at maybe how one of the ways they're looking at [breaking up inmates is] kind of is there enough space to make sure- to kind of do- take the steps you need to try and ensure that the people being held there are safe.

**R:** [That is spacious]

**I:** So, you are- you are talking a lot about conditions then [for... inmates]

**R:** [the space for the-the the inmates and the-the sheriff department for social, kind of, events and things that can be kind of a social event.]

**R:** Would you like- if you're voting on this would you like more detail on like, if they'll have like [multiple rooms] Yeah like multiple social spaces, if they'll be- okay splitting up people in separate blocks, okay.

**R:** [For spaces, because she mentioned spaces. Yeah.]

**R:** How many people will be held in each room as well?

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** And would they separate based on offense? Or the-the crime they've committed? Like, it wouldn't be somebody who raped somebody- they should not go into the same space of someone who stole a sock from Walmart. It's just... but that's what that that's what happens because you have, sometimes, a holding space for everyone, no matter what crime you've committed. All of you all in one space until you can get your room or get situated, as well.

**I:** Okay. Thinking about those conditions....

**R:** I have one question right now.

**I:** Go ahead.

**R:** Why haven't we received that information? That would be... important information. But there's either a political, or some reason they don't want to scare us. They don't want to let the information out to us, or maybe because they just don't know we need that information to educate ourselves, so that we can vote, with knowledge, not just.....

**I:** What conditions, if any, about inmate conditions would influence you to change the way you would vote about this referendum?

**R:** Like, what information could they provide to me about the new location?

**I:** Yeah.

**R:** These- kind of what- I'm sorry, I forgot your name. But what you're talking about, right? Like, how many rooms would there be? How- will there be x number of social spaces per number of inmates they're planning? Will they have, like, how many- how- the rooms, if they speak to their lawyer, if they're doing visitation if they're there for a longer period of time. Is that going to be broken up, or is that going to be like one long large area? Because I'm sure some people are having very emotional conversations, and they might prefer if they're, like, in a secluded area versus being helped in one large space. So, more of a breakdown, like what their plans are for-structuring this kind of-the room space but also like the social spaces, or the spaces where they're going through counseling or seeing family members or seeing their lawyers.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** And determining if they need more than one person in the room to speak to. You know, usually they have that, but yeah. To someone who might not have a great attitude about life, because some people are snappy and they just, you know. Depending on their background, do they have handcuffs ready on the table you know in the space (laughs) to protect themselves and things.

**I:** Yeah, okay.

**R:** Would this 80 million- I mean, does it come with some sort of detailed plan, then? About functional spaces and all of that? Because obviously, we're not talking about luxury and a lot of space. But functional. Each square footage, functional. How much is that costing?

**I:** Okay.

**R:** So, I think data, numbers, are always useful for people. Because that's not based on emotion, "oh we want them all to have all this space."

**I:** Yeah.

**R:** And I think also just looking at the issues they're having with the current building... what steps are they going to take to try and prevent that from happening again? What type of ventilation system are they going to have to make sure the air quality stays good, or to help decrease humidity in the facility to prevent the re- like, the mold of- right, like, coming, like, reappearing. What are they going to- what steps are they going to take to make sure pest control is under control, to test air quality, things just to make sure- it's you're not going to end up in a situation where five years down the line you're-you're starting- you're seeing the exact same issues that the current facility is having.

**I:** So, I-keeping an eye on the clock, because we still have some questions to get through, you guys have mostly been talking about conditions for inmates. Maybe think conversely now about conditions for staff. Because a lot of people said this was an important issue for them. What, if anything, about conditions for staffing would you need to know, that would influence the way you would vote?

**R:** Are they mentally stable?

**I:** Okay.

**R:** What's their background? You know- are they capable? Because some people have degrees, but they have mental issues- they go to work that way. So doing background checks on the people that's taking care of the inmates as well.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** A little different take on it is, if you had a new facility, I'm sure you could attract more people. Maybe better people, too.

