

CJRC Survey Results

Prosecutor's Office, Public Defender's Office, and Monroe County Bar Association

Survey Parameters

Participants

- Monroe County Prosecutor's Office
- Monroe County Public Defender's Office
- Monroe County Bar Association

Guidelines

- Experience focused
- Limited mandatory questions
- Inclusion of no-opinion/don't know selection
- Anonymous
- Transparency

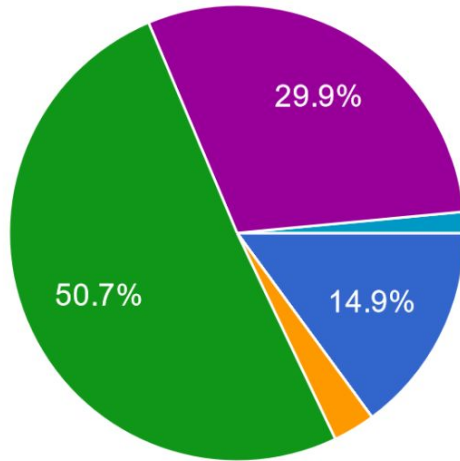
Survey Topics

- Jail
 - Jail Meeting Rooms - In Person
 - Jail Meeting Rooms - Video
 - Monroe County Jail - Capacity
- Justice Campus Design - Features
- Co-Location
 - Current Transportation Use
 - Courtroom Participation
 - Access to Courtrooms
 - Co-Location Recommendations
- Final Thoughts

Survey Results

I work:

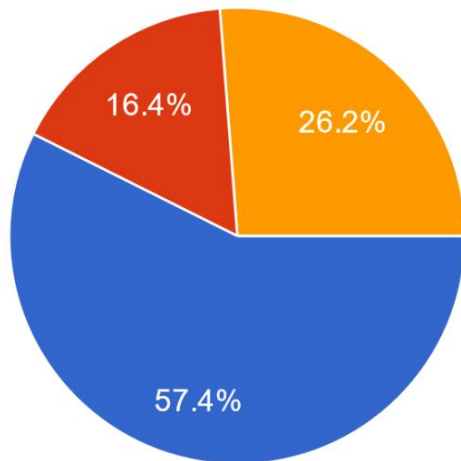
67 responses



- in private practice.
- for a college/university.
- for a non-profit organization.
- in the Monroe County Prosecutor's Office.
- in the Monroe County Public Defender's Office.
- I am retired.

I am: (If retired, please select the position you held the longest over your career.)

61 responses



- a licensed practicing attorney.
- a paralegal, investigator, or victim assistant.
- a secretary or in an administrative role.

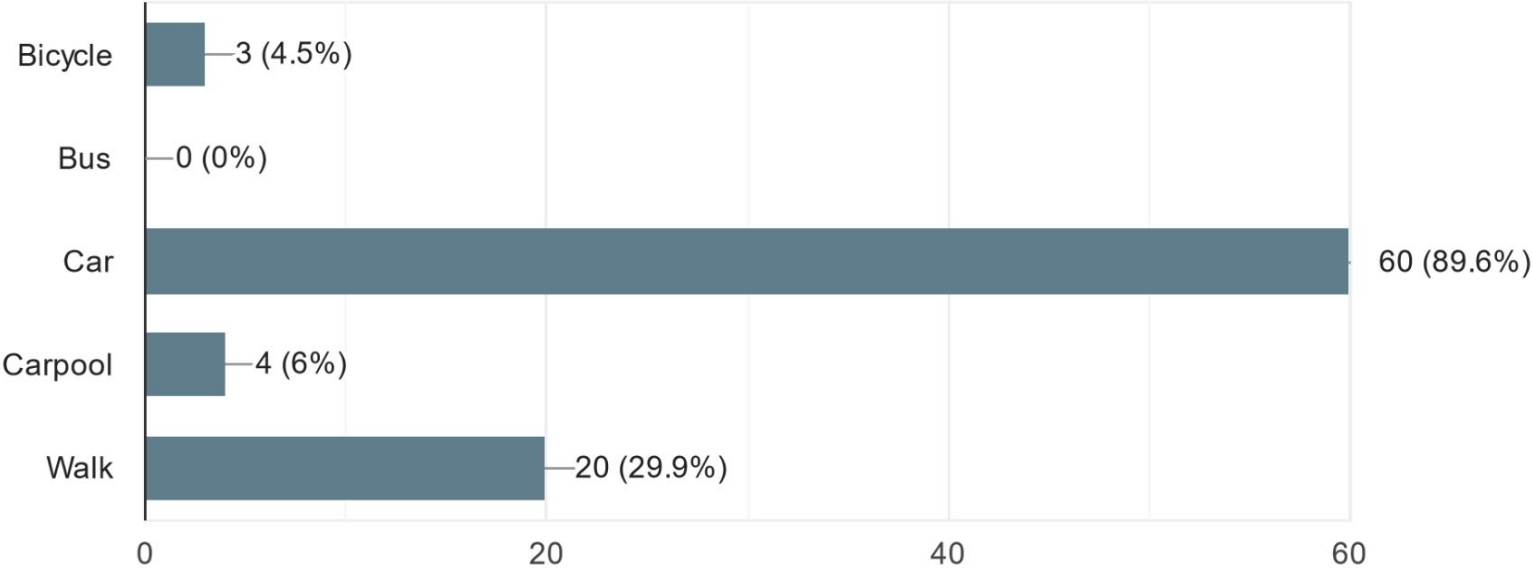
Note: 67 responses to Question 1 question (where do you work) v. 61 responses to Question 2.

Co-Location

Current Transportation Use

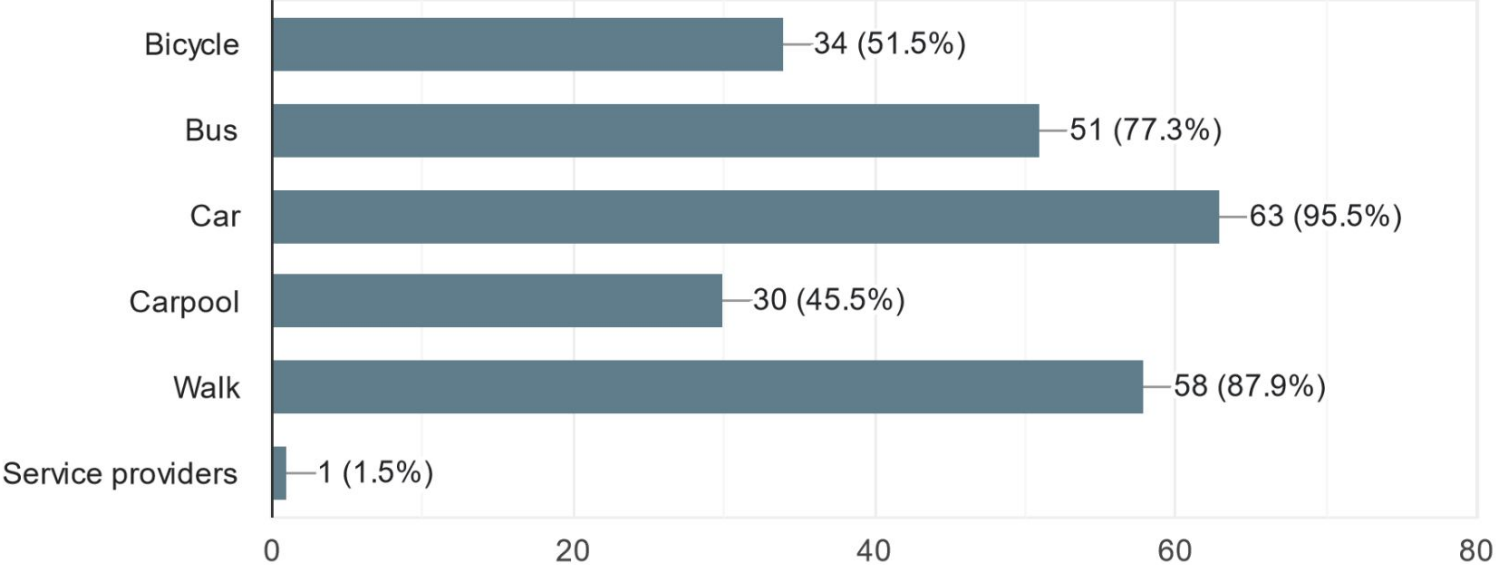
I use the following ways to travel to/from the Charlotte T. Zietlow Justice Building for work: (Please select all that apply)

67 responses



In my personal experience, people who come to the Charlotte T. Zietlow Justice Building (ex: clients, litigants, witnesses, victims, the public, et...in the following ways: (Please select all that apply)

66 responses

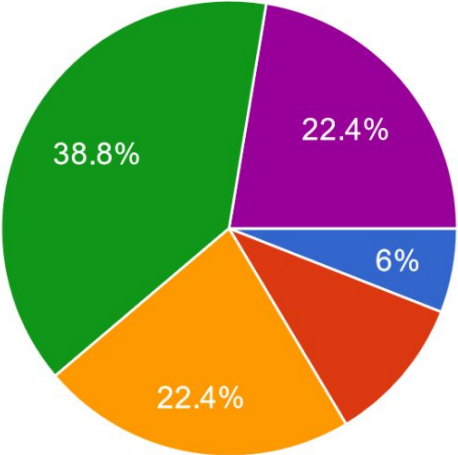


Co-Location

Courtroom Participation

How often are you required to attend court hearings, appear in court proceedings, or go to a Monroe County courtroom during the work day?

67 responses



- Never
- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Frequently
- Always

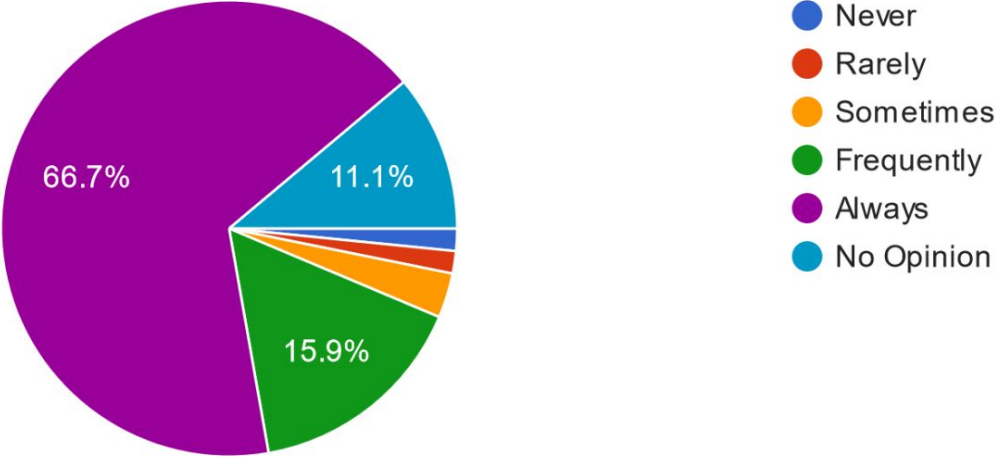
Note: If you answered no, you skipped the immediate following section of questions.

