

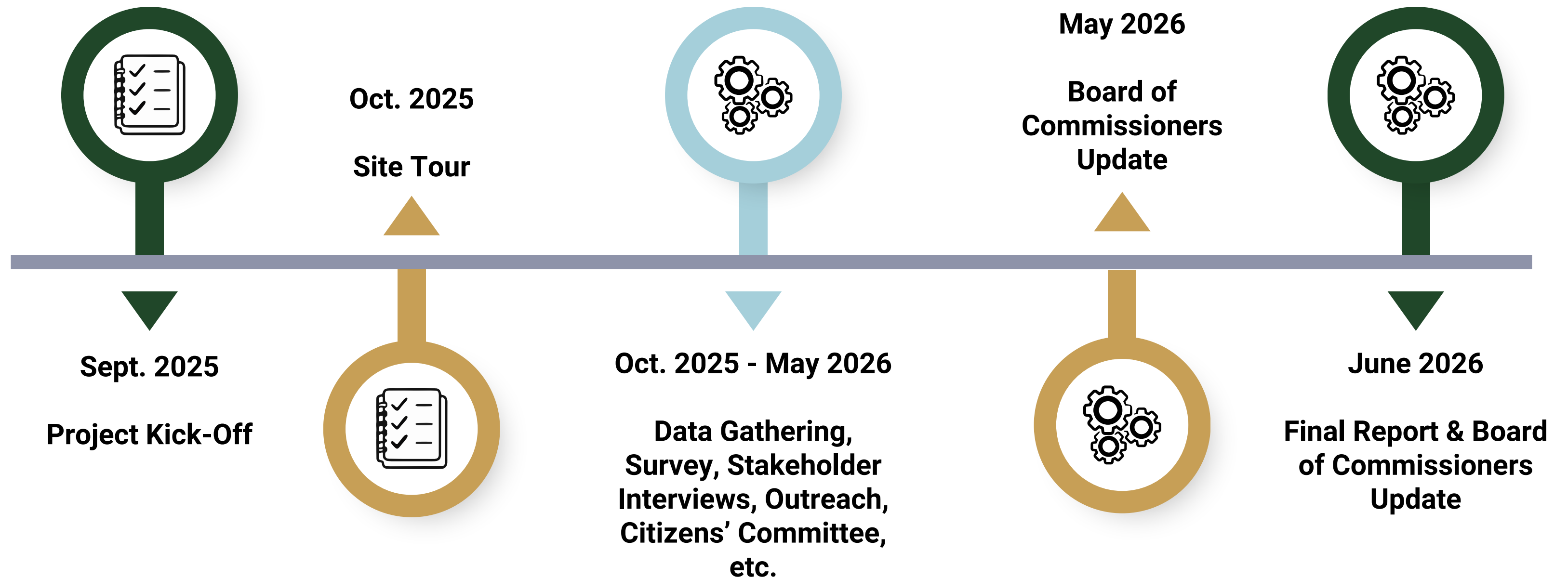
LATAH COUNTY JAIL PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Educate, Listen, Learn



Project Background

Project Purpose: Effectively inform, engage, and actively include the community to promote comprehension of the County's operational needs, proposed solutions, and potential costs.

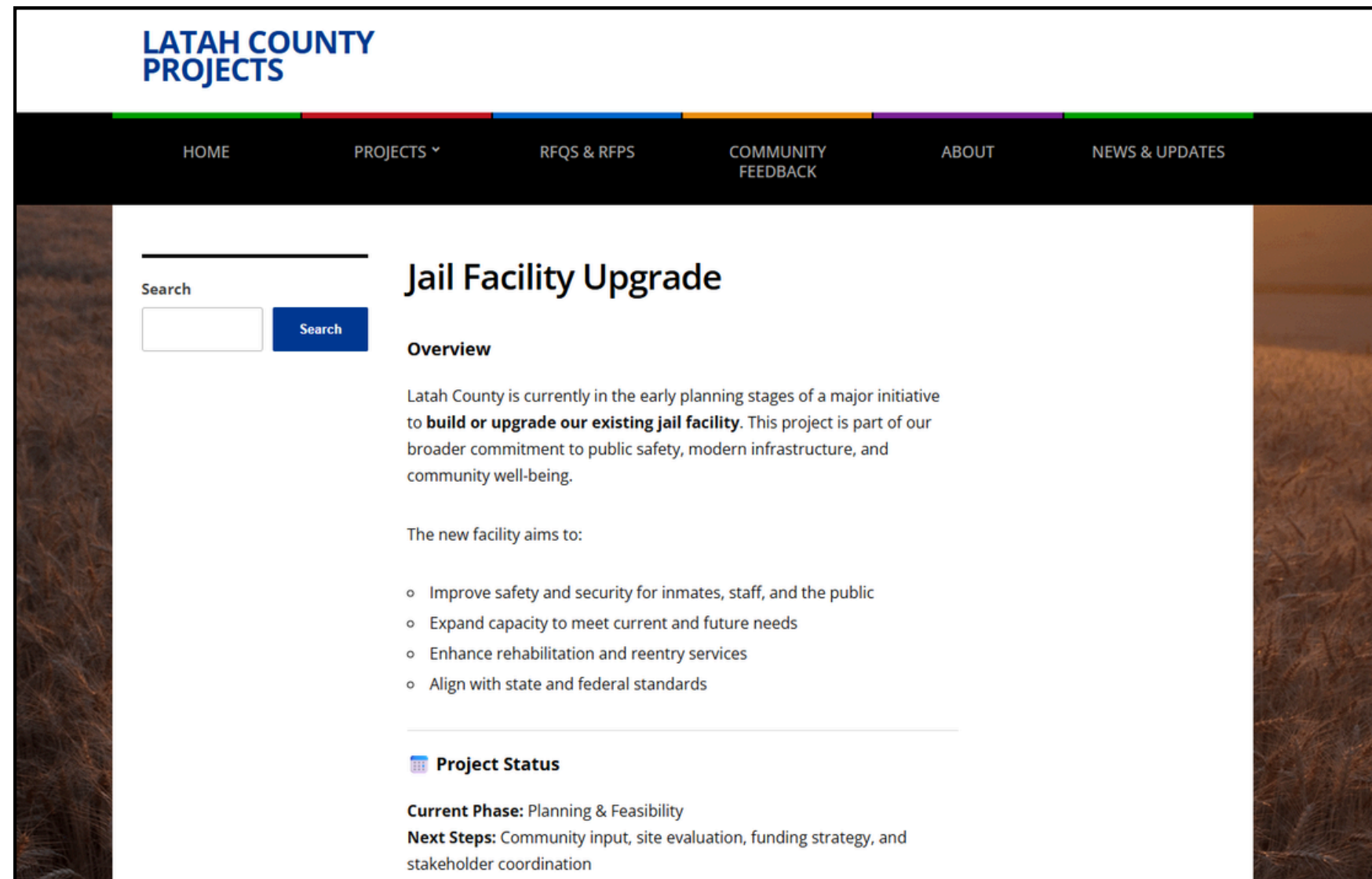


Project Background

- **What's been done so far**
 - Site tour
 - Video
 - Outreach
 - Social media posts
 - Press release/earned media
 - Flyer
 - Stakeholder Interviews
 - Voter demographics
 - FAQs
 - Citizens' Committee
 - Webpage
 - Sheriff Presentations
 - Postcard (cancelled)



Project Background



- **Short-term next steps**
 - Another survey push
 - Comparison of options and financial impacts
 - Continue meeting with citizens' committee
 - Law Enforcement Center Video
 - Update webpage and connect to County's main website
 - Prepare final report for June BOC meeting

Stakeholder Summary



- **Who**

- 5 stakeholder interviews conducted in February 2026
- Represented public safety, courts, probation, treatment, legal, and community perspectives

- **Key Themes**

- Jail issues are part of a **broader public safety** and justice system
- Current facility concerns centered on **safety, compliance, space, and modern functionality**
- Overnight housing **closure impacts** transportation, staffing, court, probation, attorney, inmates, and families
- Stakeholders generally supported a **local long-term solution** focused on safety, functionality, local control, and fiscal responsibility
- **Public education and consistent communication** will be critical as future options are evaluated

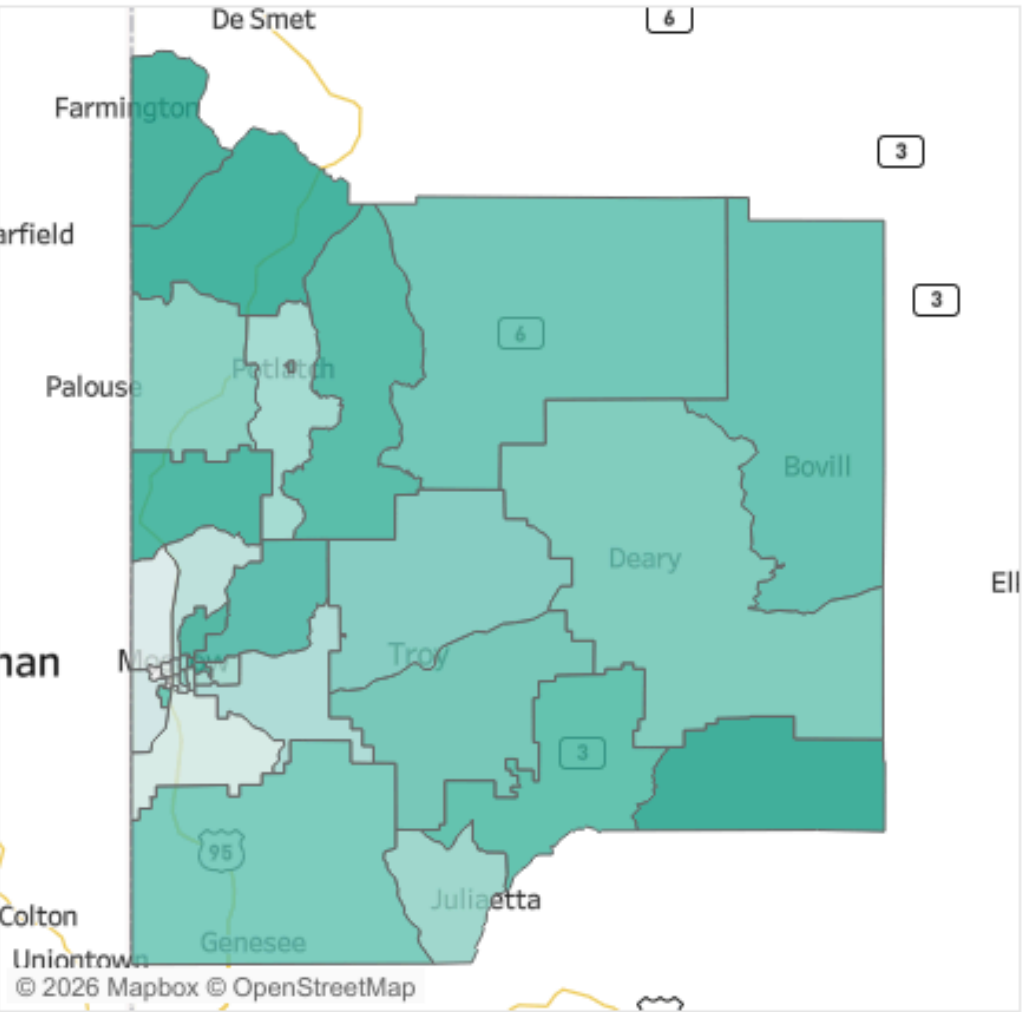
Voter Demographics

Latah County - November 2026

23,291
REGISTERED VOTERS

16,771
BALLOTS CAST

72.0%
% TURNOUT



MAP COLOR KEY



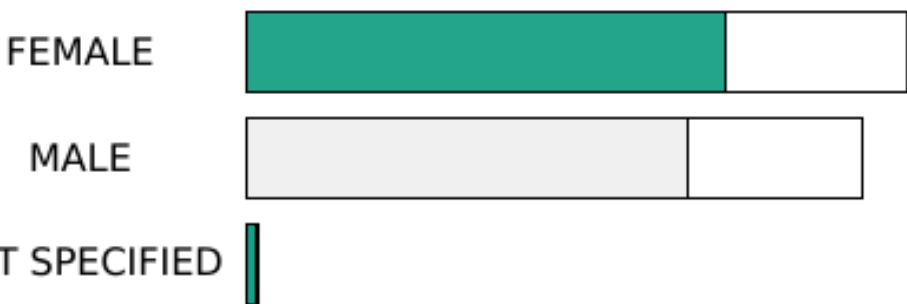
Registered Voters by Age and Participation



