

Sacramento County Jail System Master Planning

Community Webinar | August 27, 2026 | 5:00 p.m.

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
Public Safety and Justice Agency

Tonight's Webinar

Purpose: provide an update, report back on community input, and explain the path forward.

- Where the planning work stands and what has occurred since April
- What the Master Plan is intended to accomplish
- What we heard through community engagement
- How community priorities are being considered as facility options are evaluated
- What happens next and how to continue providing input

How to Participate Tonight

- **Questions:** Submit questions at any time through the Zoom Q&A function. We will address questions during the Q&A portion following the presentation. Due to time constraints, we may not be able to address every question; some questions may be answered in writing through the Q&A function.
- **Written Comments:** Written comments may be submitted to PSJA@saccounty.gov through September 10, 2026.
 - As we near completion of the Master Plan, we want to make sure we have accurately captured the perspectives shared by our community. If something is missing, incomplete, or does not reflect your perspective, we encourage you to submit written comments so that feedback can be documented and shared with our consultant and the Jail System Planning and Compliance Oversight Committee.
- The webinar is being recorded, and the County will continue to provide information as the planning process advances.

1 | Why a Master Plan?

A long-term look at facilities, operations, care, programming, and future needs

Facilities Matter: They Are a Key Part of the Conversation

- Community input has aligned with court appointed expert input based on review of how the County is meeting individual needs and legal requirements for care of those in custody at our jail facilities, repeatedly identifying both physical-facility limitations and broader system issues.
- Survey respondents described needs related to medical and behavioral health care, accessibility, humane conditions, programming, staffing, and reentry.
- At the same time, many respondents urged the County to reduce reliance on incarceration and invest in diversion and community-based services.
- The master planning process accounts for these perspectives together rather than treating facilities as the only issue.

What the Master Planning Effort Is Not

The Master Plan does...

- NOT represent a final decision to build a particular project.
- NOT predetermine a specific site or facility configuration.
- NOT replace ongoing work to reduce the jail population or expand alternatives to incarceration.
- NOT eliminate the need for future public, policy, environmental, budget, and Board of Supervisors review.

What the Master Planning Effort Is

The Master Plan is intended to...

- Assess the County's existing jail facilities and long-term needs.
- Identify feasible approaches for meeting legal, operational, healthcare, accessibility, safety, and programming needs.
- Consider how facility decisions interact with staffing, services, population, and system operations.
- Provide a long-term framework to inform future County decisions.

2 | Community Engagement to Date

Listening sessions, webinars, surveys, and written input

How We Have Heard From the Community

The engagement has included both structured survey questions and open-ended community feedback.

- **January 2026:** in-person Jail Planning Listening Session (Max. of 60 participants)
 - Follow-up survey after the listening session: 117 responses
- **April 2026:** online Jail System Planning Update and Community Input Webinar
 - Project update followed by approximately one hour of verbal public comment, providing additional perspectives on incarceration, Mays compliance, facility investment, services, reentry, public safety, and alternatives.
- Facilities Planning Survey: 226 responses
- Written questions and comments submitted throughout the process
- **August 2026:** today's webinar and additional written-comment period

Who Participated?

- Survey participants included:
 - Sacramento County residents and employees
 - People with lived, family, or other connection to experiences with incarceration
 - Crime survivors
 - Justice-system professionals
 - Healthcare and behavioral-health professionals
 - Advocates
 - Other community members.
- Participation was voluntary. Information about respondents' experiences and backgrounds was self-reported and was not independently verified by the County.
- The survey results reflect the views of respondents; they should not be interpreted as a statistically representative poll of all Sacramento County residents.

3 | What We Heard

Recurring themes, including areas of agreement
and areas of significant disagreement

A Consistent Message: This Is More Than a Building Question

The feedback was not uniform, and the differences are important to acknowledge.

- Community feedback frequently connected jail facilities to broader questions about incarceration, public safety, behavioral health, medical care, housing, reentry, staffing, accountability, and community investment.
- Some participants supported modernization or relocation of jail facilities.
- Others opposed new construction or urged the County to exhaust population-reduction and non-construction approaches first.
- Many comments combined **both perspectives**: improve conditions for people who remain in custody and reducing reliance on incarceration where appropriate.

