

**KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

**Resident Budget  
Simulation  
for 2020 Budget**



*In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...*



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESIDENT BUDGET SIMULATION

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Purpose.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Analytics .....</b>	<b>4</b>
Page Views & Submissions.....	4
Revenue Categories – Opens by Category.....	5
Revenue Categories - More Information Clicks.....	6
Revenue Categories - More Details Clicks.....	7
Expense Categories – Opens by Category.....	8
Expense Categories - More Information Clicks .....	9
Expense Categories - More Details Clicks .....	10
<b>Consolidated Dispatch Funding.....</b>	<b>11</b>
Which of the following funding options would you prefer?.....	11
Which of the following 9-1-1 phone/device (monthly) surcharges would you support?.....	13
Which of the following 9-1-1 millage requests would you support? .....	15
<b>Health &amp; Welfare New Funding Initiatives.....</b>	<b>17</b>
Funding for Homelessness/Affordable Housing Assistance.....	17
<b>Judicial New Funding Initiatives.....</b>	<b>20</b>
Funding to Support Holding Domestic Violence Offenders Accountable, Protecting Survivors, Successfully Rehabilitating Offenders and Deterring Future Offense .....	20
Funding to Support Problem Solving Courts.....	22
<b>Public Safety New Funding Initiatives .....</b>	<b>24</b>
Funding to replace existing Motor Vehicle Recording System & purchase Body Cameras .....	24
Funding to support Crime Reduction Program .....	26
<b>Public Works New Funding Initiatives.....</b>	<b>28</b>
Funding to support Soil Erosion & Sedimentation Control Inspections .....	28
<b>Recreation &amp; Culture New Funding Initiatives .....</b>	<b>30</b>
Funding to provide grant match for Prairie View County Park – Splash Pad, Playground & Picnic Areas .....	30
<b>Exit Questions.....</b>	<b>32</b>
How would you rate your awareness of Kalamazoo County Government services?.....	32
Overall, do you feel that Kalamazoo County Government is headed in a positive direction? .....	32
If you could select one Kalamazoo County Government service as a top priority for 2020, which service would you select and why? .....	33
Please indicate your zip code.....	34



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESIDENT BUDGET SIMULATION

---

## PURPOSE

In March of 2019, Kalamazoo County Government launched a financial transparency portal and taxpayer receipt with the goal of increasing financial transparency and educating residents on the make-up of the County budget as well as the types of services provided. To further these endeavors in April of 2019, Kalamazoo County Government partnered with “Balancing Act,” to launch an online tool designed to gather feedback on budget priorities for the 2020 budget process. This budget simulation tool was open for input through June 7, 2019.

Each year during the annual budget process, Kalamazoo County Government officials must attempt to match the needs of our officials, departments and the courts with the tight fiscal framework in which we operate. This yearly process focuses on the prudent, long-term fiscal policies of the Board of Commissioners in order to support mandates, provide essential services and to protect public health, safety and welfare.

The budget simulation tool offered an interactive simulation of the County’s early revenue and expenditure projections for fiscal year 2020. The numbers utilized in the simulation were based on revenue projections completed in June of 2018 and expenditures remaining level in 2020. These numbers are not an indication that the County will/will not have an actual surplus available in 2020. Actual numbers will be developed as the 2020 budget process proceeds in July & August of 2019.

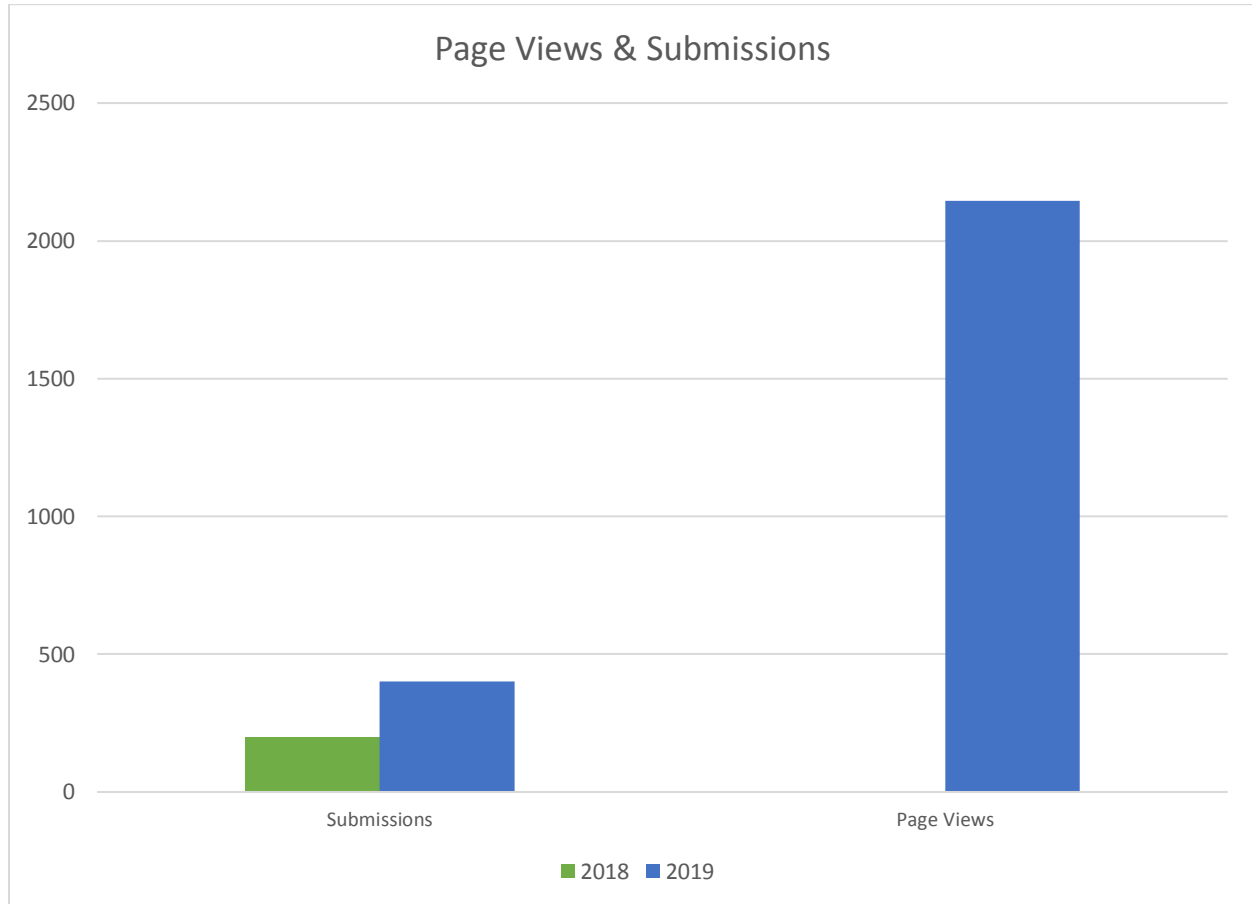
Revenues and expenditures were detailed in the online simulation and were broken down into categories such as recreation & culture, public safety, judicial and health & welfare. Embedded within each spending category were potential future budget requests. Residents were able to review those potential requests and provide feedback. As selections were made, residents could immediately see a reflection of how their selections affected the budget with the goal of achieving a balanced budget or a small surplus.

Kalamazoo County Government believes that resident input is an important component of the evaluation process and appreciates valuable feedback provided in assessing our budget priorities. The first resident budget survey was completed in 2018 with the goal of continuing to improve upon the survey each year while educating and garnering feedback from our residents. We are pleased to see that participation in this year’s survey doubled (400 submissions) from the previous year (197 submissions) and we look forward to continuing to refine the survey and increase participation in the years to come.



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESIDENT BUDGET SIMULATION

## ANALYTICS



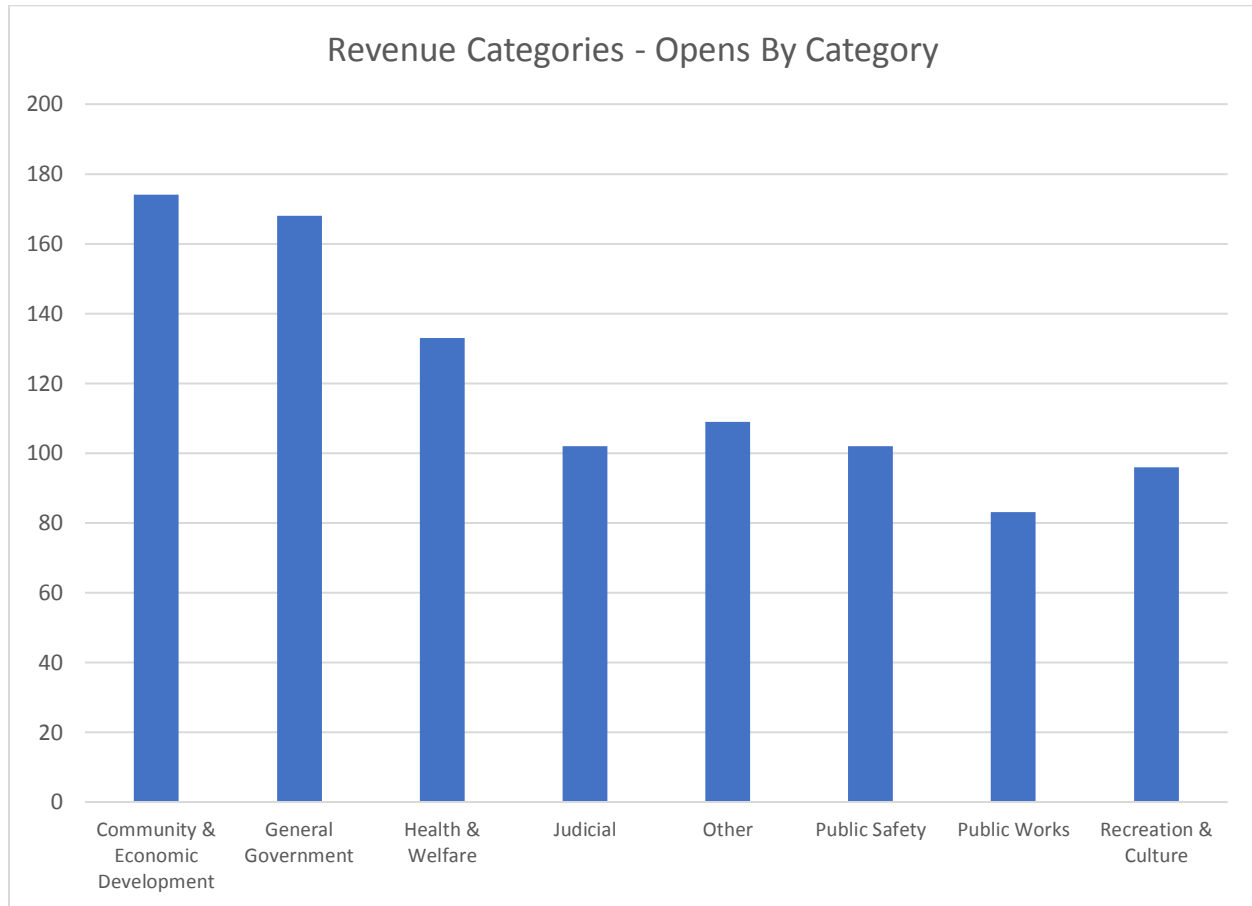
Page view data is unavailable for 2018. Total page views include all views of the simulation page (new and returning) and all views of the submission page.