Registered Voters by Party and Participation



Registered Voters by Party and Participation



COMMUNITY SURVEY INTERIM RESULTS

January 29 – April 28, 2026
Total Respondents To-Date: 989



CLEARWATER
— FINANCIAL —

Survey Overview

- **Questions aim to educate and gather input**
- **Distribution**
 - Social media posts
 - Press release
 - 7 news articles about survey
 - Email to Cities/other municipalities
- **989 Total Responses**
 - 662 Completed, 327 Partial
- **Not a scientific survey**
 - Not necessarily representative of who will show up at the polls
 - Latah County Population: ~41,000
 - Registered Voters: 23,291 (as of Nov 2025 election)
 - Survey Respondents: 989
 - 2.4% of Population
 - 4.2% of Registered Voters
 - Trend analysis



Latah County Jail Community Survey

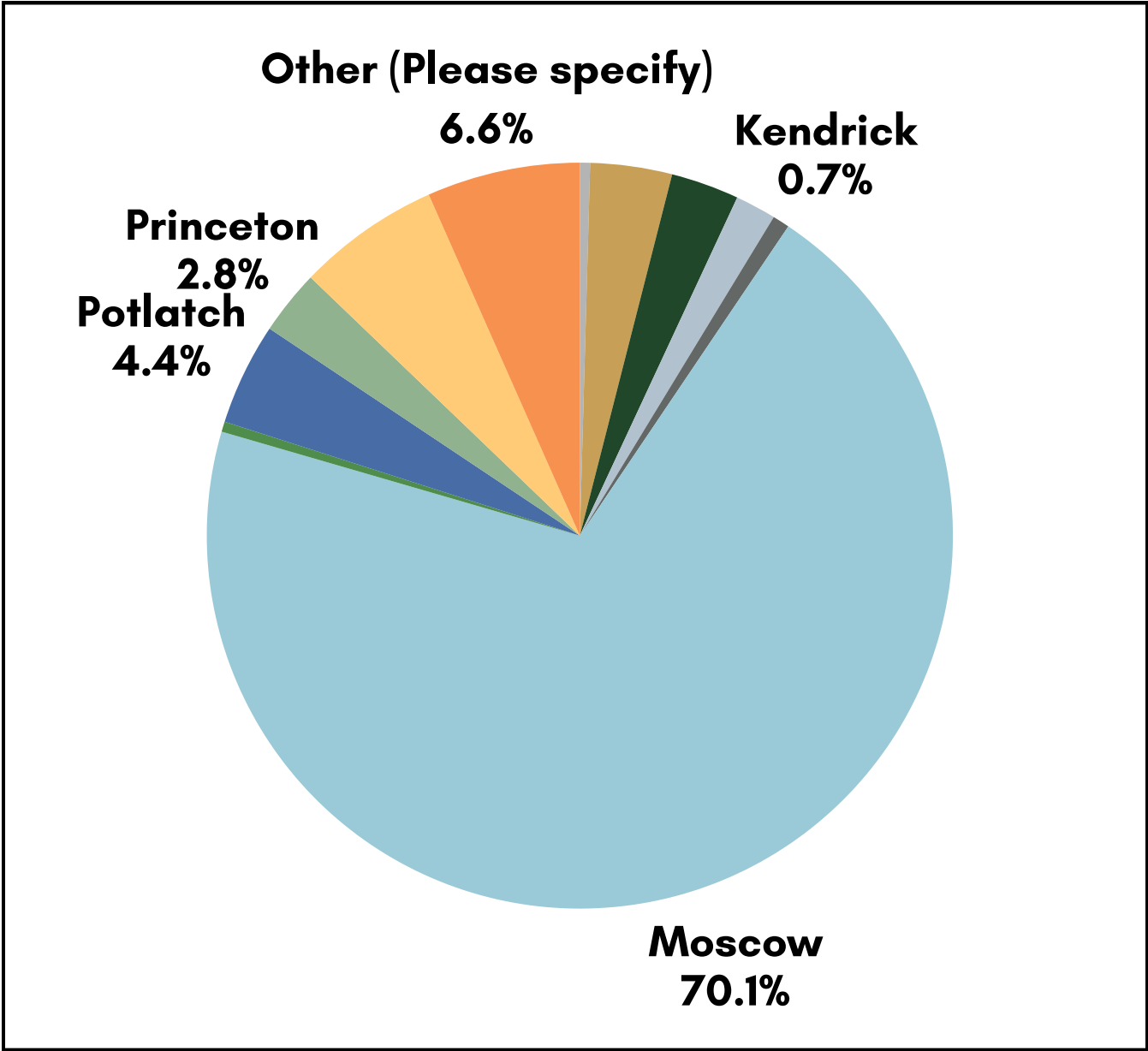
This survey is part of a public education and input effort to help residents understand the situation and provide feedback to the County on possible solutions and funding options. We appreciate you taking the survey and value your input.

The Latah County Jail facility was built in 1973. On October 1, 2025 the Jail was closed after safety inspections revealed serious fire, electrical, and emergency access issues that made continued operation unsafe. The Jail facility is now only being used for short-term holdings and does not house any inmates overnight. Since the closure, the County has contracted with nearby counties to house inmates, which increases costs and limits access for courts, law enforcement, and families.

[Begin Survey](#)

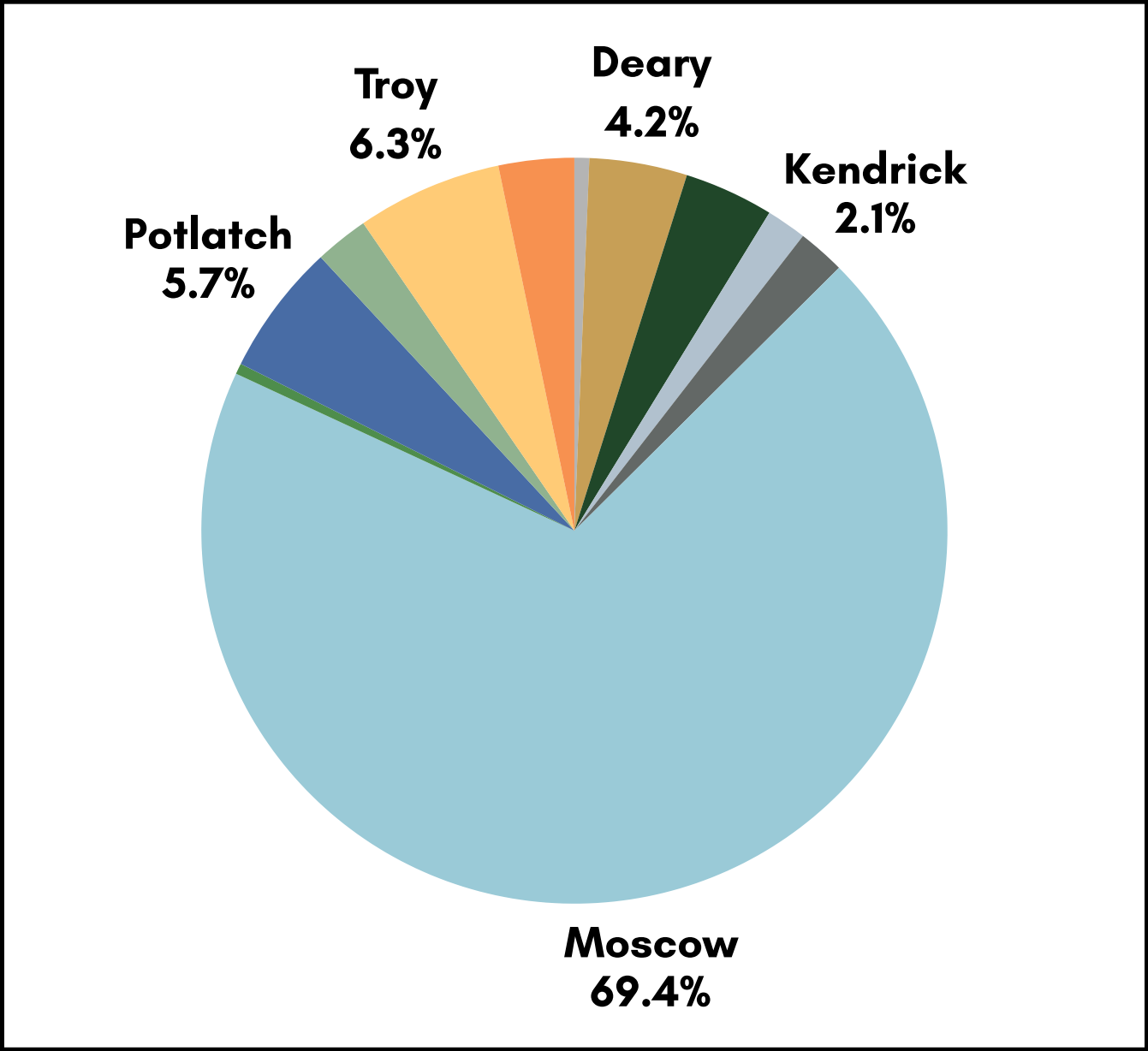
Who Took the Survey?

Where in the County do you live?



