

memo

To: Community Investment Conversation Participants
From: Washington County Board of Commissioners
CC: County Administrator Ange
Date: March 4, 2021
Re: Your input at the 2020 Community Investment Conversations

As your Board of Commissioners, we want to first thank you for participating in our second Annual Community Investment Conversation (CIC). We launched this program in 2019 under the name “Budget Listening Tour” but have revamped the program and the title to match.

We wanted to be sure to share back the work that has happened since we met in November.

On our [website](#) you can find a new “[Community Investment Conversation](#)” page.



Included on this page you will find the Participant Guide, the report provided by our consulting team, the slide deck from the presentation to the Board on January 26, 2021, and frequently asked questions from the sessions.

In total we had 276 community members attend over the course of four sessions, with 19% attending two sessions or more. For a further breakdown of attendance by date and other information, [please refer to the staff presentation to the Board](#).

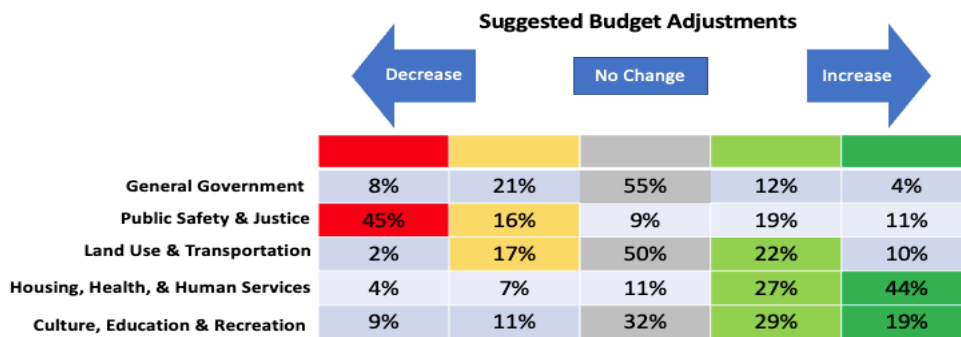
With 81% of the attendees of the four Community Investment Conversations unique (i.e. they only attended a single session) we note the input from this community outreach:

- 61% of respondents felt that there should be a decrease in Public Safety & Justice allocations (45% big decrease, 16% modest decrease),
- 71% of respondents felt that there should be an increase in Housing, Health & Human Services allocations (44% big increase, 27% modest increase),
- 48% of respondents felt that there should be an increase in Culture, Education & Recreation allocations (19% big increase, 29% modest increase),
- 50% or more respondents believed that General Government and Land Use & Transportation allocations should have no change.

This information is instructive, though not statistically significant. Of the 276 attendees, we received 133 responses over the four meetings. That means that, as your County Commission, we can and should use this information as one data point in our deliberations on the distribution of county funds.

As well, we must acknowledge the broad spectrum of perspectives put forth during these discussions. These perspectives are incredibly important to be taken into consideration in the budget process. Below is a chart that reflect the sentiments shared by participants of the CICs

The chart below reflects those sentiments, heard repeatedly over the four sessions.



Aggregate polling across all four sessions

In the coming weeks the Board will be discussing budget priorities and providing direction to the staff. Your time and input is valued, appreciated and provides additional insight into community needs. To find out more about dates, times or how to provide testimony please reach out to [Board Clerk Kevin Moss](#).

We thank you again for participating. As we continue these annual conversations, we hope you will be on this journey of continuous learning with us. We will do our best to evolve in terms of how we hear from you in an effort to ensure we are reflecting the values and voices of all of our residents. Please also plan to participate in our quarterly Board of Commissioners Town Halls.

The draft budget will be released in late April with our budget hearings scheduled through late May.