



Metropolitan King County Council

**CITIZEN WORKSHOPS ON
COUNTY BUDGET PRIORITIES**

February-April 2007

ER
ELWAY RESEARCH, INC.



FLT Consulting, Inc.



CITIZEN WORKSHOPS ON COUNTY BUDGET PRIORITIES

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CITIZEN WORKSHOPS ON COUNTY BUDGET PRIORITIES

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INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings from an innovative program, initiated by the Metropolitan King County Council, to ensure that citizen ideas and priorities are represented in the King County budget.

Between February and April of 2007, King County Citizens were asked to come together to discuss the 2008 county government budget priorities in a series of Workshops and open public Forums. In these settings, citizens considered the county budget in a facilitated discussion and indicated their priorities using computerized interactive polling. These meetings were supplemented with an online survey.

Citizens' Workshops

A total of 232 King County citizens met in five communities across the county to discuss county government budget priorities. Each Workshop included citizens from two adjoining county council districts. District 9 had its own Workshop, due to its geographic size and distance from other population centers. The Workshops took place in Burien, Northgate, Redmond, the Yesler Neighborhood of Seattle, and Black Diamond. Participants were selected at random from the voter lists in council districts and recruited to take part.

Number of Participants by District

District	Total
District 5-7	53
District 1-4	56
District 3-6	51
District 2-8	51
District 9	21

Total Participants 232

The objective of the Citizen Workshops was to explore citizen priorities for county spending. Participants were asked to evaluate and prioritize programs across the range of county government programs and services.

The format was a two-hour Workshop using electronic interactive polling, and facilitated discussion. Each meeting followed the same agenda:

1. A welcome and introduction, including remarks by Council members in the host district(s), who explained the purpose and context of the Workshop.
2. An interactive questionnaire to collect (and display) demographic information about the participants.
3. Polling to determine how participants' ranked the six general budget categories in order of their importance.
4. A general introduction to the functions of King County Government, organized by program category, and including a number of functions not performed by King County, but sometimes assumed to be a county responsibility.
5. A brief explanation of the King County government budget.
6. Interactive polling and discussion to rank the programs within budget categories, then across categories.

The protocol and questionnaires were designed by Elway Research, Inc. and FLT Consulting, Inc., in collaboration with Council staff. The meetings were facilitated and staffed by Elway Research and FLT Consulting. In addition to Council members, members of the Council staff observed each of the Workshops.

Workshop Format

The Workshops reported here were a hybrid of survey, focus group, public hearing and Workshop. Rigorous and disciplined methods were systematically applied to both the selection of participants and the production of data. At the same time, participants were encouraged to talk about the questions and topics, thus developing a rich data set and deeper understanding of answers to particular questions.

A key research principle applied here was sampling. In order to meet the criterion of representative sampling, we drew a random sample from the list of registered voters in each council district. In this way, every registered voter had an equal chance of being selected – the basic requirement for a reliable sample. Although this cannot be considered to be a statistically reliable sample, due to the nature of the participation, the participants generally matched the county population demographically.

Respondents were interviewed by telephone and recruited to attend based on location and demographic characteristics so as to produce a representative cross section of each districts' electorate. Because participants were selected at random and recruited to attend, these Workshops were likely to include an attitudinally more representative cross section of the electorate than is typically the case for a public meeting, where those most likely to attend are citizens with

a particular interest in the topic at hand.

The method of data production at the Workshops was also rigorously systematic. We employed “interactive polling,” which combines quantitative data collection and facilitated discussion. Each participant used a wireless keypad to respond to survey questions and to rate budget items.

Because each participant had a handset, every participant’s responses were recorded to every question – whether or not they spoke up at the meeting. Individual responses were anonymous, but the tabulated results were displayed instantly. This allowed the facilitator to probe for reasons and meaning behind the poll results and to foster discussion among participants about the topic at hand. The discussion was recorded and transcribed, so the individual comments would inform the understanding of the quantitative data.

Finally, the use of interactive polling allowed us to keep the discussion and data collection focused on the task: prioritizing county budget programs. The questions posed were related to budget categories and programs. The “questionnaire” nature of the agenda discouraged tangential discussions about other topics or policies.

The Workshop protocol is included in the appendix of this report.

Public Forums

Two open Forums followed the budget Workshops to provide an additional opportunity for public input on the budget priorities. The Forums were open to the public, unlike the Workshops, which consisted of a small number of randomly selected and recruited citizens. In addition to public announcements of the Forums, council members mailed invitations to households in their districts.

A total of 178 people participated in the two Forums:

107 people at Olympic View Elementary School in North Seattle on March 28; and
71 people at Kent-Meridian High School on April 3.

Both Forums were held in the evening and both were televised on KCTV on the night following the event.

The public Forums were technically a meeting of the Council Budget Committee, presided over by the committee chair and attended by committee members. The majority of the 90 minute session was used for a streamlined version of the Citizen Budget Workshops. Using the interactive polling system, participants were asked to prioritize county budget categories and to prioritize programs within four budget categories. Comments were encouraged from the floor, but discussion was limited by time constraints and the number of participants.

These traditional public Forums are more likely than the recruited Workshops to include politically active citizens. As such, they are representative of a segment of

the population that is motivated to attend such meetings and to make their voices heard by county leaders. They are less likely to represent, demographically or attitudinally, a wide cross section of the King County electorate. It is useful to include these findings, however, because such motivated and active citizens are likely to drive the public debate on these issues.

Online Survey

The third tier of this program was an on-line survey linked from the County Council website alongside the preliminary report from the Workshops. The survey was activated on March 22.

This survey followed the question format of the first public Forum. That is, participants were asked to indicate their priorities for the county budget categories, then prioritize a list of four programs in each budget category. The four programs in each category were the top-ranked programs from the Workshops.

After each prioritization, respondents were given the opportunity to comment on their selections.

Organization of this Report

This report presents the polling results and selected comments from all three tiers of this program. The emphasis, however, is on the Workshop results. The Workshops, as has been noted, were designed to be representative of the population and to spend time discussing the county budget and the implications of the priorities indicated by participants.

The Forum and On-line Survey results are presented following the section on the Workshops. They are intended to be supplemental to the Workshop results.

A complete set of transcriptions from the Workshops, as well as comments from the Forums and On-line survey are presented in an Appendix under separate cover. Also included in the Appendix are a set of crosstabulation tables.

WORKSHOPS

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METHODS

- TECHNIQUE:** Workshop/Forum. Electronic interactive polling and facilitated discussion.
- PARTICIPANTS:** A total of 232 registered voters participated in five Workshops, representing all 9 council districts.
- PLACES/DATES:**
- Dist 5-7 Feb 22.....Burien
 - Dist 1-4Feb 24.....Northgate
 - Dist 3-6Feb 28.....Redmond
 - Dist 2-8 Mar 03.....Seattle
 - Dist 9..... Mar 07.....Black Diamond
- RECRUITING:** Thirty-one citizens were recruited from the list of registered voters from each council district to attend a Workshop. Adjoining districts were paired for four of the five Workshops, so that 62 people were invited to attend each Workshop. District 9, due to its geographic size and distance from other population centers, had its own Workshop.
- Quota sampling was used to recruit participants, so as to achieve as demographically and geographically a representative group as feasible. The list of recruits matched the demographic profile of the respective districts. The actual participants (53 recruits did not attend) may vary slightly from that profile.
- Recruiting consisted of a short telephone interview to determine eligibility, followed by an invitation to participate. Participants were paid an honorarium of \$60.
- DATA COLLECTION:** Input was gathered via facilitated discussion, and interactive polling, which allows participants to respond to questions using individual wireless handsets. Tabulated results were projected instantly and discussed, and saved in a database for later analysis.
- Sessions were audio-recorded and transcribed. Transcripts are included in the appendix under separate cover.

It is important to keep in mind that, even though participants were selected at random and survey-type questions were used, this method does not produce a statistically reliable sampling of public opinion. These results can be interpreted only as representing the answers given by these participants in the context of these meetings.

PARTICIPANT PROFILE

In interpreting these findings, it is important to keep in mind the characteristics of the citizens who participated in these Workshops. This table presents a demographic profile of the 232 participants. This profile is compiled from the recruiting interviews plus questions asked at the Workshop.

Note: Here and throughout this report, percentages may not add to 100%, due to rounding.

GENDER:	50%	Male	50%	Female
AGE:	10%	18-35	31%	36-50
	35%	51-60	24%	61+
EDUCATION:	9%	High School Degree	30%	Some College
	35%	College Degree	27%	Graduate School
ETHNICITY:	5%	African American/Black	7%	Asian/Pacific Islander
	83%	Caucasian/White	3%	Hispanic/Latino
	1%	Native American	1%	Other
INCOME:	9%	\$25,000 or Less	25%	\$25 to \$50,000
	24%	\$50 to \$75,000	39%	Over \$75,000
	3%	No Answer		
HOUSEHOLD:	21%	Single, No Kids	32%	Couple, No Kids
	7%	Single, Kids	36%	Couple, Kids
CITY/UNINCORPORATED:	84%	City	16%	Unincorporated
COMMUTE STATUS:	32%	Commute to a job in my community	35%	Commute to a job in another part of county
	6%	Commute to a job outside King County	19%	Retired/Not Working
ATTENTION TO COUNTY GOV'T:	4%	[1] Follow it Very Closely	14%	[2]
(SCALE 1-6)	25%	[3]	22%	[4]
	24%	[5]	6%	[6] Do Not Follow It At All

WORKSHOP KEY FINDINGS

- ◆ **Law, Safety and Justice ranked top budget category**
 - 64% ranked it as #1 or #2 of six budget categories
- ◆ **“Public Health Clinics” ranked top budget program priority across categories**
 - 56% ranked this as their #1 or # 2 priority program among 14 programs discussed
- ◆ **“Superior & District Courts” top priority for Law, Safety and Justice spending**
 - 47% said it was their #1 or #2 priority among Law, Safety and Justice programs
- ◆ **“Public Health Clinics” clear favorite for public health spending**
 - 73% said it was either their #1 or #2 priority among public health programs
- ◆ **“Low Income Housing” and “Youth & Family Services” rated top priorities for Community & Human Services**
 - 43% said Low Income Housing was either their #1 or #2 priority in this category
 - 38% said Youth & Family Services was either their #1 or #2 priority
- ◆ **“Greater Frequency” top priority for Transit among riders and non-riders**
 - 58% of Riders rated this #1 or #2 as things that would make them more satisfied riders
 - 52% of Non-Riders said it was the #1 or #2 change most likely to get them to ride transit

- ◆ **“Road Maintenance” Top Priority for Roads in Unincorporated Areas**
 - 60% said “Maintenance” was either their #1 or #2 priority
- ◆ **“Regional Parks & Open Spaces” and “Flood Control” top Priorities for Natural Resources/ Environmental Budget**
 - 34% said “Regional Parks & Open Spaces” was #1 or #2 priority
 - 35% said “Flood Control” was #1 or #2 priority
- ◆ **County has considerable room for improvement on performance measures**
 - Majorities rated county government on the negative side of a 6-point scale for all four measures included:
 - Performance Measurement & Reporting: 71% rated county government negatively
 - Citizen Engagement: 64% rated county government negatively
 - Customer Service: 59% rated county government negatively
 - Use of Public Money: 53% rated county government negatively

WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Following introductions and demographic questions and prior to a discussion of the King County budget, participants were asked to rank six budget categories in order of their importance. By assessing participants' general priorities at the outset of the two-hour discussion, we hoped to obtain a picture of these general expectations. What do citizens think about county government? Where do citizens begin the conversation about county budget priorities?

This initial prioritization exercise was followed by a 15-minute primer on the county budget. The slides used for this discussion are presented in the appendix.

Participants were then asked to prioritize specific programs within four budget categories. The prioritization was done with the interactive polling system, in which participants indicated their top and second priority, followed by a discussion about their selections.

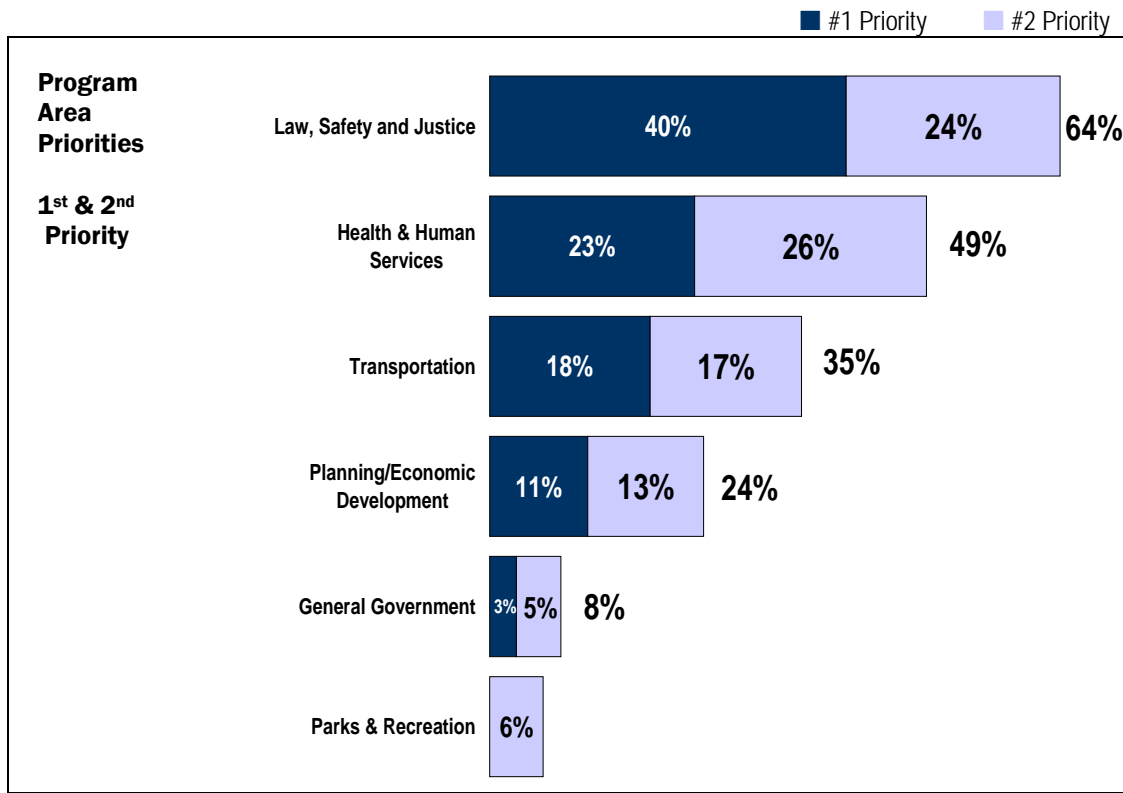
As expected, most Workshop participants did not have detailed knowledge of the county government. Only 18% of these participants said they followed county government closely. They do however, have issues they care about and general expectations for local government. Absent a specific issue or motivation, most citizens will evaluate county government on the basis of these general expectations and ideas.

Presentation of Findings

The findings are presented here in multiple formats. Program priorities are displayed in graphic form indicating how each program was ranked county-wide. A table compares the priorities across district Workshops. This is followed by excerpts from discussions about the reasoning that went into the priorities

Finally cross-tabulations have been included where they reach statistical significance, and a full set of tables is included in the appendix. Each meeting was audio recorded. Transcriptions are included in the appendix.