In-Custody Care: Recurring Priorities

Care and Environment

- Individualized assessment and care rather than one-size-fits-all approaches.
- Timely medical, mental-health, and substance-use treatment.
- Continuity of medications and medical information.
- Accessible, humane environments with appropriate specialty spaces.
- Less isolation and more opportunities for activity, connection, and programming.

People and Systems

- More healthcare and behavioral-health staffing and specialty expertise.
- Human-centered training (trauma-informed, disability-aware, de-escalation, etc.)
- Better coordination between custody, healthcare, families, and community providers.
- Improved accountability, grievance processes, and transparency.
- Diversion and community treatment for people whose needs may be better served outside jail.

Overall Jail System Improvement: Recurring Priorities

System Change

- Reduce jail population and unnecessary pretrial detention.
- Expand diversion, prevention, and alternatives to incarceration.
- Improve healthcare and behavioral-health services.
- Strengthen accountability, oversight, transparency, and measurable outcomes.
- Invest in rehabilitation, education, and programming.

Operational and Facility Change

- Modernize outdated facilities and address accessibility barriers.
- Improve staffing, retention, training, and staff wellbeing.
- Improve booking, classification, release, and information-sharing processes.
- Design environments that better support care, programming, safety, and efficient operations.
- Consider impacts on surrounding communities and long-term costs.

Reentry: What Participants Emphasized

Before Release

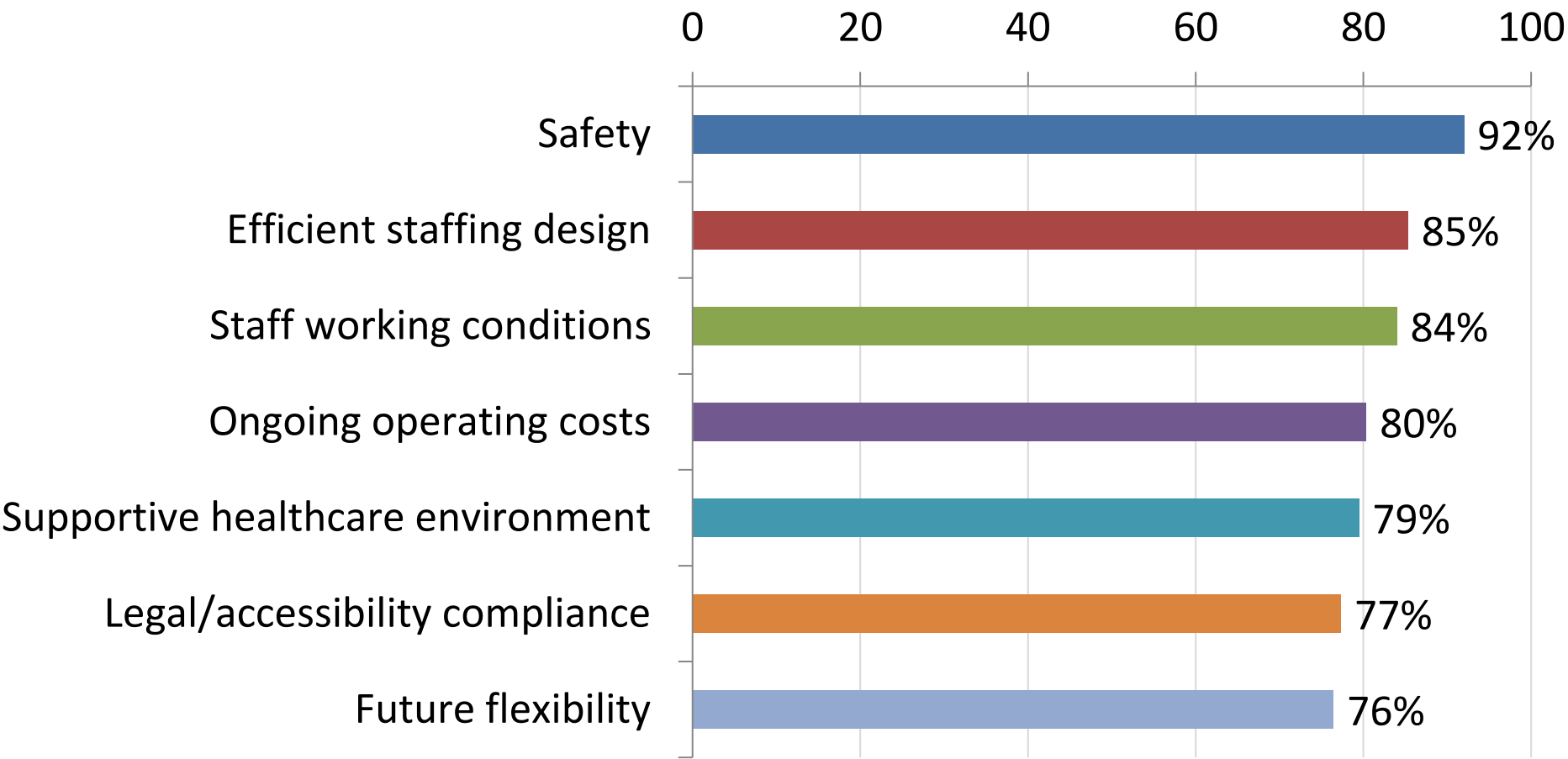
- Start reentry planning earlier, at intake or early in custody.
- Use individualized plans and dedicated case managers or navigators.
- Connect people directly with community providers before release.
- Provide education, job readiness, life skills, and family connection.
- Plan for housing, treatment, benefits, identification, transportation, and medications.