For 2019, total submissions reflect 18% of total page views. In comparison, the National Citizen Survey™ which is conducted by the National Research Center by mail and web typically receives 20-30% response rates.

Source: <https://www.n-r-c.com/whats-the-average-response-rate-for-a-citizen-survey/>



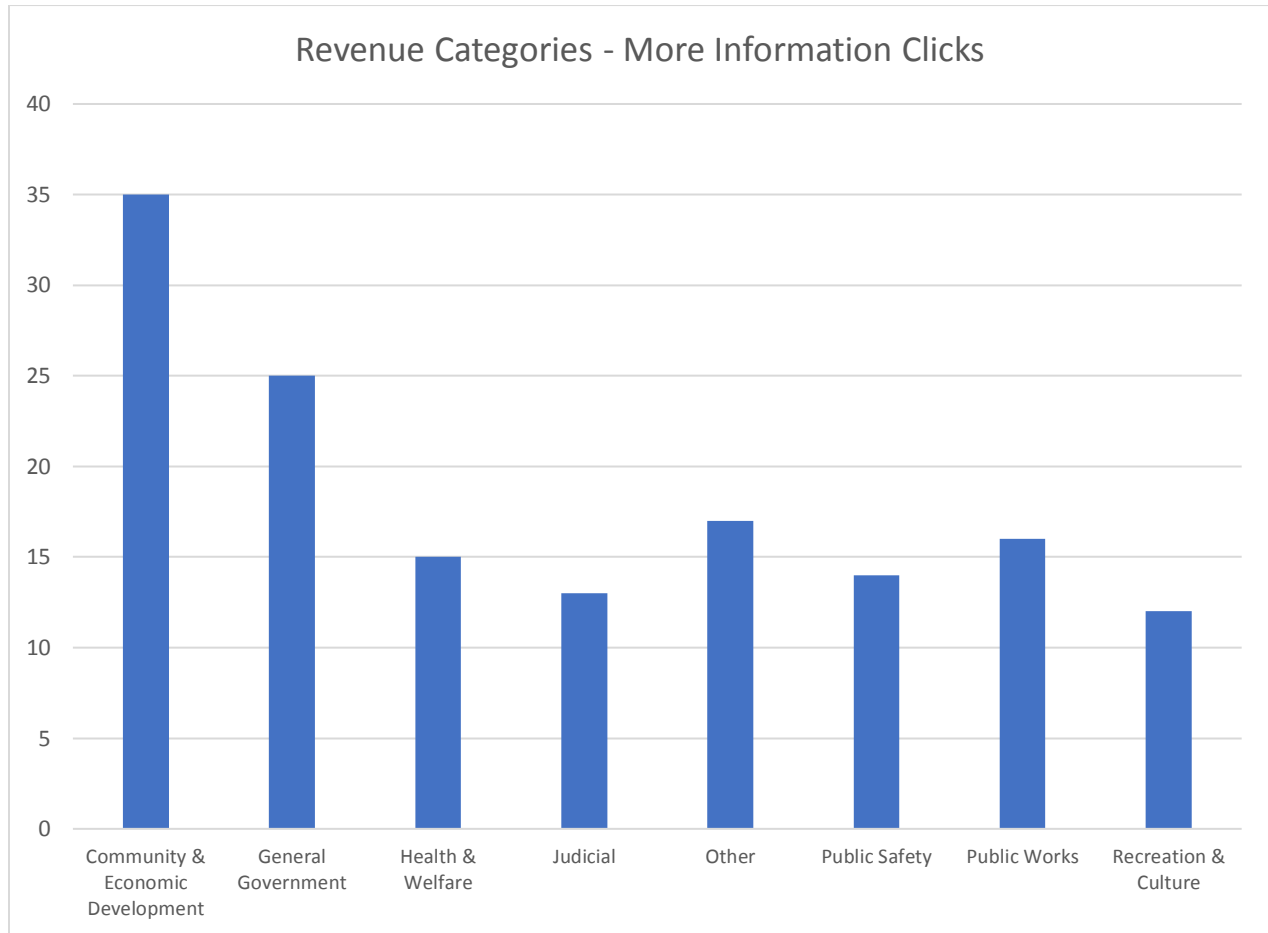
# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESIDENT BUDGET SIMULATION



This chart represents the number of times each category was opened to review. Community & Economic Development and General Government reflect the two revenue categories that provided the most interest to survey participants. These categories were followed closely by Health & Welfare.



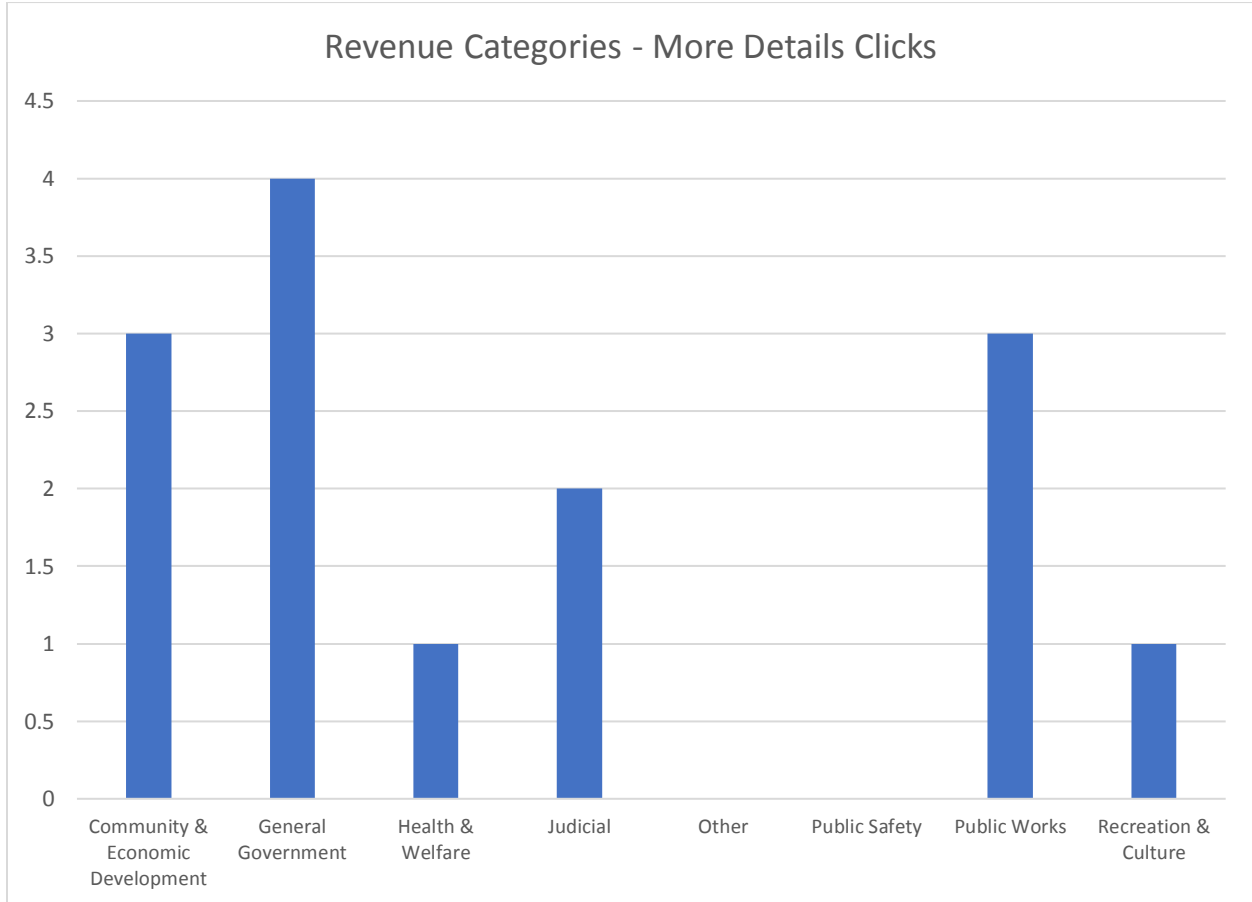
# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESIDENT BUDGET SIMULATION



This chart represents the number of times the more information button was clicked for each category. Community & Economic Development and General Government reflect the two revenue categories in which survey participants sought additional information at a greater rate than other revenue categories.



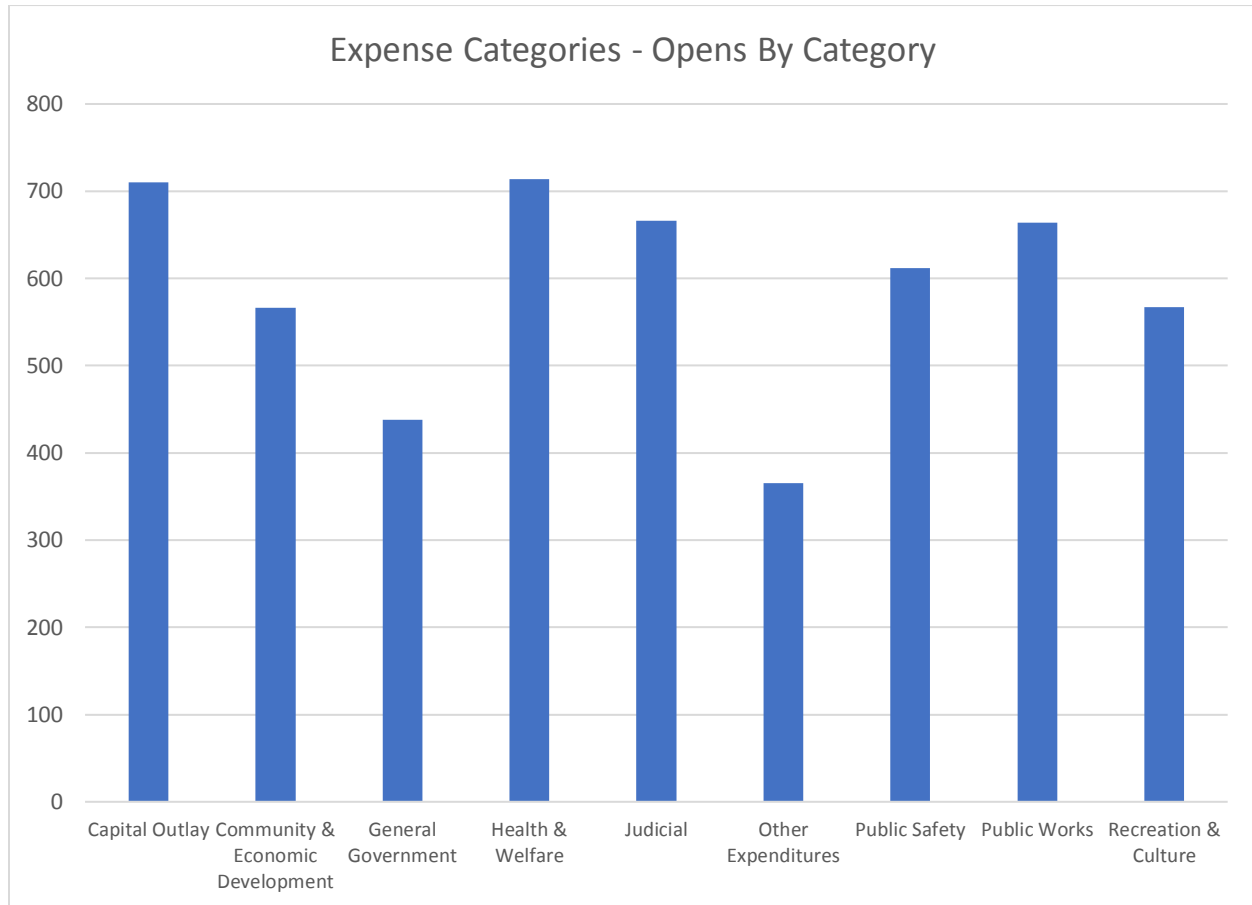
# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESIDENT BUDGET SIMULATION



This chart represents the number of times the more details button was clicked for each category. Interest was noted in further understanding General Government revenue followed by Community & Economic Development and Public Works revenue.