Co-Location

Access to Courtrooms

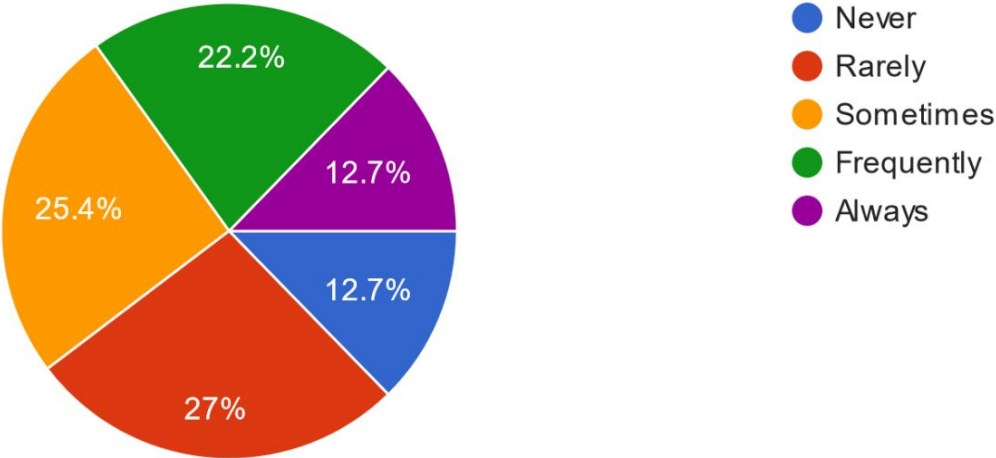
How often would you have access to reliable transportation to travel between the Charlotte T. Zietlow Justice Building and the proposed Fullerton Pike location?

63 responses



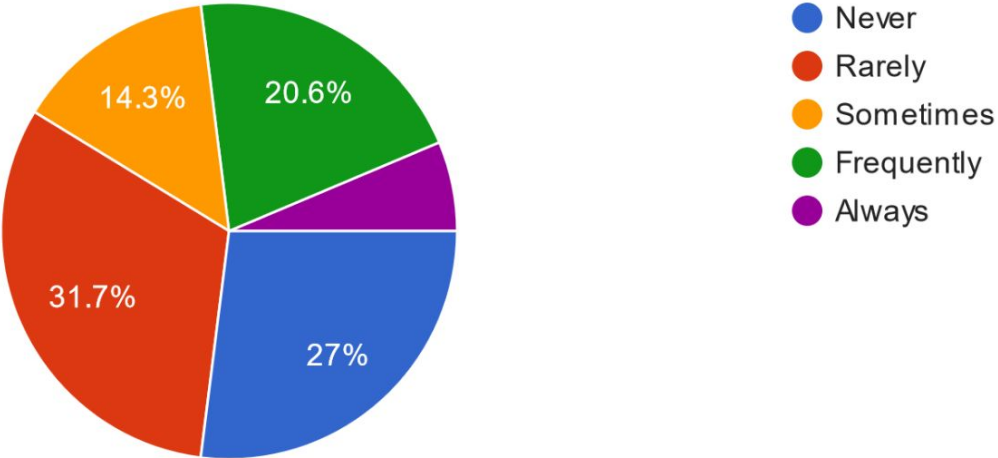
How often are you in more than one Monroe County courtroom during the day?

63 responses



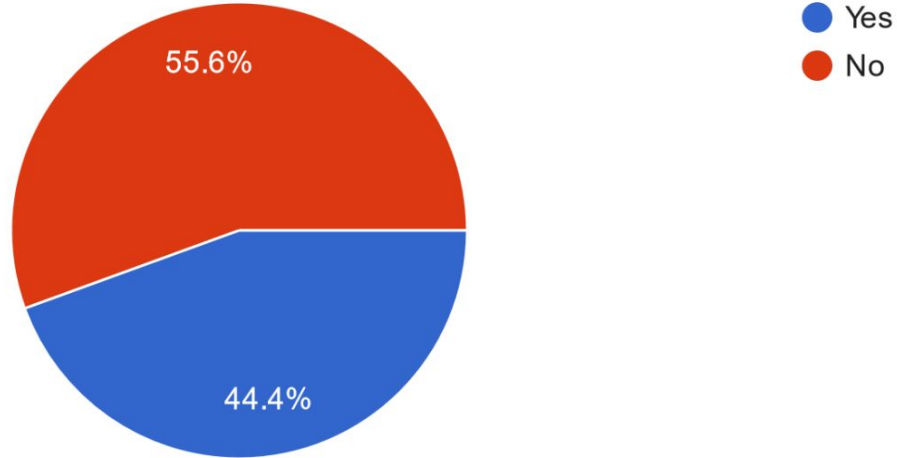
How often are you in more than two Monroe County courtrooms during the day?

63 responses



In Monroe County, have you ever attended a hearing in civil court and a hearing in criminal court on the same day?

63 responses



The Monroe County Commissioners' current plan is to initially build a jail and possibly 1 - 2 satellite courtrooms at Fullerton Pike, with all other courts/offices to remain at their current locations downtown for at least 5 - 10 years.

Considering this current plan, please share any additional recommendations regarding courtroom access or transportation. (30 responses)

Considering this current plan, please share any additional recommendations regarding courtroom access or transportation. (30 responses)

- Build it all at the same time as it will save the county money in the long run. The entire complex can be built specifically the way it needs to be instead of a justice center that has to be built a certain way, with features that everyone will have to deal with because the existing building would allow an addition done a certain way.
- The location is untenable. There is no infrastructure to support the jail facility and no safe way to travel there. The population subject to the criminal system relies on supportive services only available in Bloomington downtown proper: New Leaf New Life, Beacon, Wheeler Mission, community kitchen, all of these places are accessible on foot from current court and the current jail.

Considering this current plan, please share any additional recommendations regarding courtroom access or transportation. (CONT'D)

- (Prior comment cont'd) I do not believe it is ethically possible to relocate the jail to Fullerton Pike without major development of the proposed area and relocation of supportive services. People are released from jail without shoes in winter. Doing it on the side of a highway with the closest “public” utility being a McDonalds 2 miles away is a terrible, terrible idea.

Courts need to be where people in jail are. I am not going to allow my caged clients to be represented only as throwaway faces on video screens for the convenience of a courtroom five miles away.

Considering this current plan, please share any additional recommendations regarding courtroom access or transportation. (CONT'D)

- This is the worst possible location site. As a public defender, majority of the people I represent rely heavily on public transportation or walk. The centralized downtown location is perfect for the large indigent population I represent. It is also close to essential areas my clients frequent such as New Leaf New Life, Beacon Inc, and AA meetings
- Good plan as it is described in this question. Do not move all court rooms out there just yet. Step by step. Justice center needs to be downtown for now.
- I believe the jail, courts and offices should remain closer to downtown area. I would not split the locations, all on the same campus.

Considering this current plan, please share any additional recommendations regarding courtroom access or transportation. (CONT'D)

- I believe the Prosecutor's Office, Public Defender's Office and Criminal Courts should all move with the Jail/Sheriff's Dept due to the constant contact the offices share with the facility. It is also very helpful and beneficial that we have most of these places in one building and within walking distance of each other.
- I am worried about access to other community resources for defendants and victims of crime and their families. I am worried about the people we serve having to find transportation all over town instead of most resources being centered near downtown

Considering this current plan, please share any additional recommendations regarding courtroom access or transportation. (CONT'D)

- Leaving all court offices, especially the public defender's office, probation office and community corrections downtown will greatly hinder those who are in need or are ordered to report to them after release. This will also cause great frustration and hardship on community corrections and probation officers because currently if an individual is released from MCJ (Most who are able to walk) have the ability to walk to the buildings to report immediately. Without these offices being close to the new jail it gives offenders/individuals the opportunity to not report or can cause additional barriers for them to do so, which can result in more charges/violations being filed against them and pose a risk for community safety.

Considering this current plan, please share any additional recommendations regarding courtroom access or transportation. (CONT'D)

- 1-2 satellite courtrooms will not be enough. The jail is still going to have to incur transportation costs to and from the justice center for hearings. Jail is also going to have to be adequately staffed to transport those in custody to and from hearings, which is unlikely given current hiring needs. This would also be building a jail near a densely populated area of family homes, which seems like a poorly thought out idea.
- it would be more convenient if the jail, and all courts and offices were on the same campus

Considering this current plan, please share any additional recommendations regarding courtroom access or transportation. (CONT'D)

- It would be difficult to bring inmates from the proposed location to the justice building downtown. I see this being a lot of work, and think you need to change your plan. It just doesn't seem feasible.
- I worry having the two systems apart for 5-10 years would be detrimental to our clients. If the plan is to move to Fullerton Pike, then we need to all be moved to Fullerton Pike, but I do not see a way this will work for our severely indigent clients unless we have a daily routine service where they can request free transportation - ie Rural Transit or 4-1-1.

Considering this current plan, please share any additional recommendations regarding courtroom access or transportation. (CONT'D)

- Splitting up courtrooms seem disastrous for public defenders who are in multiple court rooms a day and have a jam packed schedule.
- That is the absolute worst idea I've ever heard. There is no possible way for me to do my job properly if some courts and jail are a 20 minute drive away. This will slow down court proceedings and the judicial process even more. The judges will be furious. Clients will be furious. Attorneys will be furious. Every day.
- Would there be any concern for individuals riding bikes/birds on 37 to get to the facility?

Considering this current plan, please share any additional recommendations regarding courtroom access or transportation. (CONT'D)

- I have seen this sort of setup work reasonably well in other cities.
- I think it is a mistake to separate the jail from the courts.
- The jail should be accessible to all courtrooms and centrally located in town.
- I do not believe a new Monroe County Jail should be constructed. Our county cannot constitutionally, ethically, and humanely operate the jail we are currently using. Building a bigger facility, further from the city will not remedy any of the problems my clients face due to their incarceration.
- BAD idea. There is plenty of space downtown.

Considering this current plan, please share any additional recommendations regarding courtroom access or transportation. (CONT'D)

- It would be ideal to keep all in one place. Staff don't have to travel between locations and it is simple for public to know where to go. But if not enough space, including parking, and or city badly needs space for other purposes, Fullerton Pike seems a decent idea.
- I think this location is too far/remote for defendants. It is also believe that this is going to transfer a criminal element to this area of town and this area will suffer as a result.

Considering this current plan, please share any additional recommendations regarding courtroom access or transportation. (CONT'D)

- Splitting everything up instead of having one campus is going to cause a lot of problems that are not being given enough weight:

(1) The criminal justice system is more than just the jail and court rooms. When a defendant is released on pretrial release or after pleading guilty, the person will need to go to the probation department for services. Similarly, when released from jail after being appointed counsel, the person is instructed to go the public defender's office and make an appoint right away. We are often dealing with folks that have transportation issues or other barriers (cognitive issues, addiction issues, etc.) that already make it difficult to get them to go from point A to point B without coming across stumbling blocks. This plan essentially spreads out these resources by putting miles in between locations and asking the person to make it happen.

Considering this current plan, please share any additional recommendations regarding courtroom access or transportation. (CONT'D)

- (Prior comment cont'd) 2.) The prosecutors and public defenders have a lot of court hearings. And when not in court, they are often getting pulled several different directions trying to get the rest of their work done. Some examples include, having to meet with victims who show up planned and impromptu (prosecutor), preparing for hearings/doing legal research (both offices), meeting with clients (public defenders), having police officers who show up to the office and need a search warrant which requires office preparation but also going to court to find a judge (prosecutor), etc. It is very inefficient for offices to not be near the actual court system. Members of the committee have cited the criminal justice study to say we aren't moving cases fast enough. We all have very high caseloads and are constantly working to stay afloat. It is literally a grind and this proposal is adding to it. Adding extra barriers like a commute between locations will only bog down the system more. For example, if I have 45 minutes between hearings, right now I would go downstairs and work in my office (where all my files, coworkers, and office resources are). But if you add a commute between the courtrooms and the office, it will make it doesn't make sense to travel back to the office where you can be the most efficient and have resources at your disposal.