At and After Release

- Stable housing was the most frequently cited foundation for successful reentry.
- Use warm handoffs rather than passive referrals.
- Maintain continuity of medical, behavioral-health, and substance-use treatment.
- Improve release timing and basic release logistics.
- Strengthen coordination among County departments, courts, providers, and community organizations.

Facilities Survey: Highest-Rated Considerations

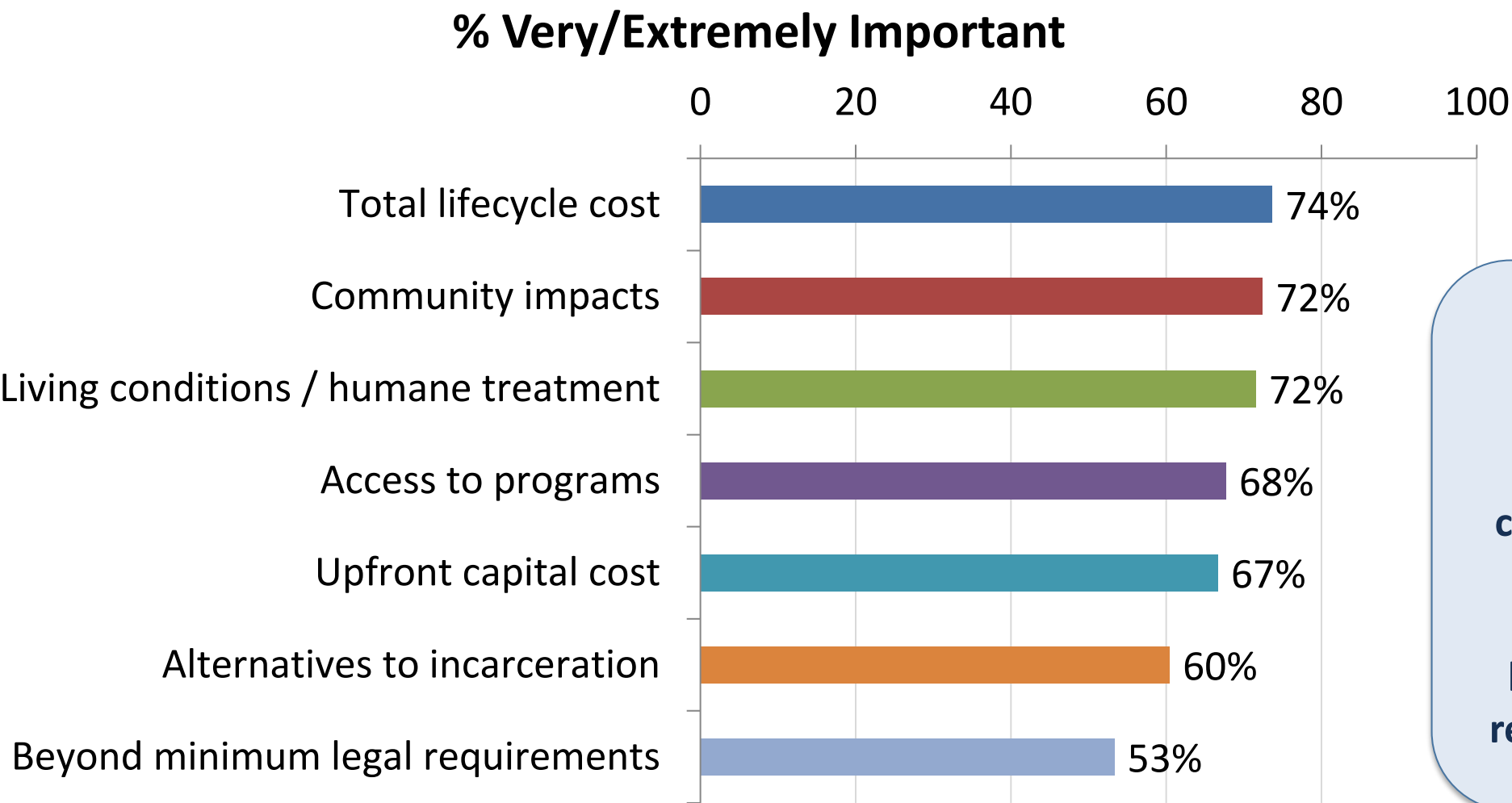
% Very/Extremely Important



Among 224–225 respondents per item, safety ranked highest: 92% rated it Very or Extremely Important.

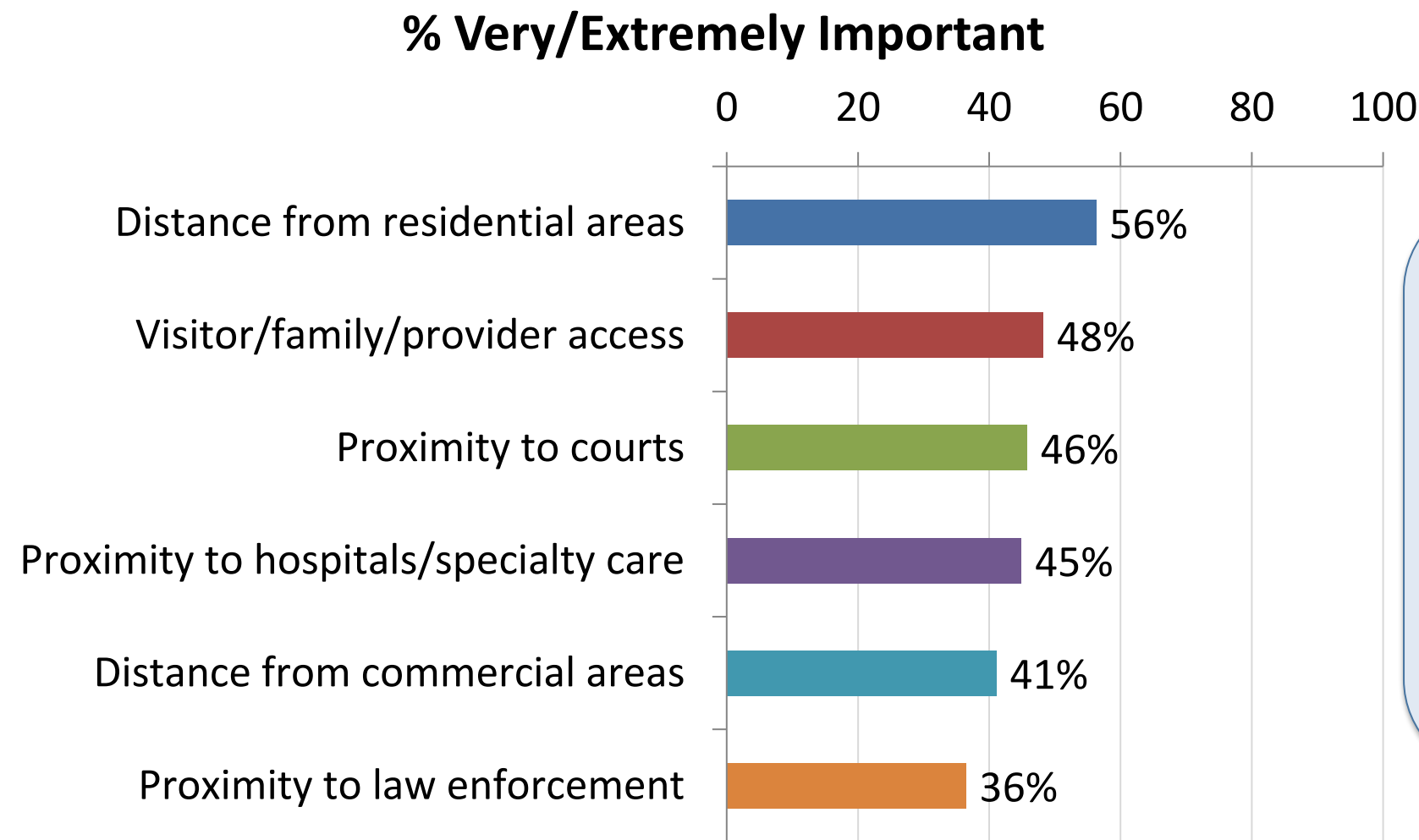
Staff working conditions and facility design supporting efficient staffing also ranked highly.