PROGRAM AREA PRIORITIES



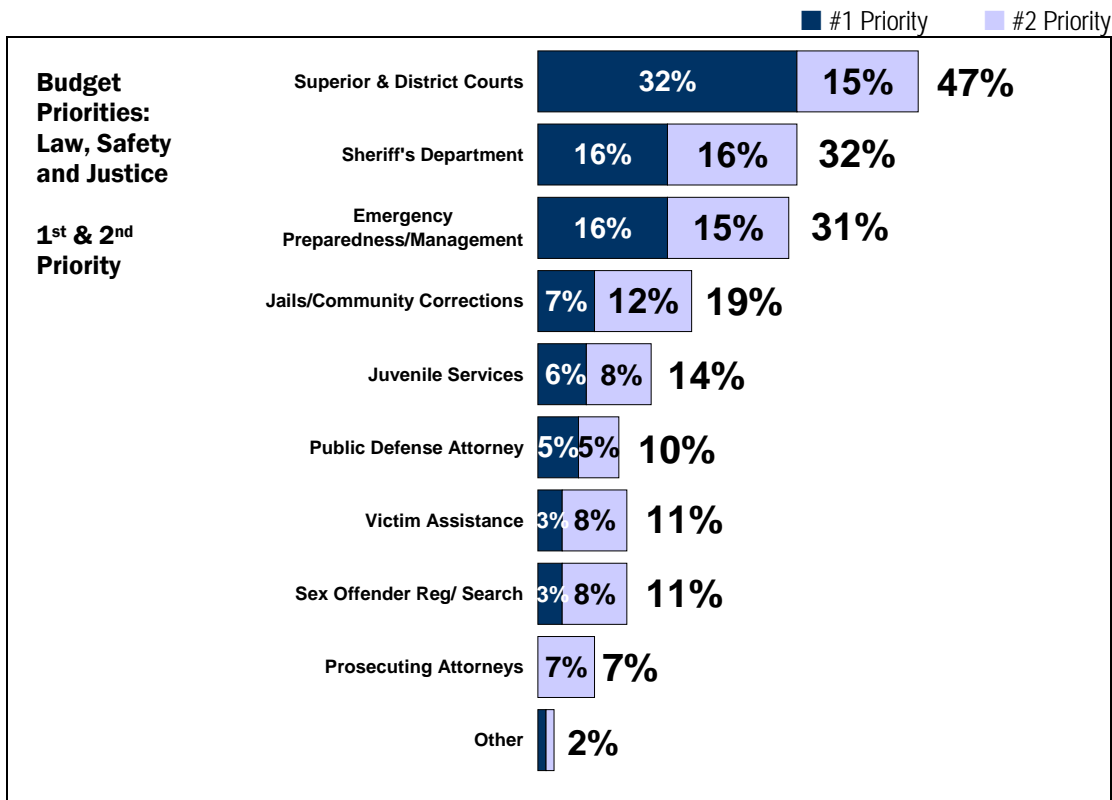
Participants were asked to rate their first, second and third priorities for King County program Areas. The chart above reflects the #1 and #2 priorities across the entire district. The table below illustrates the prioritizations by district.

TOP TWO PRIORITIES BY AREA

PRIORITY	DIST 5-7			DIST 1-4			DIST 3-6			DIST 2-8			DIST 9		
	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2
Law, Safety, Justice	47	23	70	27	39	66	45	22	67	33	20	53	52	10	62
Health & Human Svcs	21	26	47	34	23	57	12	16	28	29	35	64	14	33	47
Transportation	11	23	34	21	5	26	26	22	48	17	18	35	10	24	34
Parks & Recreation	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	12	12	0	8	8	0	10	10
Planning & Econ Develop	13	13	26	11	18	29	8	14	22	10	10	20	19	5	24
General Govt	2	4	6	2	7	9	6	6	12	4	2	6	0	10	10

CELL ENTRIES = %

LAW, SAFETY AND JUSTICE



Participants were asked to rate their first, second and third budget priorities for Law, Safety and Justice. The chart above reflects the #1 and #2 priorities across the entire district. The table below illustrates the prioritizations by district.

TOP TWO PRIORITIES BY AREA

PRIORITY	DIST 5-7			DIST 1-4			DIST 3-6			DIST 2-8			DIST 9		
	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2
Superior & Dist Courts	40	17	57	36	14	50	24	14	38	29	22	51	29	0	29
Sheriff's Department	17	15	32	16	14	30	24	24	48	8	8	16	14	29	43
Emergency Prep/Mgmt	8	17	25	23	13	36	20	16	36	18	14	32	5	14	19
Jails/Corrections	8	15	23	4	9	13	6	12	18	8	6	14	14	24	38
Juvenile Svcs	2	9	11	4	7	11	10	8	18	8	8	16	5	5	10
Public Defense Attys	4	0	4	7	7	14	2	2	4	4	12	16	5	5	10
Victim Assistance	6	8	14	2	11	13	0	4	4	2	10	12	10	5	15
Sex Offender Regis.	4	8	12	0	11	11	4	8	12	6	6	12	5	5	10
Prosecuting Attys	0	6	6	0	5	5	2	8	10	4	4	8	0	14	14
Other	4	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0

CELL ENTRIES = %

Reasons For Law, Safety & Justice Priorities

The priority polling was followed by a discussion in which participants were asked why they had ranked the items as they had: “What was going through your mind as you ranked these items?” The quotes below are excerpts from that discussion.

There appeared to be general agreement that the justice system was overburdened and under-funded. As might be expected, the conversation went back and forth between antecedents and consequences, with greater focus on prevention. There is a need to make the system work more efficiently, according to these participants, but there is also a need to focus on ways to keep people out of the system in the first place.

For example, participants talked about the Superior & District Courts as a huge system that helps to instill the values of the community, as well as dispense justice.

The Sheriff’s department was discussed as a preventative force that can provide broad services to communities. Natural disasters such as Katrina and inadequate responses to the December windstorm were at the forefront of people’s minds who chose Emergency Preparation and Management..

Superior & District Courts

“The court system is another huge system that needs to function well because it services everybody. It keeps the community functioning on a level that is based on community values. It needs to work.” (District 1&4)

“I placed the court system as my top priority because the budget for the courts... is minute. The courts are really the check on the executive and the legislative, and I think they are radically under funded.” (District 1&4)

Sheriff’s Department

“I picked the Sheriff’s Department mostly because I think criminal justice is continuing to shift and change to prevention and it provides an enormous amount of service to our communities.” (District 1&4)

“I live in the unincorporated area... I don’t see the Sheriff... Why would I put more dollars into something that I don’t see a reaction from?” (District 9)

Emergency Preparation/Management

“We’re in an earthquake area and we saw what a lack of emergency assistance can do in New Orleans. We don’t want that here.” (District 1&4)

“For emergency preparedness and management, that seems to be the area that we’re lacking in, as was shown during the two situations we had this winter.” (District 2&8)

Jails/Corrections

“I think the recent release of 83 felons... should be a wake up call on the jails in terms of capacity to hold these people.” (District 3&6)

Juvenile Services

“The sheriff’s department, courts, jails, is a short-term solution. If we put more money into juvenile services, down the road we wouldn’t need as much spent on those.” (District 3&6)

Public Defense Attorneys

“I find it rather interesting that Superior and District Courts are at the top, but yet the public defense and prosecuting attorneys are at the bottom.” (District 5&7)

“I think there was a series in The Seattle Times this year about what money there was allotted to public defenders was being mismanaged, but essentially there is darn little. Getting justice for people seems like it should have more than a pittance.” (District 3&6)

Victim Assistance

“As a Harborview nurse, I see the devastating lives of the people who are victims and the destroyed families. I think that should have a top priority also.” (District 2&8)

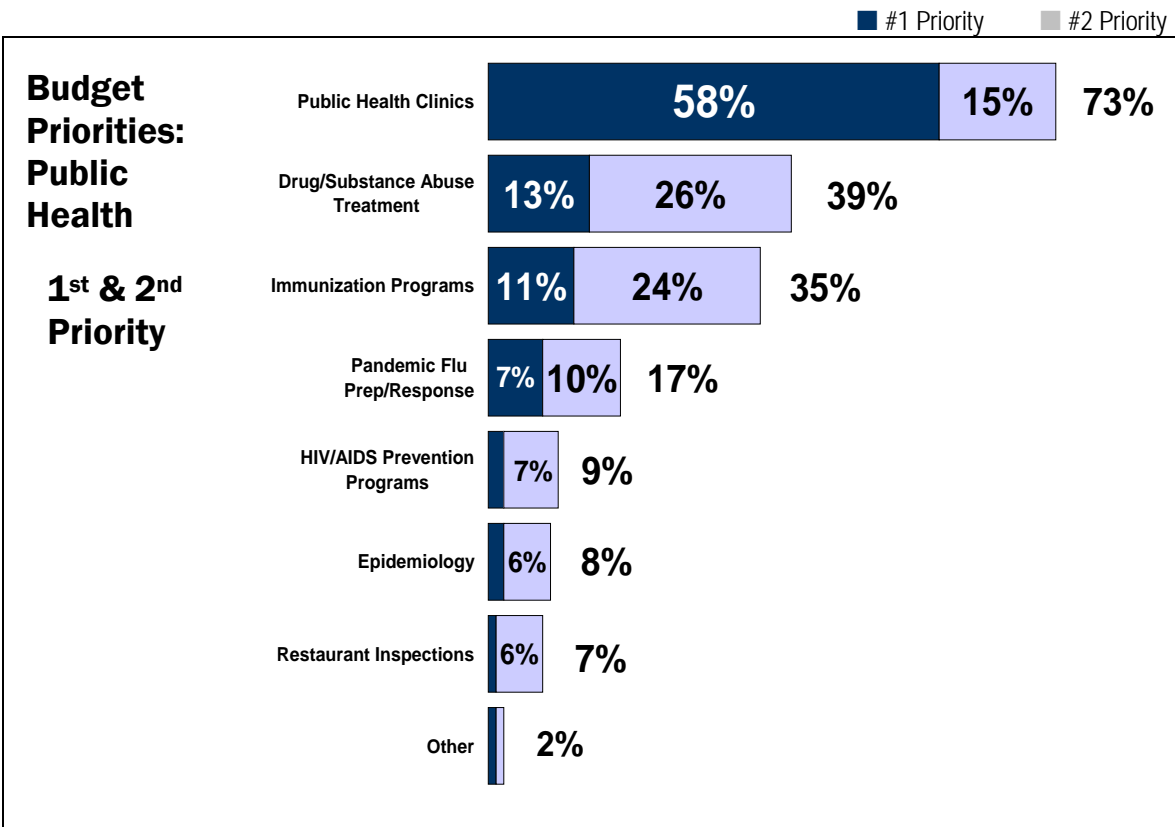
Prosecuting Attorneys

“There’s more money being spent on the jails than on the attorneys who are supposed to get them either into a place in the system or out of the system. It’s upside down in a way.” (District 3&6)

Other

“I found it hard with the category of Law, Safety and Justice... I just didn’t see the categories that I wanted, and maybe it was prevention based. Like early childhood services...” (District 1&4)

PUBLIC HEALTH



Participants were asked to rate their first, second and third budget priorities for Public Health. The chart above reflects the #1 and #2 priorities across the entire district. The table below illustrates the prioritizations by district.

TOP TWO PRIORITIES BY AREA

PRIORITY	DIST 5-7			DIST 1-4			DIST 3-6			DIST 2-8			DIST 9		
	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2
Public Health Clinics	74	9	83	66	13	79	37	20	57	59	12	71	43	33	76
Substance Abuse Trmt	6	28	34	13	34	47	18	18	36	12	24	36	24	24	48
Immunization Progs	6	25	31	9	25	34	24	22	46	6	29	35	14	10	24
Pandemic Flu Prep	6	8	14	5	13	18	8	12	20	8	8	16	5	10	15
HIV/AIDS Prevention	0	6	6	0	5	5	4	4	8	4	10	14	0	10	10
Epidemiology	0	11	11	0	2	2	4	6	10	2	6	8	5	5	10
Restaurant Inspections	4	6	10	0	4	4	0	12	12	2	6	8	0	0	0
Other	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	5	5	10

CELL ENTRIES = %

Reasons For Public Health Priorities

Prevention was the dominant theme in the discussion of public health priorities.

Public Health Clinics, the top priority, were seen as a way to keep people out of more costly healthcare down the road, to identify epidemics before outbreaks, and also as an educational resource for illnesses such as HIV/AIDS, drug abuse and flu pandemics. Notably, public health clinics were also seen as a means to provide health care to people without health insurance.

Drug and Substance Abuse Treatment was also seen as a means to prevent more costly consequences, such as HIV/AIDS and criminal activity. Likewise immunizations were seen as a means of avoiding flu pandemics and other costly illnesses.

Public Health Clinics

“We don’t have enough AIDS education.” (District 5&7)

“It’s not that we don’t value HIV or AIDS prevention... I guess health clinics serve the most people and need the most money, so that’s why it’s a priority.” (District 5&7)

“Under health clinics, I was thinking about prevention and keeping people out of the ER.” (District 1&4)

“My thinking was that the public health clinic is kind of the gatekeeper to [other] services. They are the first place people go that don’t have other alternatives that then will be steered to intervention and other areas... They provide the first gateway into drug and substance abuse treatment. They are the first identifiers of a potential for a pandemic.” (District 3&6)

“I think with the cost of health care and with employers reducing the health care for a lot of people, public health clinics are picking up the slack.” (District 9)

Substance Abuse Treatment

“I think when you can stop drug abuse, you can start controlling AIDS.” (District 5&7)

“I was thinking that the drug and substance abuse programs impact other areas of the budget so hugely that that was really important. In future years, if you could get a good handle on that, it would give more money to public health.” (District 1&4)

“Besides the social value of helping people improve their lives, it seems to me the most cost effective way of keeping people out of the criminal justice system.” (District 1&4)

Immunization Programs

“I was thinking that if you get people immunized, there’s less likelihood of having flu pandemic.” (District 1&4)

“I’m a little confused on why it is on the King County one because it is handled by the State.” (District 3 &6)

Pandemic Flu Prep

“I’m surprised pandemic flu is so high. I wonder if that’s because there’s been a lot of attention given to it...” (District 5&7)

“I prioritized the pandemic flu preparation. I know there’s been a lot of work done on it, but private employers... have more and more restrictive attendance policies, so people come to work sick. I don’t think all the preparations that we’re doing now are going to make any difference until that is changed...” (District 2&8)

HIV/AIDS Prevention

“I was seriously torn... between immunization programs and HIV protection. On the one hand, I don’t know how much we can do in the local government with HIV, but the fact that we don’t have anything provided the final push. We need to start somewhere.” (District 9)

Restaurant Inspections

“In my lifetime, I’ve probably only been sick once or twice from food poisoning, yet I’ve had the flu every five years. I’m kind of surprised that people think that’s so important.” (District 5&7)

“I know restaurant inspection is low on the list, but if you don’t have restaurant inspection, you have a lot of disease. Having worked in restaurants all of my life, I have seen a lot of things. I think that is high priority.” (District 9)

Other

“I was thinking of the homelessness and the top priorities around homelessness. It is a huge issue, as we all know.” (District 1 & 4)

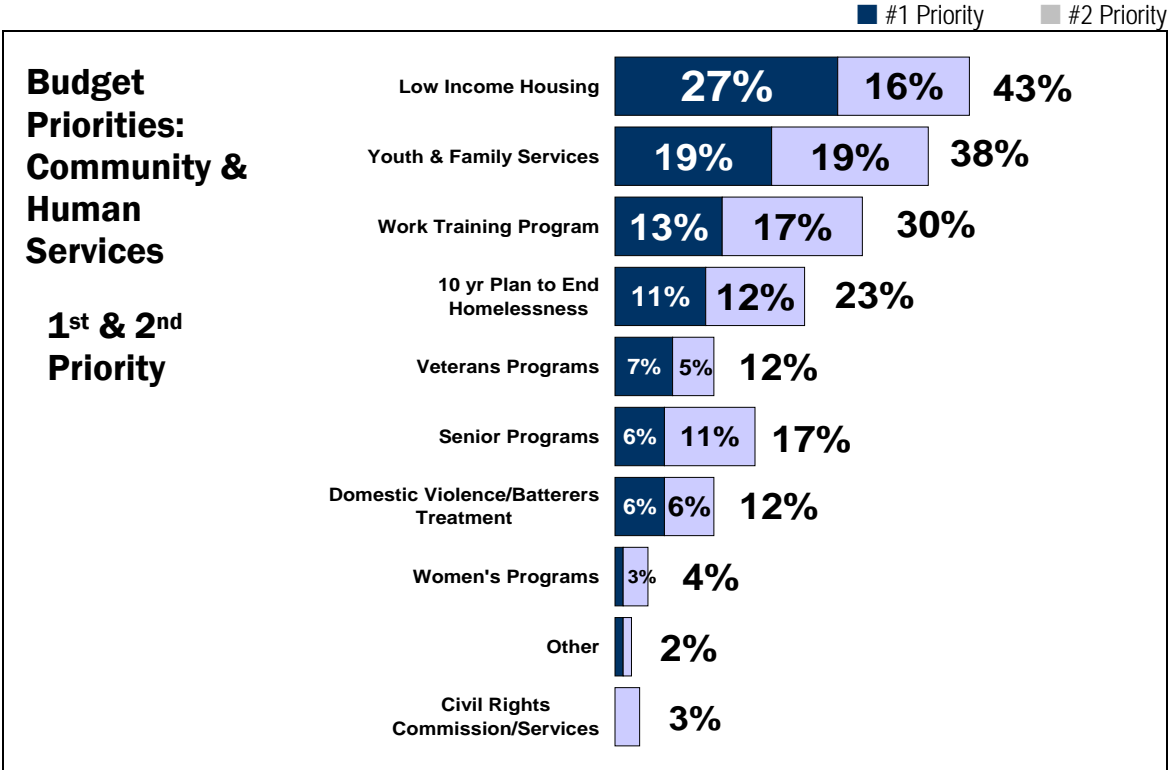
“Every time I go through that list, I wonder how much of this is work that King County should be doing versus how much ought to be State priority. How many times are we repeating programs?” (District 3 & 6)

“I put “other” on there because domestic violence is a public health issue.” (District 2&8)

“I don’t want to pay for anyone in jail. There has been a big breakdown of family values in the last twenty years... so I just think we need more family services.” (District 9)

“I think the under-insured issue hits a lot of poor people and I see that as something where the local government could help with the insurance for children.” (District 9)

COMMUNITY & HUMAN SERVICES



Participants were asked to rate their first, second and third budget priorities for Community & Human Services. The chart above reflects the #1 and #2 priorities across the entire district. The table below illustrates the prioritizations by district.