Considering this current plan, please share any additional recommendations regarding courtroom access or transportation. (CONT'D)

- (Prior comment cont'd) 3.) If someone violates pretrial release, probation, day reporting, a problem solving court, etc., by being intoxicated, it creates a safety risk in having the courtrooms and jail so far away from those offices. For example, if we have someone who is a habitual drunk driver on pretrial release who tests positive for alcohol on day reporting or shows up to a probation appointment drunk. That is a violation that needs to be addressed immediately because this person has a history of choosing to drive after drinking, being a danger on the roadways, and is still drinking. Instead of walking the person up to a judge as we do now, the staff will have to figure out a way to transport the person. You can't have a person who is intoxicated drive themselves. But also it is a safety risk to have staff drive someone who might be going to jail for the violation. There are a lot of considerations like these that I'm not sure all the members of the committee are aware of.

Considering this current plan, please share any additional recommendations regarding courtroom access or transportation. (CONT'D)

- (Prior comment cont'd) 4.) If the committee is still flexible on location, I want to point out that so many of our social services are at or near downtown--Shalom Center, Middle Way House, Amethyst House, Centerstone, the REC, Indiana Recovery Alliance, etc. There is nothing near the proposed location in terms of social services.

Considering this current plan, please share any additional recommendations regarding courtroom access or transportation. (CONT'D)

- (Prior comment cont'd) 5.) I doubt this will get much consideration but there is also quality of life component for employees too. Working in the criminal justice system is stressful and burnout is common. It is hard to fill these positions. Adding additional day-to-day stressors makes the job less appealing for recruitment and retention of employees--wasting time with a commute back and forth from the jail/courtrooms to the office, there being no lunch options in the proposed location, etc.

6.) The jail may have to transport inmates to the off-sight courtrooms. That is going to put further strain on an already understaffed jail, not to mention the additional expense in transporting inmates.

Considering this current plan, please share any additional recommendations regarding courtroom access or transportation. (CONT'D)

- (Prior comment cont'd) 7.) So many people who interact with our criminal justice system--defendants, victims, families, witnesses, have major transportation issues. While I certainly respect the idea of putting a new bus line out there, it is a lot more time consuming (especially when someone is already taking time out of their day to attend court) for them to try and catch a bus out to a remote area. It's not like catching a bus downtown which is a hub that all the other bus lines connect with. Additionally, I don't know what individuals who need to use the bus after hours are supposed to do (i.e., someone who bonds out of jail).

I understand there are financial limitations in building the campus all at once. Would it be possible to leverage the current jail location (by putting it up for sale for future development) to shore up more funding to build a single campus? Splitting things up is a really bad idea and I hope the committee thinks outside of the box to not make that happen.

Considering this current plan, please share any additional recommendations regarding courtroom access or transportation. (CONT'D)

- I am strongly opposed to the location of the proposed new jail facility. Although I personally have reliable transportation that would enable me to get to and from my office and the jail, I know many members of the public, including criminal defendants, will not have a consistent, reliable method of getting to or from the jail, especially since it is so far from the downtown area of Bloomington, which is where all of the current courts are located. Additionally, the current location of the jail provides much better access to services and reliable transportation, including public transportation, as both are much more abundant in the downtown area of Bloomington.

Considering this current plan, please share any additional recommendations regarding courtroom access or transportation. (CONT'D)

- I am not sure how you can split up courtrooms without a significant impact on litigants and the Public Defender's Office. The Public Defender's Office works in multiple courtrooms including civil and criminal. This plan would require them to drive back and forth during the day, while trying to balance meeting with their clients in and out of custody. Also, we frequently have Defendants in the wrong courtroom now and we only have one location. Now we can walk them down the hall. I'm not sure how two different locations would work, especially for litigants who may not have a car.

Considering this current plan, please share any additional recommendations regarding courtroom access or transportation. (CONT'D)

- (Prior comment cont'd) I am really concerned about inmates who are released at night, especially in the winter. Will there be a year-around bus line? Some unhoused Defendants can currently walk to Shalom Center for breakfast, make it to day reporting, and attend their hearings all by walking. I worry about how this plan will affect their ability to accomplish all of this. Additionally, some individuals would prefer to walk and not take a bus, for some the bus might be triggering. If the only plan for transportation is a bus because of the distance from downtown. How will this affect those with mental health issues? One last note, sometimes Defendant turn themselves into the jail when they have a warrant, how will they accomplish this if the Fullerton Pike is so far away?

Considering this current plan, please share any additional recommendations regarding courtroom access or transportation. (CONT'D)

- We should NEVER move the main courtrooms out the the downtown area.
- This is a cluster in the making. We wait sometimes 1+ hours for inmates to travel from the jail to the rooms and that's within the same building. The logistical complications of moving inmates from across town are significant.
- I can see parking issues for staff who have offices in one place and frequently go to a courtroom in the other. I often go to to court for just one hearing or half a hour so having to travel to another building for just that half hour would take a significantly longer time than it does now while we work in the same building.

Considering this current plan, please share any additional recommendations regarding courtroom access or transportation. (CONT'D)

- This would be a logistical nightmare in more ways than I can include in this survey. - It will not be possible to have hearings by video starting in January 2023, unless all parties agree or good cause is found. I expect most/all defense attorneys will not agree to their clients appearing from the jail via video, which will require in-person hearings. There will need to be a significant number of jail staff with the sole purpose is transporting inmates to and from court each day. - It is not always known if a defendant will be jail or not when their next hearing is set. Even if the courts tried to set an "in jail" day in the satellite courtrooms, some of those defendants won't be in jail anymore and other defendants who weren't in jail previously will be. - Satellite courtrooms must be accessible to the public, so those courtrooms will require bailiffs for the general public who wish to attend. At a bare minimum, there will also need to be space for court reporters, public defenders, private attorneys, prosecutors, and probation. - When defendants are released now, they're often instructed to immediately go to Probation (to make an appointment with their probation officer, etc.), Community Corrections (to be put on home detention, etc.), or Pretrial Release. If the jail is 5 miles from downtown and no other offices move, it will be next to impossible for a defendant to make it downtown in time to follow these instructions. - The courts often need defendants brought down on short notice, which will be impossible if the jail is located 5 miles away from the courts.

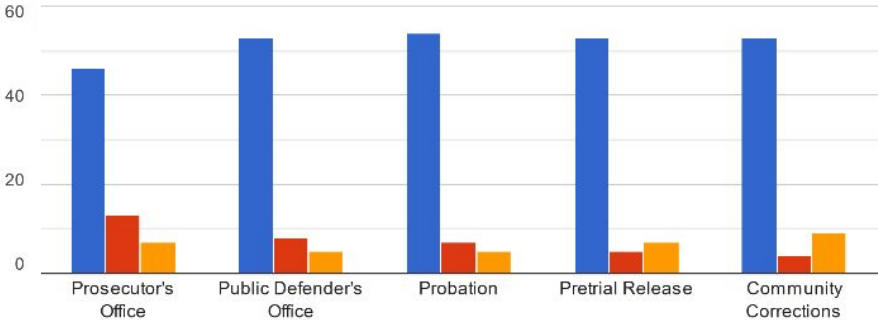
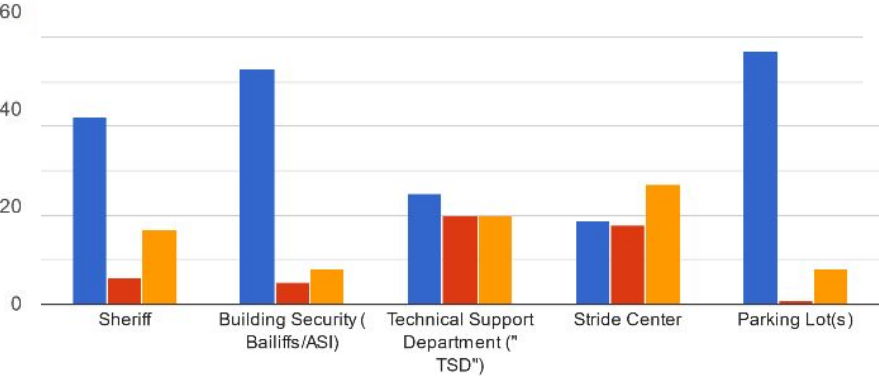
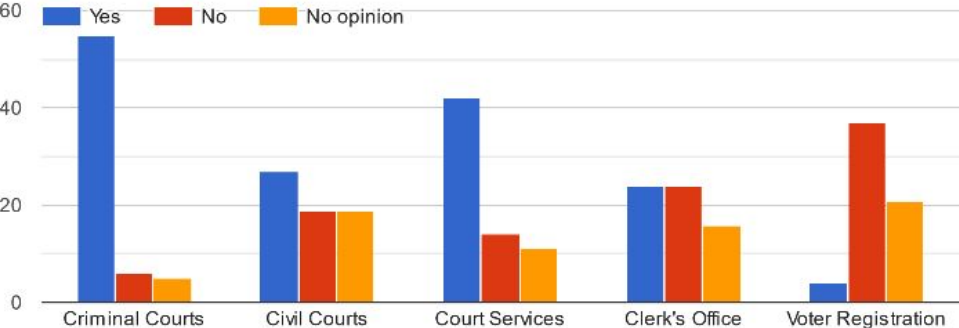
Considering this current plan, please share any additional recommendations regarding courtroom access or transportation. (CONT'D)

- It would be very impractical to have two courts operating in a separate location from the others, given the number of hearings that occur in each court and the number of times that attorneys are expected to be in multiple courts within a short timeframe. When I handled a caseload in all four courts, I once had three contested hearings all scheduled at the exact same time in three different courts. That's obviously impossible, but I made it work by running directly from one hearing to the next, which I could do because courtrooms are just down the hall from one another. It would likely be easier to have a holding area at the Justice Building for the day's in-custody litigants than to try to move only some courts for the day. Generally, there are a lot of efficiencies to be had by co-locating the entire campus, but there are many places who make it work. I'm sure that you've visited some jails in other communities that are making it work.

Co-Location

Recommendations

Should the following offices be co-located with a new Monroe County Jail?



If you think any other building/service should be co-located with a new Monroe County Jail but is not listed above, please share it here. (13 responses)

- I think it has to all be together, or structurally we need to eliminate things like daily reporting. Persons on the sex offender registry who are unhoused have to walk to the sheriffs office to register every week. Can you imagine them walking down I-69 to try to get to Fullerton Pike?

Also, the jail does not share information about pandemic conditions, inmate deaths, lockdowns, or other important news and must be monitored closely by watchdogs. The public defenders and courts have to be close to the jail or it will become a humanitarian nightmare.

If you think any other building/service should be co-located with a new Monroe County Jail but is not listed above, please share it here. (CONT'D)

- If it's at the proposed location, none of these offices should, what a hilarious waste of money that could be spent on rehabilitative programming
- Prosecutor's office should be co-located where the criminal courts are.
- Stride Center should absolutely not be included with the jail. The point of the Stride Center is to give people in crisis an alternative to jail. If you include it with the jail, you're never going to get people to accept that it is not a jail program.