Facilities Survey: Other Major Considerations



Respondents did not focus on a single dimension. Cost, conditions, community impact, programming, alternatives, and legal standards all received substantial support.

Facilities Survey: Location and Access



Location priorities were more mixed than safety, staffing, or cost priorities.

This reinforces that site evaluation, if needed, requires balancing multiple competing considerations.

What Participants Asked Us to Consider

- Whether additional jail space is necessary and how population reduction is being incorporated into planning.
- Whether the Main Jail should remain downtown, be relocated, or be replaced by another configuration.
- How medical, behavioral-health, disability, rehabilitation, and reentry needs will shape facility design.
- How costs — both capital and long-term operating costs — will be evaluated.
- How community input will influence decisions and how the County will remain transparent.
- How the planning effort relates to legal compliance and the Mays Consent Decree.

Different Experiences, Different Perspectives

People brought different lived, professional, family, and community experiences to the planning process and sometimes reached very different conclusions.

Crime Survivor • Worked in Sac. County Jail

"It's time to look into replacing this outdated and obsolete building."

Crime Survivor • Healthcare Experience

"No one would care if the jail looked old and haggard - IF the inmates were being treated as humans, not criminals."

Family/Loved-One Incarceration • Crime Survivor • Law Enforcement/Legal Experience

"Inmates should be given a bus/ light rail pass for transportation back to their home area rather than being released downtown with no possessions or transportation."

Lived Experience with Incarceration • Family Incarceration • Crime Survivor • Jail/Health/Social Services Experience

"Blocking expansion and investing in improving current services and expanding diversion"

Business Owner • Long-term Investor in Economic Development

"We believe it is crucial to relocate the existing downtown jail to another location that doesn't create a drag on our local economic development... We need more capacity to incarcerate those who are repeat offenders and degrade our community's quality of life."

Selected individual Facilities Planning Survey responses are presented verbatim. Background labels reflect respondents' self-selected experience categories; respondents may fit more than one category.

In Their Own Words: What Should Change?

Participants expressed fundamentally different views about the role of incarceration and where County resources should be focused.

Reduce Incarceration

“The question is not, how do we best warehouse human beings?? It is, why are we warehousing so many human beings to begin with??”

Incarcerate Serious Offenders

“There is a need and purpose for jail. It is just reality. We need to lock up law breakers, particularly violent criminals.”

Prioritize Humane Treatment

“Treat each individual with respect. They are human beings that have rights and deserve basic civility.”

Prioritize Officer/Public Safety

“Prioritize officer and public safety over inmate privileges.”

Invest in Prevention

“Shift funding toward housing, healthcare, and prevention programs. Prevention investments reduce incarceration while improving public safety.”

Balance Accountability & Rehabilitation

“While I support incarceration for serious offenses... when individuals are genuinely committed to changing their lives, we have a responsibility to support their rehabilitation.”

Selected individual responses are presented verbatim to illustrate the range of perspectives received. They do not indicate the relative frequency of each viewpoint.

In Their Own Words: What Should the Master Plan Do?

The disagreement also extends directly to the central facilities question.

Build [for Compliance]

"Build a new jail that is able to address the six areas identified in the Federal Consent Decree"

"Build a jail. It's not rocket science."

Design Around Behavioral Health

"...prioritize facility designs and operational models that meaningfully integrate behavioral health care."