TOP TWO PRIORITIES BY AREA

PRIORITY	DIST 5-7			DIST 1-4			DIST 3-6			DIST 2-8			DIST 9		
	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2
Low Income Housing	23	17	40	34	16	50	24	10	34	33	16	49	10	24	34
Youth & Family Services	17	15	32	11	20	31	33	20	53	12	22	34	29	14	43
Work Training Programs	13	13	26	9	25	34	14	22	36	8	10	18	33	14	47
10 yr Plan- Homelessness	8	11	19	14	9	23	2	10	12	18	16	34	14	14	28
Senior Programs	6	15	21	9	11	20	6	6	12	6	8	14	0	24	24
Domestic Violence Trmt	6	8	14	4	2	6	6	10	16	8	8	16	10	0	10
Veteran's Programs	11	6	17	5	4	9	8	6	14	2	6	8	5	0	5
Women's Programs	0	0	0	2	4	6	0	8	8	4	4	8	0	0	0
Civil Rights City/Svcs	2	2	4	0	2	2	0	2	2	0	6	6	0	5	5
Other	0	2	2	2	0	2	2	2	4	2	0	2	0	0	0

CELL ENTRIES = %

Reasons For Community, Human Services Priorities

Just as the Public Health discussion was a blend of responses to current conditions (lack of affordable health care) and prevention of costlier problems later, so too did the discussion of Community Services focus on current conditions and prevention.

Low Income Housing was rated the top priority largely because it was thought to provide a assistance in an increasingly unaffordable housing market. Participants talked about it as necessary to maintain the mix of population in the community. Others said that low income housing needed more funding to keep from becoming slums or to replace waning federal funds.

Youth and Family Services, the second priority, was seen as a preventative program “to get people started on the right foot.” Work training programs were named because joblessness was associated with a number of other problem areas, and some thought the county was better equipped than federal or state programs because of local knowledge to help place workers.

Low Income Housing

“To fund low-income housing, you might be taking away from people who built the community and are leaving because they can’t afford to live in a home that they own [due to high taxes].” (District 1&4)

“I have four adult children. Out of the four of them, three have had to stay at home because they couldn’t afford to strike out on their own because of housing prices.” (District 1&4)

“The problem with low-income housing is that there are never enough funds for them and they turn into slums.” (District 3 & 6)

“I know that the low-income housing Section Eight program is being phased out after 30 or 40 years. This has become a crisis nation-wide.” (District 2 & 8)

“I think that, without the low-income housing, we really change the mix of the people in the city.” (District 2 & 8)

Youth & Family Services

“Whatever can be done in the way of prevention and to get people started off on the right foot seems like the way to go.” (District 1 & 4)

Work Training Programs

“Why should that be a thing the County is involved in, as opposed to a State program or a Federal program?” (District 3 & 6)

“Local work training programs are probably better because there is more knowledge of what kinds of jobs are needed locally so that you’re training for the right things.” (District 3 & 6)

*“Work training has the potential to break a lot of these other cycles or prevent them.”
(District 9)*

“You don’t need to have a program that ends homelessness if you have a program that can give them jobs and make them more secure.” (District 9)

10 yr Plan- Homelessness

*“I voted for the ten-year plan to end homelessness because all of the various categories up there have inferences toward homelessness: the low-income, the seniors, and people who come from broken homes due to domestic violence.”
(District 1 & 4)*

*“I’m wondering about ending homelessness. Is that really a realistic goal?”
(District 2 & 8)*

“I drive early in the morning sometimes. I see so many people on the streets. It’s really a crime.” (District 2 & 8)

“The homeless in Seattle, how much of that is taken care of by Seattle city as opposed to the county’s responsibility?” (District 2 & 8)

Senior Programs

“Most of us are middle aged. We’ve got parents who are old. You don’t know what to do if something happens. You’ve got to have some place to call.” (District 2 & 8)

Domestic Violence Treatment

“I put domestic violence and abuse just to end that cycle...” (District 9)

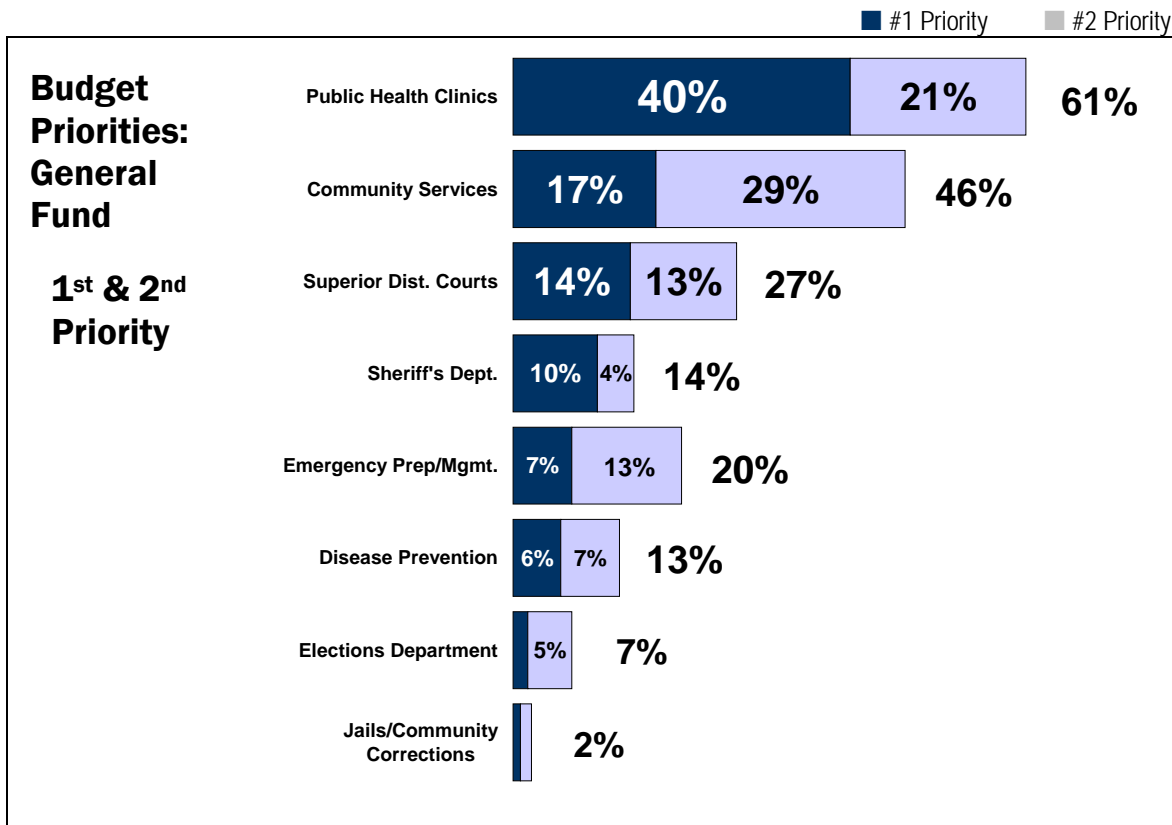
Veteran’s Programs

“I’m surprised there’s veteran’s programs in here at all. Is that a net result of the Fed not taking care of the veterans?” (District 1 & 4)

*“I voted for veteran’s programs because regardless of whether it is funded by the Federal government or not, we have a commitment that we need to keep.”
(District 1 & 4)*

“Why would the county duplicate some of those services if they have limited resources?” (District 2 & 8)

GENERAL FUND PRIORITIES



Participants were asked to rate their first, second and third budget priorities for General Fund program areas. The chart above reflects the #1 and #2 priorities across the entire district. The table below illustrates the prioritizations by district.

TOP TWO PRIORITIES BY AREA

PRIORITY	DIST 5-7			DIST 1-4			DIST 3-6			DIST 2-8			DIST 9		
	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2
Public Health Clinics	58	16	74	29	16	45	32	26	58	40	21	61	32	27	59
Community Services	18	36	54	22	27	49	8	22	30	12	31	43	32	27	59
Superior/Dist Courts	9	9	18	22	29	51	8	14	22	21	2	23	*	*	*
Sheriff's Dept	*	*	*	*	*	*	38	14	52	*	*	*	18	14	32
Emergency Prep/Mgmt	6	16	22	15	13	28	*	*	*	10	27	37	*	*	*
Disease Prevention	4	11	15	7	7	14	2	6	8	12	2	14	0	9	9
Elections Department	2	4	6	0	2	2	6	8	14	0	10	10	0	0	0
Jails & Corrections	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	9	14	23

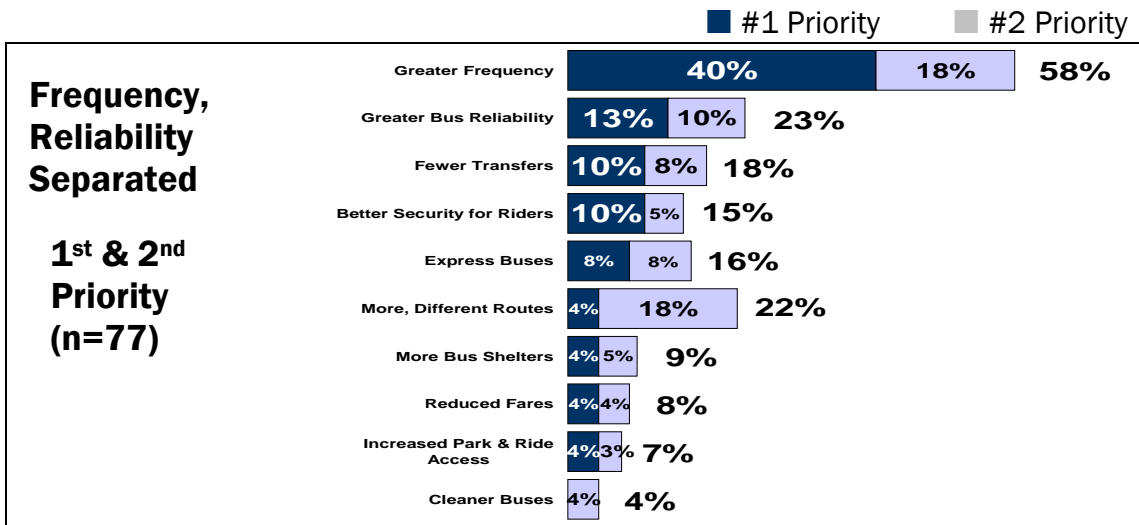
CELL ENTRIES = %

TRANSIT

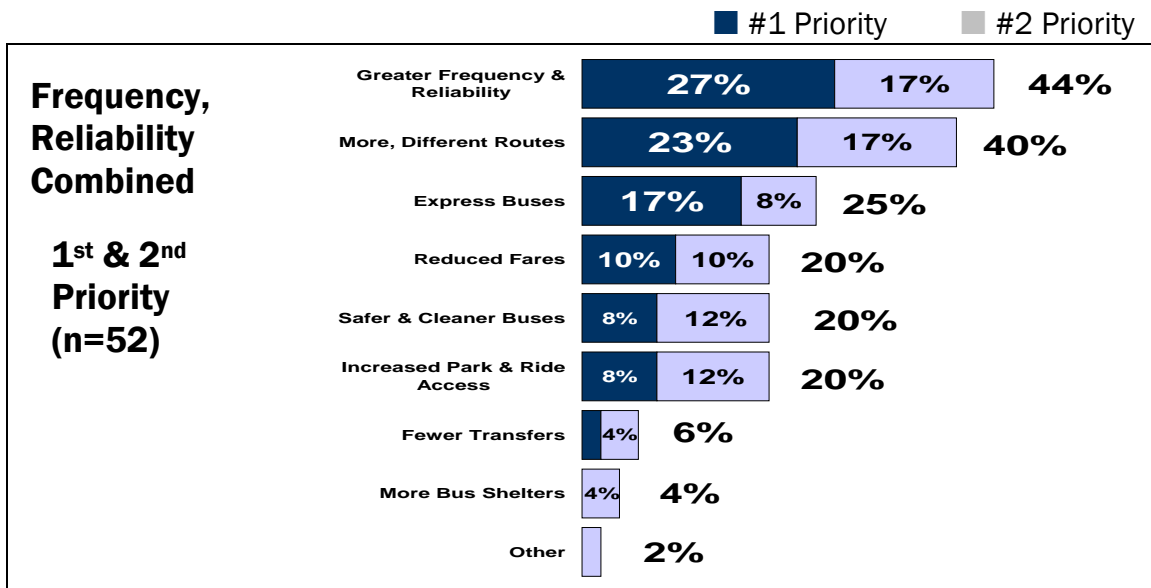
Workshop participants were divided into riders and non-riders and asked what would motivate them to ride public transit, or ride it more.

As a result of participant suggestions, the options for the Transit questions changed over the course of the Workshops. The response options “Greater Bus Frequency and Reliability” and “Safer and Cleaner buses” were separated into their individual parts: “Greater Bus Reliability,” “Greater Bus Frequency,” “More Bus Security” and “Cleaner Buses.” Also, for Non-Riders the option “Never Take the Bus” was omitted. The results for both question sets are presented here.

Transit Riders: Would be more satisfied if...



Transit Riders were asked to rate their first, second and third budget priorities for Transit spending. The chart above reflects the #1 and #2 priorities for districts 1,2,4,8 and 9. The table on the following page illustrates the prioritizations by district.



Transit Riders were asked to rate their first, second and third budget priorities for Transit. The chart above reflects the #1 and #2 priorities for districts 3,5,6 and 7. The table on the following page illustrates the prioritizations by district.

TRANSIT RIDER PRIORITIES BY AREA

PRIORITY	DIST 5-7 (n=26)			DIST 3-6 (n=26)		
	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2
Greater Frequency & Reliability	19	19	38	35	15	50
More, Different Routes	19	8	27	27	27	54
Express Buses	27	8	35	8	8	16
Reduced Fares	4	12	16	15	8	23
Safer & Cleaner Buses	12	19	31	4	4	8
Increased Park & Ride	8	8	16	8	15	23
Fewer Transfers	0	0	0	4	8	12
More Bus Shelters	0	4	4	0	4	4
Other	0	4	4	0	0	0

CELL ENTRIES = %

TRANSIT RIDER PRIORITIES BY AREA

PRIORITY	DIST 1-4 (n=34)			DIST 2-8 (n=28)			DIST 9 (n=15)		
	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2
Greater Frequency	44	15	59	32	14	46	47	13	60
Greater Bus Reliability	12	15	37	14	7	21	13	7	20
Fewer Transfers	15	6	21	11	7	18	0	13	13
Better Security	18	9	27	7	4	11	0	0	0
Express Buses	3	6	9	4	14	18	27	0	27
More, Different Routes	3	21	24	4	18	22	7	13	20
More Bus Shelters	3	12	15	7	0	7	0	0	0
Reduced Fares	0	3	3	11	4	15	0	7	7
Increased Park & Ride	3	0	3	4	7	11	7	0	7
Cleaner Buses	0	3	3	0	7	7	0	0	0

CELL ENTRIES = %

Transit Riders Reasons For Priorities

Not surprisingly, the general theme in the transit discussions among riders was the ability to get where you wanted to go quickly and efficiently. Riders selected a number of different ways to achieve this, but frequency was clearly the top priority. Increased frequency was identified as a means to speed up trips and avoid over-crowded buses.