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESIDENT BUDGET SIMULATION

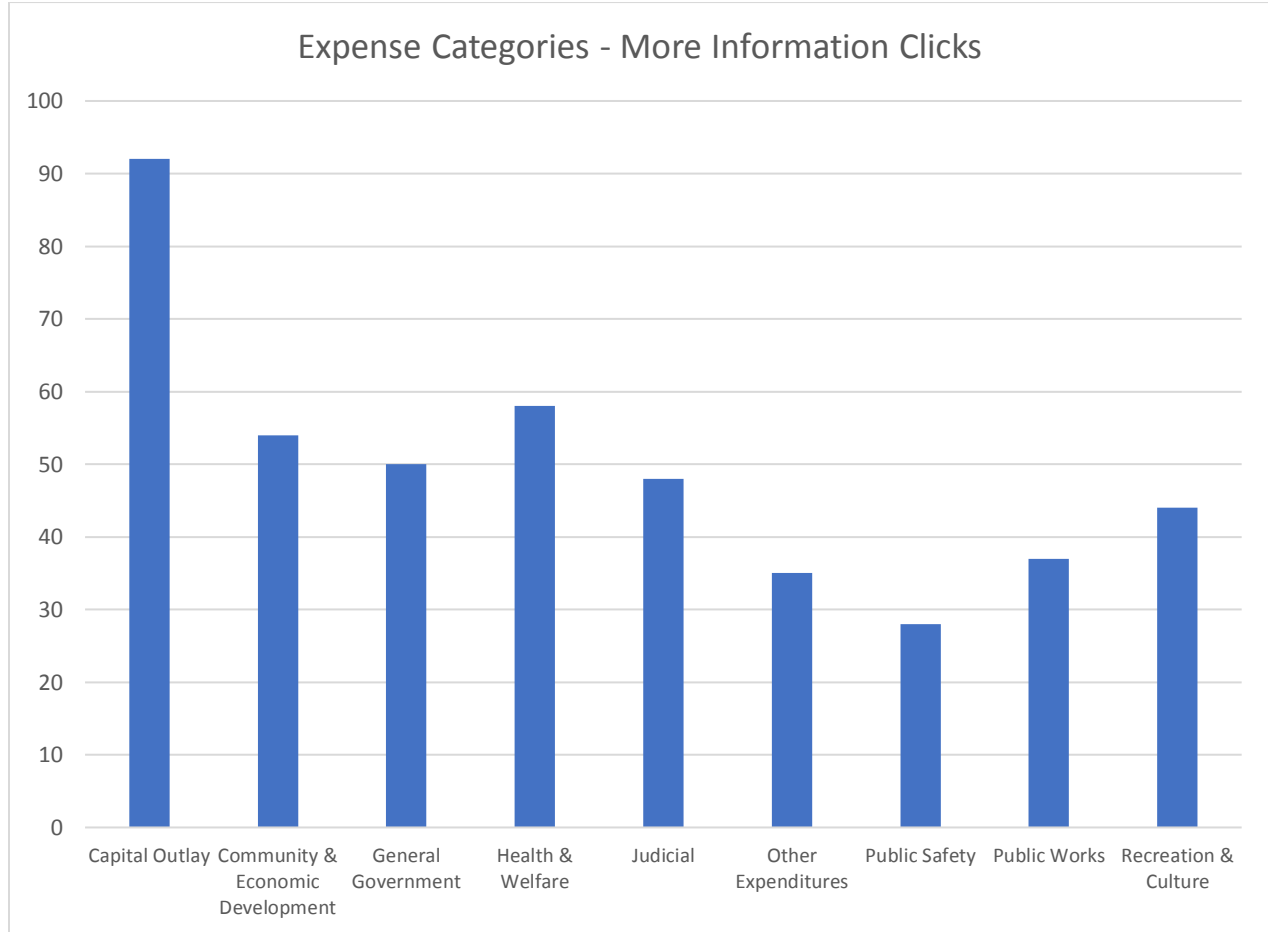


This chart represents the number of times each category was opened to review. General interest in expense categories outpaced interest in revenue categories. The least amount of interest was noted in Other Expenditures and General Government.





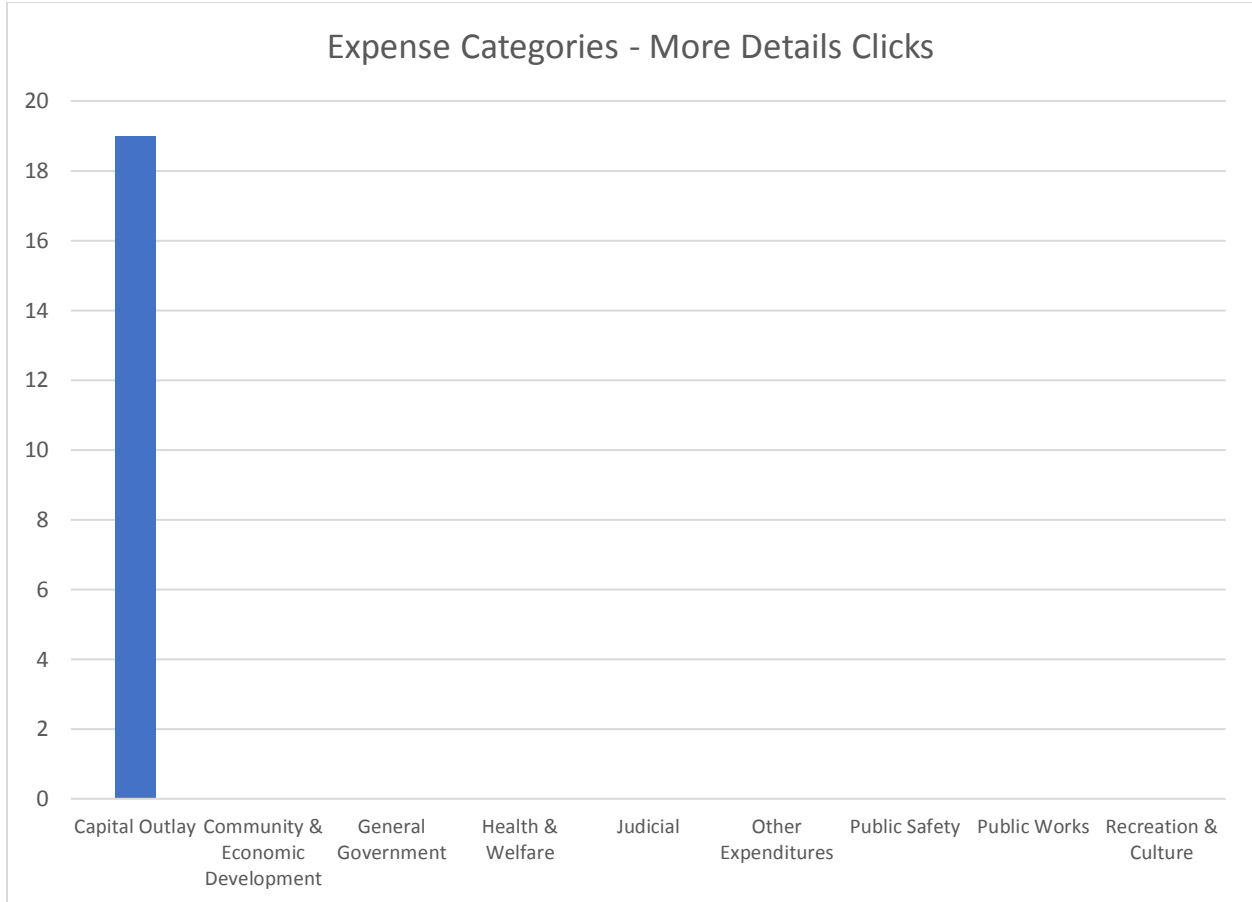
# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESIDENT BUDGET SIMULATION



This chart represents the number of times the more information button was clicked for each category. Additional information was sought on Capital Outlay expenses at a much higher rate than other categories.



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESIDENT BUDGET SIMULATION



This chart represents the number of times the more details button was clicked for each category. The Capital Outlay category was the only category with additional interest noted.



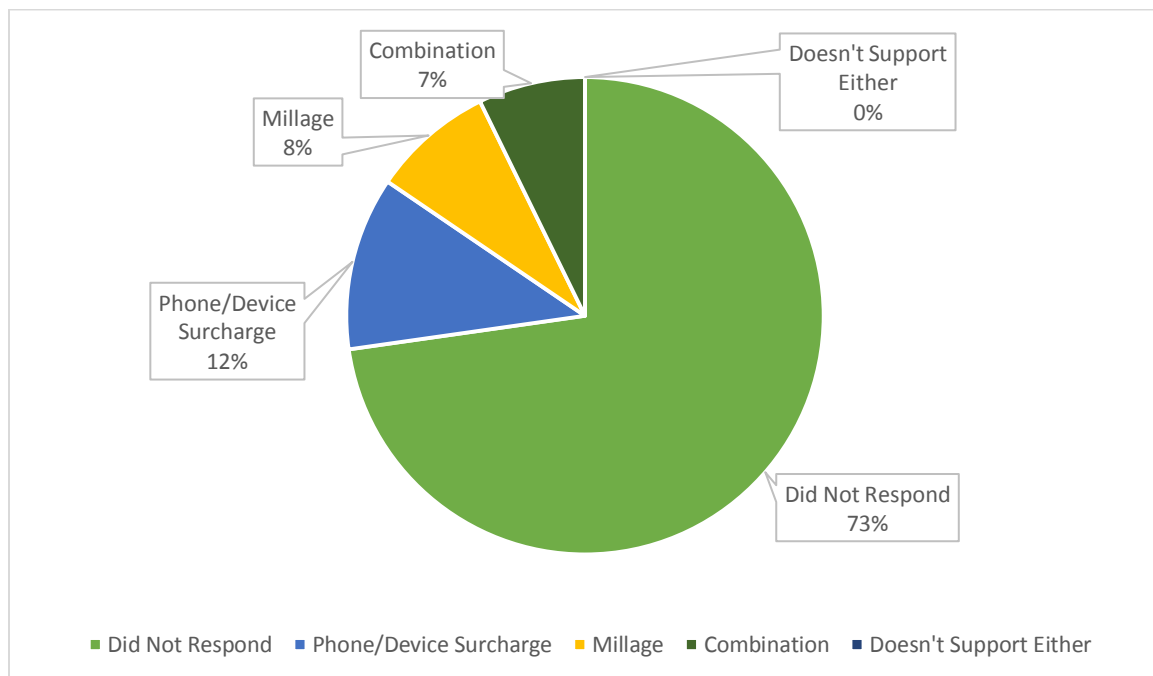
# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESIDENT BUDGET SIMULATION

## CONSOLIDATED DISPATCH FUNDING

Which of the following funding options would you prefer?