**R:** Hmm!

**R:** Maybe security measures. Just to- like- what type of security measures will be in place? Not just to keep the staff safe, but to make sure that they feel safe, so they're less likely to react negatively if something happens, because they will trust that there are good security measures in place, decreasing the chances of them hurting an inmate accidentally or something, because they panicked. But like in general security measures, that the facility will have. Yeah. To keep the staff safe and also keep inmates safe from each other because you don't want- if staff- because the staff could also get injured if they have to intervene in an issue.

**R:** I guess, what's the current staff to inmate ratio? And how is that going to compare? What's our goal? How will that alleviate problems? I'm sure the higher the staff to inmate ratios- I shouldn't say sure, but more... less likely to be problem, then.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** How much would staff increase and why, or why not? Maybe-maybe it'll be easier to control or to separate, [to operate] yeah. Might be that- it'll come down, because they won't need as many. I don't know.

**R:** [To operate. Okay.]

**R:** If the new facility is-is-

**R:** Secure.

**R:** -the arrangements are better, it's, the design is better, you might need fewer staff. Also, if you if you've got- it don't make a difference what kind of... I'll call it a business, unfortunately, because it is but if-if you go into a business and- and the people are happy, they want they operate better. And so we're talking then about the staff having good working conditions, and hopefully that then moves over to the inmates, and their and their treatment is better, or certainly different, in there. Yeah. **I:** So, taking a leap maybe in what you're saying, but a good physical environment is going to convey a good cultural environment as well?

**R:** I mean, when you go into work every day, you have to have an attitude. And hopefully, it's a positive attitude, because you're going into a positive environment. So that, I think, that- that's a plus, yeah.

**R:** I mean, I can say right now, if I had to work in these conditions at the top of the current jail, I'm going to be way more irritable. Way more short-tempered with things. And you put in a nicer building, you're going to be- it's going to just improve the staff's overall wellbeing, which can have big positive consequences for everyone involved.

**R:** Yeah.

**I:** So, I want to make sure we talk about messaging, because I feel like you all have really great ideas, and you're bringing a lot to the table. What do you all think are the best ways or methods to reach and educate the public about the plan to construct the building?

**R:** Reach, as in like where should they advertise? Or reach as in like, inform people about it, in general? Or, both?

**I:** All of it. (Laughs.) I've heard that-

[**R:** At the college.]

**I:** -they've not done a great job lately.

**R:** Since we are talking about voting, they are probably talking about- how do they inform.

**R:** And I think a lot of agencies support this on TV. And I don't have, I mean, I have a physical TV I've not been watching for 20 years. So, if there is somebody like me, you have to find other methods than to come on TV.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** I know the resolution I voted on last year, the biggest thing- the two biggest things that helped is, one, there was a very short snappy sign that was on my walk that I passed every day that gave the basics, and then B, when it got a bit closer to the election, they sent a very- it was a one page like, mail flyer thing, that just had the key points, where you could get the information. It was very clear. You could tell kind of they were more leaning towards voting yes on it, but they sent that out with some basic facts, and then where you could find more information. Because you don't want to overwhelm people, but you still want to find a way to catch their attention. So, I think sending that out to all mail- all everyone that is registered to vote can help. Because, I mean, like, you got the survey, so you don't you don't really watch your TV, but you got the survey. Which means maybe a flyer would help someone like you learn about this and become more informed.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** You know, the mail, it comes every day. I don't know about the rest of you (laughter) Yes-yes. And most of it doesn't even get opened. You know, it's another request for money or whatever it might be.

**R:** I-I read all my mail but....

**R:** That's why you don't make it so they have to open something. Just have it be like, yeah, one of the flyers so you have- to throw it away, you still have to look at it. And then that's where you have it, it's right there. Not in any envelope or anything.

**R:** Does it say book mail?

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** See, and I'm thinking that, as I'm driving through downtown, I have to stop at a traffic light. And if there were something there that gave me three bullet points, I'm- I'm I'm a captive audience for that 43 seconds before the light changes again. And if that happens, the repetition there, over and over- tomorrow, there's different bullet points. And you say wait a minute. That's different than it was two days ago. So I think, I don't know where you put those things but....