Reliability was highlighted out of frustration with overcrowded buses passing riders by, but was also tied into system-wide problems and getting where you wanted to go on time. Much of the discussion also revolved around alternative forms of transit.

Greater Frequency

“Who wouldn’t vote for more frequency?” (District 3 & 6)

“The bus frequency is not good. They are like two and half hours a part. You either get to work an hour and a half early or leave two hours late.” (District 9)

Greater Bus Reliability

“It’s the reliability. I can work around the schedule but, when I go to the bus stop and the bus isn’t there or the bus passes me by because it’s full, I can’t deal with that.” (District 1 & 4)

“The reliability issue, to some extent, is in the driver’s hands and yes they should be responsible for that, but that’s a greater transportation issue as well.” (District 2 & 8)

Fewer Transfers

“Seems like the only way to get around is to go to Seattle. People in Seattle think the only place people want to go is to downtown, but there’s all this traffic on 405 trying to get away from Seattle on the east side.” (District 3 & 6)

“I selected transfers because you can have great frequency, but transfers throw off your schedule. I also said more park and rides.” (District 2 & 8)

Better Security

“I think people are worried about the gang members in back.” (District 5 & 7)

“It’s safety in terms of personal space.” (District 5 & 7)

“I kept finding myself wanting to vote for my two teenagers that ride Metro because they have to deal with this transit center right here (Northgate), and it’s real dangerous for kids.” (District 1 & 4)

Express Buses

“The fundamental question is speed. If I take the bus, I have to plan for an hour. People don’t have that kind of time to piddle away.” (District 1 & 4)

“Express buses throughout the day and not just in the mornings.” (District 3 & 6)

*“The buses are looping around all of these small towns and it’s crap. Freeways go from Tacoma to Seattle, why doesn’t one bus take those routes? They don’t ride the main routes. I don’t want to pay for that kind of transportation.”
(District 9)*

More, Different Routes

“There’s a number of routes that have been given away to Sound Transit. I can’t take the bus downtown any more without transferring.” (District 3 & 6)

*“It seems to me that it’s more about if you can get to where you want to go, and how long does it take to get there, rather than if you have to adjust your schedule a little.”
(District 2 & 8)*

More Bus Shelters

“If there were more bus shelters, maybe people would be willing to ride the bus more.” (District 2 & 8)

Increased Park & Ride

“If you have more park and rides, you can reduce the number of transfers and have a straight shot.” (District 2 & 8)

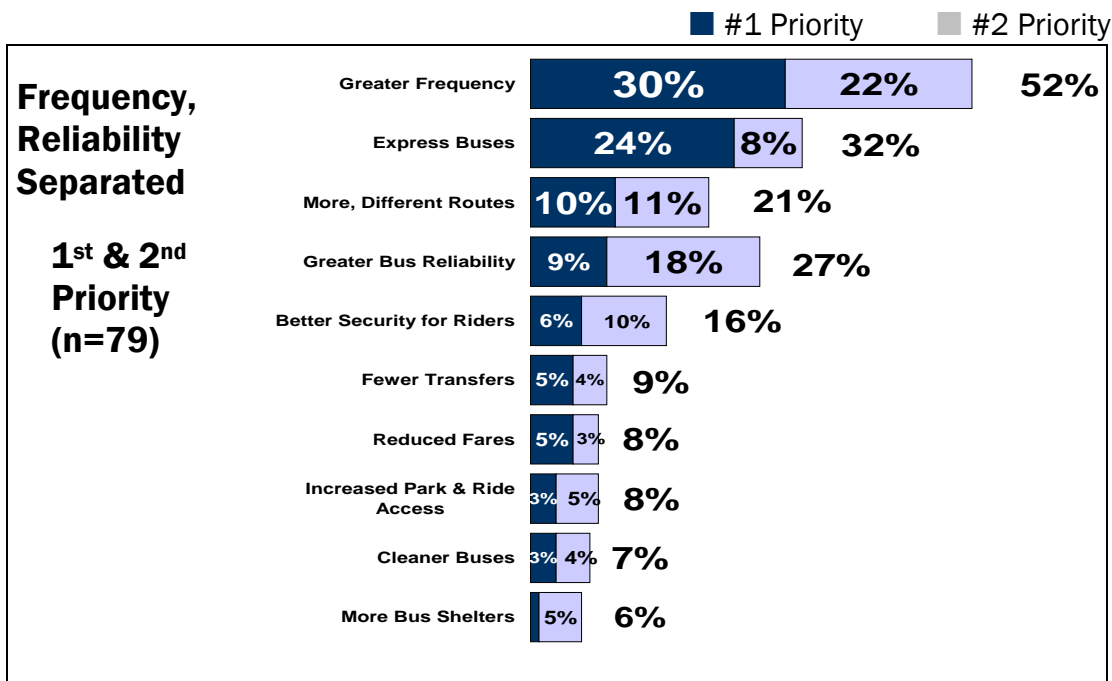
Other

“Metro has got to stop focusing on fare loss and focus on moving people, using all the doors, stop the bus for the shortest amount of time, let people get on and let people get off, then move.” (District 1 & 4)

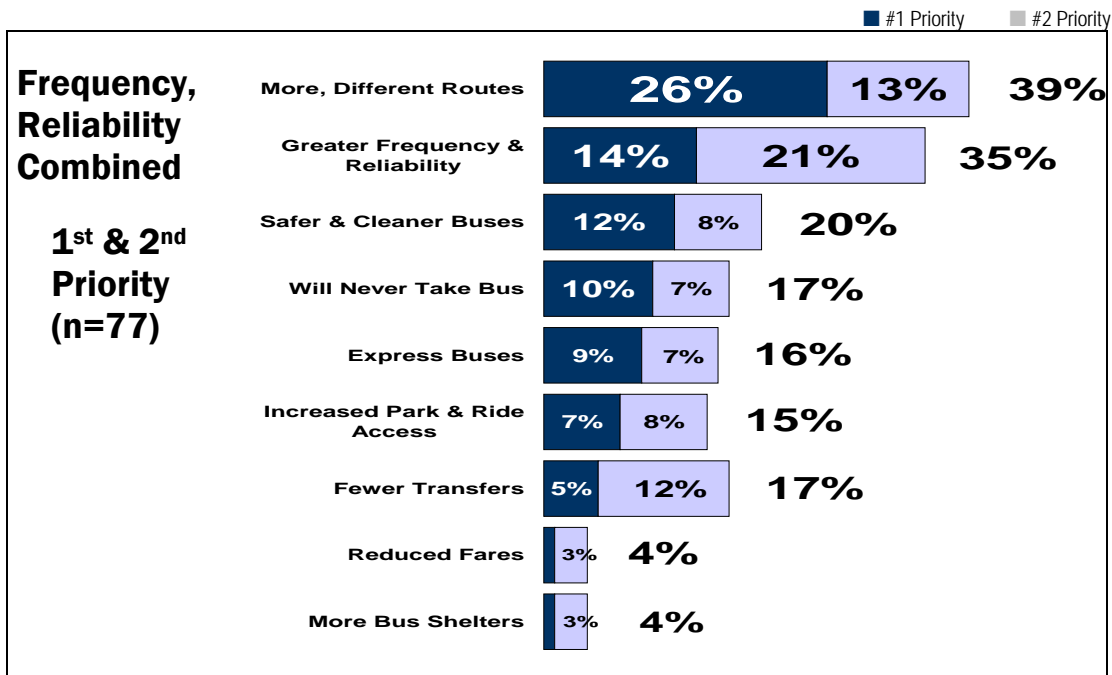
“There should be other forms of mass transportation.” (District 9)

*“Instead of getting a bigger bus they just made the time 45 minutes later and everybody is standing around for 45 minutes and getting on another jammed bus.”
(District 9)*

Non-Riders: Would Ride if...



Non-Riders were asked to rate their first, second and third budget priorities for Transit. The chart above reflects the #1 and #2 priorities for districts 1, 2, 4, 8 and 9. The table on the following page illustrates the prioritizations by district.



Non-Riders were asked to rate their first, second and third budget priorities for Transit. The chart above reflects the #1 and #2 priorities for districts 3, 5, 6 and 7. The table on the following page illustrates the prioritizations by district.

NON-RIDER PRIORITIES BY AREA

PRIORITY	DIST 5-7 (n=42)			DIST 3-6 (n=35)		
	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2
More, Different Routes	21	7	28	31	20	51
Greater Frequency & Reliability	5	21	26	26	20	46
Safer & Cleaner Buses	21	14	35	0	0	0
Will Never Take Bus	14	7	21	6	6	12
Express Buses	10	5	15	9	9	18
Increased Park & Ride	5	5	10	9	11	20
Fewer Transfers	0	12	12	11	11	22
Reduced Fares	2	2	4	0	3	3
More Bus Shelters	2	5	7	0	0	0

CELL ENTRIES = %

NON-RIDER PRIORITIES BY AREA

PRIORITY	DIST 1-4 (n=33)			DIST 2-8 (n=31)			DIST 9 (n=15)		
	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2
Greater Frequency	18	30	48	32	10	42	53	27	80
Express Buses	18	0	18	23	10	33	40	20	60
More, Different Routes	15	6	21	10	16	26	0	13	13
Greater Bus Reliability	21	24	45	0	10	10	0	20	20
Better Security	9	6	15	7	16	23	0	7	7
Fewer Transfers	6	3	9	7	3	10	0	7	7
Reduced Fares	3	3	6	10	3	13	0	0	0
Increased Park & Ride	0	0	0	3	13	16	7	0	7
Cleaner Buses	3	6	9	3	3	6	0	0	0
More Bus Shelters	0	6	6	3	7	10	0	0	0

CELL ENTRIES = %

NON-RIDERS: REASONS FOR PRIORITIES

As with transit riders, non-riders talked mostly about being able to get where they wanted to go efficiently. Routes were more important to non-riders than to riders. This stands to reason, since, presumably current riders by definition have routes that better serve their needs. More and different routes were highlighted by non-riders because their destinations and homes were not connected by the system.

Frequency was highly rated, although not as highly rated among non-riders as among riders. Non-riders ranked Express buses highly because they were seen to limit overall commute time.

As with riders, a significant portion of the discussions focused on transit alternatives.

More, Different Routes

“My wife and I both have relatively long commutes. We’d love to take the bus.... But, you can’t get there from here.” (District 3 & 6)

“...Metro riders have greater difficulty getting from east to west and west to east than they do going from north to south. That issue was not raised at all on these budget priorities. I think it would have an effect.” (District 2 & 8)

“...I would take the bus all the time, everywhere if we had a system like they have in (Europe and South America). Economical and lots of routes.” (District 9)

Express Buses

“I think increasing express buses and having those park and rides would also relieve fuel consumption and the fatigue and stress that most of us experience because we have long commutes...” (District 9)

Greater Bus Reliability

“I spent the last eight years working for Metro. They just throw the drivers out there, you have problems there’s nobody to help you. You’re on your own.” (District 1 & 4)

“About ACCESS, that is so loose...There are no regular schedules. It is individual scheduling. There was nothing regular about ACCESS.” (District 2 & 8)

Better Security

“...Regardless of whether they’re in a gang or not, (these kids) all seem to think they can act out. They get loud. Years ago when I was riding the bus, I couldn’t go two days without having to deal with them.” (District 5 & 7)

“My son got off of a bus and was stabbed.” (District 5 & 7)

“My daughter takes the bus and I worry about her all the time.” (District 5 & 7)

Fewer Transfers

“I tried to make it work for a while, but I was wasting my time sitting in Seattle waiting for the next connection.” (District 3 & 6)

Increased Park & Ride

“My contention has always been that we misuse our park and ride lots. I’ve always thought that you could take the South Kirkland park and ride and the Houghton park and ride, and you could have a bus going every 15 minutes from downtown Seattle to those two park and rides. If you wanted to go to Rose Hill or Kings Gate or some place like that, you’d have little buses running every 15 minutes from those park and rides going back and forth. If you use those as transit centers, you’d accomplish an awful lot and more than you could ever accomplish with light rail because light rail is stuck to a track and can never change.” (District 3 & 6)

“...If a park and ride turned out to have little community services, like a Starbucks, an ATM, a dry cleaners, an A & P mini-mart or a 7-11... people could get off the bus, run their errands, then get in their cars and go straight home... I think the definition of park and ride needs to be looked at.” (District 3 & 6)

“...If I’m going to a Mariner’s game or some event downtown, I can hop a bus at the Eastgate park & ride and it will take me down there for \$2.00... If that was the kind of bus service we had, I think more people would be willing to take it.” (District 3 & 6)

“How many people’s spouse would meet them at the park and ride if they knew they were going to be there in 15 minutes?” (District 3 & 6)

Other

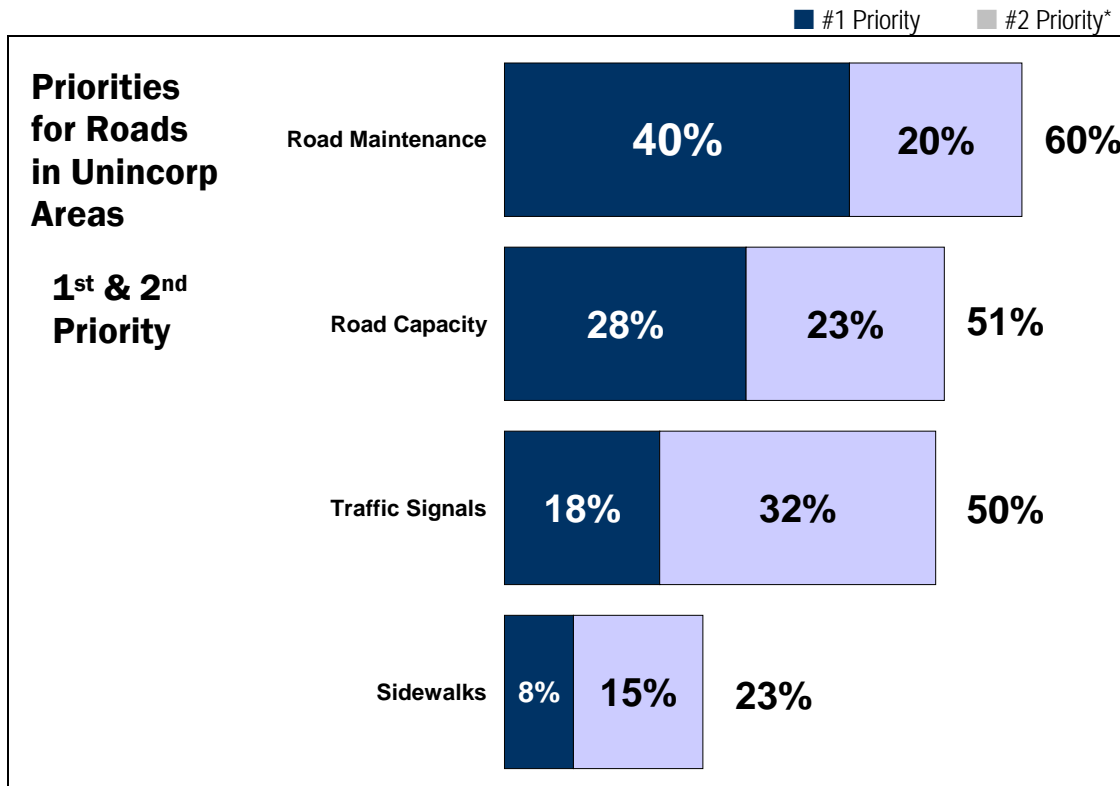
I don’t think the county or the local municipalities have really been very creative in their thoughts about mass transit. Everything seems to focus on buses. Disneyland can move monorails around and move thousands and thousands of people around a large area. Why we can’t be a little more creative than Mickey Mouse is beyond me. (District 3 & 6)

I looked at the bus and knew I could be on the bus, stuck in traffic like everyone else, or I can be in my car and have some control if I needed to run home. There wasn’t any kind of light rail east-west. We’re just getting it now for the north-south. It’s really probably a very selfish perspective, but I would have some control in my life and it doesn’t take me two and one-half hours to get to work. (District 3 & 6)

If you have small or school-aged kids, you have to be responsible. When the school nurse calls and says Johnny is sick, you can’t make excuses. If we had a good light rail system like San Francisco’s BART, I would be in the park and ride in 15 minutes. (District 3 & 6)

ROADS (UNINCORPORATED AREAS ONLY)

Participants were asked to prioritize four roads programs for unincorporated King County. Maintenance was rated most important, with 4 in 10 rating that their top priority.