If you think any other building/service should be co-located with a new Monroe County Jail but is not listed above, please share it here. (CONT'D)

- Free Transportation Shuttle 24/7
- These offices should be within walking distance of each other, not necessarily in the same building.
- I do not believe a new Monroe County Jail should be constructed.
- magistrate office only
- Bus station, homeless shelter, counseling providers, lab
- Possibly classrooms for prisoners to begin retraining for jobs

If you think any other building/service should be co-located with a new Monroe County Jail but is not listed above, please share it here. (CONT'D)

- There needs to be some kind of busing/transportation service for the clients to be able to get to any of the above if they are co-located. Many clients walk or ride a bike and some of the treatment centers are located near downtown, since Fullerton Pike is far from downtown, it would make it difficult for the clients to reach. However, I agree that we should all be co-located as everyone is already so spread out, it is confusing for clients sometimes. Also, it would be great if everyone in one department could actually be all together in a building (not spread out to two buildings because we have outgrown the space).

If you think any other building/service should be co-located with a new Monroe County Jail but is not listed above, please share it here. (CONT'D)

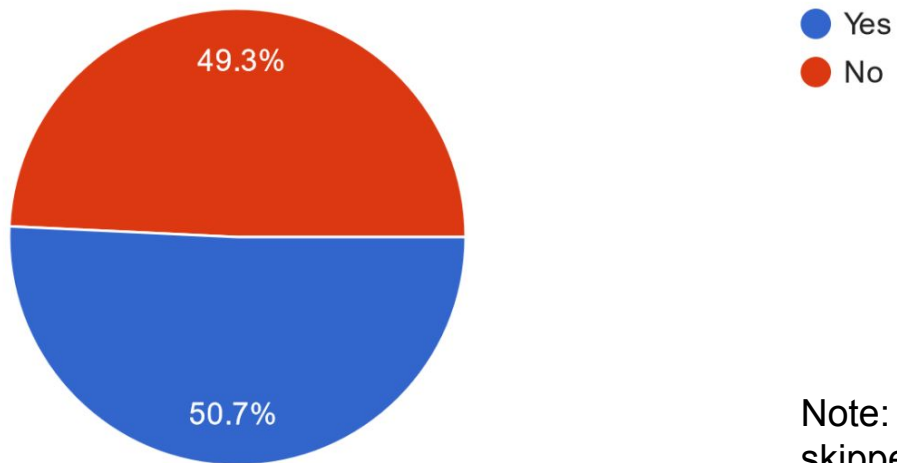
- As far as the Public Defender's Office, I think we should have office space at the new jail, but do not believe the Public Defender's office should be relocated there.
- Perhaps a place for Protective Order Project? Prosecutor has people come in a lot for that.

Jail

Meeting Rooms - In Person

Have you ever met with an inmate in the Monroe County Jail in person?

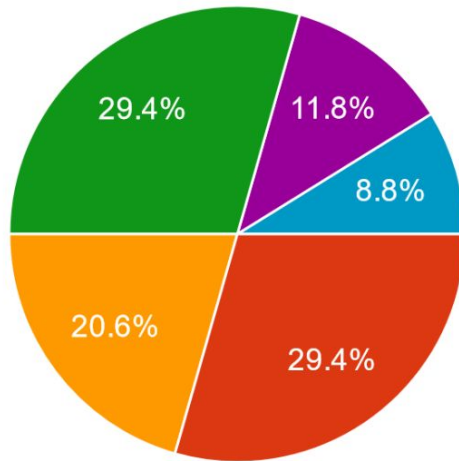
67 responses



Note: If you answered no, you skipped the immediate following section of questions.

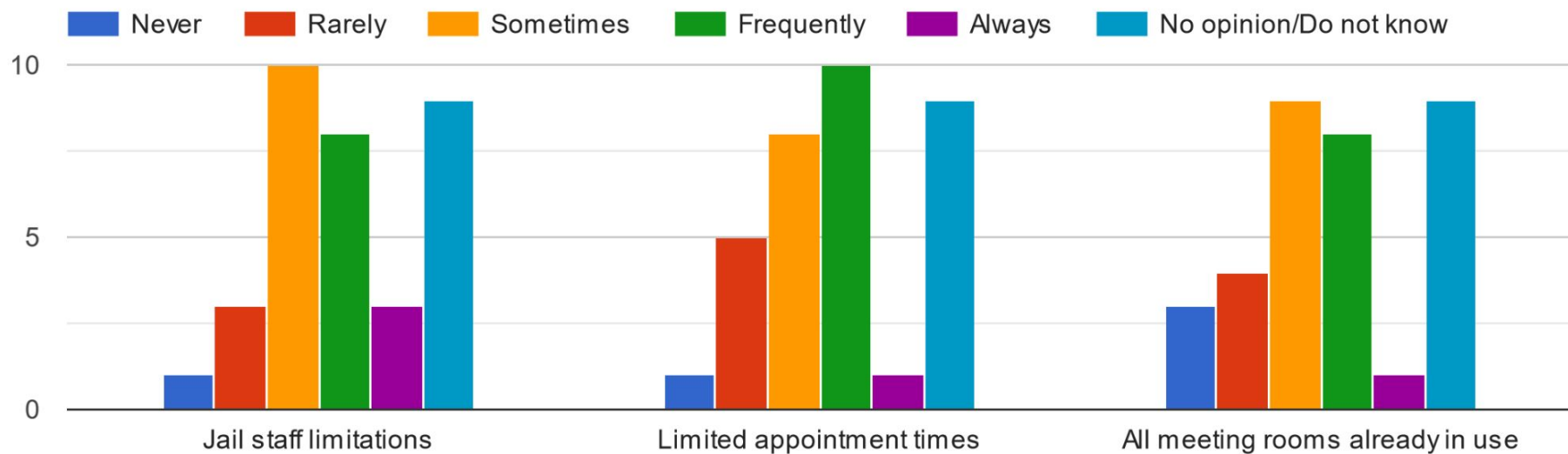
How easy was it to schedule an in person appointment with an inmate?

34 responses



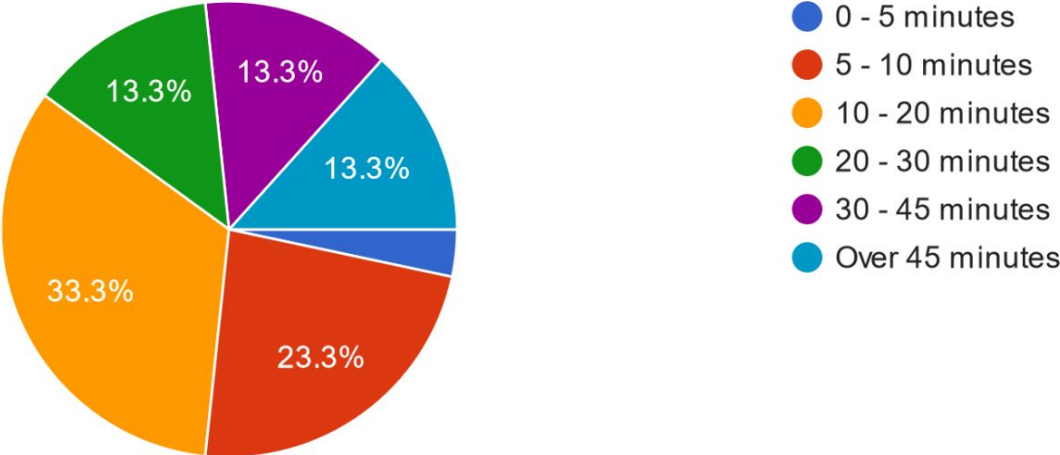
- Difficult
- Somewhat difficult
- Not easy/difficult
- Somewhat easy
- Easy
- I did not schedule the appointment(s).

How often are you delayed meeting with an inmate in person because of:



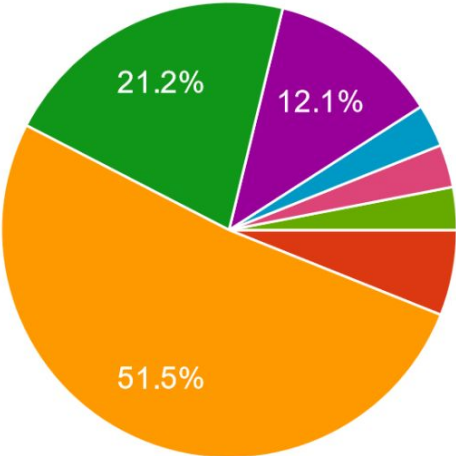
What is the longest period of time you have waited for jail staff to return to your meeting room after the hallway light has been turned on?

30 responses



How many in person meeting rooms would you recommend for a new Monroe County Jail?

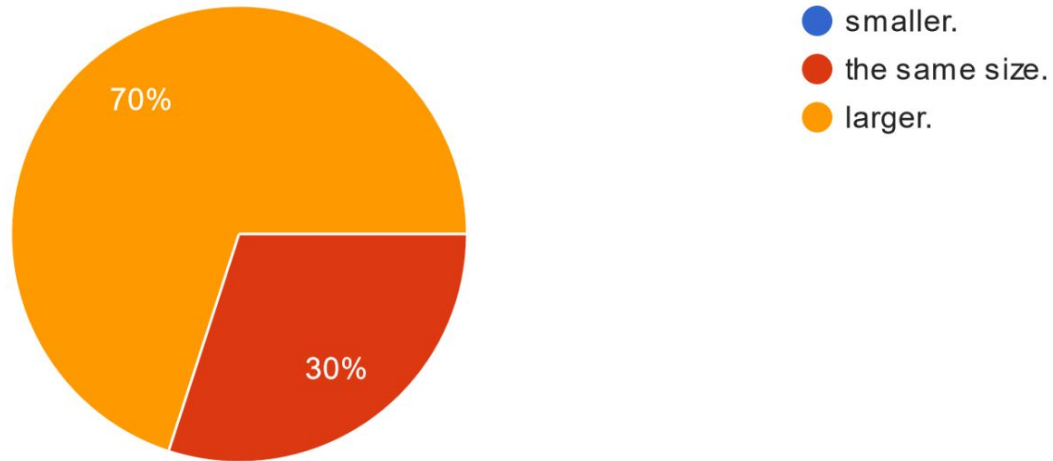
33 responses



- 1 - 2
- 3 - 4
- 5 - 6
- 7 - 8
- 9 - 10
- I do not believe a new Monroe County Jail should be constructed.
- Not qualified to answer this question.
- I'm not sure.

The in person meeting rooms in a new Monroe County Jail should be

30 responses



Please share any additional recommendations for **in person** meeting rooms/system/process in a new Monroe County Jail. (18 responses)

- The ability to have a computer, or a phone, or the internet. More privacy so persons cannot hear in the next room what is being discussed. A window. People in custody to be kept on an actual human schedule of sleep and routine so they are not exhausted at their appointments or court hearings. For the room to be cleaned at least once ever.
- In recent years jail staff has refused to unlock the door separating myself from my client. This is frustrating both because they do not trust my own assessment of safety of the situation and would just assume that my client would be violent towards me (a dehumanizing overgeneralization), and it is difficult to have clear communication or share documentation with a client with a physical barrier like that

Please share any additional recommendations for **in person** meeting rooms/system/process in a new Monroe County Jail. (CONT'D)

- Locking my client behind a door and having my client try to speak to me through a tiny hole in a window is straight up laughable. I'll sign whatever waiver I need to sign to be allowed to meet with my client in the same room like a human.
- I wish the rooms would be cleaner and larger.
- Clients should not be separated from their attorneys. Rooms should have internet access. Rooms should be clean. Rooms should have chairs. Rooms should have a way to speak to COs. Rooms should not lock in attorneys. Rooms should not be used for inmate housing.