**R:** Yeah, like those that's kind of a dimension of my walk. It wasn't like, on a traffic light, but it was on the side of the road. I just saw it all the time. So, I think putting those out there- and I do think it wouldn't hurt to go on to like, the local news stations. Because there are still people who watch those and everything. So, I think it's just, you have to tackle it in a bunch of different ways. I don't know how many people follow their social media but putting stuff out on their social media.

**R:** And you have to try other methods, because everybody tunes themselves to different things.

**R:** Okay.

**R:** And most people are too busy. They've got kids, jobs, and you know. This is not that type of thing. So, you're never going to reach a lot of people.

**R:** But it is when you when you talk about things like, people bettering their lives. People staying away from asbestos. People complying with the ADA.

[**R:** Right.]

**R:** There's-there's some things that would highlight this, and it would in-influence me to read more. So, we're talking about social media. I lost it for you. I've just been retired for less than 10 years, but I've lost everything, in terms of my touch of the pulse different mediums. I'm just way behind the times, I know, because I don't keep up with all these social medias. But that's-that's important that you hit all those. So you can so you can hit a variety of people the variety of needs and tastes.

**R:** Inside city buses.

**R:** That's great.

**R:** And free, free.

**R:** And making sure, kind of, where you put it that like, if it's something that's just out, keep it short and sweet, and tell people where to keep information. Because if it's too much text, most people aren't going to read it. And unfortunately, a lot of people don't care unless it affects them. So, a lot of people aren't probably going to want to go more in depth. So, keeping the key points short and sweet and looking at it from- unfortunately, looking at it from a marketing standpoint. What's most likely to attract the vote? What's most likely to convince the voters of Johnson County to vote the way we want them to vote?

**I:** You recalled a specific campaign that you heard about. Any others that people have heard about that kind of influenced them to make a decision?

**R:** I kept hanging up, so. Yeah.

**I:** I was persistent with you.

**R:** That's great. And- which is good, but I think- yeah. As far as social media, because it's far more vast, people are on their social media that a lot of people old school still watch the news. So, it's like sending the link out.

**[R:** Old school!]

**R:** Yes! you know, they will catch that news, you know, they go on their phones. And they see news breaks and things like that, so having a little link for people sharing, you know.

**R:** Most of my local- I'm definitely on the younger side, but most of my local news comes from either Instagram- I follow the city and the county- or the Iowa City subreddit, or Iowa subreddit.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** And also maybe, I mean the University is right here. There's a lot of registered voters associated with the University. Maybe doing an event in conjunction with the University just to inform people. And maybe have it so there's a bit of a Q&A section or something, because that's going to make more people informed and make them just- feel more like they are part of this.

**R:** I was thinking more of a city event and then- add refreshments! People will come for food.

**I:** Okay then.

**R:** I was going to say, have they done like- open Q&As about this session? I feel like that'd be very good getting people not only informed but on board with the idea. It's like, I feel like if you inform enough people, they'll go and talk to their friends about it. Or I feel like most people talk to their family about when elections are coming up and that sort of thing. So, as long as you hit at least someone in every household-

**R:** [It will spread.]

**R:** Yeah, it spreads around then.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** Something that gets their attention again different people have different wants and needs and desires, but if you hit something it's important to each one of us, it might (snaps).

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** And also, I think there's going to have to be some level of acknowledgement that there's going to be a decent chunk of people that will get to that ballot and not have heard of this or not have looked it up. So just making sure the wording on that resolution is as good as possible. Because I also think- like, the one I mentioned from last year, that I do think that- how that resolution was worded was very helpful for their cause. For people who might not have had any idea what it was about.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** If it were to just say, "do you- do you like 80 million dollars for a new Johnson County jail, yes or no." I think people are just going to- most people are just going to look at the number and say no. Whereas if you said, "due to current overcrowding conditions on this county jail, the auditors are proposing x charge per person over-", just say like, "it'll be like x charge of tax increase per person over this period of time to build new facilities including x y z of certain number of open spaces, certain number of social spaces for a certain number of, or x number of counselors for the inmates." That sort of thing. Specifics in the statement I think would be really good for getting people to vote for it.

**R:** I wonder if having context is also important. Because something- I don't know if it was like- something I had to see a few days ago at the store. Because Iowa City wants their own one, and it's 150 million. It's what it would cost, if anybody read that.