Participants were asked to rate their first and second budget priorities for Roads (*Except in Districts 3,6,2, and 8, which were only asked their #1 priority due to a low number of unincorporated participants). The chart above reflects the #1 priority across the entire district and the #2 priority for those districts given 2 priority choices. The table below illustrates the prioritizations by district.

TOP TWO PRIORITIES BY AREA

PRIORITY	DIST 5-7			DIST 1-4			DIST 3-6			DIST 2-8			DIST 9		
	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2
Road Maintenance	40	17	57	48	16	64	35	*	35	45	*	45	14	38	52
Road Capacity	23	28	51	18	18	36	45	*	45	22	*	22	43	24	67
Traffic Sign Mgmt	30	28	58	14	39	53	14	*	14	12	*	12	19	24	43
Sidewalks	4	17	21	12	16	28	0	*	0	12	*	12	14	10	24

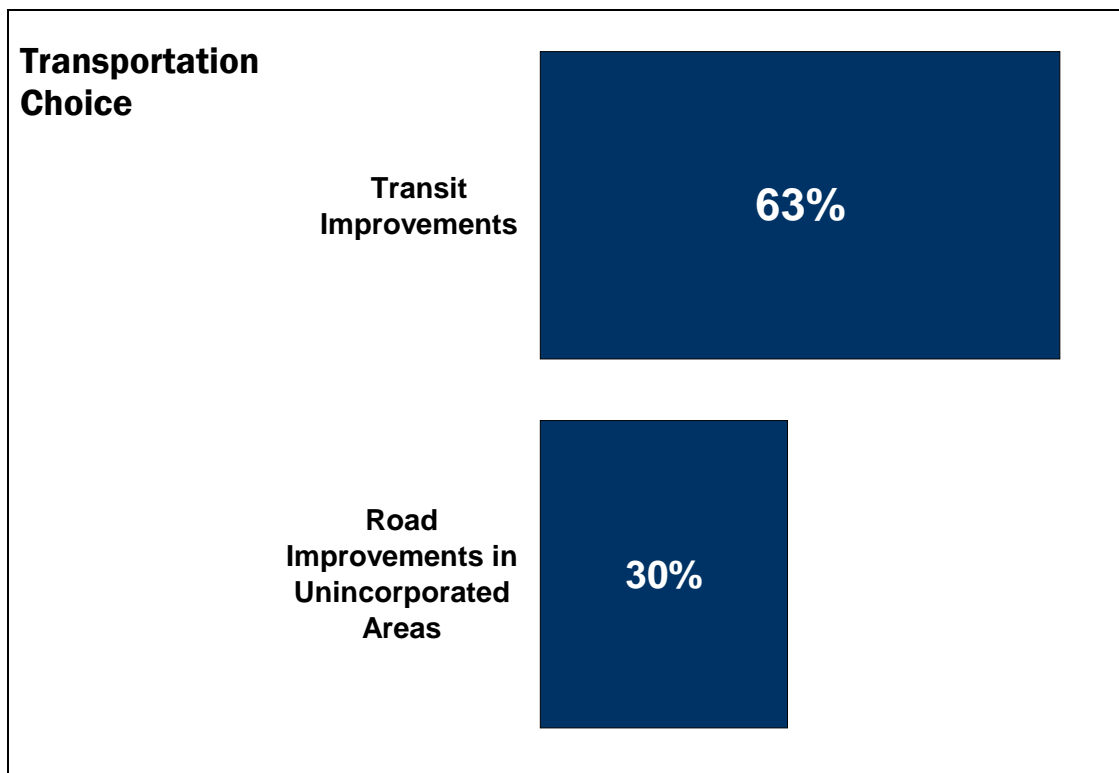
CELL ENTRIES = %

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TRANSPORTATION

Given a choice between transit improvements and road improvements in unincorporated areas of the county, participants chose transit by 2:1. Not surprisingly, there were significant differences between residents of incorporated and unincorporated areas:

- 68% of incorporated respondents favored transit Improvements compared to 47% of unincorporated respondents
- 53% of unincorporated respondents favored road improvements compared to 26% of incorporated respondents



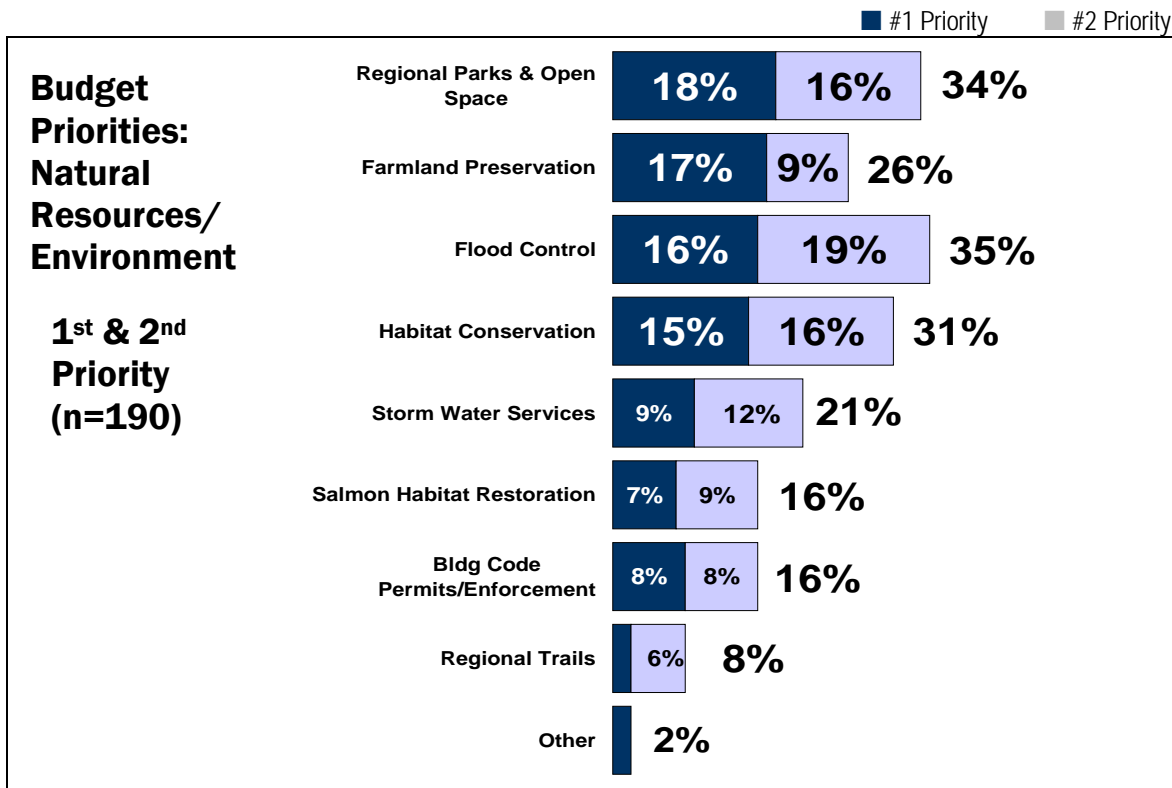
Participants were asked to rate their first priority for Transportation. The chart above reflects the prioritization across the entire district. The table below illustrates the prioritizations by district.

TOP PRIORITY BY AREA

	DIST 5-7	DIST 1-4	DIST 3-6	DIST 2-8	DIST 9
Transit Improvements	53	80	49	65	76
Road Improvements	42	14	41	26	24

CELL ENTRIES = %

NATURAL RESOURCES/ ENVIRONMENT



Participants were asked to rate their first, second and third budget priorities for Natural Resources/Environment. The chart above reflects the #1 and #2 priorities across the entire district. The table below illustrates the prioritizations by district.

TOP TWO PRIORITIES BY AREA

PRIORITY	DIST 5-7			DIST 1-4			DIST 3-6			DIST 2-8			DIST 9		
	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2
Parks & Open Spaces	15	19	34	18	14	32	24	18	42	12	14	26	24	14	38
Farmland Preservation	17	8	25	14	13	27	16	0	16	20	20	40	19	0	19
Flood Control	21	19	40	13	16	29	20	28	48	12	14	26	19	14	33
Habitat Conservation	11	15	26	25	18	43	14	12	26	12	22	34	14	5	19
Storm Water Services	9	8	17	9	20	29	8	8	16	10	12	22	10	14	24
Salmon Restoration	6	9	15	2	11	13	4	12	16	18	6	24	10	0	10
Bldg Code Permits	13	11	24	11	4	15	6	2	8	4	4	8	0	33	33
Regional Trails	2	6	8	2	0	2	2	12	14	2	2	4	0	14	14
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	4	0	4	0	0	0

CELL ENTRIES = %

Reasons For Natural Resources Priorities

The recurring theme in the natural resources discussion was the interconnectedness of the program areas. As indicated by the closeness of the priority preferences, many programs were seen to overlap and contribute to the same objectives.

Parks & Open Spaces

“If we had more open land and open spaces, there wouldn’t be nearly as much flooding, either. They’re clear-cutting and they wonder why downtown Issaquah floods?” (District 3 & 6)

“I certainly want to pay my tax money toward parks, but then I still have to pay for parking once I get to the park.” (District 3 & 6)

“People that moved out here did so to get away from it all and so we need to protect it.” (District 9)

Farmland Preservation

“Canada has put in a thing where farmlands are mandatory and they have set aside certain areas and people that own that are now putting up grain yards so they can produce all year round. If you have farm land you have to do something.” (District 9)

“My understanding of farmland preservation is that it is the zoning that keeps some of the farmlands protected from being developed and turned into concrete.” (District 5 & 7)

“I grew up on a farm that is now a condominium apartment complex. It was my uncle’s farm from Benson to the elementary and all the way up to where the creek was. When they took that house out of there, it was oh no.” (District 9)

Flood Control

“I live in Carnation, so naturally I’m for flood control. My question is, parks and open spaces and regional trails – wouldn’t that be the same thing?” (District 3 & 6)

“That flood control wouldn’t be as high if we didn’t have the kind of weather we just had this last year.” (District 9)

“I read flood control to mean getting the levees fixed, and storm water was getting rid of the water that comes down from normal rainfall.” (District 1 & 4)

Habitat Conservation

“A tree about as big as you can get your arms around sucks up about 250 gallons of water a day. Thirty years ago, we didn’t get these floods that we’re getting all up and down here. I voted for habitat conservation. Then you’ve got flood control.” (District 1 & 4)

“I think a lot of this just gets back to water quality overall. They all go together.” (District 1 & 4)

“I think the idea out here is we want to conserve and protect, but we don’t want big city cramming down our throats legislation that will hurt us.” (District 9)

Storm Water Services

“Help for cleaning the storm drains so that there isn’t flooding.” (District 5 & 7)

“There’s probably not anything that’s more important to the health of Puget Sound.” (District 1 & 4)

“If you’re putting more money into storm water services, you wouldn’t need to spend billions of dollars on bright water since storm water services are going into the current sewer system right now and being treated. Forty percent of the treatment they’re doing now is on storm water.” (District 3 & 6)

Salmon Restoration

“I was going to say about salmon habitat; all of this ties in together. You’ve got building codes, farmland, habitat conservation, etc.” (District 1 & 4)

Building Code Permits

“Seems to me that they change the zoning very easily. If you have a big corporation coming in, or somebody wants to do something with a developer. The people maybe don’t realize it.” (District 1 & 4)

“It takes forever to get permits. It’s not as easy to deal with the King County building department as it is almost anywhere else.” (District 3 & 6)

“City planning has such an impact on habitat. That is where you need your training.” (District 9)

Other

“I kind of expect the County government to start stepping up and looking at things holistically, and explain to people how all of these things fit together so that there’s a better understanding of how to prioritize these things, and be a leader on these issues like transportation and environment.” (District 1 & 4)

“I didn’t see ground water. I think with the wetlands and the creek systems, everybody keeps ignoring the ground water issues and they are the creeks.” (District 1 & 4)

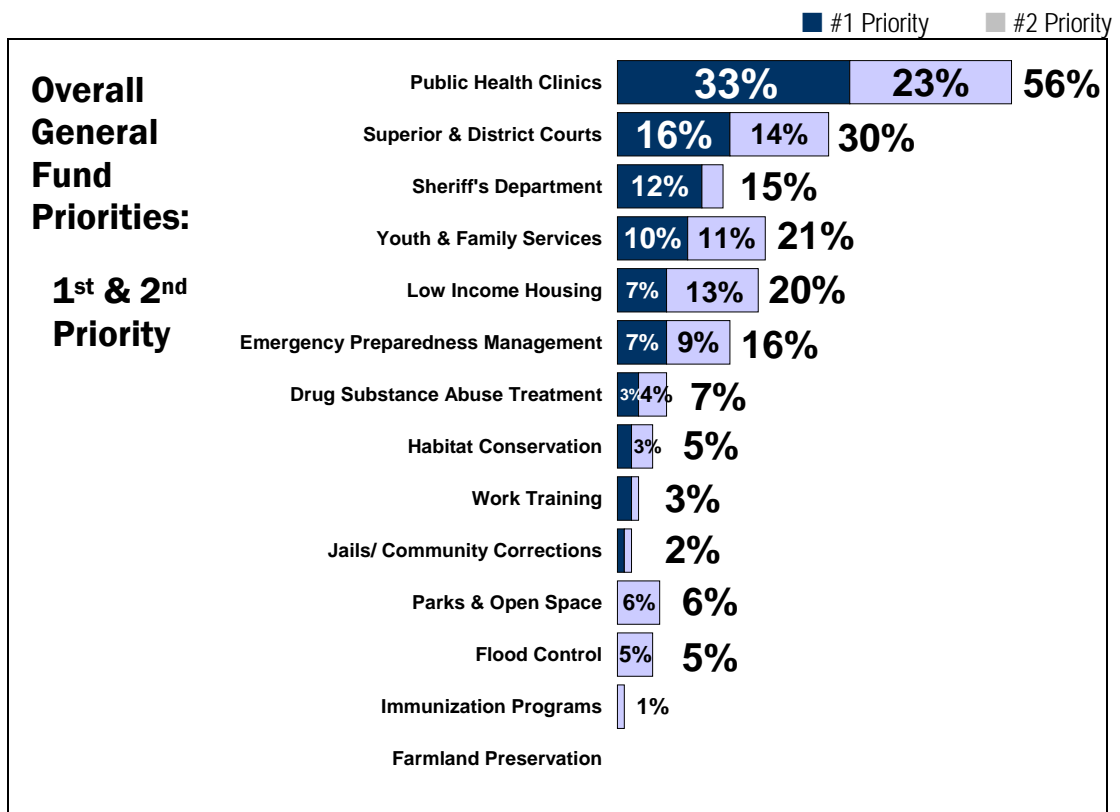
“It seems to me that the county’s responsibility should be to connect those varying municipalities together in an infrastructure that is consistent and has cohesiveness across a larger region. For instance, things like regional trails or transit routes or handling of storm water, etc.” (District 3 & 6)

OVERALL GENERAL FUND PRIORITIES

Following the priority exercises in the specific budget categories, participants were presented with a list of the top two priorities, as rated by themselves, from those General Fund categories: Law, Safety and Justice; Public Health, Community & Human Services; and Natural Resources/ Environment. They were then asked to rate their top priorities from this list.

Because each Workshop rated the category priorities differently, not all meetings considered the same set of programs in this item. The complete list is presented below. For comparison, the percentages are based on the total number of Workshop participants. The percentage thus incorporates the times a program made the “top two” list as well as its ranking on that list. Only 4 programs – public health clinics, superior and district courts, youth and family services and low-income housing – made the list in all five Workshops. They appear as 4 of the top 5 rates programs overall in the chart below.