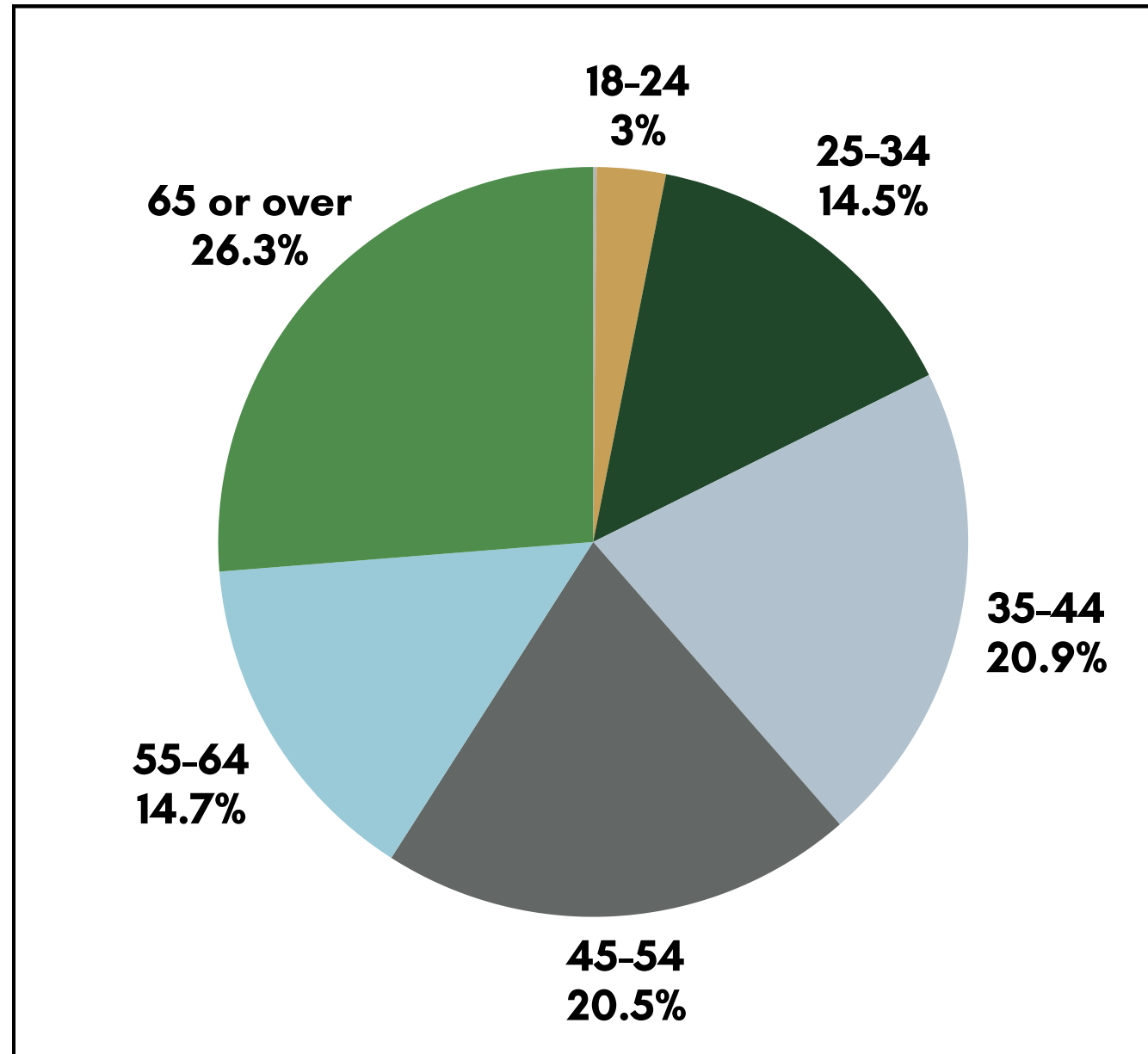
0.4%	Bovill	0.6%
3.5%	Deary	4.2%
3.0%	Genesee	3.9%
1.8%	Juliaetta	1.7%
0.7%	Kendrick	2.1%
70.1%	Moscow	69.4%
0.4%	Onaway	0.5%
4.4%	Potlatch	5.7%
2.8%	Princeton	2.3%
6.2%	Troy	6.3%
6.6%	Other	3.3%

Registered Voters Breakdown

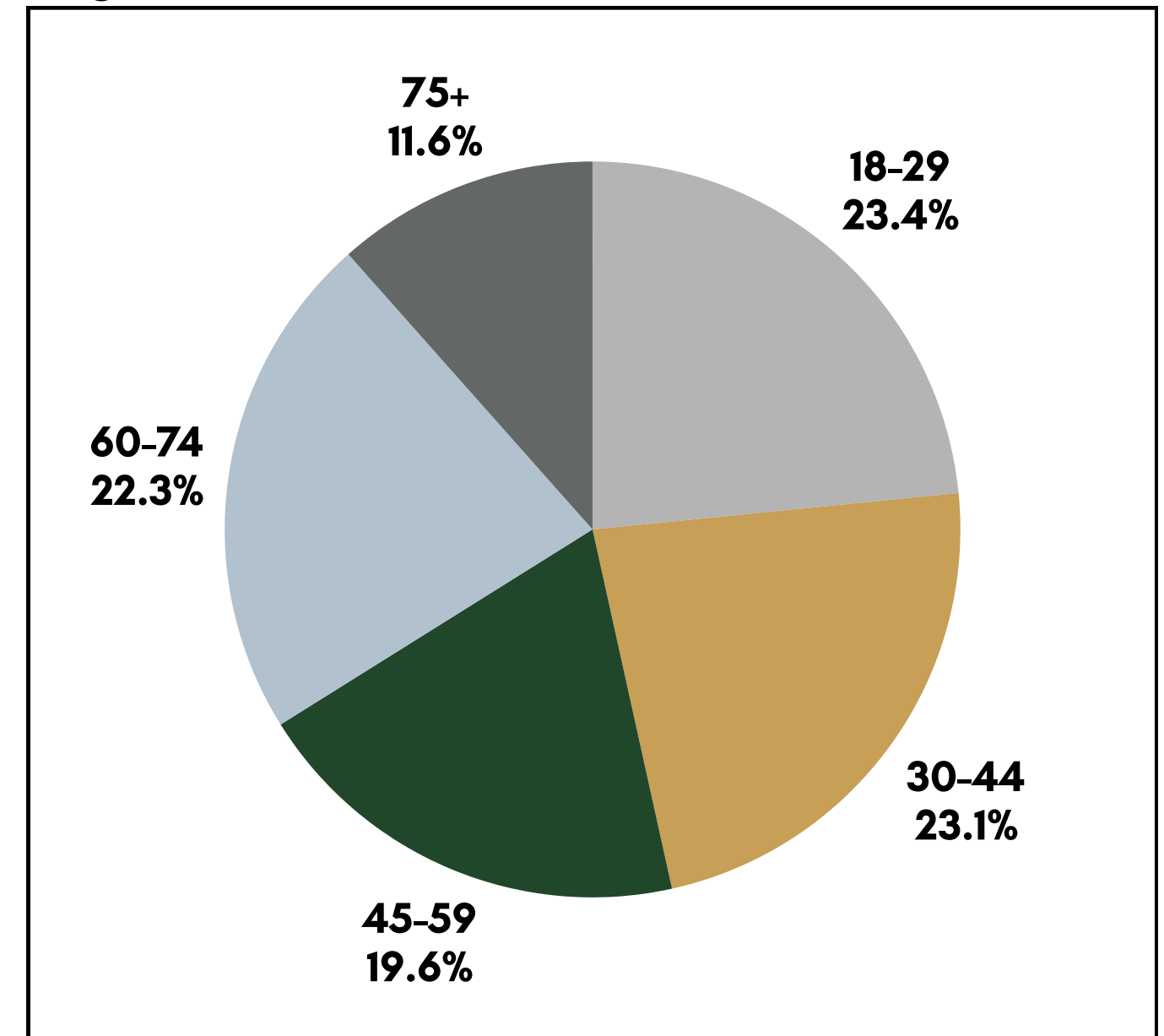


Who Took the Survey?

What is your age?