In order to continue this essential service countywide, a permanent, fair and equitable funding source needs to be identified for the sustainment of the 9-1-1 center. Which of the following funding options would you prefer?

- 9-1-1 Phone/Device (monthly) Surcharge: **47 (12%)**
- Millage: **33 (8%)**
- Combination of Surcharge and Millage: **29 (7%)**
- I do not support a 9-1-1 phone/device surcharge or a millage: **0 (0%)**
- Did not respond to the question: **291 (73%)**



### Comments:

- The central dispatch is overdue. The Uber incident shouldn't have happened!
- Before consolidation, the city I live in was paying their share. Now the County wants me to pay more because township residents don't want to pay higher taxes. I don't support ANY more taxes or surcharge for consolidated dispatch.
- Overwhelming disapproved by voters and those who work in the field and use the system everyday say it is a step backwards.



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESIDENT BUDGET SIMULATION

---

- I currently pay property taxes that fund this service and should not have to pay twice
- Yes
- We already pay this on our phone bill.
- This would be the most "fair" option since everyone who uses 9-1-1 would be charged. However, I do think this should only be charged on devices capable of calling/contacting 9-1-1.
- This was a total scam as it was voted down Kalamazoo county is one of the most corrupt in the United States.
- This should not exist. This was voted down but thanks to the county being so corrupt, we have it. It will save money but we have to pay a lot 1st? How does that make sense? It does not. Maybe after 150 years the consolidation will save \$10.00.
- Taxes are already too high. Each municipality should pay their fair share of the consolidated dispatch operation from their existing funds, NOT from new taxes.
- The citizens elected 2 to 1 NOT to combine 9-1-1, and yet the commissioners decided to over-ride the voters desire. What the commissioners put together saves the City something like \$1.5 million, but COSTS the rest of the county something like \$500,000. Why should the rest of the county subsidize the city yet again? Aren't the elected officials supposed to do as voters request? Another example of politicians (on both sides) not listening to voters.
- This was voted down, I don't understand how now we have it and it was supposed to save money too...Any time we see more money needed for this only shows government lies and waste!
- Wasn't the purpose of consolidating 911 to save funds. Why is additional funding necessary after the consolidation?

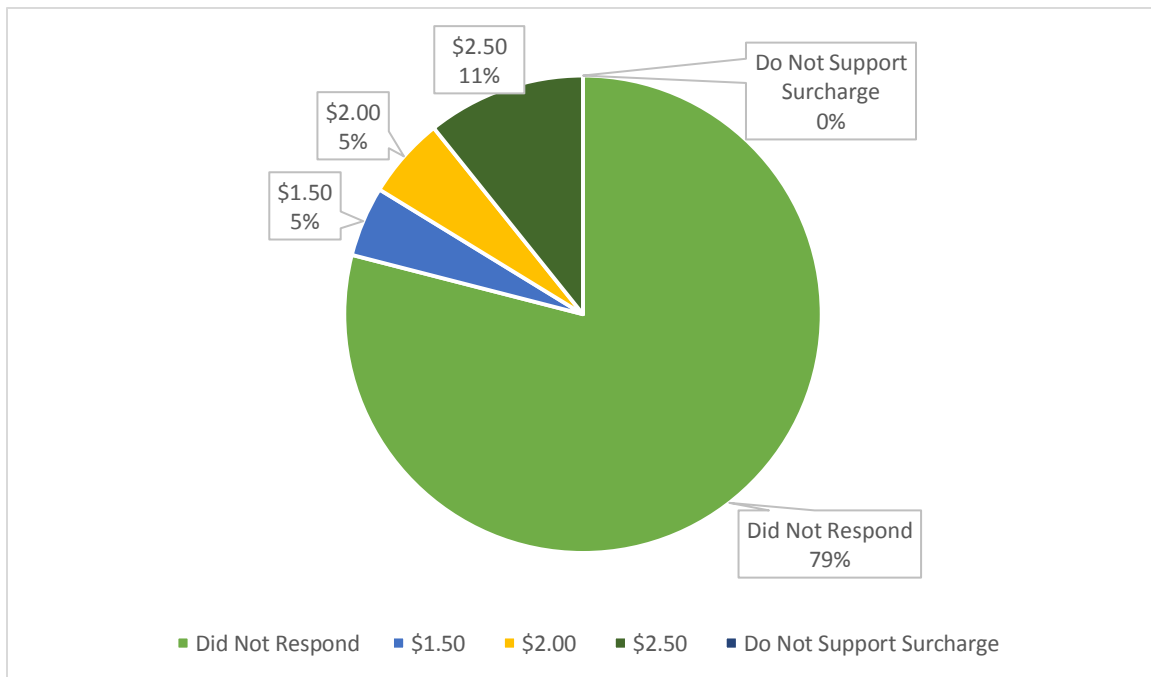


# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESIDENT BUDGET SIMULATION

## Which of the following 9-1-1 phone/device (monthly) surcharges would you support?

In order to continue this essential service countywide, a permanent, fair and equitable funding source needs to be identified for the sustainment of the 9-1-1 center. Which of the following 9-1-1 phone/device (monthly) surcharges would you support?

- \$1.50 (this would support 37% of the needed funding): **19 (5%)**
- \$2.00 (this would support 70% of the needed funding): **22 (5%)**
- \$2.50 (this would support 100% of the needed funding): **43 (11%)**
- I do not support a 9-1-1 phone/device surcharge: **0 (0%)**
- Did not respond to the question: **316 (79%)**



### Comments:

- The majority of the funding for a central dispatch system should be from surcharges, which would not drastically impact each users' budget to pay the additional surcharge per month.
- Yes
- Make due with existing revenue. Taxes/surcharges are already too high.
- The citizens elected 2 to 1 NOT to combine 9-1-1, and yet the commissioners decided to over-ride the voters desire. What the commissioners put together saves the City something like \$1.5 million, but COSTS the rest of the county something like \$500,000. Why should the rest of the county subsidize the city yet again? Aren't the elected



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESIDENT BUDGET SIMULATION

---

officials supposed to do as voters request? Another example of politicians (on both sides) not listening to voters.

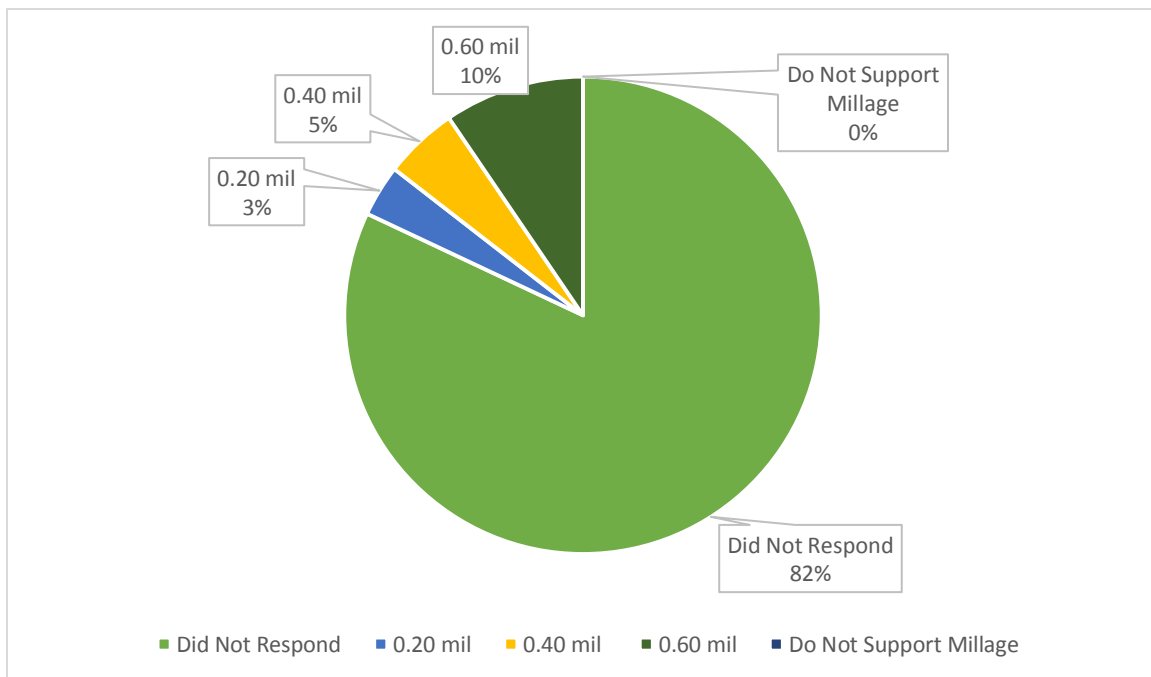


# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESIDENT BUDGET SIMULATION

## Which of the following 9-1-1 millage requests would you support?

In order to continue this essential service countywide, a permanent, fair and equitable funding source needs to be identified for the sustainment of the 9-1-1 center. Which of the following 9-1-1 millage requests would you support?

- 0.20 mil (this would support 33% of the needed funding): **14 (3%)**
- 0.40 mil (this would support 67% of the needed funding): **20 (5%)**
- 0.60 mil (this would support 100% of the needed funding): **38 (10%)**
- I do not support a 9-1-1 millage: **0 (0%)**
- Did not respond to the question: **328 (82%)**



### Comments:

- For those that don't have cellular/mobile devices, a millage would be appropriate to ensure that the entire county is contributing to a central dispatch system.
- Yes
- It is fairer to charge each device than to only tax homeowners. Increasing taxes is making it challenging to keep paying my increased mortgage payment.
- Taxes are already too high.
- The citizens elected 2 to 1 NOT to combine 9-1-1, and yet the commissioners decided to over-ride the voters desire. What the commissioners put together saves the City



## KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESIDENT BUDGET SIMULATION

---

something like \$1.5 million, but COSTS the rest of the county something like \$500,000. Why should the rest of the county subsidize the city yet again? Aren't the elected officials supposed to do as voters request? Another example of politicians (on both sides) not listening to voters.

- More info on who and how this is captured would be useful.
- I am currently paying only 42 cents on my cell phone to support Kzoo county 911, so I would be in support of more to keep the program running.