Public Health Clinics, were the overall top-rated program by far.



Participants were asked to rate their first, second and third General Fund priorities. The chart above reflects the #1 and #2 priorities across the entire district. The table below illustrates the prioritizations by district.

TOP TWO PRIORITIES BY AREA

PRIORITY	DIST 5-7			DIST 1-4			DIST 3-6			DIST 2-8			DIST 9		
	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2	#1	#2	1+2
Public Health Clinics	60	20	80	26	22	48	22	16	38	31	23	54	9	46	55
Superior & Dist Courts	11	13	24	35	22	57	10	16	26	12	12	24	9	9	18
Sheriff's Department	*	*	*	*	*	*	46	8	54	*	*	*	18	9	27
Youth & Family Svcs	6	13	19	13	6	19	10	14	24	8	14	22	23	14	37
Low Income Housing	6	13	19	7	20	27	4	2	6	14	19	33	18	5	23
Emergency Prep	7	11	18	13	18	31	*	*	*	10	8	18	*	*	*
Drug Abuse Treatment	*	*	*	2	9	11	0	6	6	8	2	10	5	5	10
Habitat Conservation	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	10	12	22	*	*	*
Work Training	**	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Jails/ Cmty Corrections	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Parks & Open Space	2	9	11	*	*	*	0	16	16	*	*	*	5	0	5
Flood Control	0	4	4	*	*	*	0	18	18	*	*	*	0	0	0
Immunization Programs	0	4	4	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Farmland Preservation	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	2	2	4	*	*	*

CELL ENTRIES = %

NEW INITIATIVES

Participants were asked to brainstorm ideas for what to do with an “extra \$5-10 million” in the King County budget. Nine or 10 ideas were generated in each Workshop for a total of more than 35. Participants then indicated their #1 and #2 priorities for using that money. The full list of ideas is presented below. The cell entries are the rankings of each idea by each Workshop.

Proposal	DIST 5-7	DIST 1-4	DIST 3-6	DIST 2-8	DIST 9
Affordable Legal Services	3				
Animal Services	9				
Clean Roads					8
Community Policing		9			
Disaster Prep& Management			3	4	6
Domestic Violence Services	8				
Drug Treatment /Education	5		7		
Education For Elderly		10			
Employment Programs	7	8			
Environmental Conservation		5			10
Falling Bridges			2		
Flood Control			9		
Give It Back / Tax Refund			1	2	
Homeless Programs		4		3	
Increase Access to Government				7	
Low Income Housing	2	3	10		
Mental Health Treatment				5	
Outpatient For Total Family Rehab					5
Parenting Education					3
Pay Down The Debt					4
Pediatric Interim Care	6				
Public Def/ Prosecuting Attn.			8		
Public Health		1			1
Public Transportation		2	5		2
Rainy Day Fund				1	
Road Capacities			4		
School / Social Workers				6	
Senior Care	4				
Services For Immigrants				8	
Sidewalks	10				
Sustainable Development		6			
Sustainable Planning		7			
Victims Program				9	
Volunteer Program					7
Youth Activities	1		6		
Other				10	9

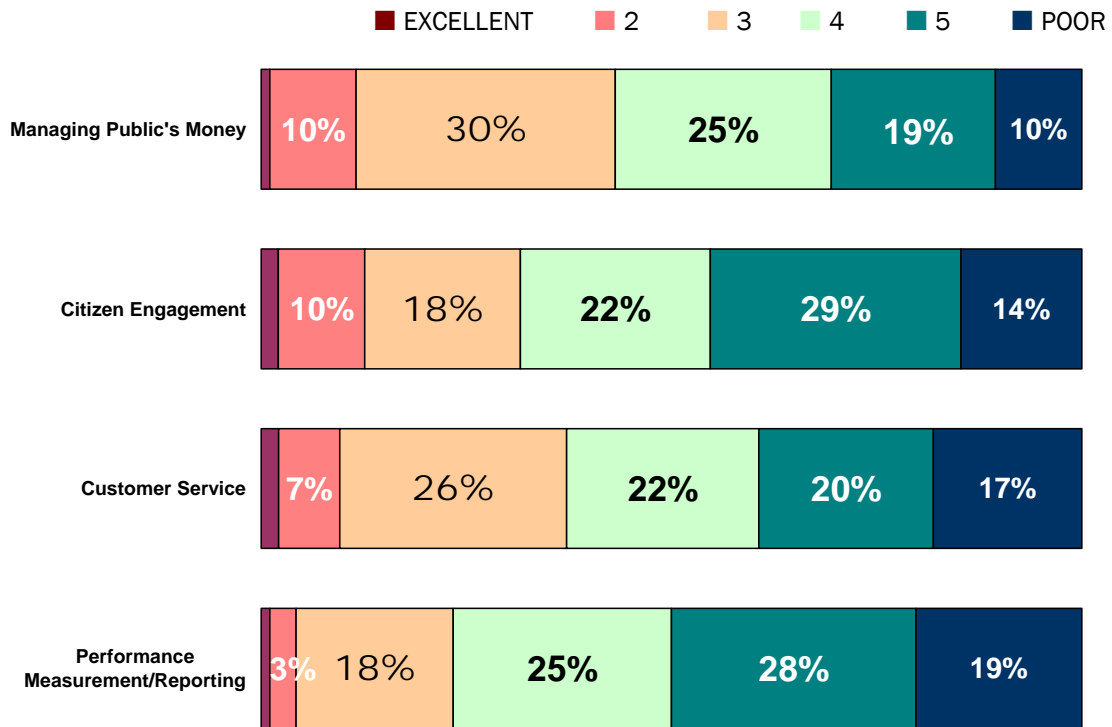
COUNTY GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

Participants were asked to rate King County Government on 4 different measures:

1. Prudently managing the public’s money
2. Engaging citizens in oversight of government services
3. Providing excellent customer service
4. Measuring our performance and reporting back to the public

The chart below reflects the ratings across all five Workshops. Ratings by individual Workshops are presented in the appendix.

Ratings Across All Five Workshops



FORUMS

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PUBLIC FORUMS

The Forum agenda was designed to be a streamlined version of the Workshop agenda. This was done to accommodate the greater number of people and the shorter time available. As in the Workshops, participants answered questions using the interactive polling system. Discussion was more limited than had been the case in the Workshops, following a more conventional question and answer format.

After introductions and demographic questions, participants were asked to prioritize county budget categories by indicating their #1 and #2 most important categories. They then prioritized programs within four budget categories. This was followed by two questions asking them to prioritize programs across budget categories. A final question asked Transit Riders and Non-Riders to indicate their Transit priorities. The prioritization was done with the interactive polling system, followed by a discussion.

As in the Workshops, participants were asked to indicate their priorities from a list of programs in each budget category. For the first Forum this included the top four programs that were selected by the Workshops. This was done to refine the work that had been accomplished in the Workshops and to save time.

This format was changed in the second Forum based on participants' feedback that there were not enough options to choose from in the budget categories. Consequently, participants in the second Forum were asked to choose from lists identical to the workshops. This section presents the results from the two Forums.

FORUMS KEY FINDINGS

- ◆ **Health and Human Services ranked top budget category in both Forums**
 - Forum 1: 51% ranked it as #1 or #2 of six budget categories
 - Forum 2: 74% ranked it as #1 or #2 of six budget categories

- ◆ **“Public Health Clinics” and “Youth & Family Services” ranked top priorities across budget categories**
 - Forum 1: 42% named “Public Health Clinics” as their #1 or #2 overall spending priority
 - Forum 2: 36% named “Youth & Family Services” as their #1 or #2 overall spending priority

- ◆ **“Superior & District Courts” top priority for Law, Safety and Justice spending in both Forums**
 - Forum 1: 67% said it was their #1 or #2 priority among Law, Safety and Justice programs
 - Forum 2: 47% said it was their #1 or #2 priority

- ◆ **“Public Health Clinics” were clear favorite for public health spending in both Forums**
 - Forum 1: 65% said it was either their #1 or #2 priority among public health programs
 - Forum 2: 71% said it was either their #1 or #2 priority

- ◆ **“Youth & Family Services,” “Low Income Housing,” and “10 Year Plan” at Top for Community & Human Services**
 - Forum 1: 43% named “Youth & Family Services” as either their #1 or #2 priority, while 37% each named “Low Income Housing” and “Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness”
 - Forum 2: 50% named “Youth & Family Services” as either their #1 or #2 priority

- ◆ **“Regional Parks & Open Spaces” and “Habitat Conservation” top priorities for Natural Resources/Environmental Budget**
 - Forum 1: 51% named “Regional Parks & Open Spaces” as their #1 or #2 priority; 48% named “Habitat Conservation”
 - Forum 2: 33% named “Regional Parks & Open Spaces” as their #1 or #2 priority; 25% named “Habitat Conservation”

- ◆ **Top priority for transit among both riders and non-riders in both Forums? “Greater Frequency”**
 - Forum 1: 73% of Riders and 58% of Non-Riders named “Greater Frequency” as their #1 or #2 spending priority
 - Forum 2: 44% of Riders and 38% of Non-Riders named “Greater Frequency” as their #1 or #2 spending priority

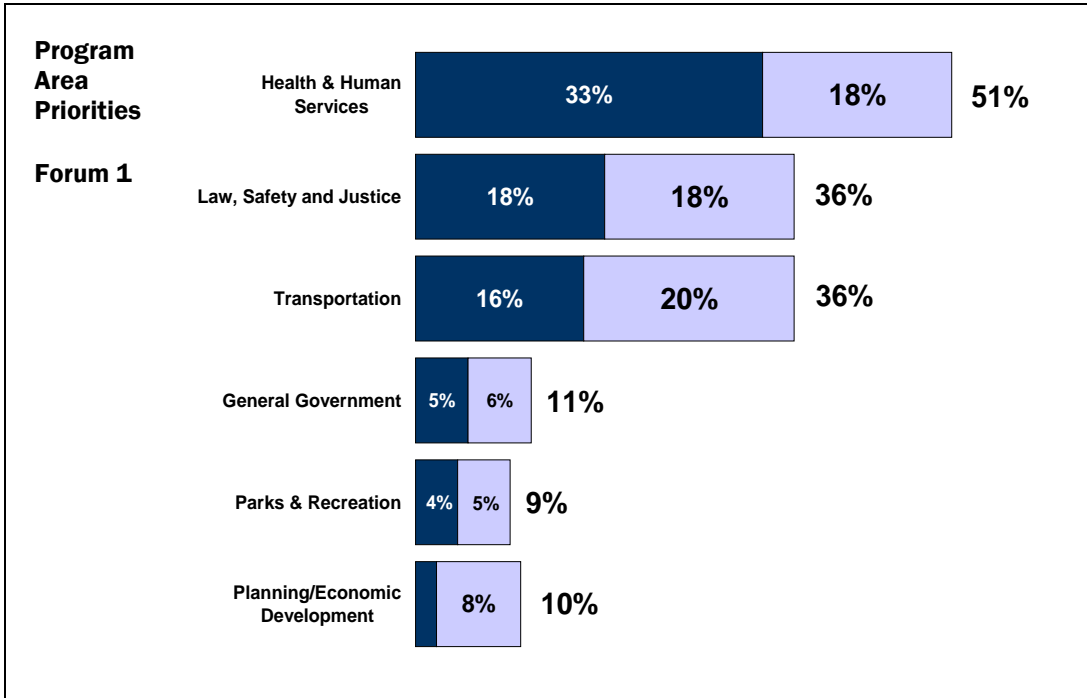
FORUM PARTICIPANT PROFILE

In interpreting these findings, it is important to keep in mind the characteristics of the citizens who participated in these Forums. Unlike the Workshops, where participants were specifically recruited to match demographic characteristics of the larger population, Forum participants were self-selected. Consequently, they are less likely to represent, demographically or attitudinally, a wide cross section of the King County electorate. The table below presents the demographic profile of the two Forums, as well as a list of key differences from the Workshop sample.

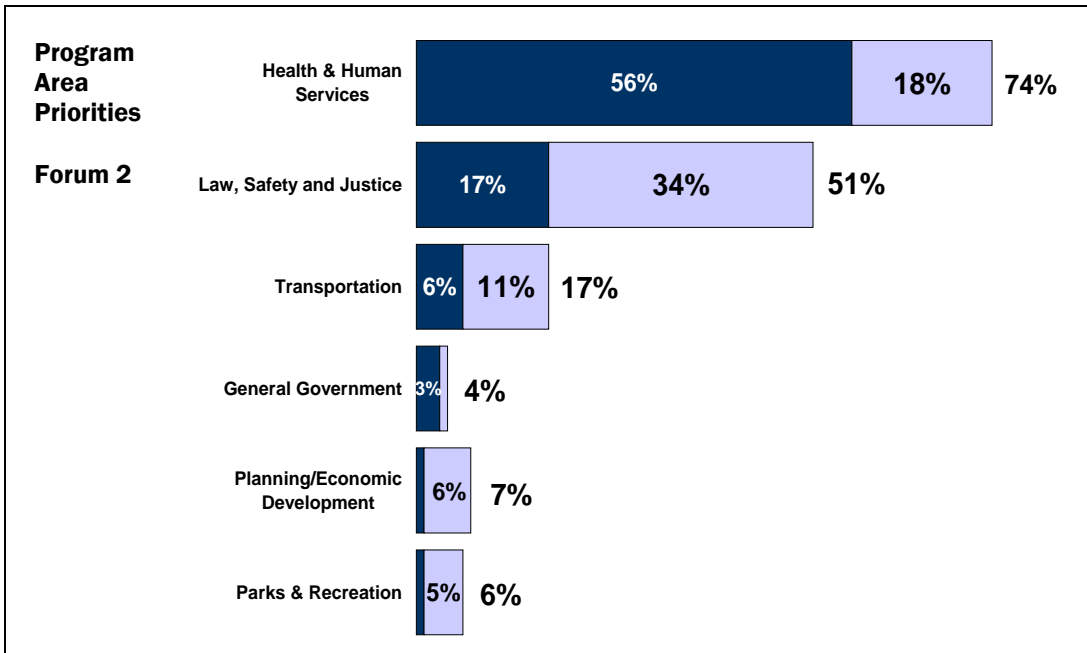
FORUM	#1	#2
N=	107	71
GENDER:	48%	47% Male 53% Female
AGE:	15%	25% 18-35 31% 36-50 34% 51-60 10% 61+
HOUSEHOLD:	42%	29% Single, No Kids 32% Couple, No Kids 7% Single, Kids 32% Couple, Kids
CITY/UNINCORPORATED:	95%	73% City 27% Unincorporated
COMMUTE STATUS:	45%	24% Commute to a job in my community 55% Commute to another part of county 6% Commute to outside King County 15% Retired/Not Working
ATTENTION TO COUNTY GOV'T: (SCALE 1-6)	20%	16% [1] Follow it Very Closely 23% [2] 27% [3] 12% [4] 10% [5] 11% [6] Do Not Follow It At All

- Compared to Workshop participants, Forum 1 participants were more likely to:
 - Pay significant attention to county government (42% vs. 18%)
 - Live inside the limits of City/Town (95% vs. 84%)
 - Commute within their community (45% vs. 32%)
- Compared to Workshop participants, Forum 2 participants were more likely to:
 - Pay significant attention to county government (39% vs. 18%)
 - Live in Unincorporated King County (27% vs. 16%)
 - Commute within King County (55% vs. 35%)
 - Be 50 years old or younger (56% vs. 41%)
 - Be part of a couple, with children at home (32% vs. 18%)

PROGRAM AREA PRIORITIES

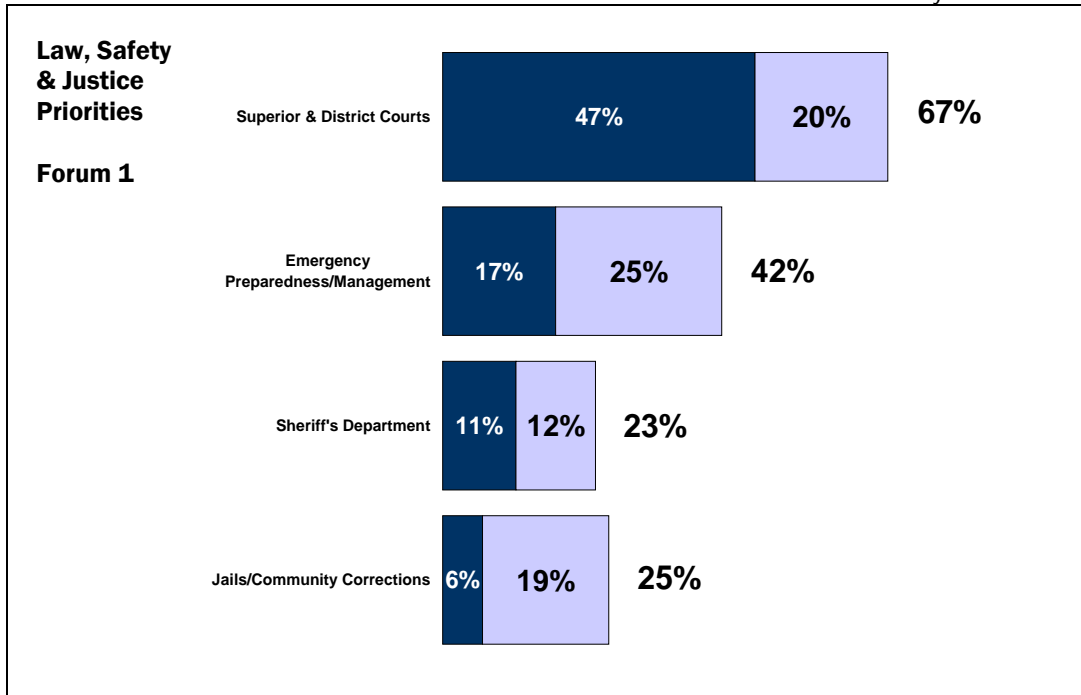


Participants were asked to rate their first and second priorities for King County program areas. The chart above reflects the #1 and #2 priorities for the 1st Forum, and the chart below reflects these priorities in the 2nd Forum.