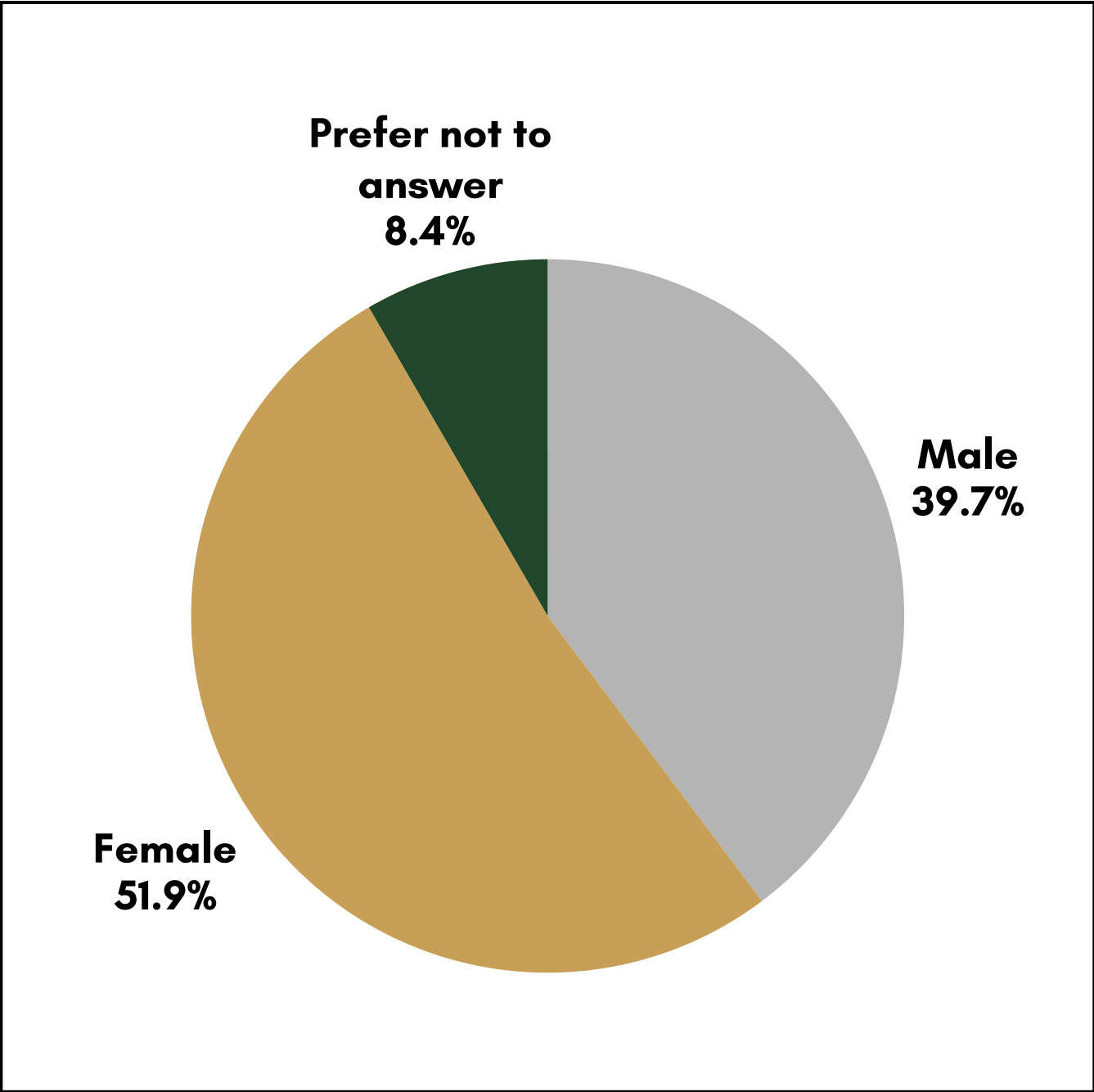


Registered Voters Breakdown

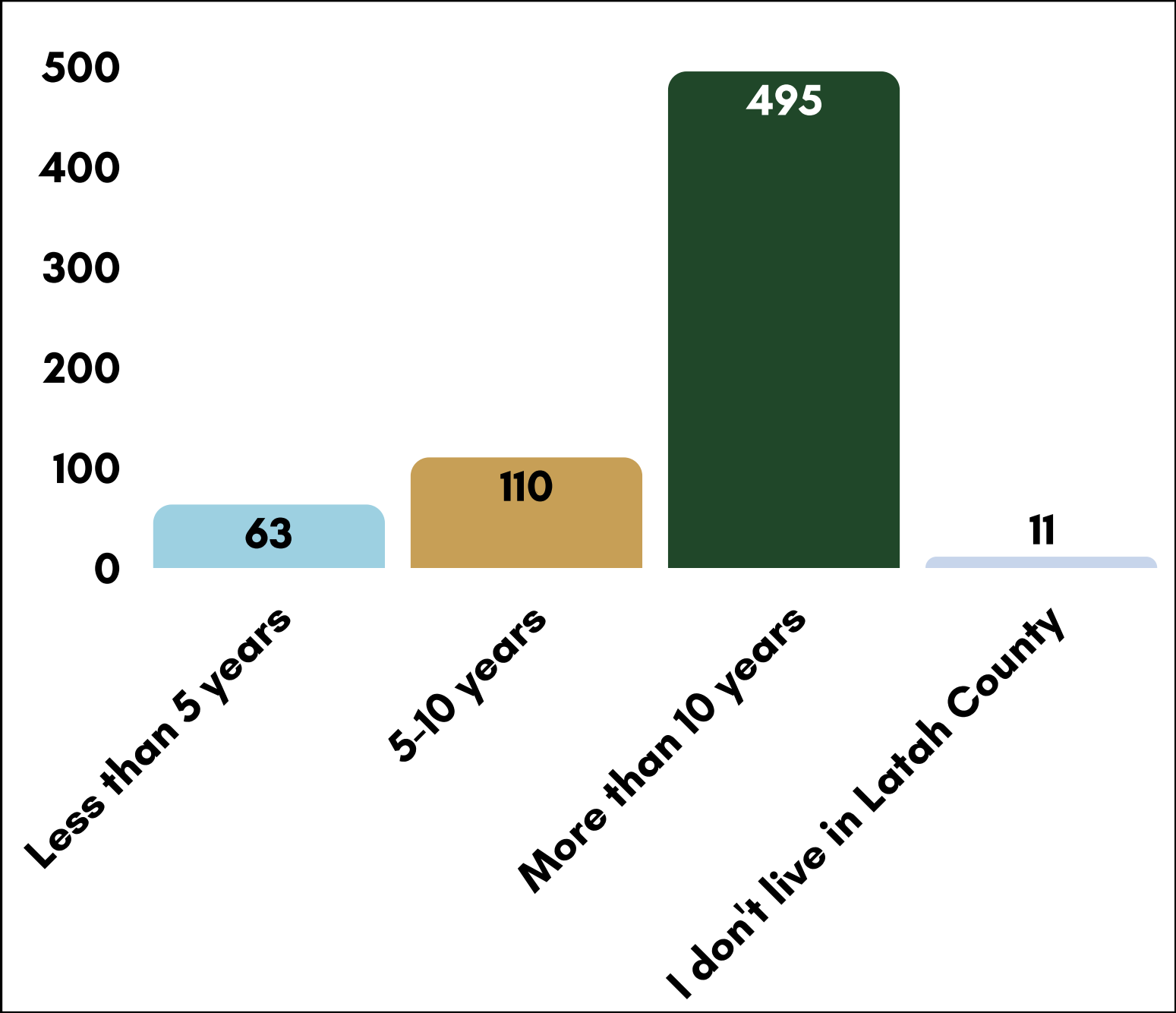


Who Took the Survey?

Please indicate your gender.

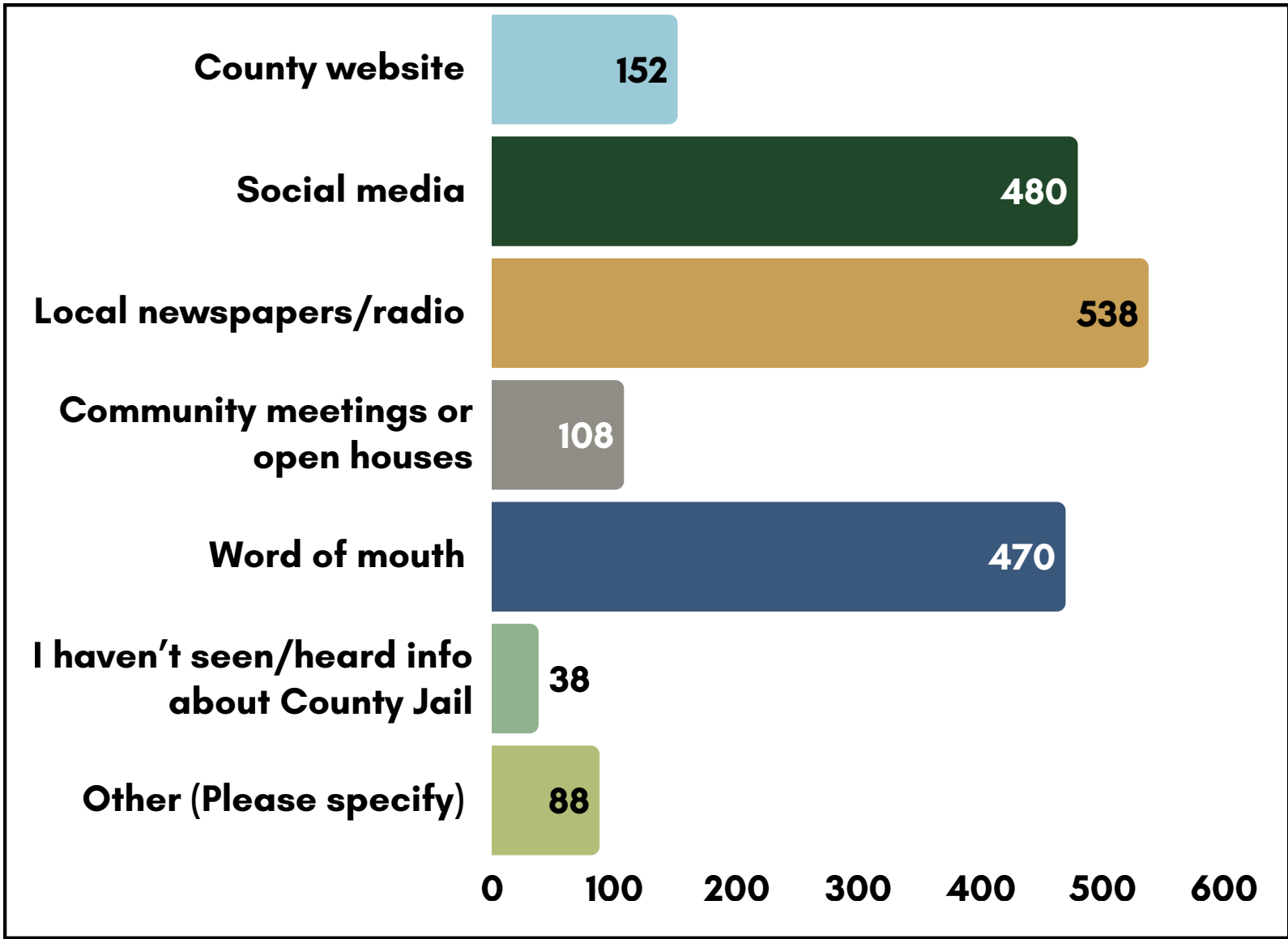


How long have you lived in Latah County?

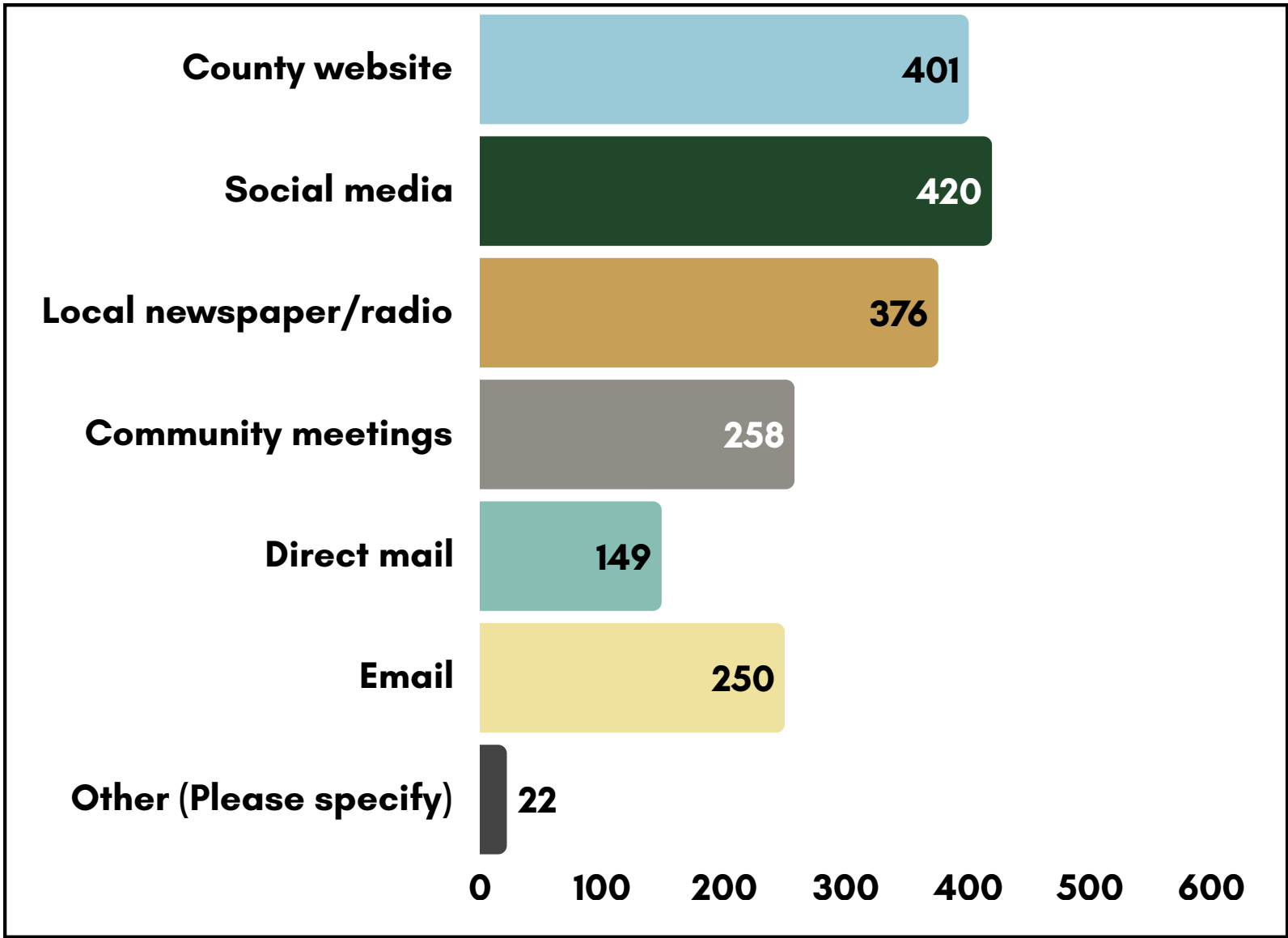


Communication

Where have you learned information about the Jail?



How would you prefer to receive information?



