

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://www.acluohio.org/en/news/montgomery-county-where-do-your-candidates-and-officials-stand-countys-jail-problem>

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The Montgomery County Jail Coalition circulated a questionnaire for a variety of public officials surrounding plans for new jail construction. The survey was created to assess the views of sitting elected officials as well as candidates for office with respect to Montgomery County's plans for the County Jail, which was built to house 443 people but whose capacity regularly runs near 800. With its documented history of overcrowding and inhumane conditions, the County is undergoing a process to decide how to move forward with a suitable facility.

The survey was sent to 13 individuals, the coalition received six responses. The coalition did not hear back from Matt Joseph, Jeffrey Mims, Chris Shaw, Stacey-Benson Taylor, Jordan Wortham, Valerie Duncan, or Rennes Bowers.

The answers to those who completed the survey are as follows:

Are you committed to implementing the following options to reduce jail populations: end use of cash bail, drug treatment diversion programs, mental health diversion programs, use of cite and release for low-level incidents?

Should local municipalities and Montgomery County pursue alternatives to incarceration to reduce the need for a larger jail?

Do you believe Montgomery County Needs to build a larger jail?

Do you believe there should be public input on the plans for the jail before any decisions are finalized?

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