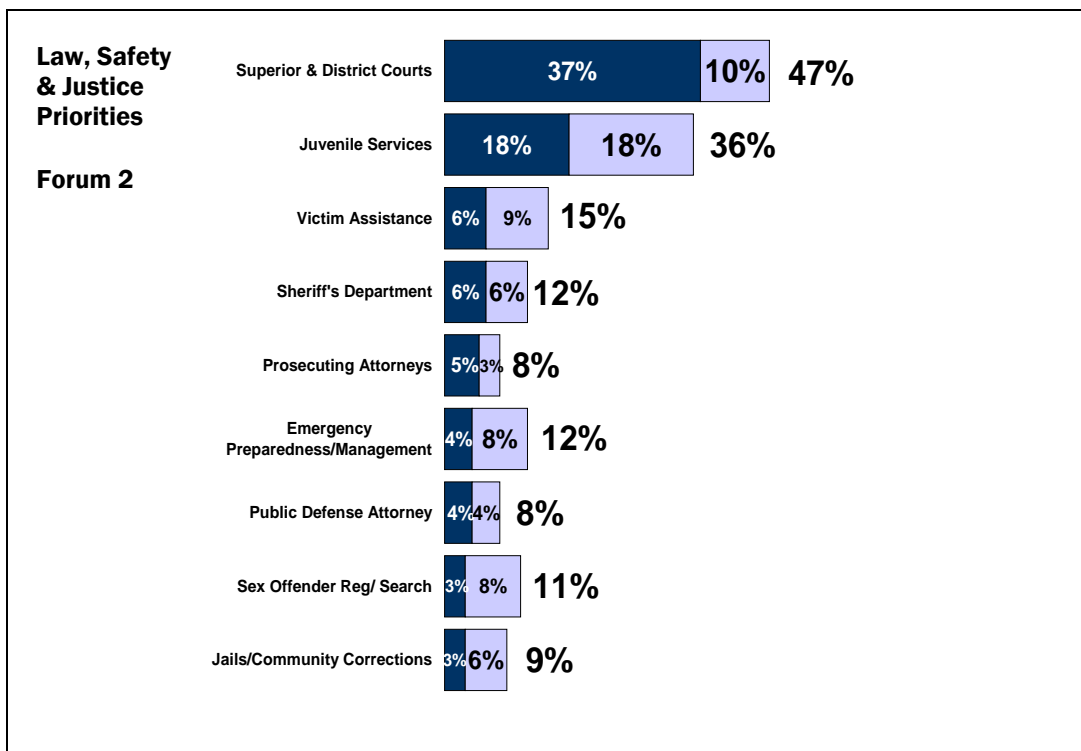


LAW, SAFETY AND JUSTICE

■ #1 Priority ■ #2 Priority



Participants were asked to rate their first and second priorities for Law, Safety and Justice program areas. The chart above reflects the #1 and #2 priorities for the 1st Forum, and the chart below reflects these priorities in the 2nd Forum.



Law, Safety & Justice Priorities Discussion

Although Superior and District Courts were ranked #1 in both Forums, the subsequent discussion made it clear that, for a significant number of participants, their concern was mental health. A number of comments referenced the mental health courts under the “Superior & District Courts” option. In light of this, comments made during the discussion segments that pertained to Mental Health have been grouped separately and are presented later in this section.

Superior & District Courts

The first category there, Superior Courts, in your previous slide was a broad category that included mental health...I think it is absolutely essential that the Council know that we need to address mental health issues rather than jailing people in terms of priorities. (Forum 1)

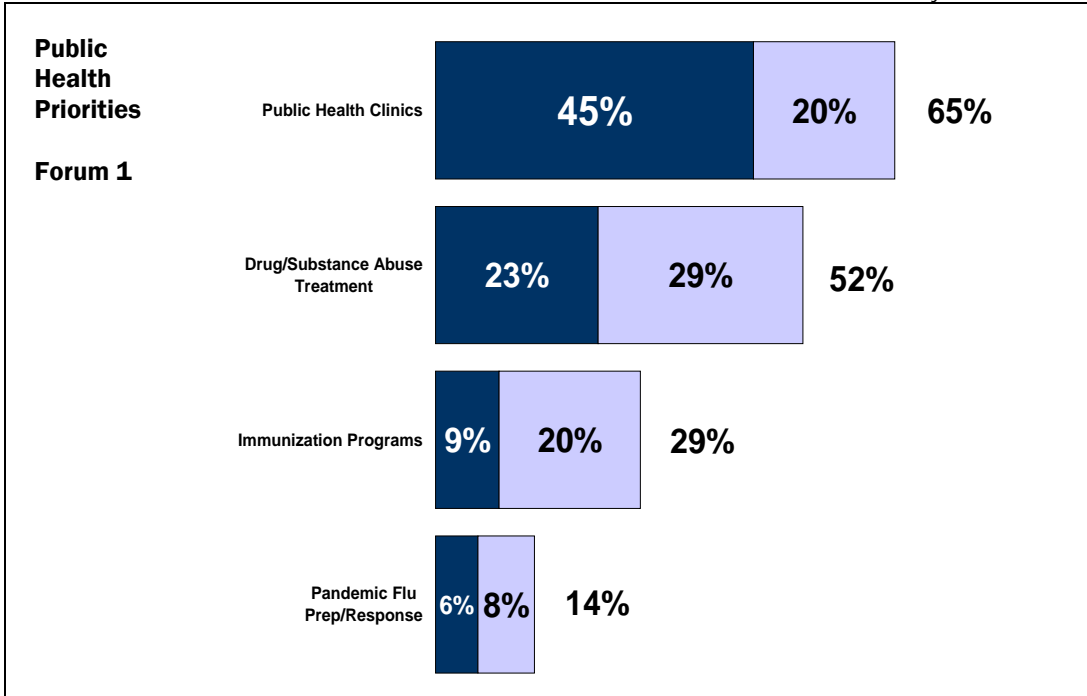
How does mental health relate in that category? In my brain, does it mean that the number of mental health people that are brought into the court system for offenses or is it just a broad spectrum of mental health... (Forum 2)

In light of that, it didn't seem like Health & Human Services was really reflected in the last set of choices. It seemed like only the specific case of mental health court was. I think the problem I have with that is, we're trying to keep people from entering that whole aspect. (Forum 2)

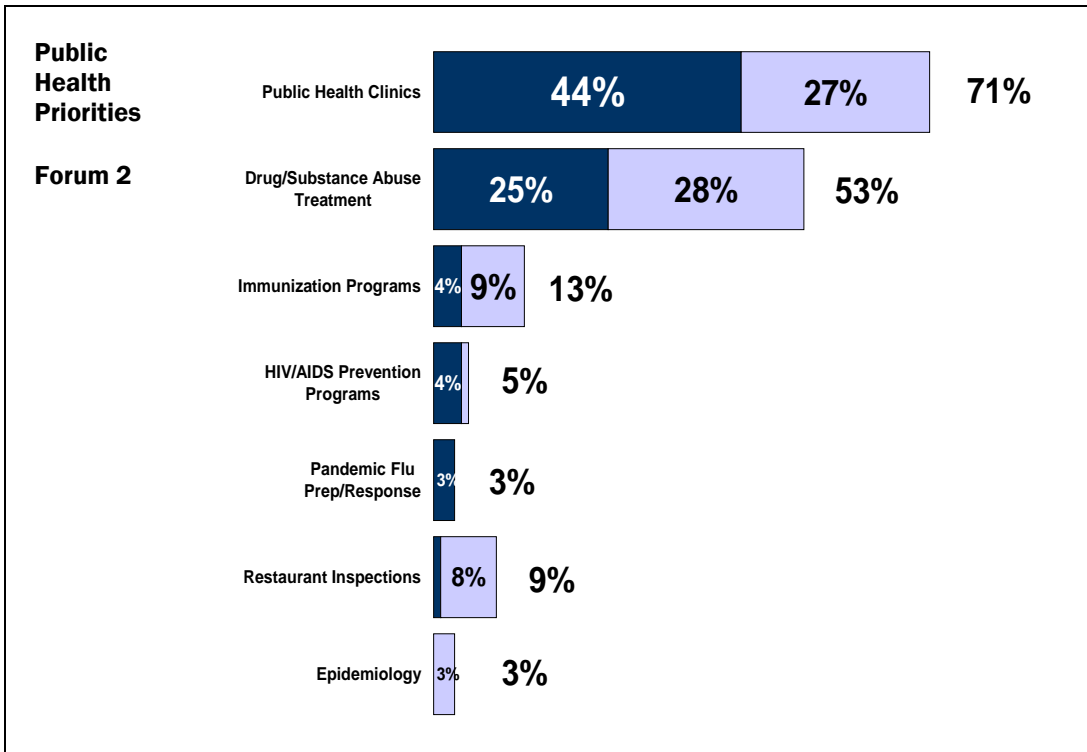
“... My daughter being on the streets has also been in and out of the juvenile justice system. The amount of money that King County, at this present time, has spent on her would have more than adequately funded the mental health treatment that she needed. Somehow or another we've got to intertwine these two so we're not double spending our money.” (Forum 2)

PUBLIC HEALTH

■ #1 Priority ■ #2 Priority



Participants were asked to rate their first and second priorities for Public Health program areas. The chart above reflects the #1 and #2 priorities for the 1st Forum, and the chart below reflects these priorities in the 2nd Forum.



Public Health Priorities Discussion

Public Health Clinics

With 46,000,000 uninsured in this country, and healthcare being so hard to get for people, this is the last resort. It makes perfect sense to me. When the clinics were going to be closed, that really got me off of the couch to say something. It was devastating to those who use the clinics. Family & Youth Services is the same because of the children who also need that healthcare. It makes perfect sense to me that the public is crying out for these. (Forum 1)

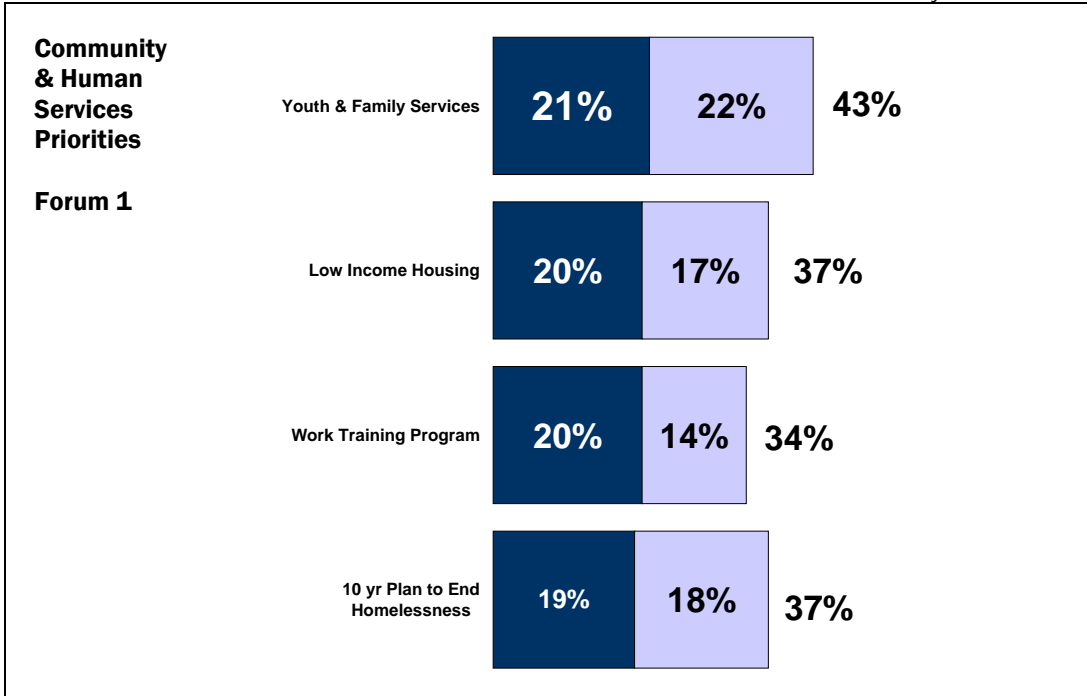
Health Care Issues

“... While they say they are doing good things for senior citizens, when a senior citizen thinks they have insurance can't see the doctor they need to, that's not okay.” (Forum 1)

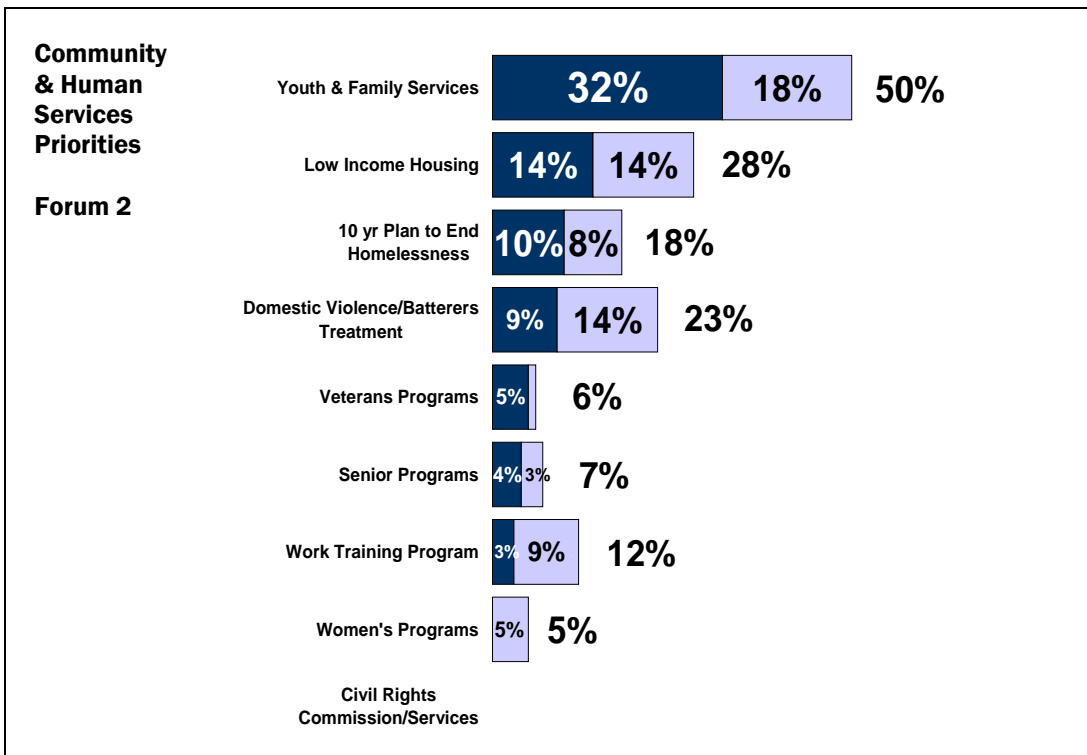
“... I have some friends who have insurance and who have jobs, but they cannot afford the co-pay or their percentage of payment that their insurance company requires of them. What can we do about this? They aren't going to the doctor. They're going without treatment. Some of them need it. One particular person cannot afford his diabetic supplies. He's working and yet, because of how our insurance companies have been allowed to run their insurance programs, people are paying premiums but they aren't covering enough for these people to have access to healthcare. Something needs to be done about this.” (Forum 2)

COMMUNITY & HUMAN SERVICES

■ #1 Priority ■ #2 Priority



Participants were asked to rate their first and second priorities for Community & Human Services program areas. The chart above reflects the #1 and #2 priorities for the 1st Forum, and the chart below reflects these priorities in the 2nd Forum.