Replace Aging Facilities

"This is about a long overdue replacement of these buildings, not an expansion of jail beds."

Demonstrate Changes to Services

"I want to see a listing of all the new services. I want to see how that compares to what they offer now."

Do Not Use Mays To Justify New Construction

"The Mays consent decree is not your excuse to build a new jail."

Consider Alternatives to Expansion

"I am against the jail being expanded. I believe [the] County needs more mental health hospitals."

Population Reduction First

"We should be building a plan for population reduction before and as a necessary precondition of planning for jail facilities."

Consider Relocation

"A reimagined correctional system should be located outside the center city..."

Selected individual responses are presented verbatim to illustrate the range of perspectives received. They do not indicate the relative frequency of each viewpoint.

Where the Feedback Converged

Even where participants disagreed about the role or size of the jail system, several practical priorities appeared across viewpoints.

- Safety matters — for people in custody, staff, and the public.
- Medical and behavioral-health care must be timely, appropriate, and continuous.
- Facilities should support rather than impede care, accessibility, programming, and safe operations.
- Reentry should begin before release and connect directly to housing, healthcare, employment, and community supports.
- Staffing, training, culture, and accountability are as important as physical space.
- Long-term decisions should consider both upfront costs and ongoing operating impacts.

Where the Feedback Diverged

The Master Plan will not erase these differences. Its role is to give decision makers better information about the tradeoffs.

- Whether the County should construct new jail space at all.
- Whether jail population reduction should be the primary strategy for addressing facility constraints.
- Whether the Main Jail should remain downtown or be relocated.
- How County resources should be balanced between custody facilities and community-based alternatives.
- How to balance rehabilitation, humane conditions, accountability, and traditional public-safety approaches.

4 | Where the Planning Work Stands

From broad concepts toward a more focused evaluation

Work Completed or Underway

Since the April community webinar, the planning team has continued technical analysis of the County's jail system, including:

- Existing facility conditions and physical constraints
- Jail population trends and future planning assumptions
- Operational, healthcare, behavioral-health, programming, and staffing needs
- Space and facility requirements
- Potential approaches for addressing long-term facility needs
- Preliminary feasibility, cost, and implementation considerations, including development of site-screening criteria
- Community feedback and how it relates to the alternatives being evaluated

The Analysis is Becoming More Focused

The planning process began by considering a broad range of potential approaches. Technical analysis is helping identify which warrant further study.

- Potential approaches are being assessed against facility, operational, legal, accessibility, healthcare, staffing, cost, and implementation considerations.
- Some approaches present greater feasibility/implementation challenges than others.
- The planning team is continuing to refine and evaluate the approaches that appear capable of addressing the County's long-term needs.
- Community input has helped inform the development of site-screening criteria that could be used in future site identification and evaluation, if additional or replacement locations are needed.
- **No preferred approach has been selected, and no specific sites have been evaluated.**

The completed Master Plan will provide the analysis needed to inform a recommendation and future Board consideration.

5 | How Input Is Being Used

Turning community priorities into questions for facility and system evaluation

From Community Input to Evaluation Criteria

Community Priorities

- Safety and humane conditions
- Medical and behavioral-health support
- Accessibility and legal compliance
- Programming and reentry
- Staff working conditions and operational efficiency
- Cost and long-term sustainability
- Location, access, and community impacts

Planning Questions

- Can the option safely support the people and services it must accommodate?
- Does the physical environment enable appropriate care and programming?
- What staffing and operating model would it require?
- What are the capital and lifecycle costs?
- How adaptable is it to future population and service needs?
- What are the transportation, access, and neighborhood implications?

Community Input Is One Part of a Larger Evaluation

The Master Plan draws on many sources of information, resources, and factors, including:

- Community feedback and lived experience
- Existing facility conditions and physical constraints
- Legal and accessibility requirements
- Jail population trends and future planning assumptions
- Healthcare, behavioral-health, programming, and operational requirements
- Staffing feasibility and ongoing operating impacts
- Site feasibility, transportation, infrastructure, and community context
- Capital cost, lifecycle cost, implementation time, and project risk

6 | What Happens Next?

Further analysis, recommendations, and future decision points

Court-Required Master Planning Timeline

The current Master Planning schedule is governed by a Memorandum of Agreement filed in federal court.