Please share any additional recommendations for **in person** meeting rooms/system/process in a new Monroe County Jail. (CONT'D)

- Remove physical barriers between the client and the lawyer - the current plexiglass barrier prevents cohesive conversations and looking over paperwork together, besides further dehumanizing human beings.
- I do not believe a new Monroe County Jail should be constructed.
- If the new jail is on Fullerton, more meeting rooms will be required. Currently the Public Defenders can (generally) only meet with clients on Fridays when their Court Calendars allow and periodically on other days in between hearings. IF the jail is on Fullerton it will eliminate the M-T appointments, since they won't be able to walk next door, and all attorneys will only be available on Fridays. 16 Public Defenders meeting clients only on Fridays will create a need for several rooms.

Please share any additional recommendations for **in person** meeting rooms/system/process in a new Monroe County Jail. (CONT'D)

- As a prosecutor, I do not meet with inmates anywhere near frequency of public defenders or private attorneys who have high caseloads and more interactions with their clients. However, I have had to meet with pro se (unrepresented) inmates in the jail when they choose to represent themselves and not be appointed an attorney and also witnesses/victims who are incarcerated with their own charges. The pro se inmates are especially challenging cases because these individuals are likely facing serious felony charges (and often have a lot of criminal history and comfort level with the criminal justice system to want to represent themselves). For my purposes, normally these meetings with pro se inmates and incarcerated victims/witnesses involve coordinating a time for me to see the inmate in the jail's law library or a classroom, or having the jail bring the person down from the jail to the prosecutor's office, an empty courtroom, or a jury room.

Please share any additional recommendations for **in person** meeting rooms/system/process in a new Monroe County Jail. (CONT'D)

- (Prior comment cont'd) Pro se inmate meetings are especially challenging because the inmate needs to review the discovery in their case and have the opportunity to conduct discovery (like deposing witnesses), but for safety reasons we can't just give them discovery like we would an attorney. For example, I can't give an inmate a computer, discs, flash drives, etc., that will be used for discovery because it is a safety risk in the jail. So we have to schedule times for the inmates to "inspect" (go through) that with me or a member of my office. And jail staff has to be present for safety reasons, which takes them away from their other job responsibilities.

Please share any additional recommendations for **in person** meeting rooms/system/process in a new Monroe County Jail. (CONT'D)

- (Prior comment cont'd) I can't do ever inmate meeting in the jail either--for example, we are not going to have victim in a case be deposed by a pro se inmate in the jail. A victim should not have to go into the jail just to be deposed. Instead, we use conference room settings outside the jail and jail staff will have to bring the inmate. Jail staff work well with the prosecutor's office to make these arrangements, but I think the County Commissioner's should know that it puts a burden on their already short staffing. It is also not possible to always meet over video in lieu of an in person meeting. We have to do things in person and security for everyone present has to be taken into account with everything we do. This is one of the nice things about having the prosecutor's office and courtrooms in the same building as the jail. We can set up meetings in a way that is less burdensome for all the offices, victims, etc.

Please share any additional recommendations for **in person** meeting rooms/system/process in a new Monroe County Jail. (CONT'D)

- On-line scheduling would be a plus. The ability to exit the immediate in-person meeting through your own door without being locked down yourself would be VERY nice. Keeping them clean is important. They are often filthy and have human fluids (vomit, blood etc.) lingering in them, on walls etc. Being able to pass paper back and forth would be helpful. Having wi-fi to share video discovery would be great - being able to have one's phone on them would be great.
- This is not something that I do often enough to form a real basis of knowledge.

Please share any additional recommendations for **in person** meeting rooms/system/process in a new Monroe County Jail. (CONT'D)

- If possible, it would be great to upgrade the technology in the meeting rooms to show inmates videos/listen to audio. I am not sure if this creates any safety/security risks for the jail, but would ask if it could be considered. Additionally, there might be a safer room design for these meeting rooms. Currently, you and inmate both wait in hall because there is only one door into the meeting room. The inmate is locked in back of room and attorney on side closest to door. A door on both sides of the room seems like it would be helpful, especially if the jail staff needs to quickly get to the inmate for safety or medical reasons. Lastly, the room only has a light switch on the attorney side that you switch when the meeting is complete. I have had to wait for a bit before someone returns. I think there should be an emergency button on both sides. If either side were to have a medical emergency, the wait could have a significant impact on either party.

Please share any additional recommendations for **in person** meeting rooms/system/process in a new Monroe County Jail. (CONT'D)

- (Prior comment cont'd) For process, I think there might be an online sign up sheet to sign up for meeting rooms but I personally have not seen it. If this doesn't exist, would you create it? If it does, could you share that information with all of us?
- It's hard to hear the inmates talking through the glass partition especially if there are others yelling or banging, so maybe having the meeting rooms in a quieter location. Also, maybe installing intercoms to let the jailers know you are finished with your meeting, instead of waiting 10-20 minutes for them to come get you out, as you may have other appointments to tend to back at the office or even court hearings to get to.

Please share any additional recommendations for **in person** meeting rooms/system/process in a new Monroe County Jail. (CONT'D)

- It would be ideal if meeting rooms are not directly across the hall from the segregation cells, where inmates are often screaming and yelling (due to their mental health struggles). It would be better if the system telling jail staff when appointments are over was something more than a light on a wall, which is easily missed when they're busy.

All attorneys should be able to schedule in person meetings without involving jail staff (via a shared calendar or something similar). Right now, public defenders have access to the Outlook calendars for in person meetings and private attorney do not. Private attorneys have to call the jail and make appointments over the phone, which takes the jail staff's time.

Please share any additional recommendations for **in person** meeting rooms/system/process in a new Monroe County Jail. (CONT'D)

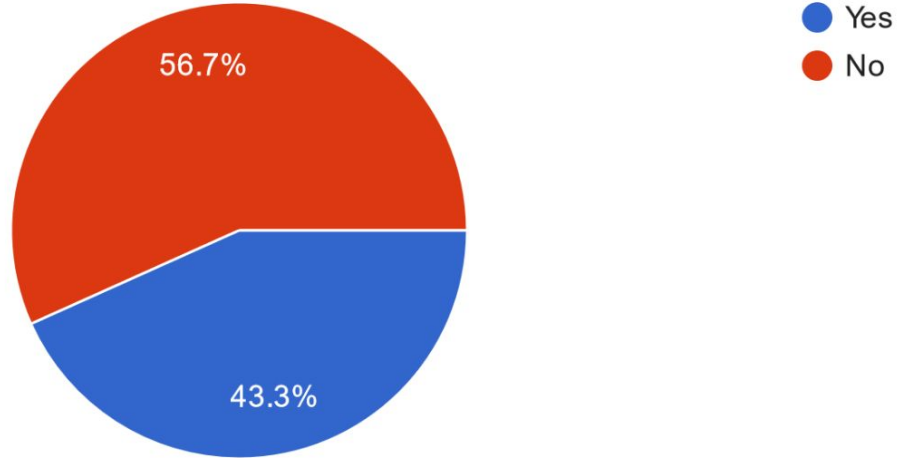
- WIFI available
- I would like it if at least some meeting rooms were able to be accessed without going through the entire jail. In other words, it would be nice if there were a few rooms for lower security that attorneys could easily access
- At times I was not given the option whether we could both be on the same side of the glass, I wish it was more optional. There is a long wait to be let in and out. It's never a smooth process.
- One should be larger to accommodate experts or investigators etc.

Jail

Meeting Rooms - Video

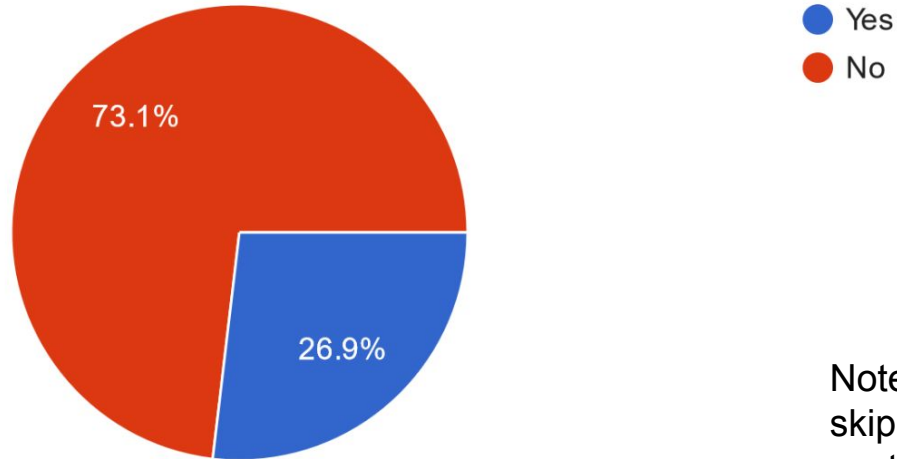
Would the ability to speak with a Monroe County Jail inmate via video assist in the performance of your job responsibilities?

67 responses



Have you ever spoken to a Monroe County Jail inmate via video for a meeting (not including court hearings)?

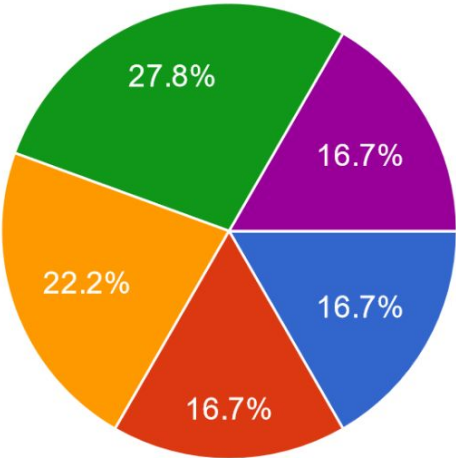
67 responses



Note: If you answered no, you skipped the immediate following section of questions.

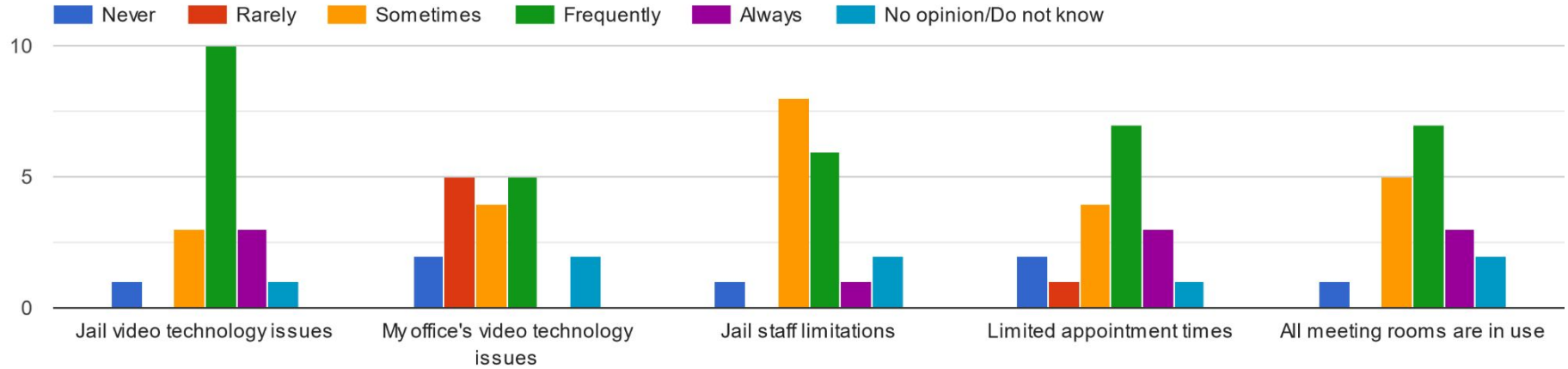
How easy was it to schedule an appointment to speak with the inmate via video?