Top 3

Social Media

Local Newspaper/Radio

County Website

Familiarity

Familiarity with Jail Services

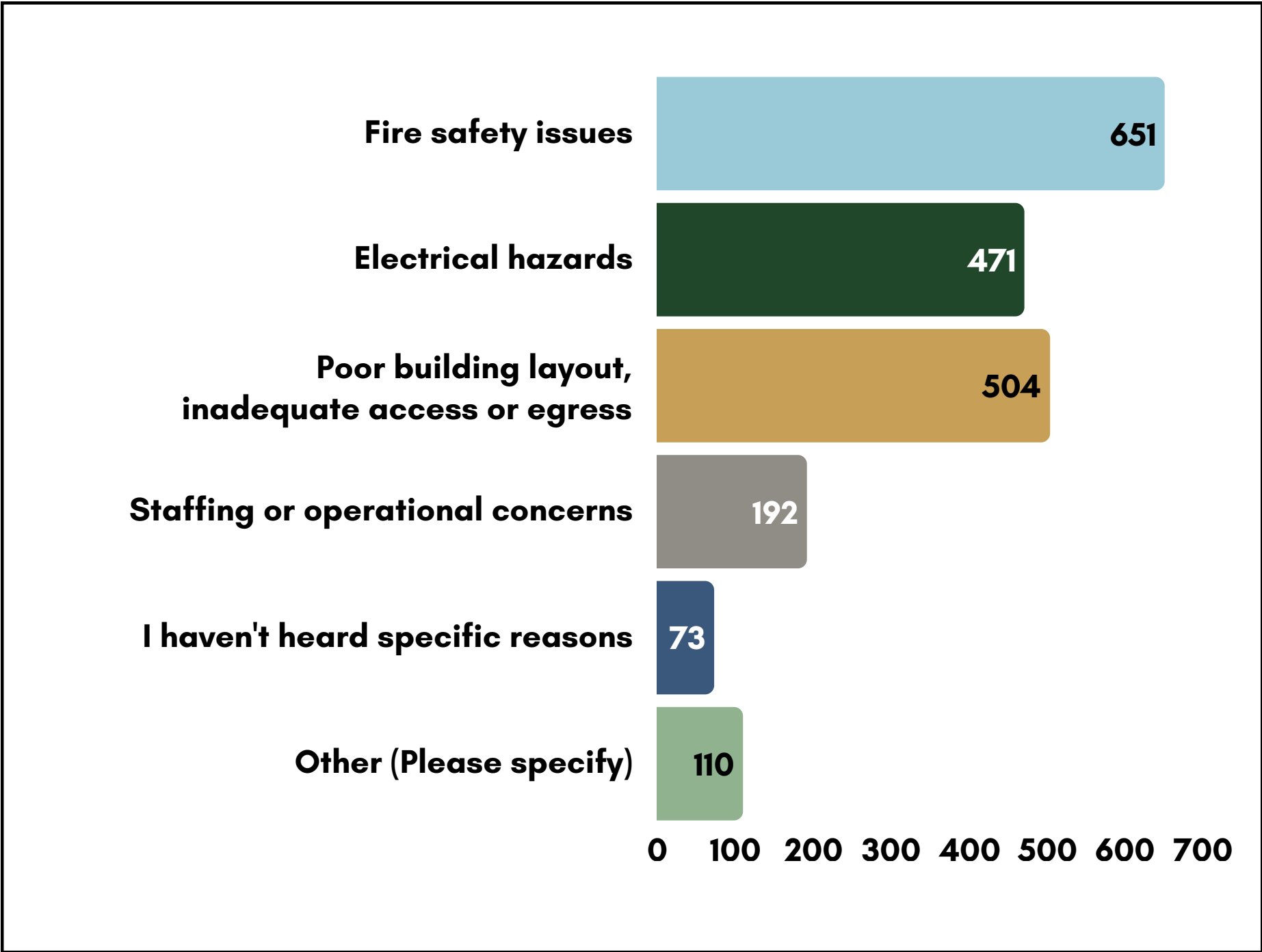
Most respondents (**61.2%**) consider themselves familiar with jail services.

Jail Closure Awareness

87.63% of respondents were aware the Latah County Jail had closed

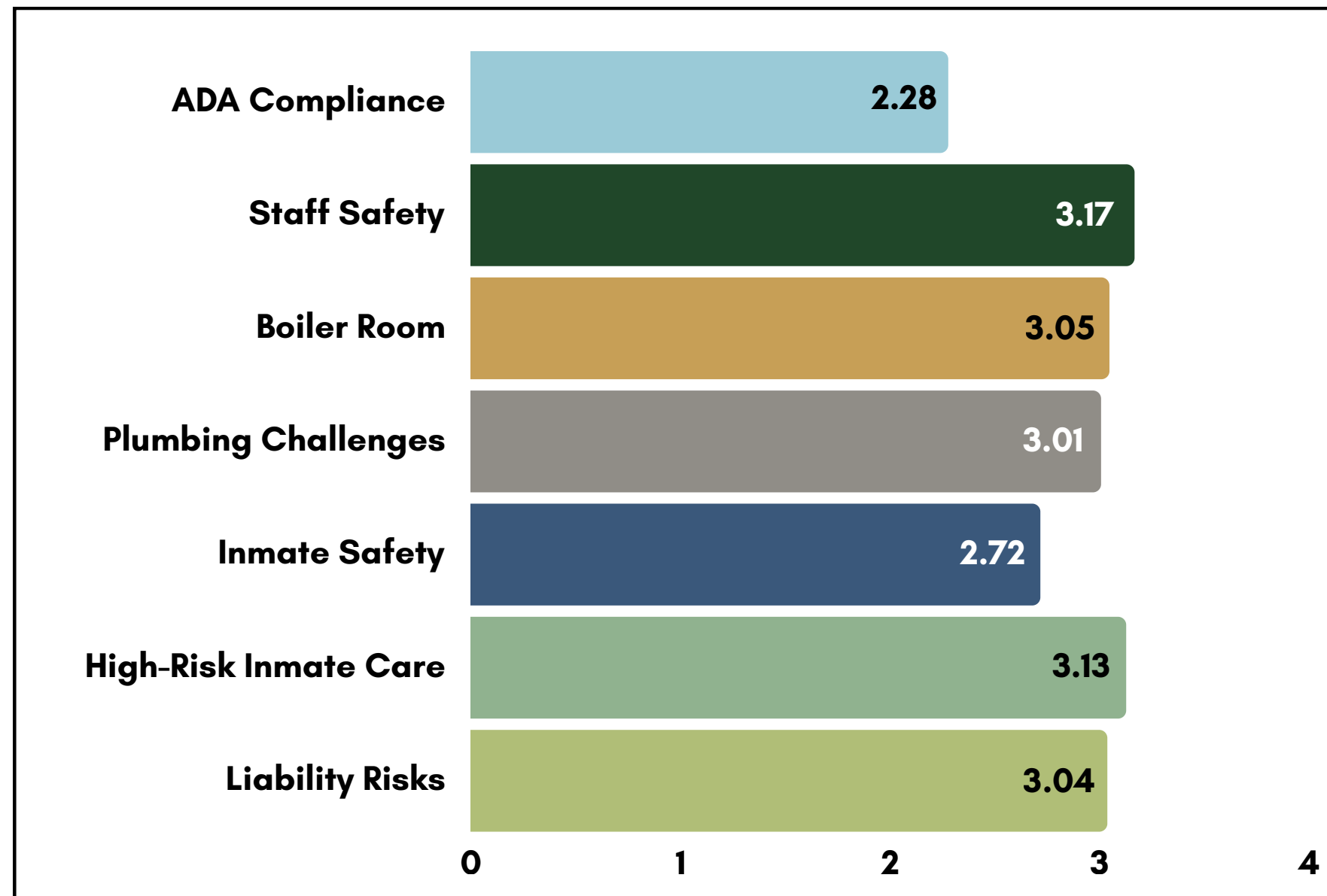
Top reasons heard for closure:

- 1.Fire safety issues (77.62%)
- 2.Poor building layout, inadequate access or egress (60.29%)
- 3.Electrical hazards (56.32%)



Facility Concerns: How Worried is the Public?

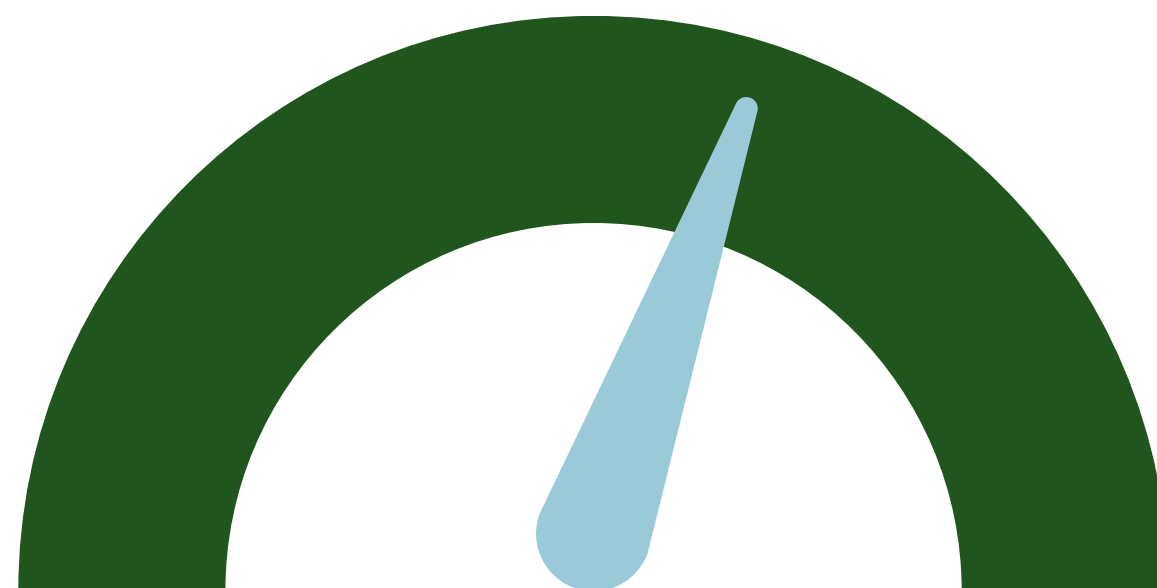
Respondents rated concern on a 0–4 scale across multiple facility issues.



Highest Concern
STAFF SAFETY



Support for Closing the Jail



59.9% supportive of the County
closing the Jail

21.15% Neutral/Unsure

18.92% Unsupportive

Community Comments on Jail Closure

Those who were unsupportive of closing the jail were able to leave a comment explaining why. Themes included:

- Impacts several groups (jail staff, court staff, inmates, attorneys, city police depts.)

- Other options to solve the problems
- Issues seem fixable, should have been dealt with previously

- Better to use current facility than build a new one
- Important to have a local jail
- County requirement; should stay a local issue

- Closure seemed abrupt; no community input
- Feel County is trying to justify building a new jail
- Other priorities before the Jail (ex. schools)
- Request for cost information

Closed Jail Logistics

Latah's cost per inmate per day

\$116

Latah Jail

vs.

\$127

Nez Perce Jail

4-8 hrs

Estimated time spent
transporting inmates each day

75.21% Concerned

84.11% Concerned

In general, respondents are more concerned about the effects of **transporting inmates to Nez Perce** than the cost/logistics of housing inmates in Nez Perce.