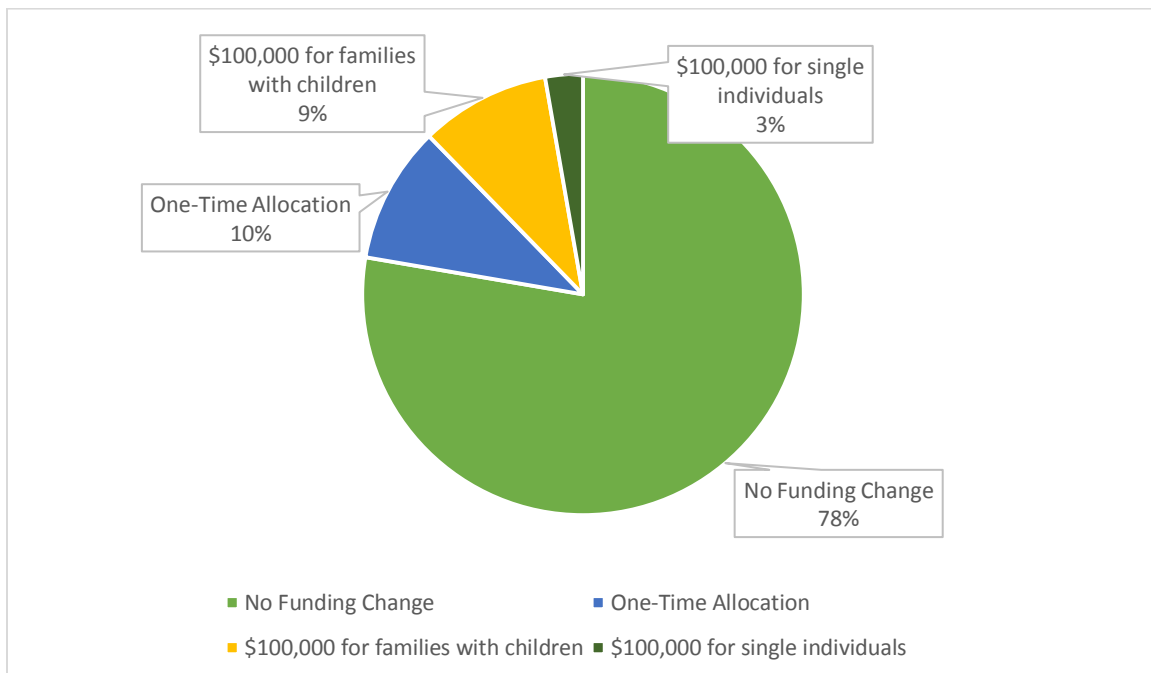
# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESIDENT BUDGET SIMULATION

## HEALTH & WELFARE NEW FUNDING INITIATIVES

### Funding for Homelessness/Affordable Housing Assistance

Kalamazoo County Government has allocated \$100,000 to the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, \$67,600 to Kalamazoo County Community Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services, \$250,000 to the Kalamazoo County Land Bank Authority and \$125,000 to the Public Housing Commission for various homeless initiatives. In 2019, the Public Housing Commission has targeted funds to assist with ending homelessness for the veterans of Kalamazoo County. These amounts are in addition to the over \$800,000 annually that is generated by the special voter approved millage dedicated to providing assistance to homeless families with children.

- Should Kalamazoo County continue to provide only the housing assistance currently provided? **310 (78%)**
- Should Kalamazoo County provide an additional one-time allocation to the Public Housing Commission of \$500,000 to provide housing assistance? **41 (10%)**
- Should Kalamazoo County provide an additional \$100,000 through the Public Housing Commission for housing assistance dedicated to families with children? **38 (9%)**
- Should Kalamazoo County provide an additional \$100,000 through the Public Housing Commission for housing assistance dedicated to single individuals? **11 (3%)**





# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESIDENT BUDGET SIMULATION

---

## Comments:

- As a landlord, I have seen single people being helped by Housing Resources. I'd like information as to why additional funds are needed.
- No more housing assistance. Economy is good and jobs are plentiful.
- Yes
- County is not in the housing business.
- Obviously the plight of homeless families with children is terrible, however several programs already exist to assist this group of people. Single adults on the other hand receive almost no assistance despite many having severe and persistent mental and physical health issues that prevents them from participating in the labor force.
- Housing is one of the greatest issues in Kalamazoo County, specifically a lack of fair and affordable housing. Much more is needed to be done for housing that none of these options are sufficient. The county needs to adopt a Housing First stance in accordance with the federal government and allocate money for all residents, not specific populations. The county needs to work cooperatively with local governments such as the City of Portage, the City of Kalamazoo, the City of Parchment as well as others townships and smaller governments to create systems that work together to solve this issue.
- Should allocate additional funding for mental health services, this has been identified by numerous groups as a priority health need.
- Homelessness must be addressed through outreach providing a path to housing, employment and mental health services. We must find a way meet the needs of the destitute in our community.
- Kalamazoo County should do a study to determine if any Counties in west Michigan even fund housing.
- Not sure I think the County Land Bank should get any money earmarked for homeless. Having sat on CDAAC and reviewed their submissions - money could clearly be better spent elsewhere.
- I think the majority of funds should go to LISC for affordable housing for low to moderate income families with emphasis on those with children. While not an option, I think that the County should support the Lead Paint Abatement program through the addition of a second public health nurse dedicated to lead. This would enhance the LISC, City, KNHS, neighborhood work on lead abatement in homes with children with high BLL's under the age of six.
- This survey is a joke. You're only trying to find a way to justify spending additional taxpayer monies. Taxes are too high already. Give a rebate for our "surplus", don't try to find a way to increase spending.
- I think more money should go helping those with mental illness. So many of the mentally disabled make up a large percentage of the homelessness because they cannot get the treatments or medications they need that would help them keep jobs and then get housing once they're able to keep their jobs.



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESIDENT BUDGET SIMULATION

---

- yes, provide an additional \$100k for housing commission for singles
- Assistance for the long term works as long as it is a wraparound approach if it's not a wraparound approach don't even bother
- This entire section is a waste of money and should move from \$24.9m to zero. The proverb we need to be directed by is... "If you catch a man/woman a fish, he/she eats good for the day. If you teach a man/woman to fish, he/she eats good for life". Stop with the handouts. Do you realize you are spending almost \$25 million on "duct tape" approach instead of fixing the problem?
- The current expenditure is excessive given that the County Board is NOT in the housing business.
- Additional funding for the homeless / housing assistance is needed. There is still a large homeless population that is highly visible within Kalamazoo County.



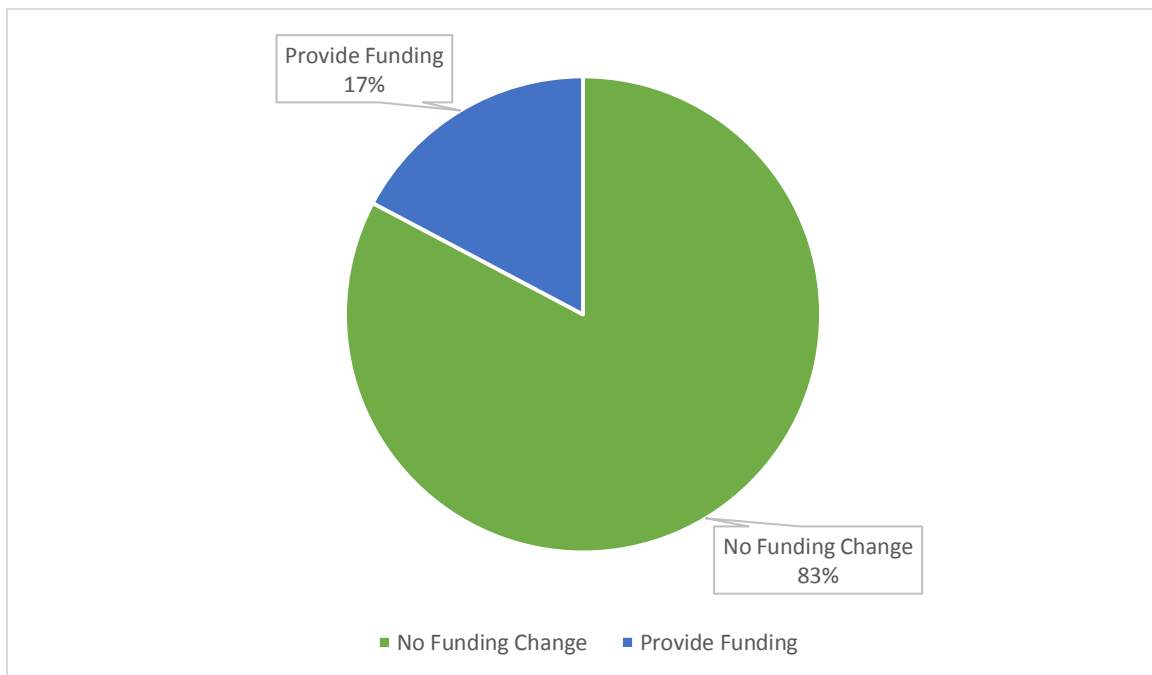
# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESIDENT BUDGET SIMULATION

## JUDICIAL NEW FUNDING INITIATIVES

### Funding to Support Holding Domestic Violence Offenders Accountable, Protecting Survivors, Successfully Rehabilitating Offenders and Deterring Future Offense

Kalamazoo County has had great success with its specialized prosecution teams and problem-solving courts. Holding offenders accountable while rehabilitating them with treatment, community-based supports and restorative justice approaches to conflict resolution has proven to be a more effective and less costly alternative to incarceration for many people. With a similar approach to domestic violence, we can improve our ability to identify at-risk individuals and intervene with a combination of protective, rehabilitative and restorative justice measures that hold domestic violence offenders accountable, while curtailing the escalation of violence before people are at risk.

- Should Kalamazoo County maintain the existing system for prosecuting domestic violence offenders, without creating a specialized Domestic Violence Assistant Prosecutor position? **331 (83%)**
- Should Kalamazoo County create a Specialized Domestic Violence Assistant Prosecutor at an annual cost of \$91,900 in order to improve our ability to identify at-risk individuals and intervene with a combination of protective, rehabilitative and restorative justice? **69 (17%)**





# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESIDENT BUDGET SIMULATION

---

## Comments:

- The 8th District Court already has a Domestic Violence Court Review program with multiple prosecutors referring defendants to the program. In my opinion, this money could be spent to provide more protection (specifically deputies) to protect court staff.
- No
- Yes
- CURRENT SYSTEM IS MORE THAN ADEQUATE.
- Give a rebate to the citizens of KZ county rather than trying to find a way to spend the "surplus". It's not a surplus. You overcharged the taxpayers. Give it back. There is no such thing as "government money". It's all taxpayer money. Taxes are too high. Stop being wasteful.
- yes, a specialty court is a great idea for this population
- Why would you add a "silo" to the system? That doesn't make sense.
- We do NOT need more staffing. What we need is to embrace technology.
- This is a good use of monies.