18 responses



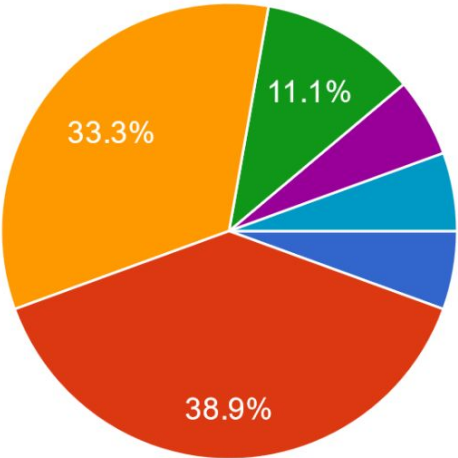
- Difficult
- Somewhat difficult
- Not easy/difficult
- Somewhat easy
- Easy
- I did not schedule the appointment(s).

How often have you been delayed speaking via video to an inmate because of:



How many video meeting rooms would you recommend for a new Monroe County jail?

18 responses



- 1 - 2
- 3 - 4
- 5 - 6
- 7 - 8
- 9 - 10
- I do not believe a new Monroe County Jail should be constructed.

Please share any additional recommendations for **video** meeting rooms/system/process in a new Monroe County Jail. (8 responses)

- The video conferencing technology appears to be broken on the end of the jail more than 50% of the time that I try and video conference with an inmate. The jail needs to invest in more reliable technology and actually take this seriously, it's is hugely detrimental both to my case and to my client's interest to not have reliable access to a communication channel. I could not physically go to the jail during my pregnancy because of health risks so I completely relied on video conferencing that would rarely work, which was incredibly frustrating both for myself and my client.
- On-line scheduling.

Please share any additional recommendations for **video** meeting rooms/system/process in a new Monroe County Jail. (CONT'D)

- From what I can tell, the jailers have very limited (or zero) training on how to assist our clients on the jail end w/ tech issues during video visits. Also, there have been many (documented) instances of clients never being brought to the room despite multiple calls to the jail/reminders. Sometimes you call x2774 and it....just rings forever. Surely there also has to be a way to give our clients access to writing materials so they don't just have to commit as much to memory as possible during the appt.
- The technology is ALWAYS down. Sometimes clients hear you but can't see you, or vice versa. It's never smooth. It's never easy.

Please share any additional recommendations for **video** meeting rooms/system/process in a new Monroe County Jail. (CONT'D)

- The current video chat system is functionally obsolete. The system is not working at least half the time I've had appointments scheduled, it's sometimes broken on the jail's end and sometimes on our end.

There's ONE station that is shared between Probation, Pretrial Release, Community Corrections, Public Defenders, and private attorneys. The jail doesn't allow appointments during meal times (11 am - 1 pm and 5 pm - 7 pm), which limits the appointment times even further.

Unsurprisingly, a single station is NOT enough for all those people who need to video chat with inmates, and it's often booked solid for the entire week

Please share any additional recommendations for **video** meeting rooms/system/process in a new Monroe County Jail. (CONT'D)

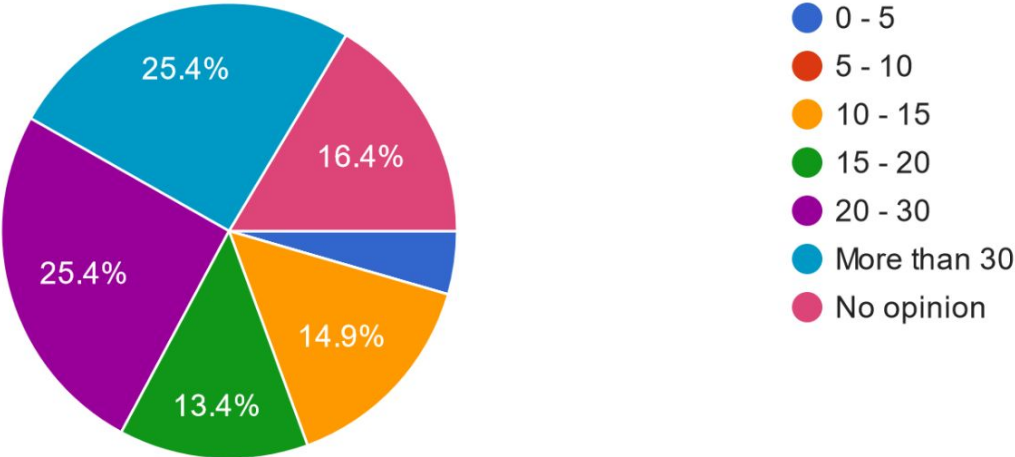
- (Prior comment cont'd) Again, same comments re: attorneys being able to schedule video meetings without involving jail staff. Their time is better spent elsewhere.
- Commitment to keeping the video meeting system in operation should be the same as the commitment to the recorded jail phone system and chirp system. It seems that the jail never fails to record my clients but often fails to keep the video conference system running.
- I do not believe a new Monroe County Jail should be constructed.
- well, perhaps post simpler instructions on what NOT to say vs. what they CAN say people understand this better

Jail

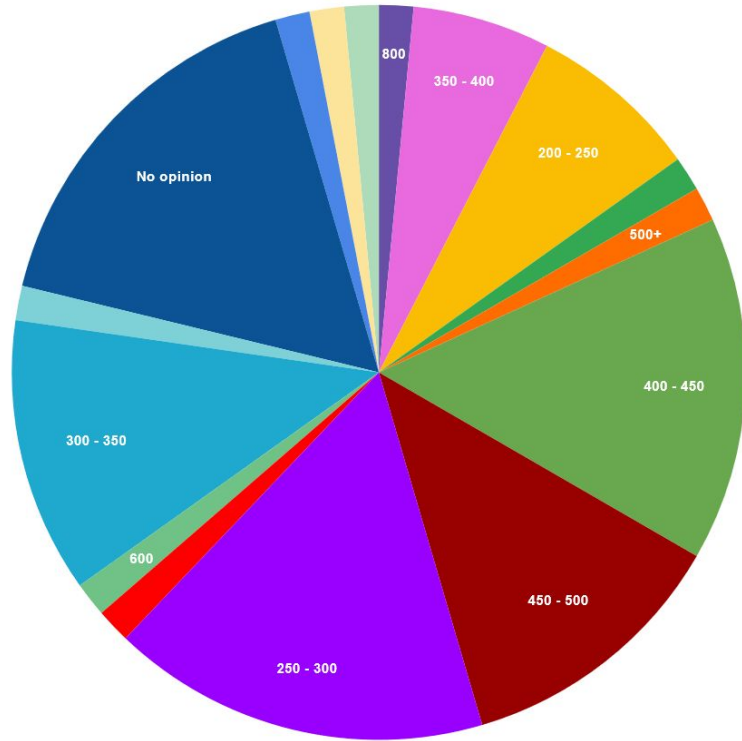
Capacity

A new Monroe County Jail should have ____ beds "for select inmates with mental health issues".

67 responses

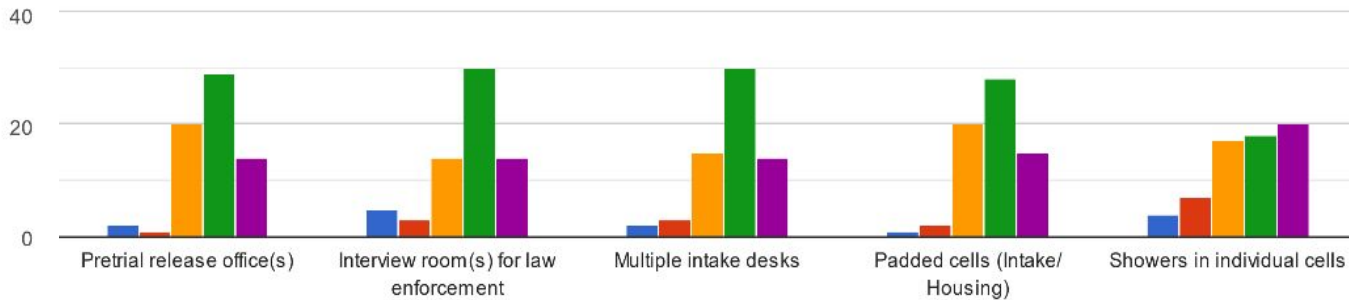
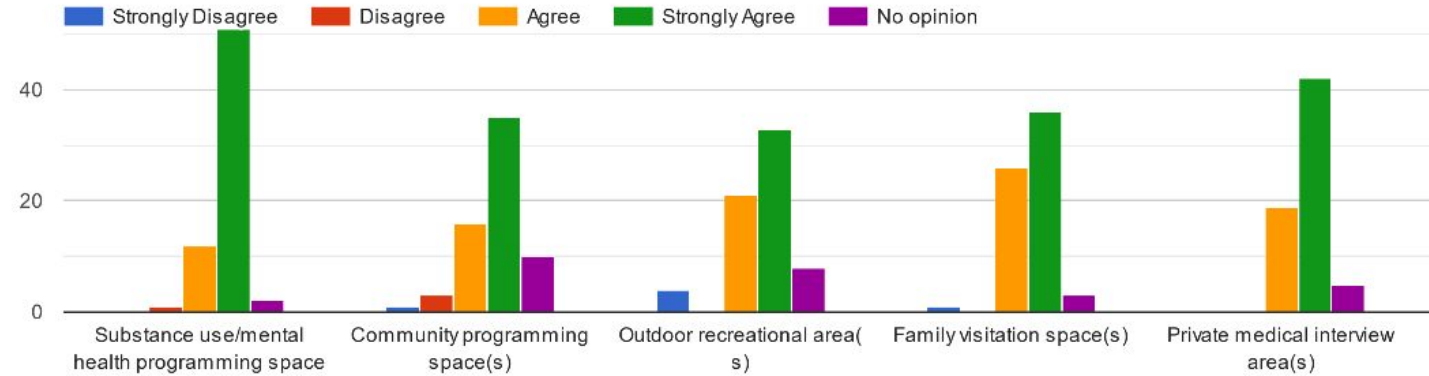


In addition to the mental health beds discussed above, a new Monroe County Jail should have ___ beds.