[**R:** I did.]

**R:** That's such a huge disparity in cost. What's up with that? I did not read the details but, having context to this 80 million versus the 150.**R:** Oh. What does that include-what does that include, what services are there? We don't know.

**R:** And why it's almost double the cost?

**R:** Yeah, we have the money.

**I:** Who would you-who would Johnson County residents trust most and listen to if somebody were to tell you information about the jail?

**R:** A person or an agency?

**I:** Think broadly (laughs).

**R:** Family.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** Shelter House. Like, use things like that. The Crisis Center.

**I:** So, agencies.

**R:** Agencies, hit those. Because, you know, that's where people tend to go, you know, for services anyway. Post some things there on the bulletins, you know, they- people can come pick brochures and things like that up.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** I think if you set up a consortium, of a variety, of different agencies. That-that consortium can disseminate the information, and that consortium includes all these agencies that might interest me, and you, and you, and all of us.

**R:** Even the farmers markets. Like, those local people that still have fresh fruits and things. They want to volunteer and pass things out.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** You know, it's hard for me to think beyond Iowa City when I'm-I'm I'm trying to think county. but Iowa City is what is kind of my area.

[**R:** It's a fair chunk of Johnson County.]

**R:** So, you start thinking, 'okay, what other cities are we talking about?' Well, we're talking about Coralville and North Liberty. West Branch. Where is the county line?

**R:** Tiffin?

**R:** Cedar Rapids, maybe. Oh no, that's not Johnson County.

**R:** Solon?

**R:** Solon, yes.

**I:** There is just a little part of West Branch that's in Johnson County. So, like, Lone Tree, I think Shueyville, Solon, Tiffin, North Liberty.



**R:** Solon, yeah.

**R:** I- trying to gather all of those cities in- or those towns in, is- and you know, and- who do-who would they trust, you know? Where, how do they get their information?

**R:** They have pantries in North Liberty.

**R:** Yeah. have they have they reached out to the mayors of-of these towns, and talked to them? Be like, "it's something we're talking about," like, "do you know about it? How do you feel about it?" Have they asked those city councils, and how they're feeling about x number z problems x number z proposals, and that sort of thing. **I:** Okay.

**R:** And I mean- I do think going on those local news stations is beneficial. Because for people that do watch the news, chances are they have a favorite anchor, they have a favorite news station and they're more willing to trust them. So, hitting all three of the local- the main local ones, I mean. I'm biased, I grew up with KCRG, but like, I can think if I was still watching KCRG and they had people on talking about this, I'd be like "huh." And I'd be more willing to trust, like, kind of, them. I don't have live TV at home, so that's why I don't watch it. But if I did, that's some- a way that would have reached me. So yeah, local news stations for people that do watch it. All- hitting all three of the local ones.

**R:** And people still have radios in their car too.

**R:** Oh yeah, local radio stuff to radio stations as well.

**R:** People listen to local radio stations as well.

**R:** I think I come to that consortium with representatives from all these agencies, it would be a good thing, because then each one of them can meet people and can cater to the needs of their specific population.

**I:** Okay, all right okay we've got four minutes left.

**R:** That went fast.

**I:** It did go fast. I hope you guys are like enjoying the conversation, because you guys have very interesting things to say.

**R:** Will there be a follow-up?

**I:** What?

**R:** Would there be a follow-up?

**I:** You could reach out and ask if- there will be a report. So, kind of my last question is talking about voting preference in general. So, the way the survey was designed, if you recall, we asked, you know, if you walked into the voting booth today how do you think you would vote. Then we tried to gather information on how aware people were of general facts about the jail. And then the concerning issues were presented, that Johnson County wanted to let people know about. And then we asked people to re-vote. So, I think this group in general might have been like the more probably no, to maybe, probably yes but not really certain how-how a vote would pan out. What do you think it would take you or others to change your vote preference to a supporting vote?

**R:** I'm sorry what do we-you have the specifics of what we're voting for again?

**I:** For the referendum to...

**R:** The present referendum?

**I:** So, they are planning to write a referendum to be voted on probably the next election cycle, not this coming election cycle, right. So, between now and then, what do you think it would take you- take to get you, or maybe others you know, to support that referendum and vote yes to building a new jail and sheriff's office facility.