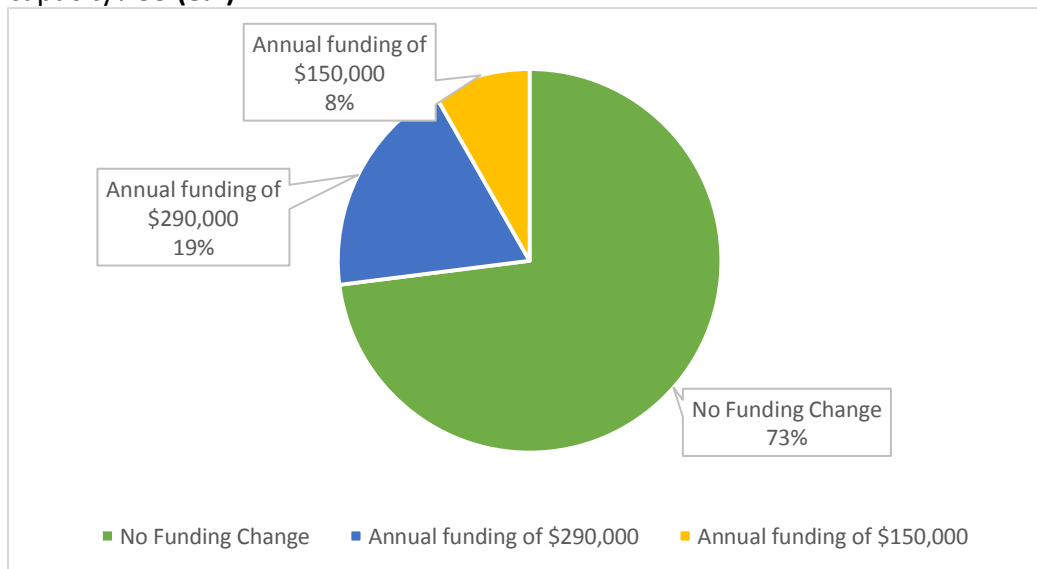


# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESIDENT BUDGET SIMULATION

## Funding to Support Problem Solving Courts

The Problem Solving Courts are a valuable community program that allow graduates to return as sober and contributing members of our community but they are expensive and at this time rely solely on the private Drug Court Foundation endowment, other philanthropic donations, and grant funds from State and Federal sources to operate. Regrettably, these funding sources are not keeping pace with the raising costs of operating the Problem Solving Courts and they do not provide year-to-year operational stability or long-term program fidelity. In order to remain financially viable, we have had to limit the number of men and women we can serve in the Drug Treatment Court Programs. Instead of providing treatment for 100 men and 50 women, we can only serve half of those numbers. Additionally, the Kalamazoo County Prosecuting Attorney's Office plans to refer all defendants charged with Possession of Methamphetamine to either the Men's Drug Treatment Court or the Women's Drug Treatment Court. These could mean an additional 200-300 referrals each year and we will not be able to accept them into the Program.

- Should Kalamazoo County continue to utilize only grant funding for Problem Solving Court operations and continue to reduce the number of people who can be treated in the Court Programs? **292 (73%)**
- Should Kalamazoo County provide annual funding in the amount of \$290,000 to assist with covering the cost of salaries and fringe benefits for Problem Solving Court employees which would allow the Court to offer services to the greatest number of people possible? **75 (19%)**
- Should Kalamazoo County provide annual funding in the amount of \$150,000 to assist with covering the cost of salaries and fringe benefits for Problem Solving Court employees which would allow the Court to continue to offer services at 50% of capacity? **33 (8%)**





# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESIDENT BUDGET SIMULATION

---

## Comments:

- No
- Yes
- While I am a strong believer in recovery court (problem solving courts), because it has proven to work in the best interest of not only the population it serves but the government as well as the overall community, I understand that funding for this type of program can be costly. However, when costs are looked at one must calculate the cost savings from other programs. How much is being saved in jailing costs? How much is being saved in public safety costs, or hospitalization costs. Partnerships are important for these programs to survive as well. Perhaps more research should be done into these programs. Maybe funding could be found through a grant in coordination with a local college or university to do research about expanded services. How much money is the county going to save in other areas by expanding this program? Is that taken into consideration? Also, how much is the county to gain? If individuals who participate are able to recover and give of their time and taxes and they participate as citizens the county is gaining revenue that they were not gaining before.
- Individuals who utilize the service, as well as family members of the individuals should be asked to donate to the overall fund while partaking in the service or should receive a small bill after the service is complete. Nothing in life is free and this situation, where one's life and/or future is on the line is not a place in which freebies should be given. I understand that not all people have a lot to give, but services rendered are not free and people who utilize a service should donate to what they can, be it money or time.
- The Problem Solving Courts are good long term investments. These courts help keep people out of prison and on the road to becoming productive members of society. I find it hard to believe that Kalamazoo County does not provide even minimal financial assistance to these courts.
- The current costs and staffing of the courts is excessive.
- an extra \$100k would greatly benefit the problem solving courts
- We need to stop building court houses, paying judges so high and invest in mental health and other things. No additional money should go to this, it only shows misuse!
- I have a surplus of 50,500 in my allocation and I would put that money here.



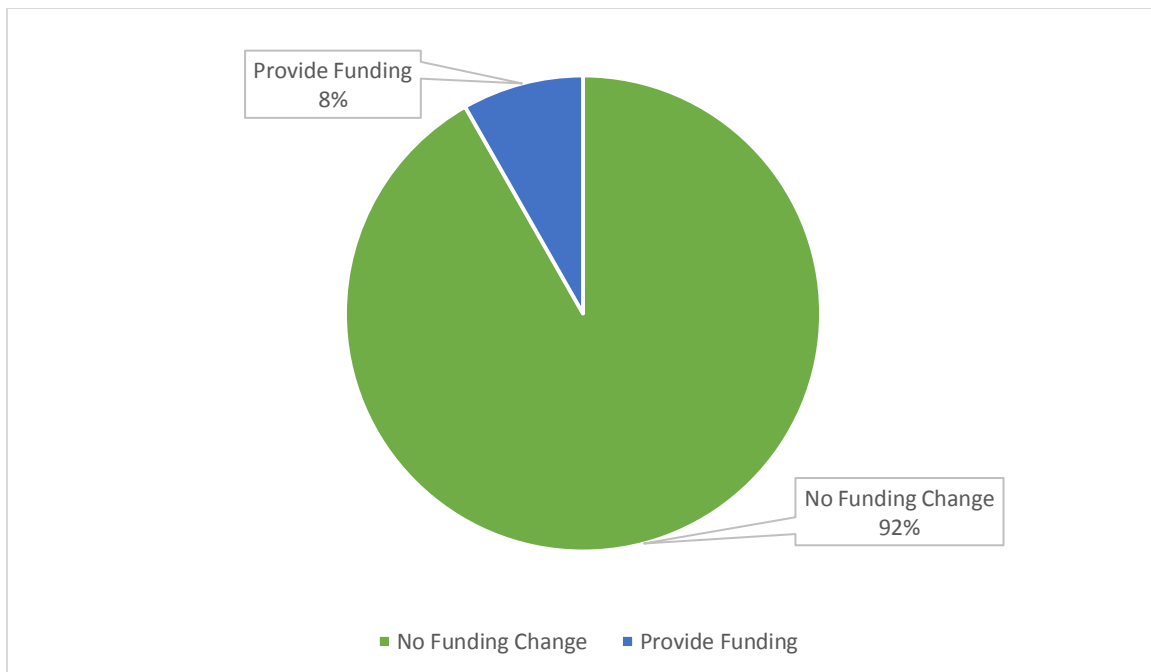
# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESIDENT BUDGET SIMULATION

## PUBLIC SAFETY NEW FUNDING INITIATIVES

### Funding to replace existing Motor Vehicle Recording System & purchase Body Cameras

The use of body cameras by police agencies has been shown to increase public confidence, reduce the number of complaints and allegations made against police officers, reduce the number of assaults on police officers and allows for enhanced evidence collection. The current motor vehicle recording system utilized by Kalamazoo County is at the end of its life and does not allow for audio recording. The equipment is outdated with specific parts being impossible to order for replacement. Upgrading to a current motor vehicle recording/body camera system will allow the Sheriff's Office and its deputies to reduce future potential liabilities and increase deputy safety. The system will also have advanced evidentiary value for criminal prosecution.

- Should Kalamazoo County continue to utilize the current motor vehicle recording system and refrain from purchasing body cameras at this time? **367 (92%)**
- Should Kalamazoo County provide one-time funding in the amount of \$290,000 and annual licensing funding in future years of \$120,000 to purchase both a replacement motor vehicle recording and body camera system for Sheriff's Office deputies? **33 (8%)**







# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESIDENT BUDGET SIMULATION

---

## Comments:

- No
- Yes
- Body cameras create animosity with the constituents.
- While I do support the use of body cameras and think that this is important, especially being that there is a national spotlight on the use of body cameras, I really don't think it is going to solve most of the problematic interactions that people have with the police. Instead, if you are worried about image, which public image is important but the safety and security of the public is more important, training your officers in a different manner would be more effective,. Teaching them to use less lethal means of detaining an individual would be prudent. To be fair there have not been any issues that I have been aware of with the Sheriff's office. HOWEVER, when I called the Sheriff's office to do a welfare check on a potentially suicidal person in the recent past, the response I got was reluctant and not at all impressive. So there is work to do.
- Kalamazoo County could tax the paychecks of the officers for use of equipment. There are a lot of careers in which individuals have to pay to receive equipment. This situation is a good example of when people should have to assist in the cost of work equipment. A lot of officers take their cars home and since they treat cars as their own they should assist in the cost of upgrades as if it were their own.
- no body cameras. I know someone working for Taser selling body cameras and they trained her to dress up provocatively and hard sell the cameras on commission.
- Increased officer safety is the ONLY area where we would support spending additional funds.
- no, instead of body cameras, more road patrol should be added
- Yes to body camera, no to motor vehicle recording.
- Wait until 2021 budget for money. I support this project, just not this year
- There are a lot of important initiatives in this survey but this one seems beneficial for the safety of the entire community and our police officers.