Local Jail



79.7% believe it is **important** to have
a local jail

13.7% Neutral/Unsure

6.6% Unimportant

Prioritizing Solutions

#1

Build new facility

57.16% ranked this as #1
Average Score: 3.18

#2

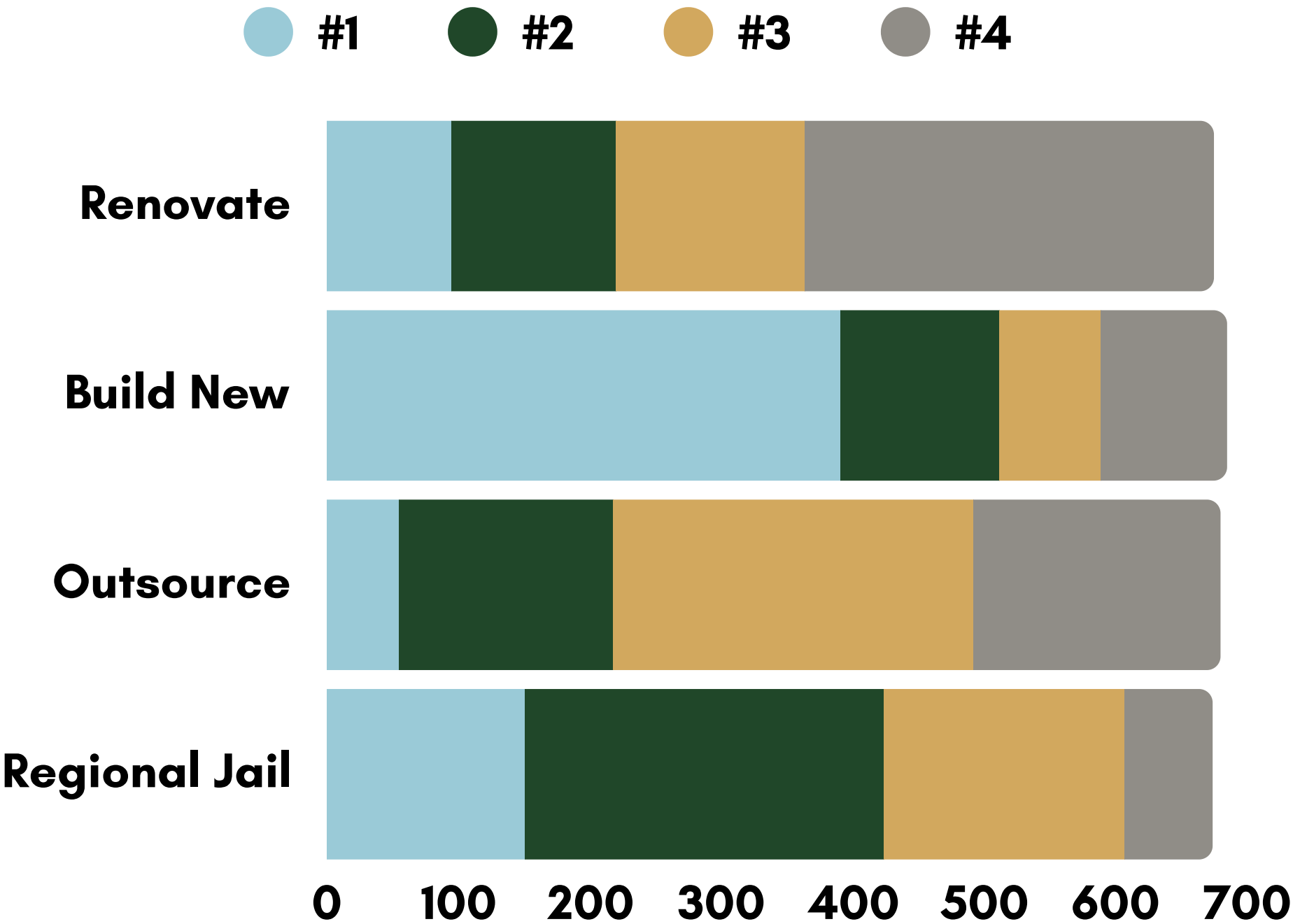
Explore a regional facility
shared with nearby counties
Avg Score: 2.75

#3

Continue to contract with
other counties
Avg Score: 2.13

#4

Renovate the existing facility
Avg Score: 2.00

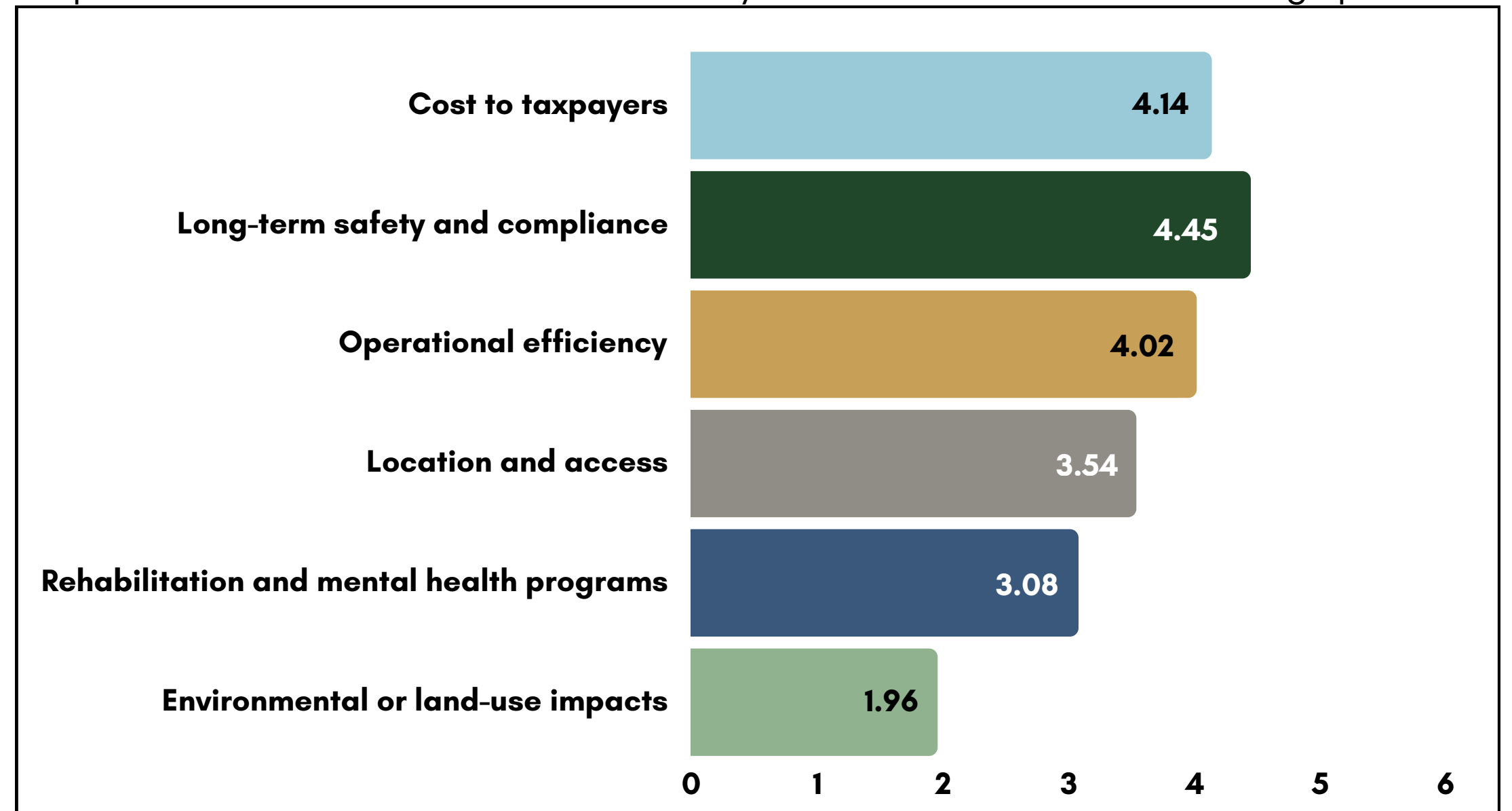


Considerations

Top 3

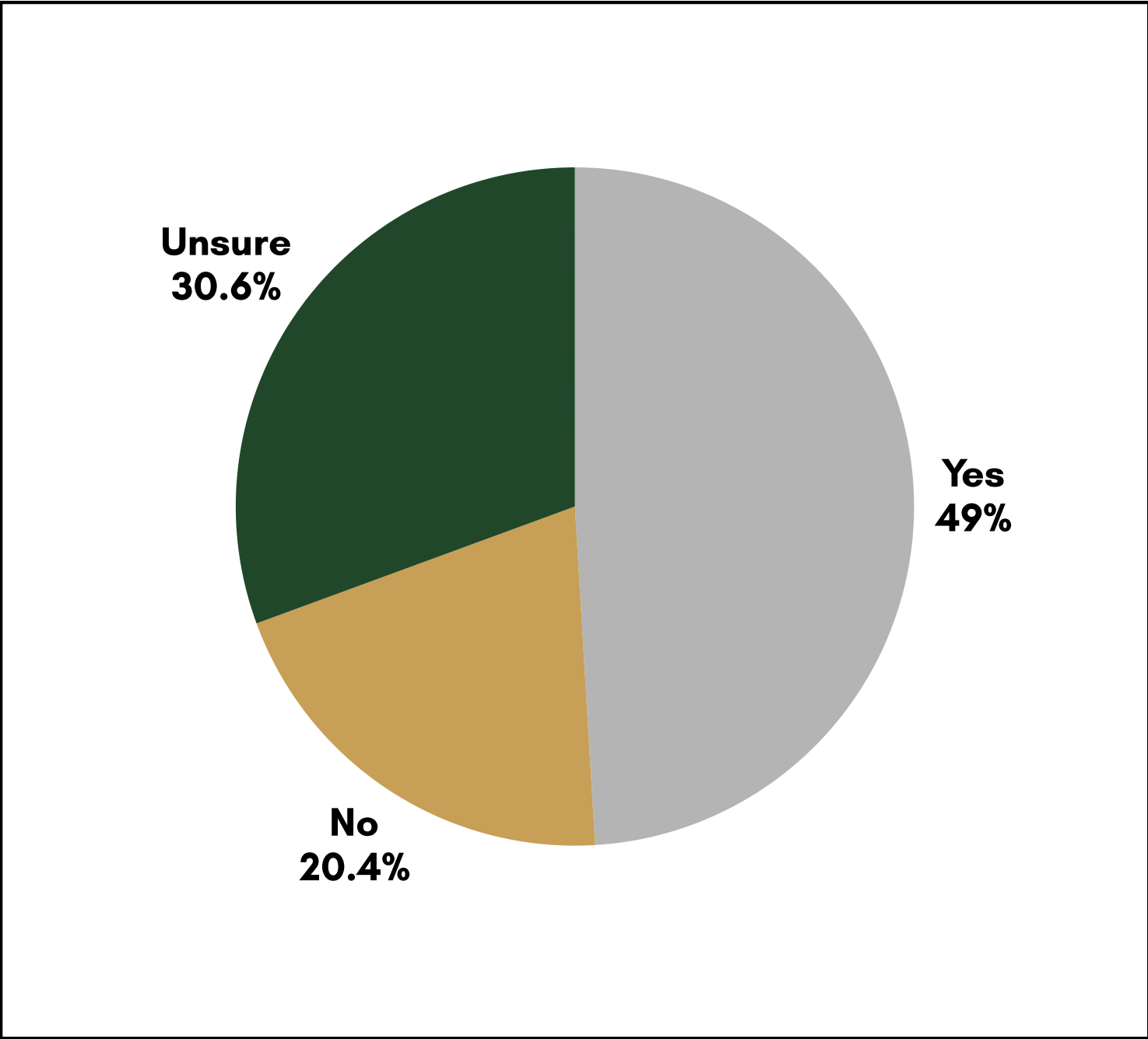
- Long-term safety & compliance
- Cost to taxpayers
- Operational efficiency

Respondents ranked what factors the County should consider when evaluating options?