- 800
- 350 - 400
- 200 - 250
- We do not need to increase the size of the jail just to incarcerate more people. We need to raise the conditions inside the jail to at least the bare minimum that should be afforded to another human being, which the jail is far away from at this point.
- 500+
- 400 - 450
- 450 - 500
- 250 - 300
- 100 - 150
- 600
- 300 - 350
- 150 - 200
- No opinion
- 0 - 100
- I do not believe a new Monroe County Jail should be constructed.
- We should have at least 500 so we can stop letting EVERYONE out claiming restorative justice/lack of space. Monroe Co. is the butt of all jokes for our lack of offender accountability and ridiculous criminal justice approach.

A new Monroe County Jail should include:



Please share any additional recommendations for a new Monroe County Jail design (ex: layout, programming, safety and security, etc.). (17 responses)

- Right now the jail doesn't use any of the visitation spaces that exist, and doesn't offer any substance use programming whatsoever. Typically, an organization's past behavior is a fair indicator of its future behavior. I am skeptical about relying on an authoritarian cage to provide mental health and addiction services in a non supportive environment. You can try.

A short stay, low security wing might be nice for persons in custody who do not pose a safety risk. Although those people really shouldn't be in jail at all.

- The jail **MUST** have adequate accommodations for individuals experiencing mental health crisis

Please share any additional recommendations for a new Monroe County Jail design (ex: layout, programming, safety and security, etc.). (CONT'D)

- The conversation seems to keep turning to make the jail larger, which solves no problems and poses larger concerning ones. The jail does not need to increase in size. It needs to change to accommodate at least a baseline standard of living. The conditions in the jail now are not suitable for even a stray animal. Conditions need to be changed to provide inmates with regular access to clean water, facilities, sanitary products, etc. programming should focus on mental health, substance use, and reintegration into society
- I check marked "strongly agree" for all of the above because if these things come true, pretrial release cashless bail won't carry the same weight it burdens us all with every day we try to do our jobs.

Please share any additional recommendations for a new Monroe County Jail design (ex: layout, programming, safety and security, etc.). (CONT'D)

- It won't matter how the jail is designed if the County can't hire and retain jail employees. I don't believe the pay rate is the problem. Perhaps County oversight into how the jail is managed would be a good thought.
- The new jail should have a safe and monitored area for community corrections to come in and place ankle monitors on individuals that are being released. There should be mental health programs available to inmates who need them and a plan in place to continue those programs outside of jail. There needs to be a plan in place for how individuals who are released from the jail that are homeless or need resources are able to safely get downtown to the shelters, soup kitchens, probation, public defenders, etc.

Please share any additional recommendations for a new Monroe County Jail design (ex: layout, programming, safety and security, etc.). (CONT'D)

- Inmates should have access to indoor and outdoor exercise and recreation facilities. The new jail needs facilities and equipment to assist in handling violent mental health patients.
- The new jail should be used for people who are an immediate danger to society. The new jail should have programs for everyone to help remedy reasons for incarceration. This should be less punitive and more restorative. More staff would obviously be helpful. Better visiting and communication would be helpful.
- I do not believe a new Monroe County Jail should be constructed.

Please share any additional recommendations for a new Monroe County Jail design (ex: layout, programming, safety and security, etc.). (CONT'D)

- Families need to see and speak in person with their loved one who may be locked up. Almost ALL of the folks in the jail have mental health/substance abuse issues. Also, the folks locked up are poor people, who need help from social workers to try to keep their outside lives in order while navigating the criminal justice system. Face to face with families, and face to face with lawyers, is critical.
- Consider attached courts, if Justice Building crowded or onsite courts more efficient/safer. But if hearings are video anyway, and/or current courts will expand into current jail space, maybe not

Please share any additional recommendations for a new Monroe County Jail design (ex: layout, programming, safety and security, etc.). (CONT'D)

- We have a robust pretrial release program in Monroe County. Almost everyone short of those that commit some of the most violent crimes are released on pretrial release (especially when the person only has one case pending). The reality is that the individuals that are incarcerated in our jail are overwhelming there due to acquiring multiple criminal cases within a short period of time; violating the pretrial release conditions of the Court; violating probation; or committing a very serious violent crime (murder, attempted murder, child molesting, rape, etc.).

Please share any additional recommendations for a new Monroe County Jail design (ex: layout, programming, safety and security, etc.). (CONT'D)

- (Prior comment cont'd) Our State constitution is founded on the principles of reformation and not vindictive justice. But I hope the committee will recognize that many of the individuals who are in our jail have been given an opportunity to do just that on a pretrial release basis or through probation and have instead made choices causing them to reoffend or not comply with pretrial release or probation, which is why they are back in jail. Unfortunately, we also have to take into account the risk to the community these individuals pose when they are not ready to change and are let out time and again with the same negative results for our community. For those reasons, the jail size does need to be increased some. When the jail was built 30 years ago, it was already too small and overcrowding now is a real human rights issue. And it is not as simple as just letting inmates out on pretrial release basis because as I describe above, that is what is already happening and certain inmates through their own actions end up back in jail. There needs to be enough space to keep the most dangerous individuals removed from society.

Please share any additional recommendations for a new Monroe County Jail design (ex: layout, programming, safety and security, etc.). (CONT'D)

- (Prior comment cont'd) All that being said about jail size, our current jail is outdated and not conducive to reformation. We also need to make our jail more humane so that inmates within still are afforded the opportunity to work on themselves and change. I have seen it. People can change when they want to and sometimes you can't predict when the person will finally turn a corner. Decency and our State constitution necessitate giving inmates facilities that are humane and conducive to reformation. All of the items listed above (treatment programming space, recreational areas, visitation, pretrial release offices, etc.) are conducive to that and important. (The jail also needs an interview room for law enforcement because it is not uncommon for someone in jail to be interviewed by law enforcement about a separate investigation or about a crime that happened within the jail).

Please share any additional recommendations for a new Monroe County Jail design (ex: layout, programming, safety and security, etc.). (CONT'D)

- The jail really needs multiple padded cells in housing. When an inmate makes contact with their feces in a padded cell, the jail needs to be able to move them to a new padded cell to clean the cell.
- It's jail. It should suck. It should be nothing other than a place for them to exist until their case is resolved.
- If a new jail has more beds than the current jail, I can guarantee that those beds will immediately be full. If there are available beds in jail, the courts will lean towards not releasing defendants that are close calls (probation violations, those with multiple lower level cases, etc.).

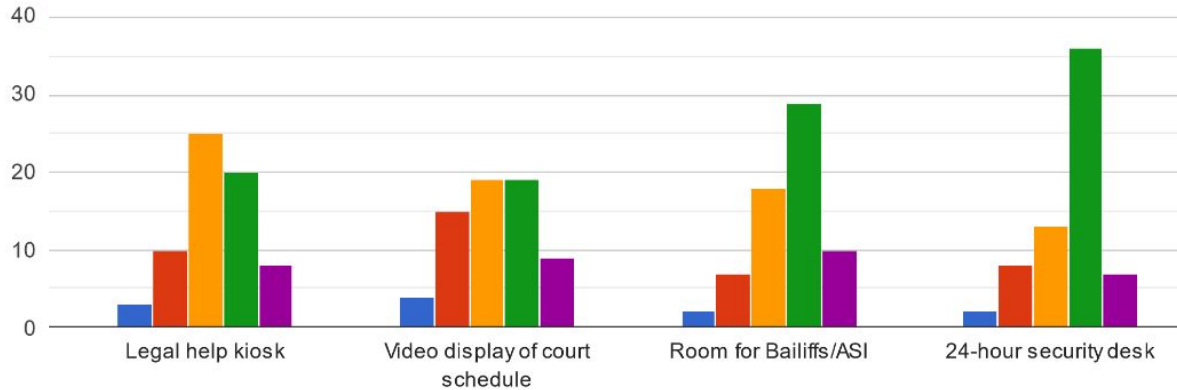
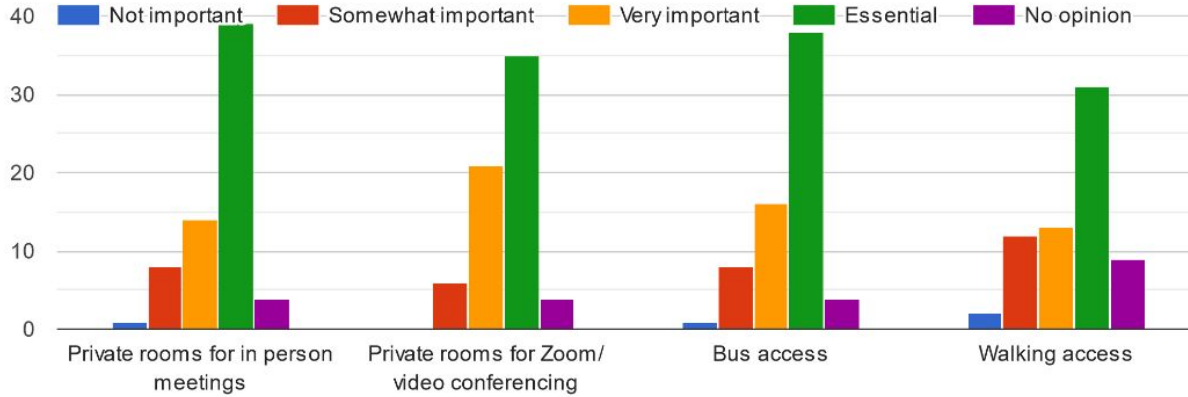
Please share any additional recommendations for a new Monroe County Jail design (ex: layout, programming, safety and security, etc.). (CONT'D)

- Generally, any building that does not increase bed capacity is just going to be a waste of money, as we will continue to be subject to the same liability risk. Ideally, we should also build a facility that offers more humane surroundings (including enriching programming) and allows for comprehensive healthcare (including mental health and substance use treatment) for those in custody.
- WELL, you see, I don't think it should be on this NEW spot, there is plenty of property downtown. I also don't think a separate court but PERHAPS a magistrate to Initial Hearings.