**R:** These things we talked about (laughter).

**I:** All of it?

**R:** Information, information, information.

**R:** Yes, yes.

**R:** Specifics.

**R:** I'm- I would specifically- as this is now, I would most certainly know- I would be most certainly be a yes, if they commit- if there's a commitment for x number of mental health counselors or x number of substance abuse counselors, or some, like, concrete plan in place to support- to prevent re-offenders, and to support people who are moving to this new jail.

**I:** Okay.

**R:** How this is going to affect my taxes. So, like, the individual cost per taxpayer, I think. Giving more- getting more details out there about how the current building is, and how much it's going to cost to keep it running, with the idea that eventually it is just going to be condemned, and we're going to have to build a new one anyway. So then, how much even- maybe, you have a breakdown of 'this is what- how much it'll cost per taxpayer for you to do the new jail-like, to build a new jail. This is how much it could cost you down the road if you don't do it.'

**I:** Okay.

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** Yeah, that's really good.

**R:** A comparison.

**R:** People- especially with the economy right now, telling people that this is the cheaper option for them?

[**R:** Yeah.]

**R:** If that's the case- if that's the case, it's going to help people.

**R:** It's already there, though. Right? The Johnson County Sheriff's Office, right? On Clinton? It's- it's already there I mean they did some rehabilitation I thought already with the new sign and things like that, but the inside.....

**R:** It's cosmetic.

**R:** Yeah.

**I:** Okay, so that's all I have for tonight. If you guys have questions or comments that you want to add that we didn't get a chance to share earlier, now's the time to do it.

**R:** Are we the only group where there are multiple other groups?

**I:** So, we have done three focus groups so far and that's-this is the last focus group.

**R:** Save the best for last! No-(laughter)

**I:** Yeah, so a group of six tonight, we had seven and four in the other groups.

**R:** I don't watch TV much- once in a while, but I do listen to the radio, Iowa Public Radio. And I listen to the local River To River or Talk of Iowa, which are hour long programs. The issue I would have with TV is you only have a few minutes to get so much information, and it's like, gone. These shows, sometimes they do have the show, and sometimes it will full hour, so I don't know if I've- they've done something, because I don't listen every night for it, but that would really- like, then, what's the name- they've been really delved into the topic. Yes. Whoever- yeah. That's the kind of thing that will appeal to me, where we delve into it for many aspects of people doing different perspectives.

**I:** Okay, yeah.

**R:** Just because I've approached them with ideas before and I think they're open to it. At least bring that discussion and see if we're spending half an hour, an hour, on this.

**R:** It-it's a tough issue but I think we need more information, and the public needs more information. That- because it's difficult on TV because- they want to- when I have concise bullet points, we don't need that we more information.

**R:** And sometimes TV shows I find even the little snippets; they have their own agenda which is what they want present. You can tell each station is their own political viewpoint.

**R:** I was more thinking with TV, you give the bullet points and then tell them where to find more information because most voters they're only going to want those bullet points unfortunately, and....

**R:** Well, yeah there's that for some people and then...

**R:** Yes, that's why having both-

**R:** Yes, having different-

**R:** Yeah.

**R:** And the wording. If you want more information visit this site, it's available. I mean, you don't- you know, you don't have to make it- put it on the TV, but people listen to this make that broad point compacted in one statement. This is our website link. Go. And they have all the information they need.

**R:** Taking 60 minutes into like, three minutes, if the three minutes is all you need.

**R:** Yes, you know you know, I just have to say I just feel like I can't really grapple, with this problem because I don't really know what's going on in there. And I think that's for a lot of people. I mean, I don't even know what the design plan of the building is- not the new one, even. What we currently have. It's just a mystery, and that's like I said, there needs to be some sunlight.

**R:** That's why you here.

**R:** Yeah, it's always been like that.

**R:** I've been there too. It's possible- it's probably out there. I bet you we find all the information we want on the county website and on the city website.