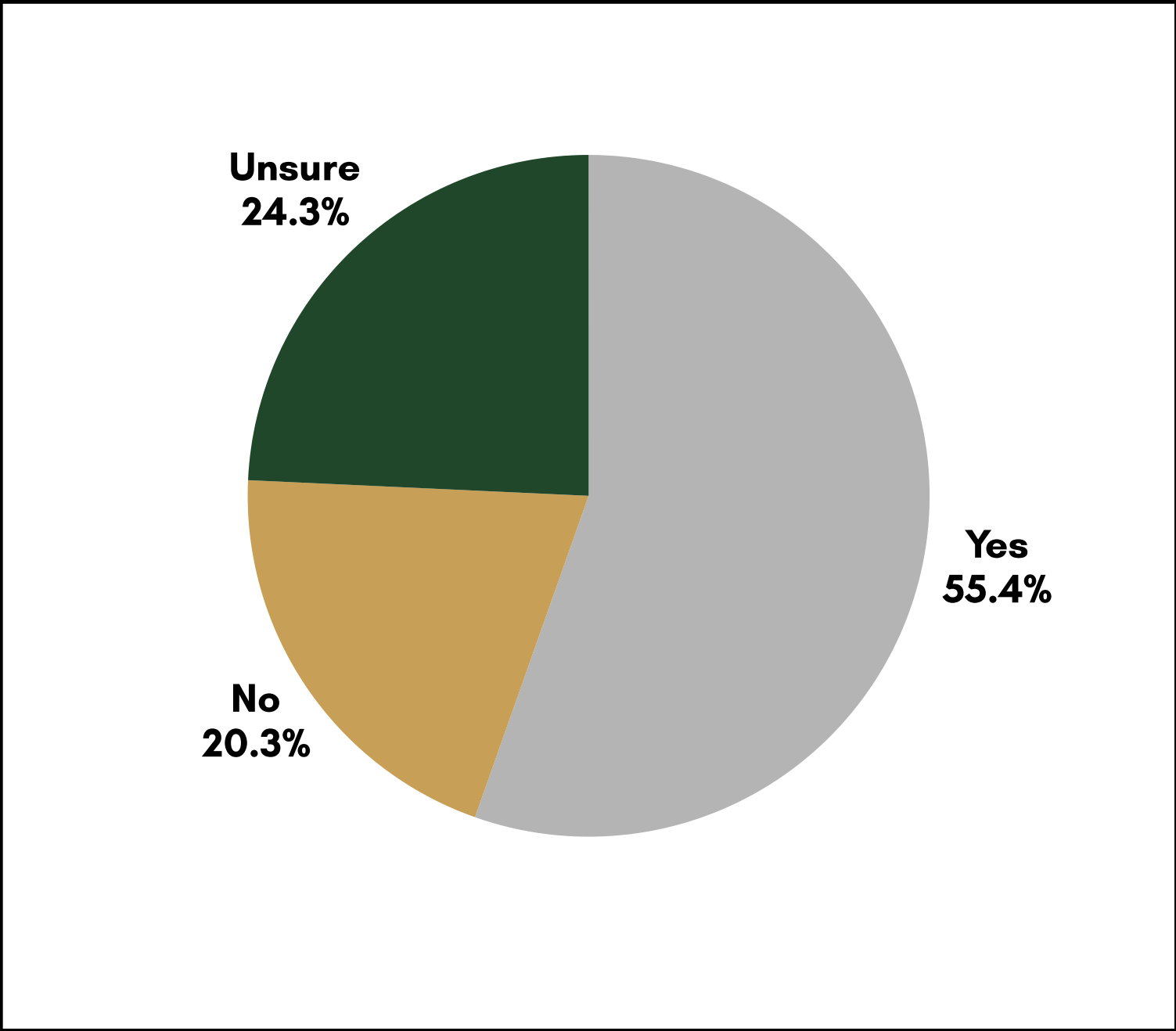


Funding

Would you support a general obligation bond if necessary to fund a new jail?



If the option became available, would you support the use of a local option tax to fund jail facilities?



Not Support Comments

Those who indicated they would not support a general obligation bond were asked to share their reasons why. Themes included:

- Concerns about tax impact
- Property taxes are too high
- Limited income, high cost of living, difficult economy

- Feeling that it places an unfair burden on property owners
- Preference to look at other funding options

- Schools and other community needs are seen as higher priorities
- Opposed to investing in jails due to philosophical views

- Skepticism about need for a new jail
- Prefer other options – repair existing facility, regional jail, continue sending to Nez Perce, etc.
- Concerns about operating costs of a new jail

Support Comments

Those who indicated they would support a general obligation bond were asked to share their reasons why. Themes included:

- Jails are an essential public service
- Current facility is inadequate
- Long-term investment may be more cost-effective than short-term fixes

- Public safety is a top priority
- Importance of compliance and staff and inmate safety

- Other funding sources should be pursued but they may be inadequate
- Support is based on responsible and transparent planning and cost considerations

- A long-term, local solution is preferable for many groups
- A new facility may provide better and more modern services for staff and inmates

Unsure Comments

Those who indicated they were unsure about supporting a general obligation bond were asked to share their reasons why. Themes included:

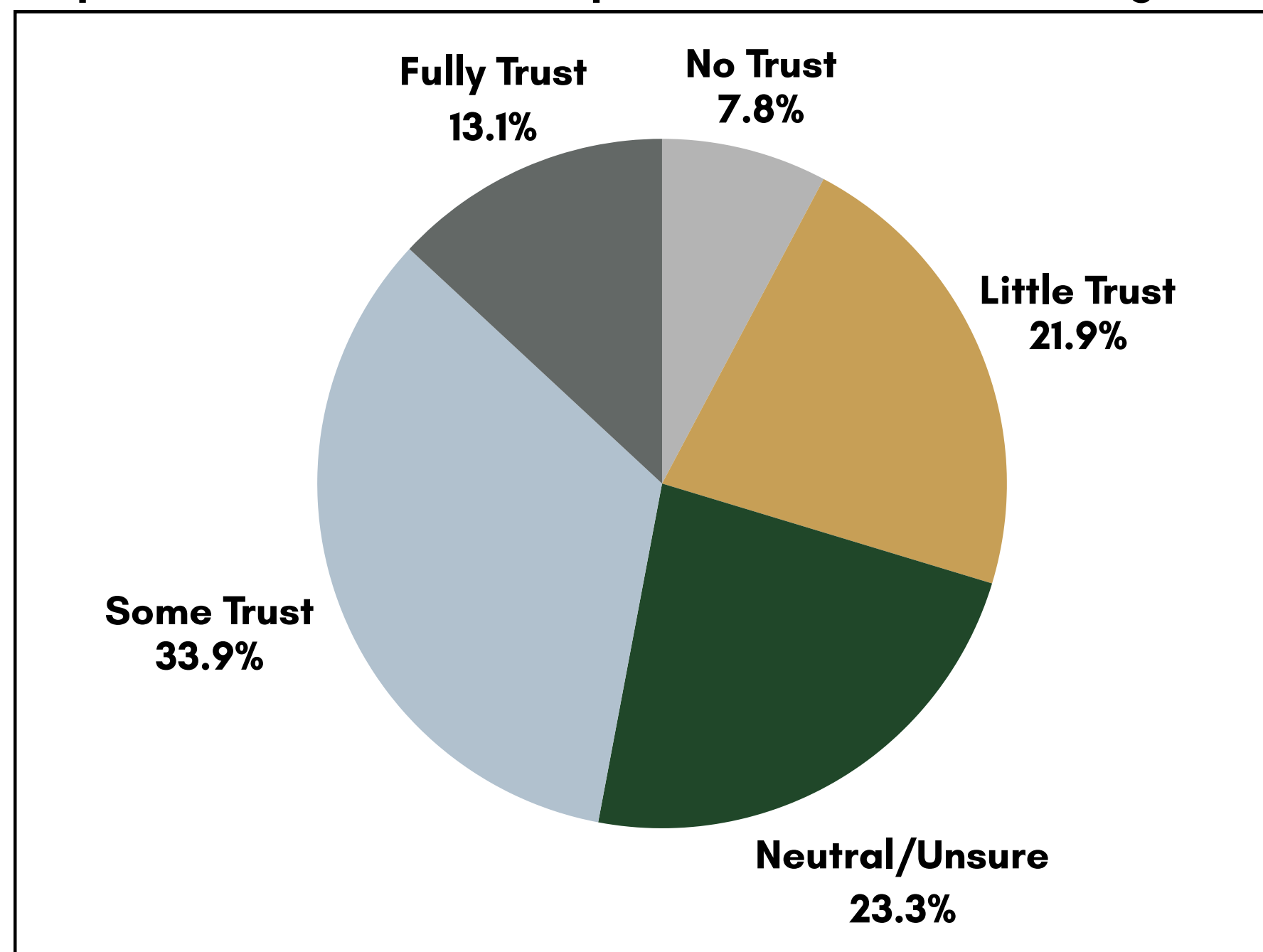
- Desire to know the actual cost and tax impact
- Concerns about property tax burden and affordability

- Clear, detailed project plan
- Comparison of alternative solutions and funding options
- Desire for County to show fiscal responsibility and cost control for the project

- Weighing a jail bond against other needs
- Request for transparency and additional communication

Trust

How much trust do you currently have in Latah County to make responsible decisions about public facilities and funding?



Trust

What actions would increase your trust in Latah County on this issue?