By October 30, 2026
Complete the written Master Plan report

- Inspection, assessment, inventory, and analysis of existing facilities
- Detailed jail population analysis
- Operations assessment, including Mays Consent Decree compliance
- Space planning and assessment
- Physical-plant remediation options, cost estimates, project delivery methods, timelines, and other relevant matters

By December 4, 2026
Develop a recommendation for the Board of Supervisors

- With input from the Mays subject matter experts
- Following a meet-and-confer with Class Counsel
- Recommendation is a Court-required milestone; it is not itself final Board approval of a construction project or site

What Happens After Tonight?



What Would Board Direction Mean?

Anticipated December action would narrow the range of approaches for additional study — not authorize construction of a final project.

If one or more approaches are selected for further study:

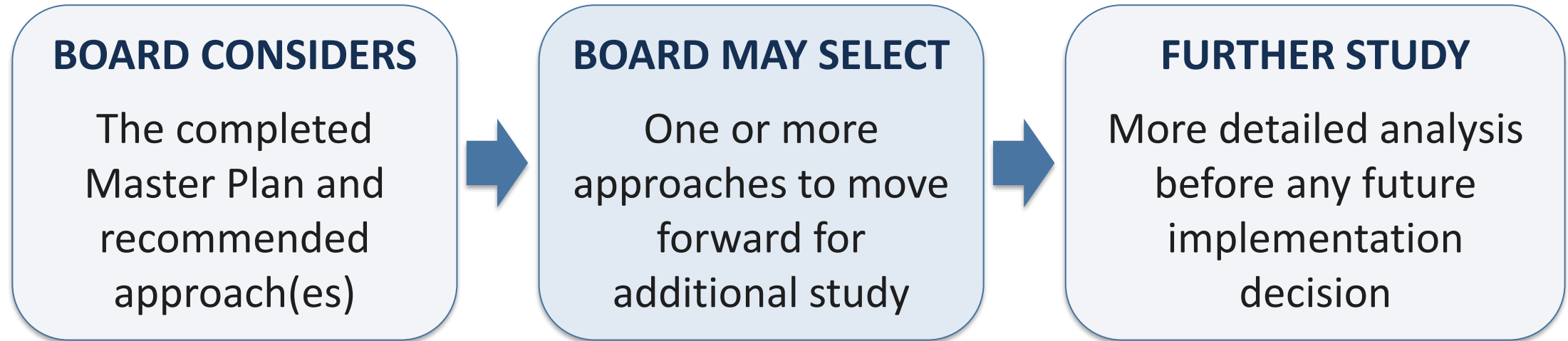
- Refine the selected approach(es) and operational assumptions
- Conduct potential site identification and evaluation, if applicable
- Advance facility programming and more detailed cost analysis
- Evaluate implementation, financing, infrastructure, and project-delivery issues
- Conduct environmental review, including applicable CEQA processes
- Return for additional Board consideration and approvals as required

What it would not mean:

- A final decision on a specific project
- Final selection of a site
- Approval to begin construction
- Completion of environmental review
- A commitment to a final project, cost, or financing plan

Anticipated Board of Supervisors Consideration

Currently anticipated for December 15, 2026 — date not yet confirmed



What the Board is NOT expected to do at this stage

Approve construction • Make a final funding, timeline, or implementation decision

Any approach selected would require additional analysis; the scope of that work would depend on Board direction.

Community Engagement Will Continue

Tonight is not the final opportunity for the community to learn about or engage with the Master Planning process.

- August: project update, report-back on community input, and written-comment period.
- November (tentative): separate webinars on the current state and potential future state identified through the Master Plan.
- December (anticipated): Board consideration of one or more approaches for further study.
- After Board direction: additional public processes and engagement will occur as applicable to site evaluation, environmental review, and subsequent decisions.

7 | Questions and Continued Input

Thank you for participating in the planning process

Questions & Written Comments

Your feedback helps the County understand community priorities, concerns, and tradeoffs as the work continues.

- Please submit questions through the Zoom Q&A function.
- Written comments may be emailed to PSJA@saccounty.gov.
- Comments will be accepted after the webinar through September 10, 2026.
- The webinar recording and presentation materials will be posted online.