**R:** Oh yeah.

**R:** It's probably out there.

**R:** It probably is but I, like most people, have been working, doing other things, and to deal with caregiving, and yeah.

**[R: Too busy.]**

**R:** I'm too busy.

**R:** But we took time out for this.

**R:** I was thinking push-pull, too. Because, if I see something that presents me a question, “do you know-?” and I say to myself, “no, I wonder...”, And then it says, you can find out here. I-I go- I try to pull that information-

[**R:** That's what I was saying. Pull it in.]

**R:** -it was pushed out to me. I try to pull some more, and if it can figure out those things, that that would be like...

**R:** I just feel like there's 20 things that I want to pull, and there's only limited hours in a day.

**R:** Oh yeah.

**R:** I'm more of a science blah-blah person. If that's an interesting story, will I go to this city, local thing, or would I go to this like, new research? And something- and, before I sleep, I'm like “well, I'm going to go to-”, you know, “that thing that I feel-appeals to me more and speaks to me more directly.”

**R:** Bringing the public in is great. Like, what you did, like, that's what I'm saying. If you put something out there, that the- everyone was saying, like a link where people could share their ideas, what they think. Not just us, but another link. And I know someone is going to report all of what we, you know, all of this and compact it you know. Yeah.

**I:** Yeah, yes so thank you for your thoughtful responses just to give you like kind of a sense of what's....

[**End of focus group.**]

## Appendix 8. Focus Group Codes

| Title                                                     | Frequency of text applications |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Accessibility of County Website                           | 4                              |
| ADA Compliance                                            | 2                              |
| Additional Comments                                       | 17                             |
| Becoming Aware of Issue                                   | 24                             |
| Biggest Issue - Cost                                      | 20                             |
| Biggest Issue - County Involvement in ICE Detentions      | 5                              |
| Biggest Issue - Deterioration                             | 8                              |
| Biggest Issue - Inmate Safety                             | 8                              |
| Biggest Issue - Jail Age                                  | 8                              |
| Biggest Issue - Jail Size                                 | 5                              |
| Biggest Issue - Jailing Outside the County                | 2                              |
| Biggest Issue - Location                                  | 6                              |
| Biggest Issue - Program and Services                      | 8                              |
| Biggest Issue - Shared Facility (ICPD and JC)             | 6                              |
| Biggest Issue - Staff Safety                              | 8                              |
| Board of Supervisors                                      | 8                              |
| Community Organizations/Agencies                          | 13                             |
| Concerning Issues                                         | 2                              |
| Concerning Issues - ADA accessibility requirements        | 19                             |
| Concerning Issues - Building Deteriorating                | 13                             |
| Concerning Issues - Cost                                  | 17                             |
| Concerning Issues - Design                                | 25                             |
| Concerning Issues - Inmate safety                         | 21                             |
| Concerning Issues - Jailing Outside the County            | 11                             |
| Concerning Issues - Lacks space for services and programs | 15                             |
| Concerning Issues - Lawsuit Concerns                      | 6                              |
| Concerning Issues - Location                              | 11                             |
| Concerning Issues - More Info/Transparency from JC        | 33                             |
| Concerning Issues - Overcriminalization                   | 11                             |
| Concerning Issues - Overcrowding                          | 17                             |
| Concerning Issues - Shared Facility (ICPD and JC)         | 6                              |
| Concerning Issues - Staff Efficiency                      | 7                              |
| Concerning Issues - Staff Safety                          | 25                             |
| Conditions for Staff                                      | 36                             |
| Conditions for the Incarcerated                           | 14                             |
| Cost                                                      | 0                              |
| Cost Breakdowns                                           | 11                             |