Clear public updates and progress reports



79.8%

Visual tours or photos of facility conditions



36.6%

Independent reviews or audits



57.5%

Transparent cost estimates



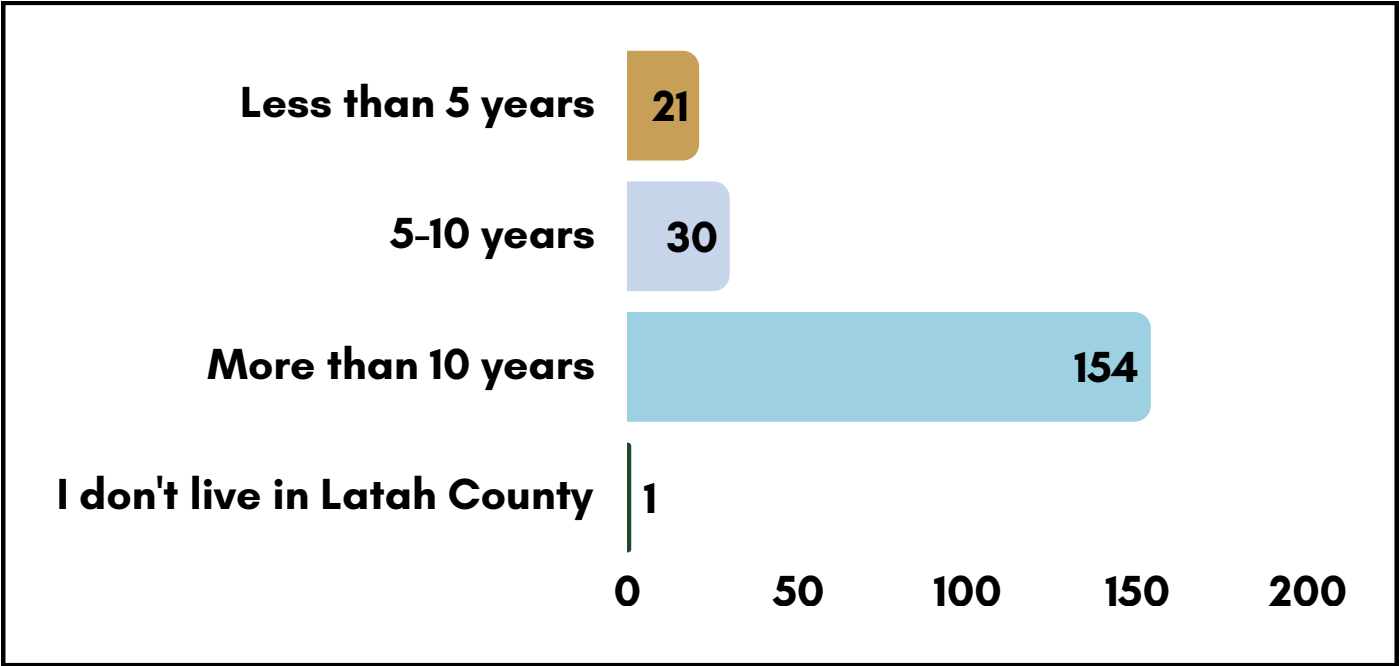
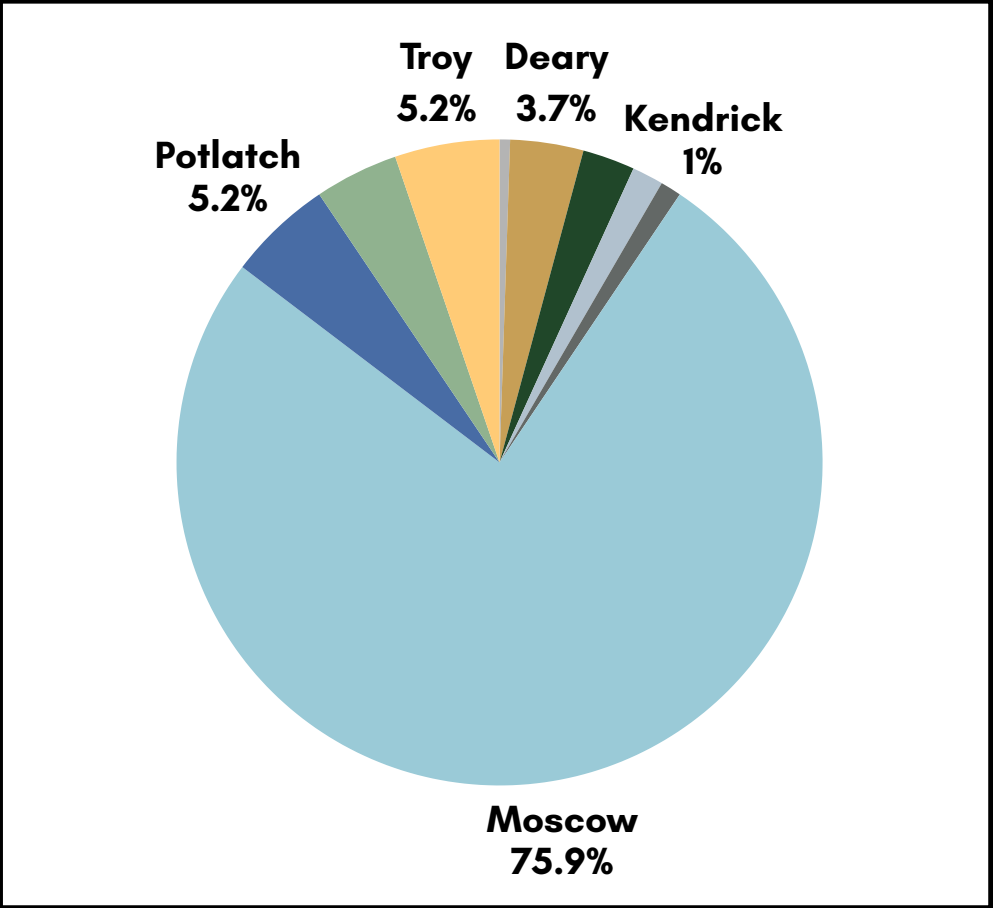
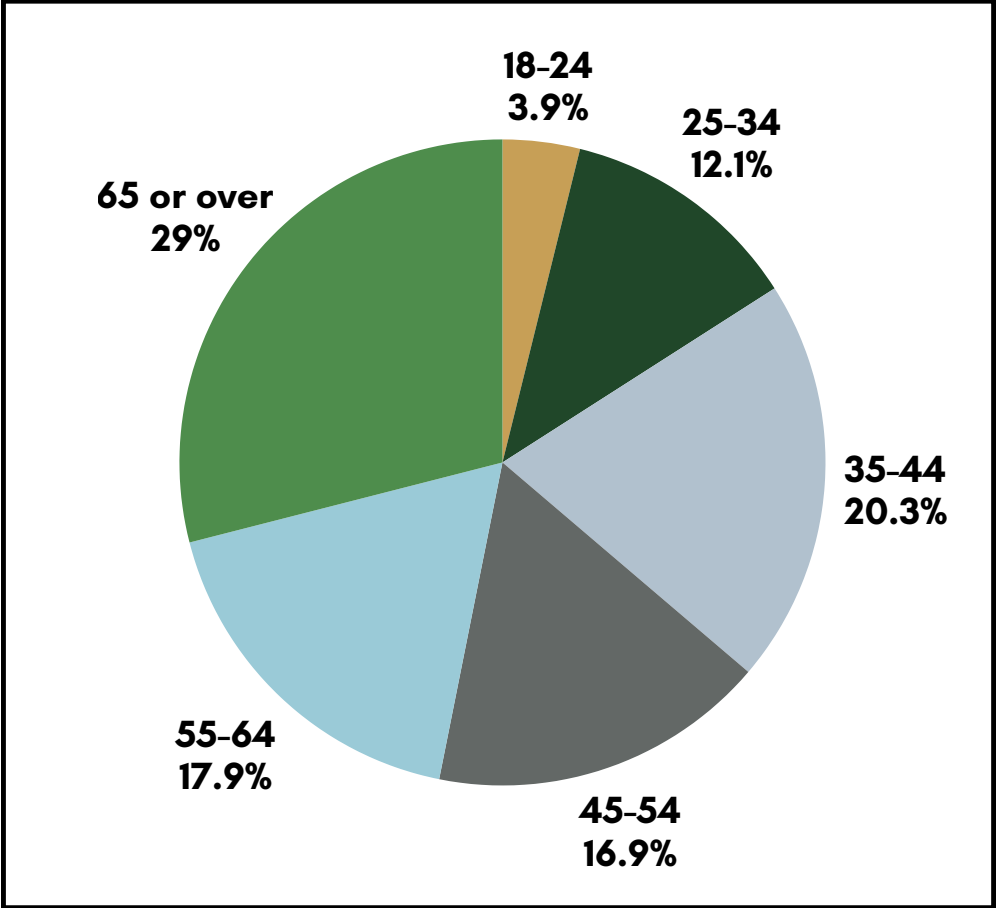
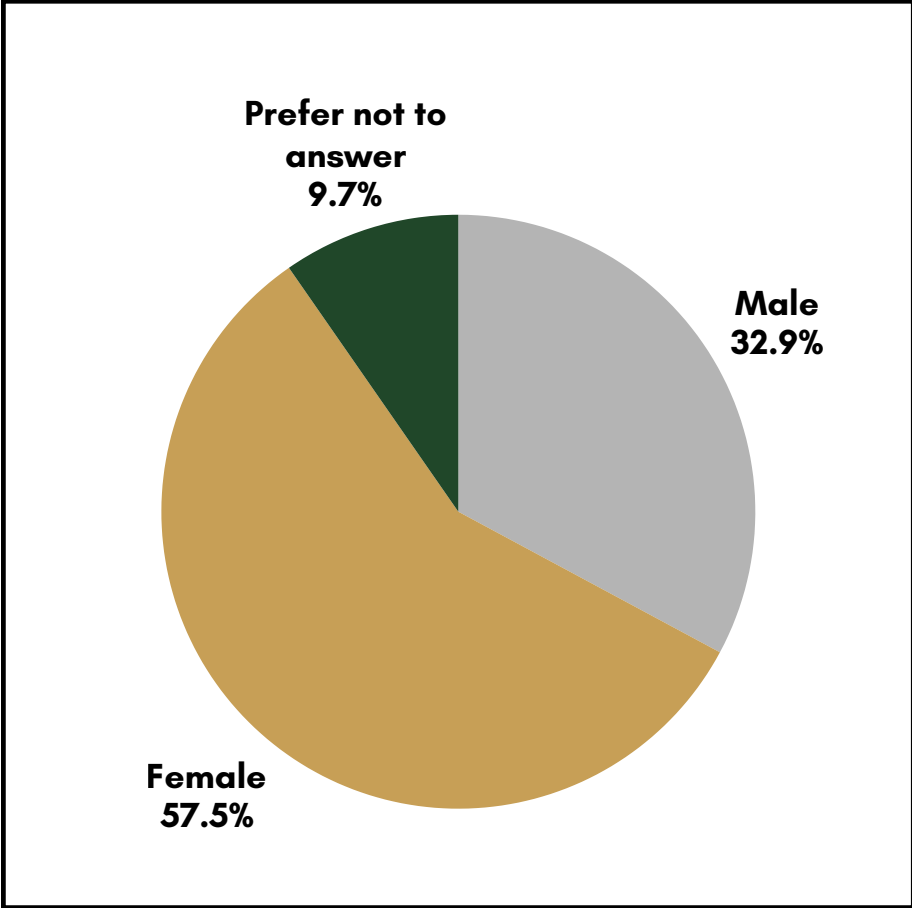
80.4%

Public meetings and Q&A sessions



60.8%

Unsure of Supporting Bond



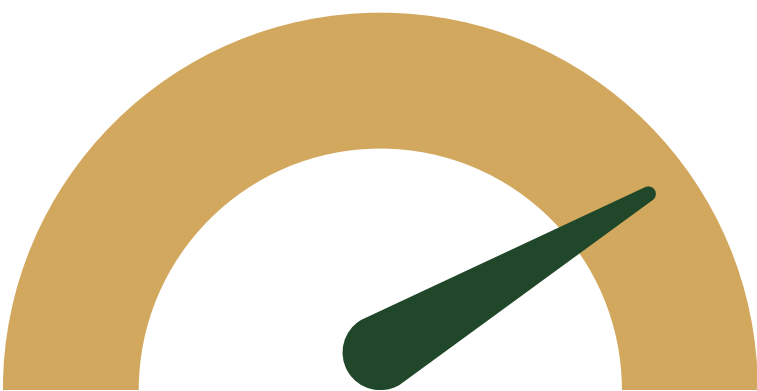
Unsure of Supporting Bond

To increase trust, those who indicated they were **unsure of supporting a bond** want:



Transparent cost estimates

84.6%



Clear public updates and progress reports

80.3%

Unsure respondents want the County to consider:

Cost to Taxpayers

50.8%

Ranked this #1 or #2
(#1: 36.4%; #2: 14.4%)

Long-term Safety
& Compliance

57.4%

Ranked this #1 or #2
(#1: 28.4%; #2: 28.9%)

Social Media

Local Newspaper/Radio

County Website

DISCUSSION