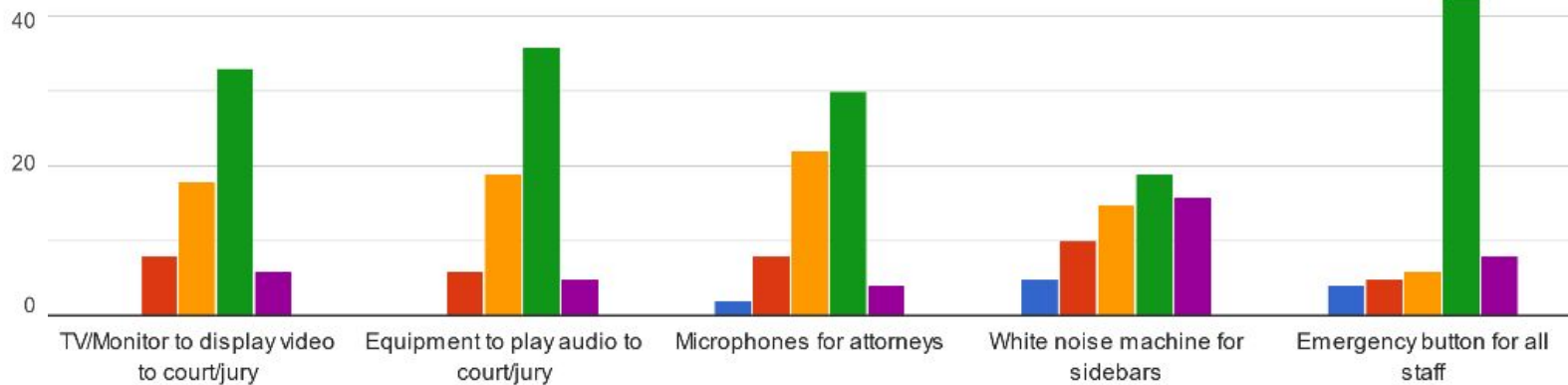
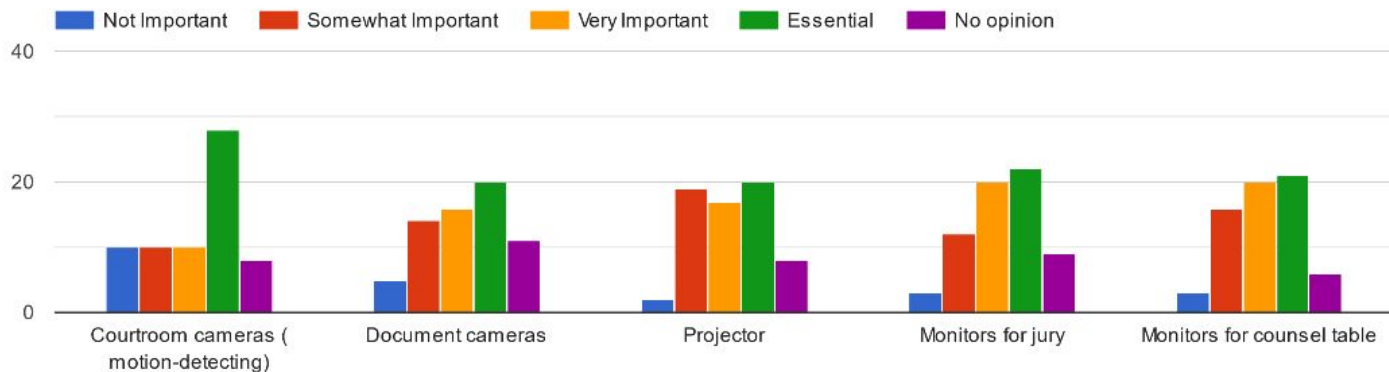
Justice Campus

Design Features

How important are the following features for a new justice campus?



How important are the following features for newly designed courtrooms?



Please share any additional recommendations for a new justice campus (ex: layout, technology needs, safety and security, etc.). (14 responses)

- Emergency action plan for safety and security. At this point it is every man for himself and pray the bailiff has his head on a swivel
- A jury box that is not behind the attorneys, but rather on the side of the courtroom. Current jury trial room is possibly the worst in the country. There also needs to be adequate space to move in the well.
- Not only does there need to be bus access there needs to be bus passes given to those who are getting released so they have the means to get to where they are going.

Please share any additional recommendations for a new justice campus (ex: layout, technology needs, safety and security, etc.). (CONT'D)

- (Prior comment cont'd) I feel it is also VERY important to let the individuals in the community around where the new jail will be built have an input. This can and will result in releasing individuals with mental health issues, serious allegations and sex offenders out in an area that is extremely close to many single-family houses that have never had to deal with individuals like this in their neighborhoods. It will also need to be portrayed to them on how the judicial system and sheriff's office will keep them safe because of this. Morning School Bus pick up locations need to be re-evaluated and possibly monitored (closer to the jail) to make sure that the children who have to ride the busses are safe and not put into situations they should not be.

Please share any additional recommendations for a new justice campus (ex: layout, technology needs, safety and security, etc.). (CONT'D)

- Definitely need better technology. I don't think we need jurors and counsel to all have monitors. That would be clunky, obtrusive, and distracting.

I strongly hope that the court house will be tastefully designed, like our historic courthouse. A grand courthouse gives people the feeling that justice is occurring, it instils solemnity, and it makes being there more enjoyable. Please don't be short-sighted and build another drab building, thinking that the money you save will be worth it. Courthouses are prides and icons of communities; no one is proud of the current justice building.

Please share any additional recommendations for a new justice campus (ex: layout, technology needs, safety and security, etc.). (CONT'D)

- You cannot build a jail out in the middle of nowhere, far away from the courts, public defenders, and probation. If the County is considering never transporting the accused to court, rather making them use a video to access their hearing because they are in a jail in the middle of nowhere , that idea is probably unconstitutional - PUBLIC hearings. But more importantly, inmates are human beings and should be treated as such. A new jail will require a whole new justice campus where everything is located.
- I do not believe a new Monroe County Jail should be constructed.

Please share any additional recommendations for a new justice campus (ex: layout, technology needs, safety and security, etc.). (CONT'D)

- It should be Downtown, his purchase was NOT a mistake, but it is going to be too expensive for jail and Sheriff. How about a new jail connected to the OLD ONE by using the three old houses across the street? Hmmmm?
- More than a kiosk-- 'self help' space with desks, printer/scanner,
- Courtrooms need to have bullet proof steel in front of Court Reporters & Witness Stand instead of just in front of Judge's bench.

Please share any additional recommendations for a new justice campus (ex: layout, technology needs, safety and security, etc.). (CONT'D)

- I have tried many cases to a jury and one of my biggest issue with our current courtrooms is how outdated the technology is. We have to roll out a television and hook up our computers to it and then when we are done using it, roll it out of the way as best we can. The defendant has a right to see presentation too which causes the TV to sit far back to the point the jury can't see it as well. During the pandemic, I did a trial and we had to socially distance the jurors all the way to the back of the courtroom. They could barely see the TV. It was extremely difficult to display evidence. My request is that the new courtrooms be updated. Similar set up to what you would see in an IU classroom--projector screens, multiple screens/televisions that show the presentation, a good speaker system, a way to show documents and photos like document cameras, etc.

Please share any additional recommendations for a new justice campus (ex: layout, technology needs, safety and security, etc.). (CONT'D)

- (Prior comment cont'd) Another problem with our current jury trial courtroom (room 313) is that it is difficult when the attorneys have to convey things to the court out of earshot of the jury. Even when whispering, the sound can project across the courtroom.

I have been in a few incidents over my career where there are safety concerns due to the inmate trying to escape or visitors in the public seating area becoming unruly. There should be an emergency button for sure.

- ability to separate parties in the public gallery

Please share any additional recommendations for a new justice campus (ex: layout, technology needs, safety and security, etc.). (CONT'D)

- The current meeting rooms in the Justice Building are very small. It is very difficult to get multiple people in the room, which results in having conversations in the hallway. Depending on the day, the hallway can be very busy. I am not sure if the meeting rooms are handicap accessible. They do not have an emergency button.

For the new justice campus, I would ask that you determine handicap accessibility for the courtrooms as well. For example, I am not sure if a wheelchair can get into all of the courtrooms or to any of the courtrooms' witness stand or the jury box.

Please share any additional recommendations for a new justice campus (ex: layout, technology needs, safety and security, etc.). (CONT'D)

- (Prior comment cont'd) In the largest courtroom, where we typically have jury trials, a space for the bailiff to sit would be helpful because of the narrow entrance to the courtroom they tend to block the entrance to sit close to the jury.

I would ask that you evaluate the safety and security in the courtroom. We have had several incidents in the last few years with inmates in the courtroom and I don't think the design is set up to keep each party safe. For many of the courtrooms, the DPAs back is to the gallery courtroom door and jail inmates walk past the court reporter.

Please share any additional recommendations for a new justice campus (ex: layout, technology needs, safety and security, etc.). (CONT'D)

- We should not move the main courtrooms out of downtown. A satellite courtroom (for criminal law) at a new jail facility might be understandable. But we should never engage in any push to move the main courtrooms out of our downtown area.
- It would be nice to have modern equipment that would make court presentations more efficient and effective, but I am most concerned about safety in the courtroom. On two separate occasions in the last few years, an inmate in court has rushed toward a deputy prosecutor during court proceedings. A public defender was punched by his client. There are so many times when there is not a bailiff in the room during court hearings to help protect against or respond quickly to these kinds of incidents.

Final Thoughts

If you have any other thoughts or suggestions on these topics that were not covered by this survey, please share that here. (11 responses)

- Do not build a bigger jail. Do not build a new jail at Fullerton Pike. Do not neglect the hundreds of people receiving inhumane and subhuman treatment in the current jail but use them to justify this expense.

If you're willing to build a new jail, make one that is accessible and able to provide basic medical and psychological care, and access to persons in custody by their families and legal counsel.

Please consider not gouging incarcerated people by using predatory third party contractors to provide communication for people in custody at exorbitant costs.

If you have any other thoughts or suggestions on these topics that were not covered by this survey, please share that here. (CONT'D)

- Please don't build this new jail
- I don't know if it is possible, but what about the new jail being placed where the old Bloomington Hospital is being torn down? This will help with being close to services for those released and transportation issues any employees may face.
- Short of moving the entire criminal justice system to this new location, this location will be a nightmare for clients and members of the system for numerous reasons. In addition, more beds won't solve the problems present in the sytem.

If you have any other thoughts or suggestions on these topics that were not covered by this survey, please share that here. (CONT'D)

- We need to address the capacity issues at the jail to make space for the people who need to be in an institutional setting. We have too many people on the streets who cannot conform their behavior to the requirements of a civil society. They need to be in some sort of institutional setting whether for mental health, substance abuse, or for just plain criminal activity. They are eroding our quality of life and creating a drain on all the institutions that serve the community whether that be social services, criminal justice, or government operations. We are not doing these individuals any favors by not holding them accountable for their behavior. We are essentially enabling their behavior by providing food, shelter, and health care without addressing the mental health and substance abuse issues they are suffering from.

If you have any other thoughts or suggestions on these topics that were not covered by this survey, please share that here. (CONT'D)

- The new proposed location for the jail is a poor one. It is adjacent to densely populated neighborhoods, but it's also adjacent to I-69. It's begging for a released person to wander onto the interstate after release, creating a risk for themselves and the cars traveling as well. With the rate that defendants pick up multiple cases, building a jail next to this densely populated area puts that population at risk.
- I don't know why we'd build a new jail when we can't properly staff/train/supervise the current jail to ensure consistently humane conditions and attorney access to their clients.

If you have any other thoughts or suggestions on these topics that were not covered by this survey, please share that here. (CONT'D)

- I do not believe a new Monroe County Jail should be constructed.
- I know the intent was good, but I think it was a very foolish purchase. I believe the property will eventually be useful the county, it is already purchased. HOWEVER, do NOT make the mistake of building a jail there. You already have a jail, it is old, and can be used still but IMAGINE an overpass to the new jail right across the street. ALL you are doing is spending more money YOU DO NOT NEED to spend. The cost of a jail by raising the three houses cross the street would be, I believe, 25%. of the cost at the new location. PLEASE use YOUR COMMON sense, I do NOT understand why attorneys were not asked bout this before you made the purchase. Please call me to discuss, [Name and phone number redacted]

If you have any other thoughts or suggestions on these topics that were not covered by this survey, please share that here. (CONT'D)

- Centralized courts is best for public and staff and unity of civil and legal law. But if downtown is too cramped, better to have overall adequate facilities. Need to make sure full transportation options exist near jail. Courts should be near jail for quick processing, unless video is good enough and enough space downtown.
- If judges were assigned to hold court at the new location, how would they stay a part of the unified court system? It seems like it would be easy to drift into a separate system with things like scheduling cases (both civil and criminal). Maybe larger cities have experience with this.

Questions?