|                                                                       |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Cost justification - Benefits for Community Members                   | 12 |
| Cost justification - Building Deterioration                           | 9  |
| Cost justification - Cost Comparison                                  | 23 |
| Cost justification - Design                                           | 26 |
| Cost justification - General More Details/Transparency                | 21 |
| Cost justification - Joint Facility (Plans Withdrawn)                 | 10 |
| Cost justification - Location                                         | 3  |
| Cost justification - Programs and Services                            | 34 |
| Cost justification - Staff and Inmate Safety Conditions               | 4  |
| Cost justification - Staffing Needs                                   | 3  |
| Cost justification - Stop Outsourcing                                 | 1  |
| Cost justification - Stop Overcrowding                                | 4  |
| Cost of Project/Cost to Taxpayers                                     | 8  |
| County Presentation of Cost to Public                                 | 17 |
| Critical Programs/Services to Consider                                | 40 |
| Detailed/personal contact with the community                          | 5  |
| Deterioration of the facility                                         | 10 |
| Facility Security Measures                                            | 1  |
| Family Members                                                        | 2  |
| Food/Job Insecurity Support                                           | 3  |
| Former JCCJ Inmates                                                   | 3  |
| Funding Sources for Facility                                          | 4  |
| Health Concerns                                                       | 5  |
| Health Concerns due to facility                                       | 13 |
| Highlight the community benefits                                      | 8  |
| How to get others in the community to support the plan                | 21 |
| Images of current facility                                            | 10 |
| Importance of Program/Services in Jail                                | 24 |
| Increased Space                                                       | 3  |
| Information Needed to Justify Cost                                    | 32 |
| In-person educational events/meetings about the issue                 | 21 |
| Interest in learning what Programs/Services are available             | 16 |
| Interested in Knowing More Information on Inmate Condition Priorities | 2  |
| Introductory question                                                 | 1  |
| Jail Deterioration                                                    | 10 |
| Larger Facility- Revenue Source                                       | 3  |
| Least Effective Programs/Services in Jail                             | 4  |
| Local City Officials in the County                                    | 10 |
| Local News Stations- Television/Radio                                 | 20 |
| Mailers                                                               | 8  |

|                                                       |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Mental Health Support                                 | 5  |
| Messaging                                             | 0  |
| Most Effective Messaging to Educate Community         | 56 |
| NOT Trusted Messenger                                 | 19 |
| Perception of Facility Cost                           | 25 |
| Personal Stories from Staff                           | 16 |
| Previous Campaigns/Prior County Messaging             | 21 |
| Programs/ Services                                    | 1  |
| Programs/Services Available                           | 4  |
| Recidivism Reduction Specific to Short Term Sentences | 5  |
| Separation of Types of Inmates                        | 2  |
| Sharing more information about the facility           | 32 |
| Sheriff & Department Staff                            | 11 |
| Sheriff Kunkel                                        | 19 |
| Signage in the community                              | 9  |
| Social Media                                          | 18 |
| Specific Channels of Communication                    | 40 |
| Staff input on facility                               | 2  |
| Staff Qualifications/Training                         | 2  |
| Staff safety                                          | 0  |
| Staff/Inmate Ratio                                    | 1  |
| Statistics - Cost Comparisons                         | 16 |
| Substance Abuse Support                               | 7  |
| Support Groups                                        | 1  |
| Trusted Messengers                                    | 22 |
| Vote Preference                                       | 18 |
| Wording on Ballot                                     | 5  |

## **Appendix 9. Human Subjects Research Determination**





**Office of the Vice President for  
Research**

Human Subjects Office / IRB  
University of Iowa  
600 Newton Road 105A HLHS  
Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1098  
319-335-6564 [irb@uiowa.edu](mailto:irb@uiowa.edu)  
<https://hso.research.uiowa.edu/>

March 10, 2025

TO: Cassidy Branch  
Vrsh-Ctr for Soc Sci Innovatn  
Marizen Ramirez

FROM: Catherine Woodman, MD  
IRB Chair or Chair Designee

RE: Not Human Subjects Research Determination

I have reviewed the information submitted with your project titled 202503233 Community Perspective on the Johnson County Sheriff's Office and Jail Evaluation (CSSI program evaluation and quality assurance for external client). I have determined that the project described in the application *does not* meet the regulatory definition of human subjects research and does not require review by the IRB, because it is a QI project, collecting data for improving and planning for services.

We appreciate your care in submitting this application to the IRB for review. If the parameters outlined within this Human Subjects Research application request change, re review and/or subsequent IRB review may be required.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. The Human Subjects Office can be reached via phone (319)-335-6564 or email [irb@uiowa.edu](mailto:irb@uiowa.edu).