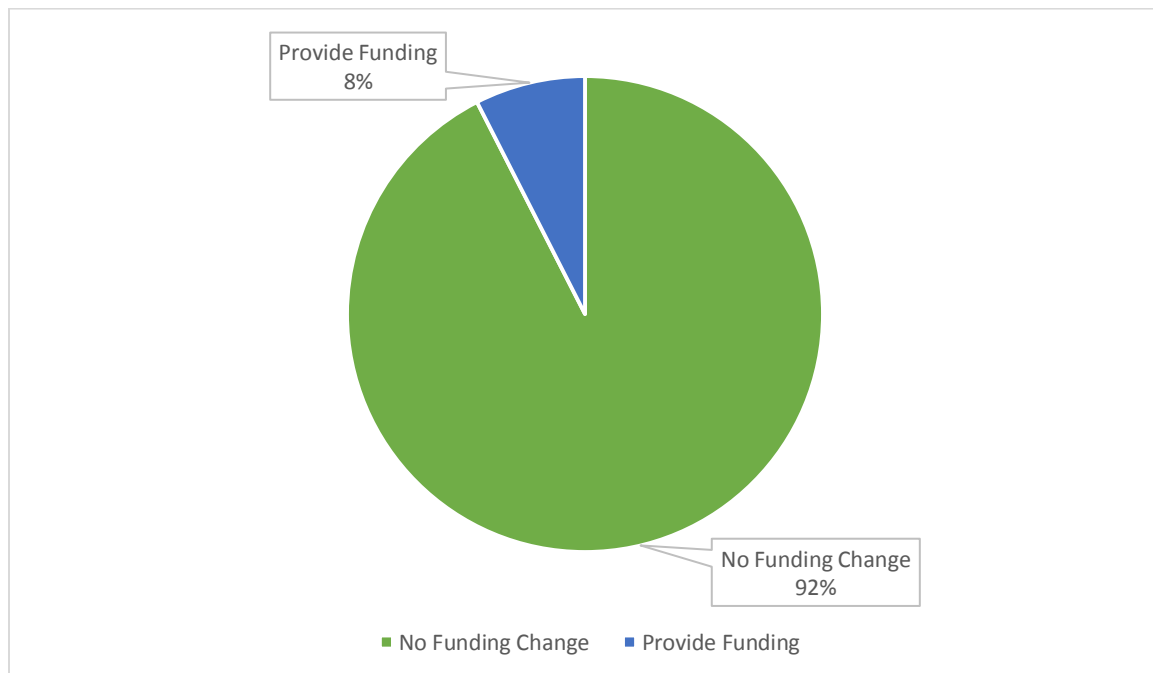


# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESIDENT BUDGET SIMULATION

## Funding to support Crime Reduction Program

The Office of Community Corrections is providing 10 cognitive training classes a week with 97 offenders enrolled in areas addressing cognitive behavior training, retail fraud, gender-specific male and female trauma recovery programs, anger management, and domestic violence. Because of the lack of personnel, there is a wait list of 112 offenders. If three offenders were kept out of the jail for just six-months, each, there would be a savings of about \$190,000 in jail housing costs. Increasing the staff available for this programming will reduce the wait list and in doing so, provide more enrolled offenders with the tools necessary to avoid committing future crimes and secure living-wage employment.

- Should Kalamazoo County maintain the current staffing and cognitive programming levels? **370 (92%)**
- Should Kalamazoo County create (2) two additional Programming Specialists at a combined annual cost of \$153,300 in order to increase the number of cognitive programming classes and employment opportunities available? **30 (8%)**



### Comments:

- Yes, this seems like a cost effective program that would also positively impact individuals and families.



## KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESIDENT BUDGET SIMULATION

---

- Would it REALLY save \$190,000 or is that the total cost divided by each inmate? \$10,000/ month / inmate something is wrong!!!
- Yes
- So what it sounds to me is that you have already calculated the cost savings of this program and that these two individuals would save enough money through their work to pay their positions. I do not understand why you would subtract from the budget. It seems this would be a net gain if you know this program helps to keep individuals out of jail it is not a hypothetical.
- Current levels sufficient.
- NO new spending
- This is important to try to "change bad behavior". A new life direction is helpful to the person and society.
- The current staffing is fine. We need to get these people to stop smoking crack.



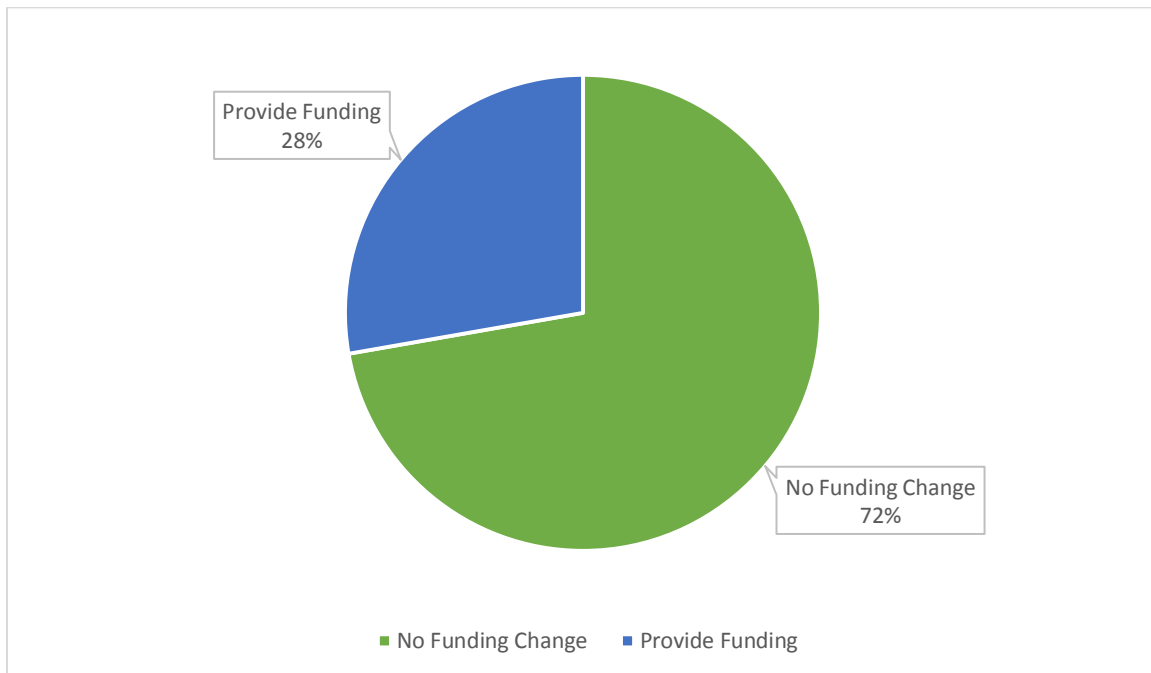
# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESIDENT BUDGET SIMULATION

## PUBLIC WORKS NEW FUNDING INITIATIVES

### Funding to support Soil Erosion & Sedimentation Control Inspections

Sediment from soil erosion is the #1 contaminant degrading the quality of water in our lakes and streams. Excessive sediment kills aquatic life, creates blockages in drainage structures and harbors, and increases flooding and structural damage to buildings and roads. Every year the public spends millions and millions of dollars to fix the problems caused by erosion. So it only makes sense to control erosion when possible. The State of Michigan tries to do this through the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control (SESC) law, which it administers through the local municipalities. Kalamazoo County currently employs (1) one SESC agent who administers the local program throughout the whole County except inside the cities of Kalamazoo and Portage. The SESC agent makes sure that the plans for earth change activities such as construction are adequate to protect the environment and checks to make sure that the approved plans are being followed. The State of Michigan is asking Kalamazoo County to increase the number of inspections to one per permit per month. To do this, an additional SESC agent is required.

- Should Kalamazoo County maintain the current inspection levels? **289 (72%)**
- Should Kalamazoo County create an additional SESC agent at an annual cost of \$54,900 in order to meet the level of inspection requested by the State? **111 (28%)**





# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESIDENT BUDGET SIMULATION

---

## Comments:

- This is needed in order to meet regulatory obligations, and should be funded.
- No
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Soil erosion inspection is being maintained at an adequate level.
- Protecting our water needs to be an absolute top priority.
- If the state is requesting it, then the state needs to help fund the position. I do believe that this is a vital position as we have had problems with erosion and subsequent flooding and environmental damage, however the state should help find a funding source for the position or help to pay it.
- maintain current levels.
- Let the state pay for the additional inspection it wants. NO MORE UNFUNDED MANDATES.
- No new expenditures. Make do with what you have. Taxes are too high already.
- this is an important function
- no extra staff for SESC but the County SHOULD put more money in the Drain office to help the many areas of the county that are flooding
- Why would you spend even more money? Let it stand on its own.
- The state of Michigan wants this then they can fund it.
- maintain what is necessary not what are wants verses needs.
- current levels are sufficient
- The current levels are more than sufficient.
- The flooding around Kalamazoo and the infrastructure needs desperate repair more drains higher bridges, more irrigative and pollution control is needed. We need to put even more money into this immediately.
- This is needed to protect the environment and assist in flooding prevention from further damages to buildings and roads.



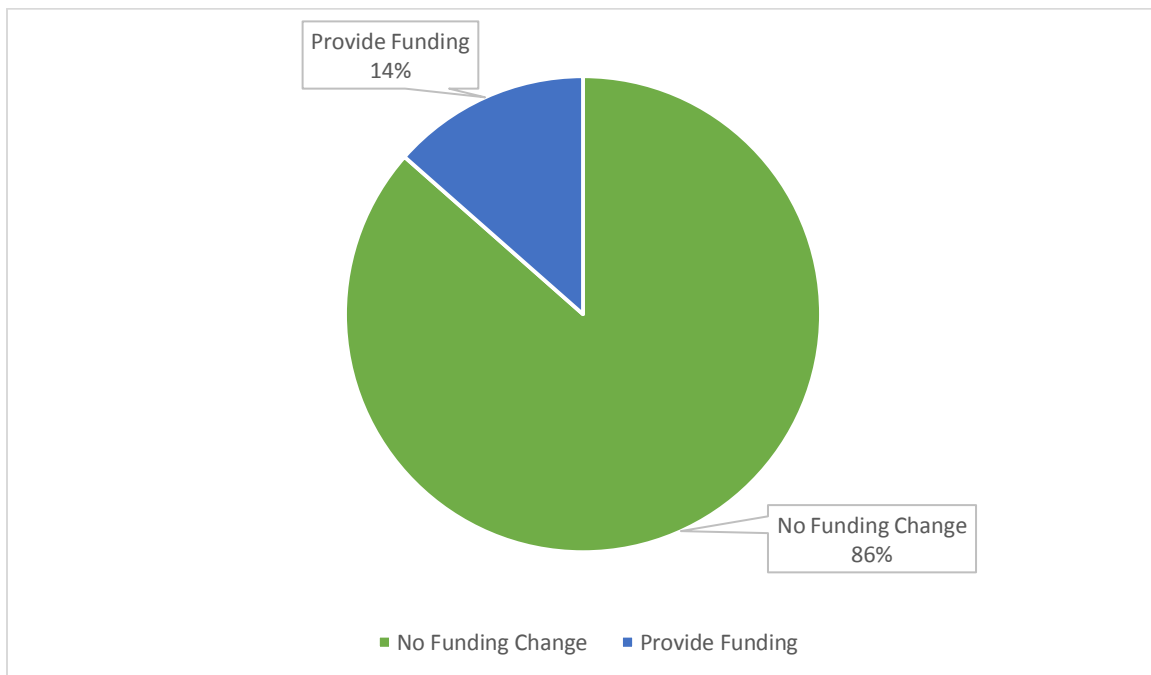
# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESIDENT BUDGET SIMULATION

## RECREATION & CULTURE NEW FUNDING INITIATIVES

### Funding to provide grant match for Prairie View County Park – Splash Pad, Playground & Picnic Areas

Prairie View County Park, opened in 1962 and is a 210 acre park located on U Avenue between Portage Road and Oakland Drive in Schoolcraft Township. Prairie View is located between Gourneck and Hogsett with significant frontage on both lakes. The park offers swimming, a large dog park, group picnic areas and group activities. As part of the 2016-2020 Kalamazoo County Park & Recreation Master Plan, it was determined that recreation opportunities at Prairie View County Park are not adequately meeting the recreation needs of Kalamazoo County. These needs can be met by expanding day use with the installation of a new splash pad, playground and picnic areas. There are currently no similar facilities in this region of Kalamazoo County. Splash pads are popular recreation destinations for County residents and for group outings. The County has the opportunity to secure a matching grant with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in the amount of \$285,000 but needs to provide a grant match of \$65,000 to install a new splash pad, playground & picnic areas at Prairie View County Park.