Appendix

Additional survey detail for reference during Q&A

Survey Interpretation Notes

- Facilities Planning Survey: 226 total responses; individual rating questions generally had 223–226 responses.
- Listening Session Follow-Up Survey: 117 responses.
- Open-ended responses were reviewed for recurring themes; the summarized themes are qualitative, not frequency-weighted polling results.
- Respondents could express multiple or competing priorities in a single response.
- Because participation was voluntary and self-selected, results should not be generalized as a representative sample of all County residents.

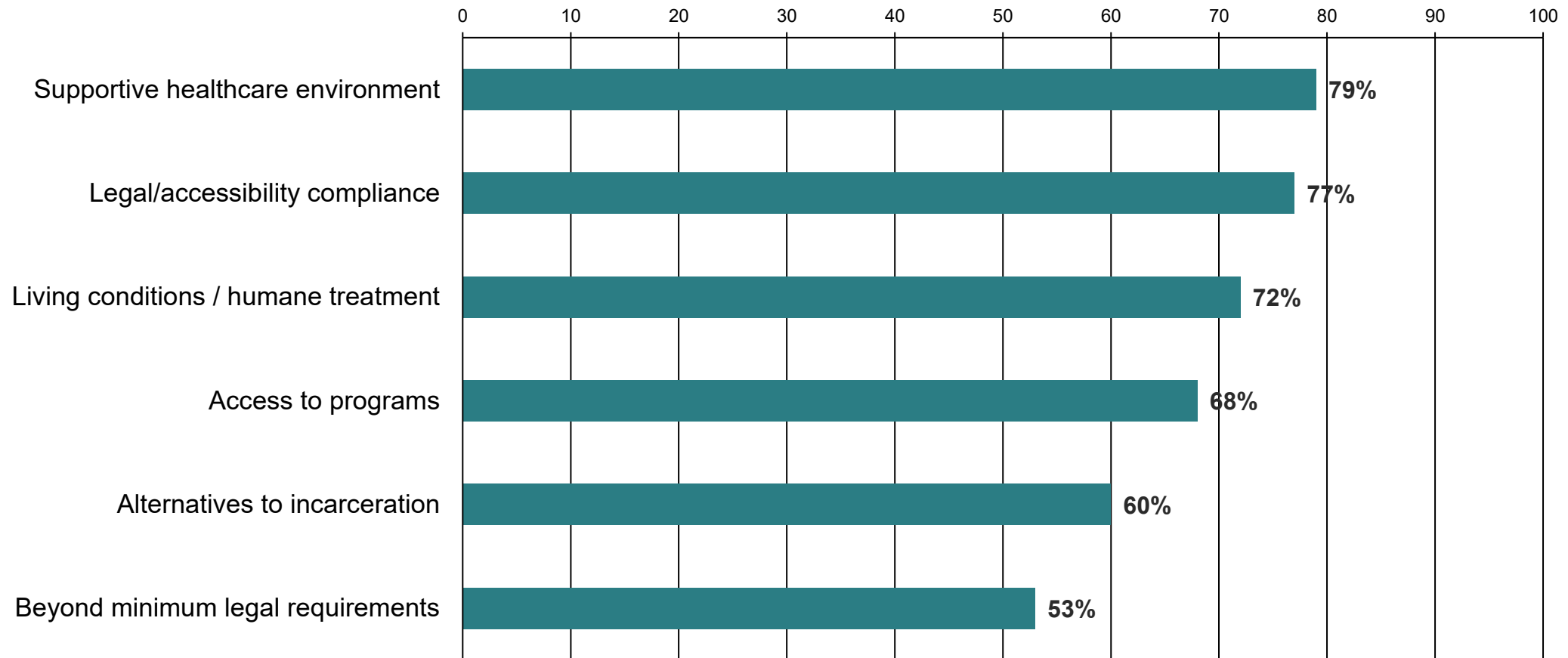
Facilities Survey: Safety, Operations & Facility Function

These considerations focus on whether facilities can safely and effectively support day-to-day jail operations.



Facilities Survey: Care, Conditions, Programming & Legal

These considerations focus on the environment for people in custody, access to services, and legal requirements.



Facilities Survey: Cost & Community Impact

Respondents were asked to consider both near-term and long-term costs, as well as impacts beyond the facility itself.



Facilities Survey: Location & Access

Location-related priorities were more mixed than safety, staffing, care, or cost considerations.