- Should Kalamazoo County seek other funding opportunities for this project? **346 (86%)**
- Should Kalamazoo County allocate the \$65,000 needed for a grant match to create a splash pad, playground & picnic areas at the Prairie View County Park? **54 (14%)**





# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESIDENT BUDGET SIMULATION

---

## Comments:

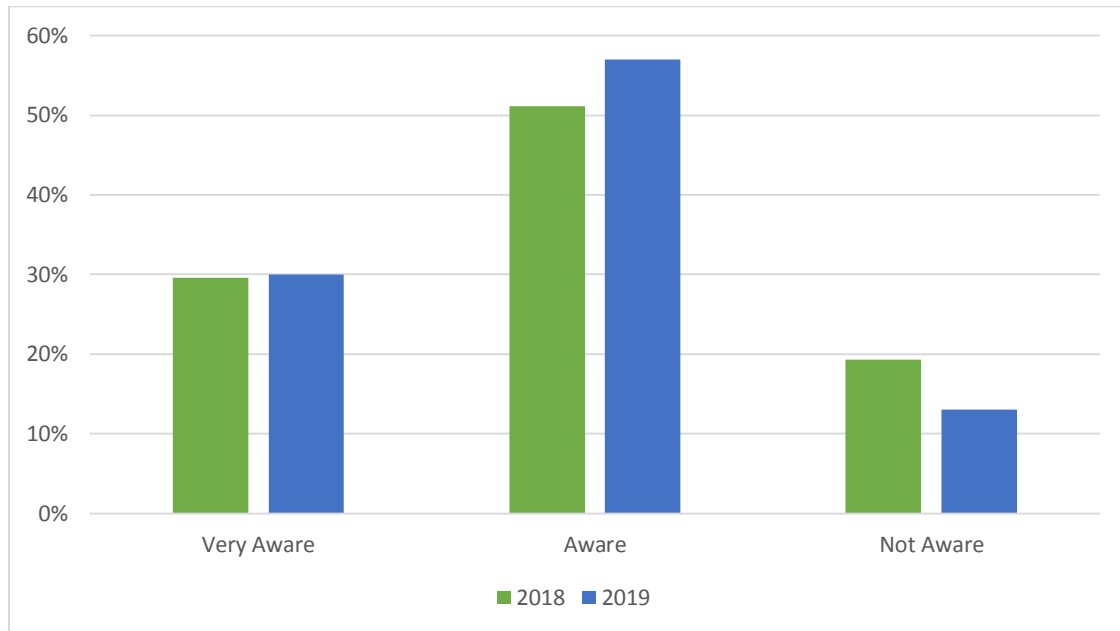
- Yes, this is very cost effective.
- No - sounds like expensive maintenance and upkeep
- It would be terrible to leave that amount of state support on the table and throw away the opportunity to upgrade this park that many Kalamazoo County residents and visitors enjoy. It is important to make the county recreational spaces attractive and welcoming. This kind of investment can pay off with more people coming to the county for recreation and other opportunities.
- Yes
- Find other funding opportunities to build it and let the County maintain it going forward.
- I feel that this small amount would be greatly beneficial to the quality of life in the southwest part of the county. I would select this item if the system would allow you to submit with a small deficit. Because there is no other place to comment generally I would like to say that while I commend the county for requesting input, this would have been a great way had there been more ability to work with numbers and to submit at least a small deficit. This is just another example of an agency controlling the type of feedback they get to they can later justify what they did, even though this really does not leave room for people to comment and really give their input. Shame on you for not doing better.
- Raise the match money through fund raising.
- No new funding, especially for something that would only be utilized by a very small percentage of park visitors. Unnecessary expense.
- no extra funds should be spent on the splash pad but rather use the existing budget/funds from the tourism tax and/or grants
- always help outside income by asking funds from families and governor
- seek alternate funding.
- seek philanthropic funding
- Set up a go fund me page and let the county maintain it going forward.



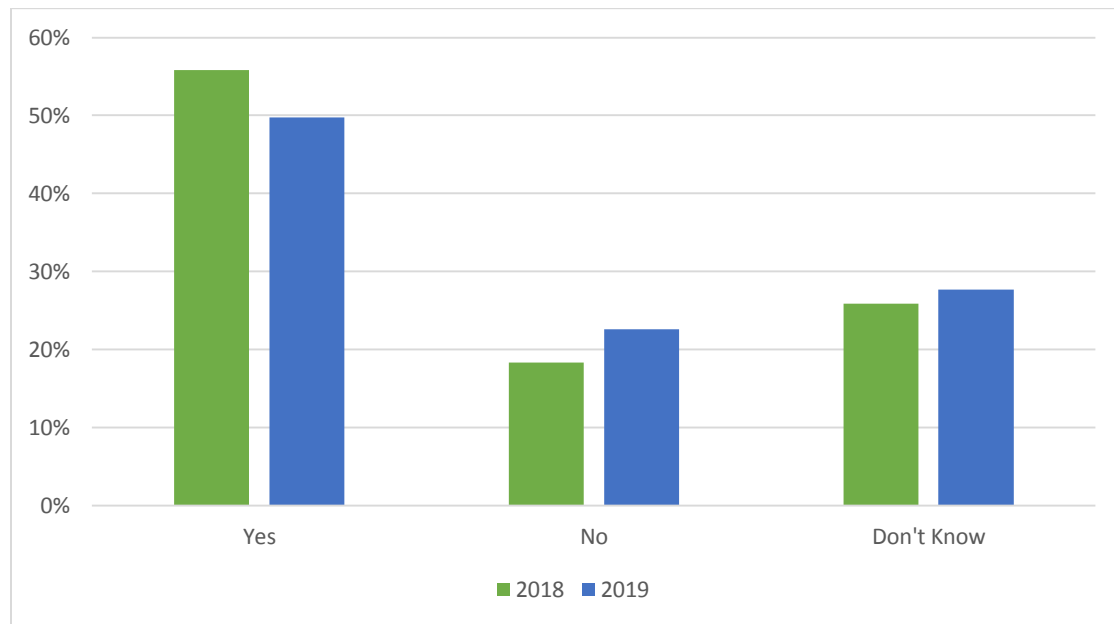
# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESIDENT BUDGET SIMULATION

## EXIT QUESTIONS

How would you rate your awareness of Kalamazoo County Government services?



Overall, do you feel that Kalamazoo County Government is headed in a positive direction?

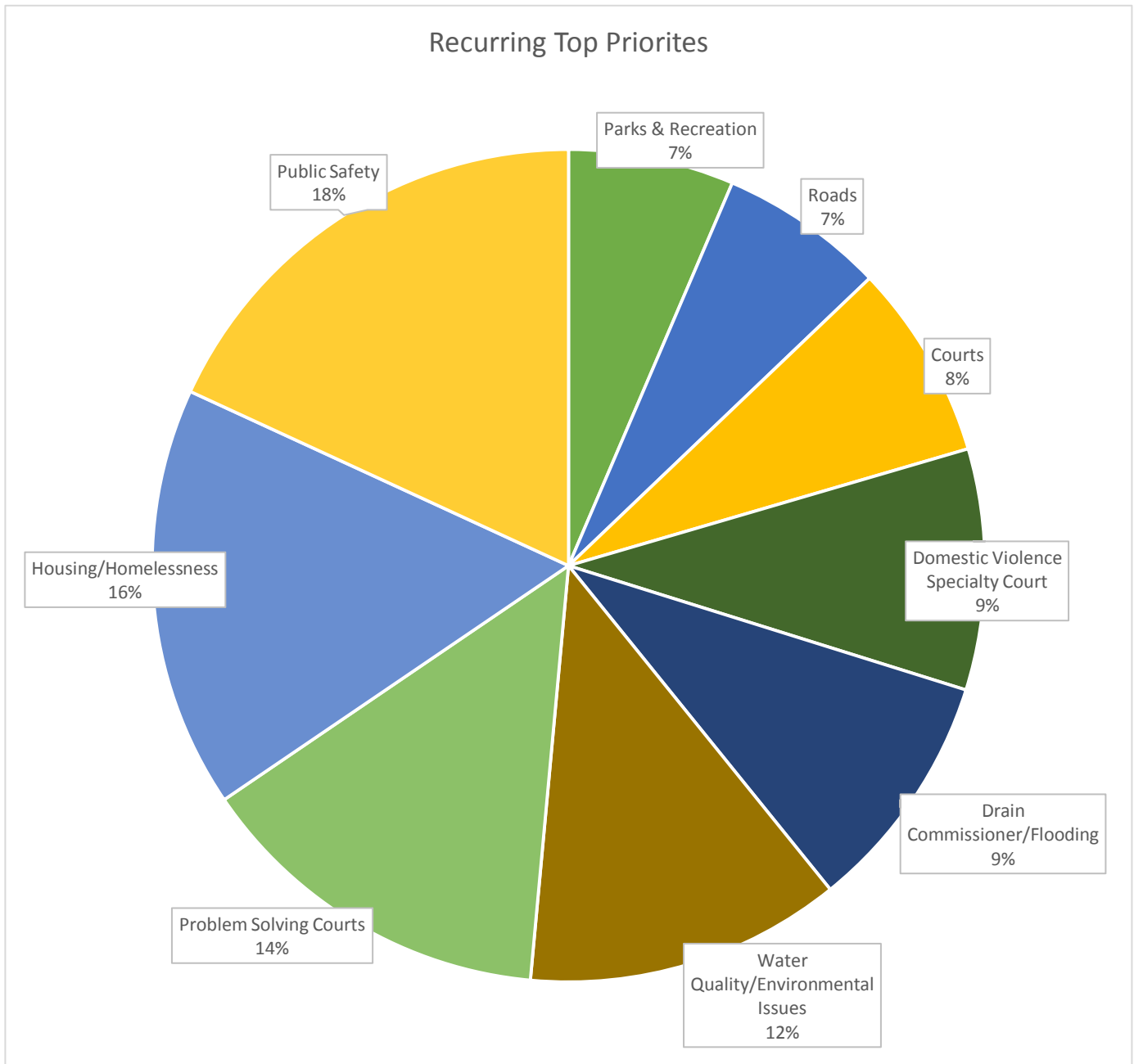






# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESIDENT BUDGET SIMULATION

If you could select one Kalamazoo County Government service as a top priority for 2020, which service would you select and why?



\*The above analysis is only applicable to responses that identified one top priority.



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT RESIDENT BUDGET SIMULATION

Please indicate your zip code.