Community, Human Services Priorities Discussion

10 Year Plan to End Homelessness

It's pretty hard to vote for a plan. You can't eat it. You can't sleep in it. The fact that we prioritize the ten-year plan to end homelessness as high as we did, I can only guess that there's been a lot of education in this group in this area and less education among the previous people that you polled. Standing alone, a plan doesn't mean a lot. (Forum 1)

On the ten-year plan to end homelessness, if we don't deal with the mental health issues, especially juveniles and getting them helped, we'll never end homelessness. I have a daughter who is on the streets right now because of mental health issues, and she'll be on the streets until she dies if we don't deal with the mental health issues. I've been fighting for them for two years and have gotten nowhere. (Forum 2)

Youth and Family Services

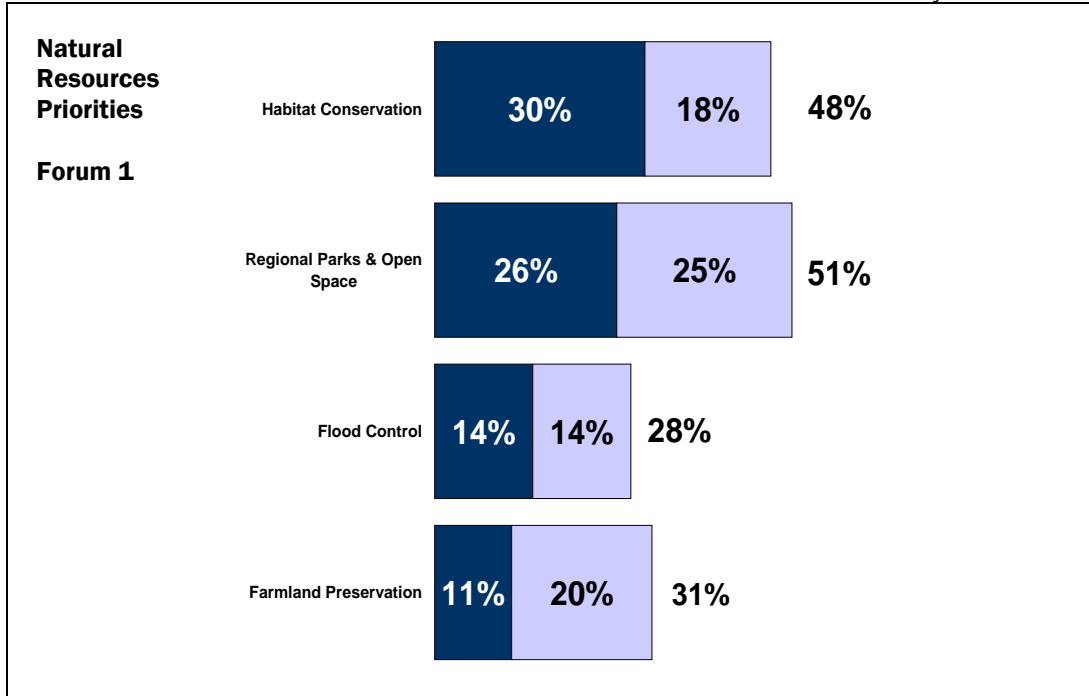
I want to say thank you to our King County Council member, because the South Pacific Island had a few dollars last year in the budget for the after school tutoring and study services station. It works real good. I wanted to deliver that to you. It is a good thing to do. Keep on funding us. (Forum 1)

Senior Services

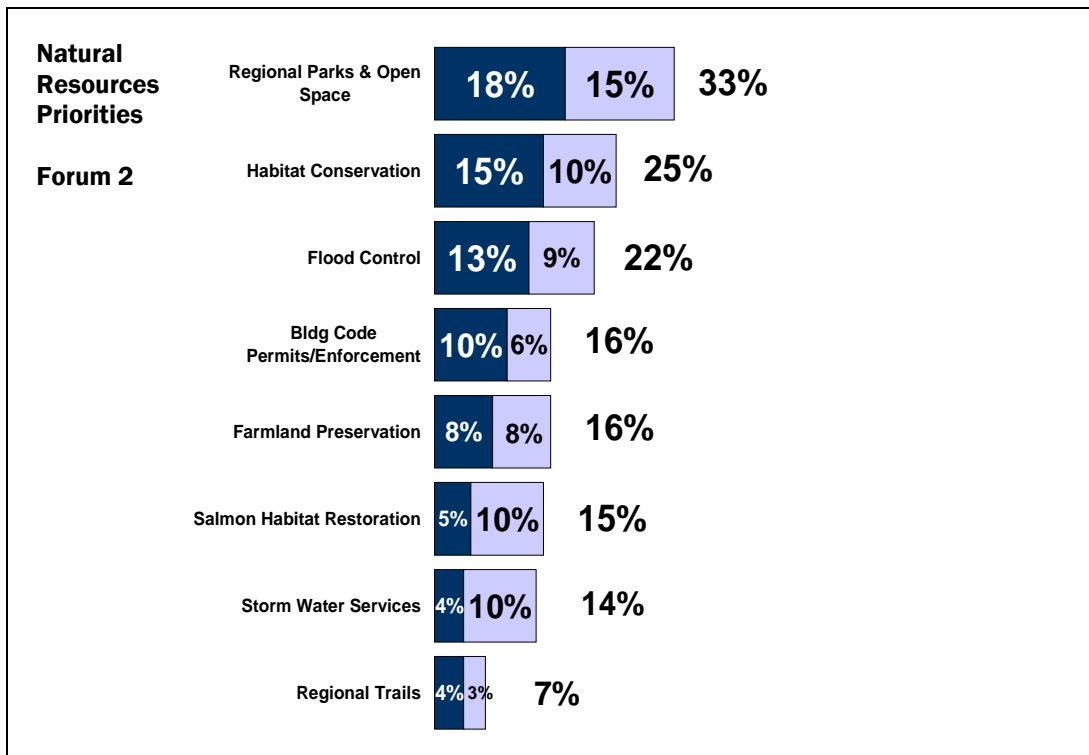
I'm very supportive of the basic issues that are listed in that draft human services policy framework, including mental health funding, criminal justice providing services to youth and families. But I'm very concerned about the fact that senior services are not mentioned in that document once. I work with an agency that provides services to over 50,000 seniors in this community and it is dismaying to me that as the County has reduced its commitment to funding for senior services and shifted to the local communities that services for seniors are beginning to fall between the cracks. (Forum 1)

NATURAL RESOURCES/ ENVIRONMENT

■ #1 Priority ■ #2 Priority



Participants were asked to rate their first and second priorities for Natural Resources/Environment program areas. The chart above reflects the #1 and #2 priorities for the 1st Forum, and the chart below reflects these priorities in the 2nd Forum.



Natural Resources Priorities Discussion

Flood Control

Does flood control include developing a long-range plan to respond to rising sea levels, including probably a 50-year planning effort to do something like relocate the West Point plant? (Forum 1)

Farmland Preservation

I'm interested in how many farms are farmed on this farmland preservation program. (Forum 1)

On the farmland preservation, how do they figure farmland preservation when we have a reconciliation act for high-density growth through management out here in King County and Kent? There are four and one-half houses per acre. Also, on some of these farmlands, they are turning them into condominiums and stuff like that. What good does it do if nothing ever gets done and people vote it down all the time for open space land? (Forum 2)

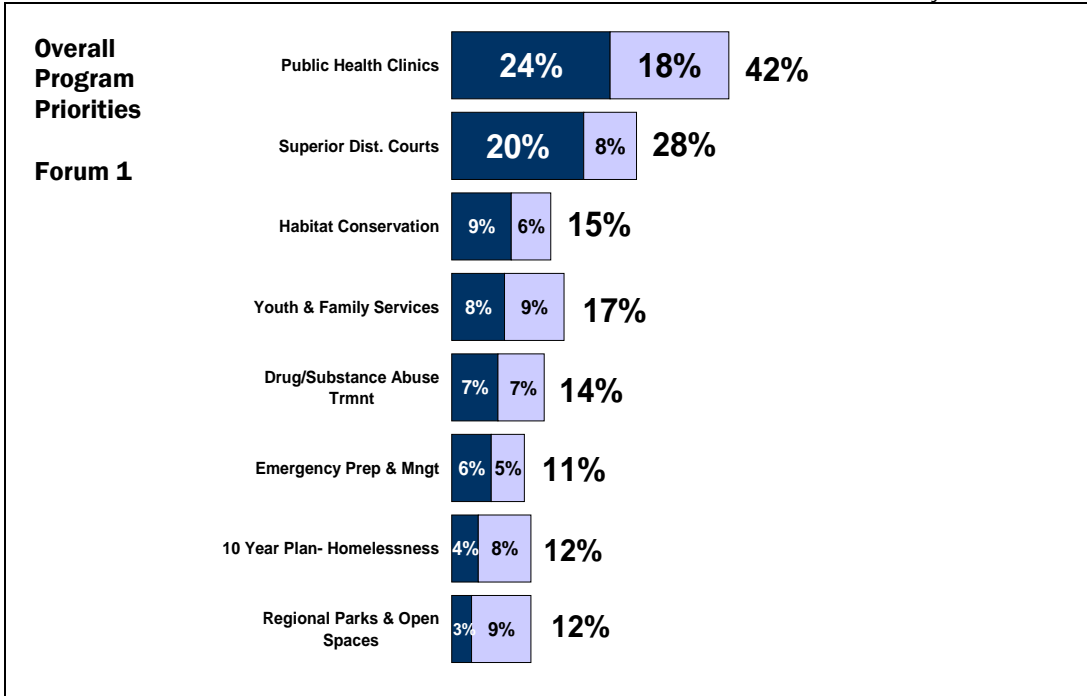
Other

Under the physical environment, I'm wondering if any of that money is going to be allocated to pay for the property that you took from the rural property owners out there. When you want property from the railroads or from the corporations or from another government, you pay them, but the rural property owners – you took 65% of their property (Forum 1)

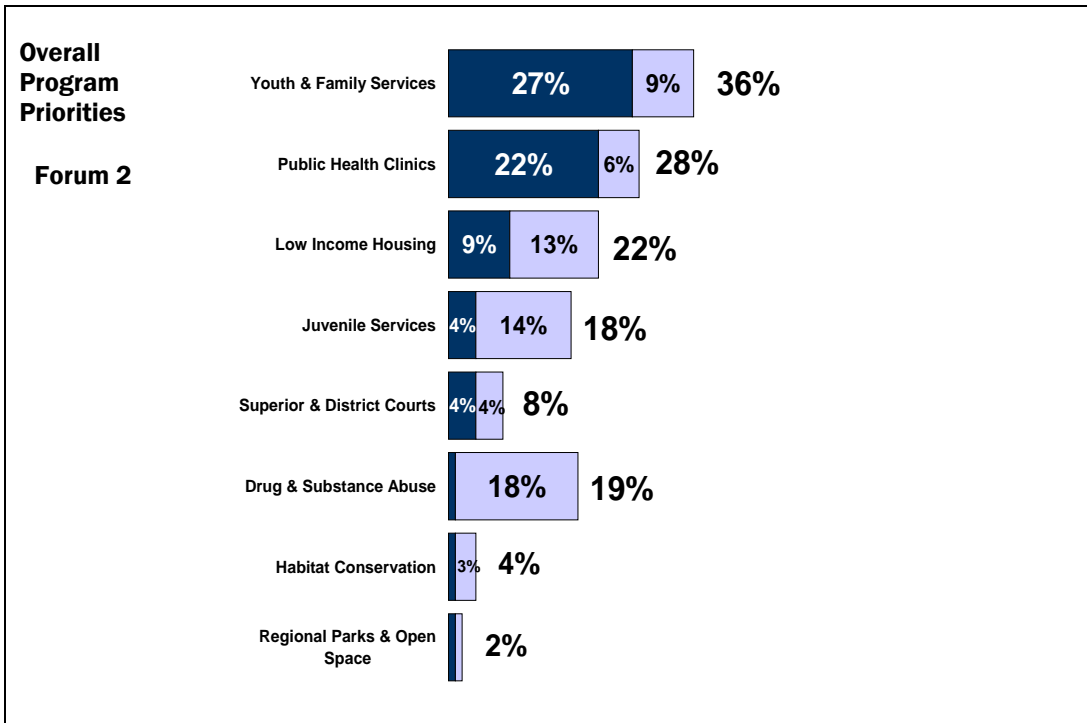
This is the reason I came tonight. You don't have a choice. The sea level is rising. There are two questions. One is how fast and the other is how far. You ought to be planning for it. I don't know when you have to start moving that plant, but we don't have a choice. It has to go. (Forum 1)

OVERALL PROGRAM PRIORITIES

■ #1 Priority ■ #2 Priority

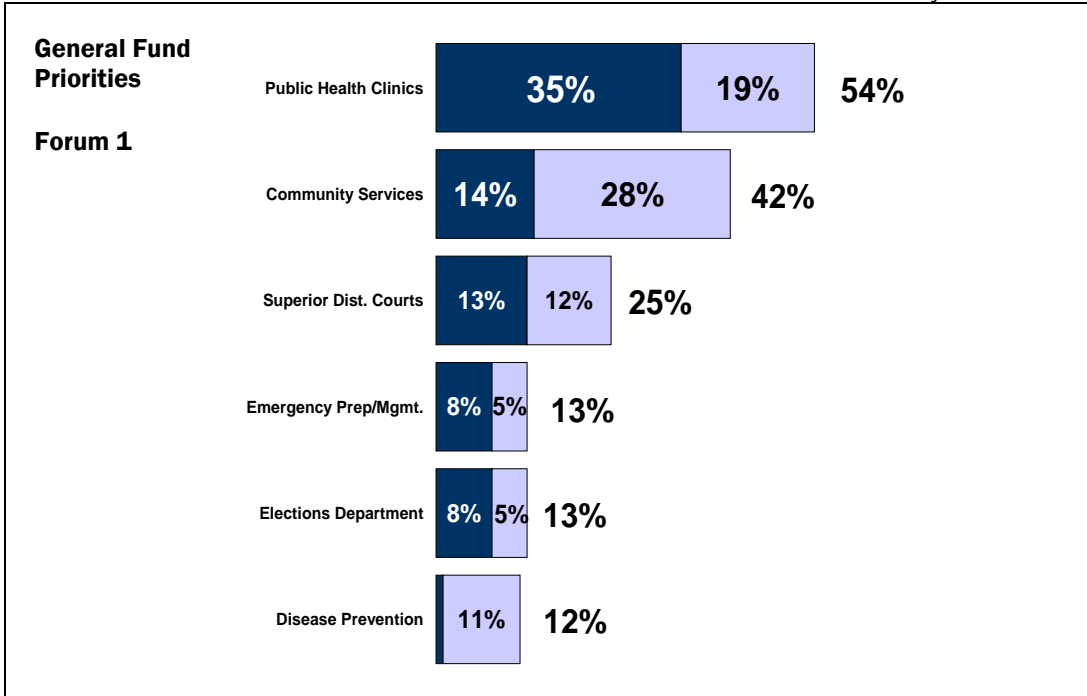


Participants were asked to rate their first and second priorities from program areas. The chart above reflects the #1 and #2 priorities for the 1st Forum, and the chart below reflects these priorities in the 2nd Forum.

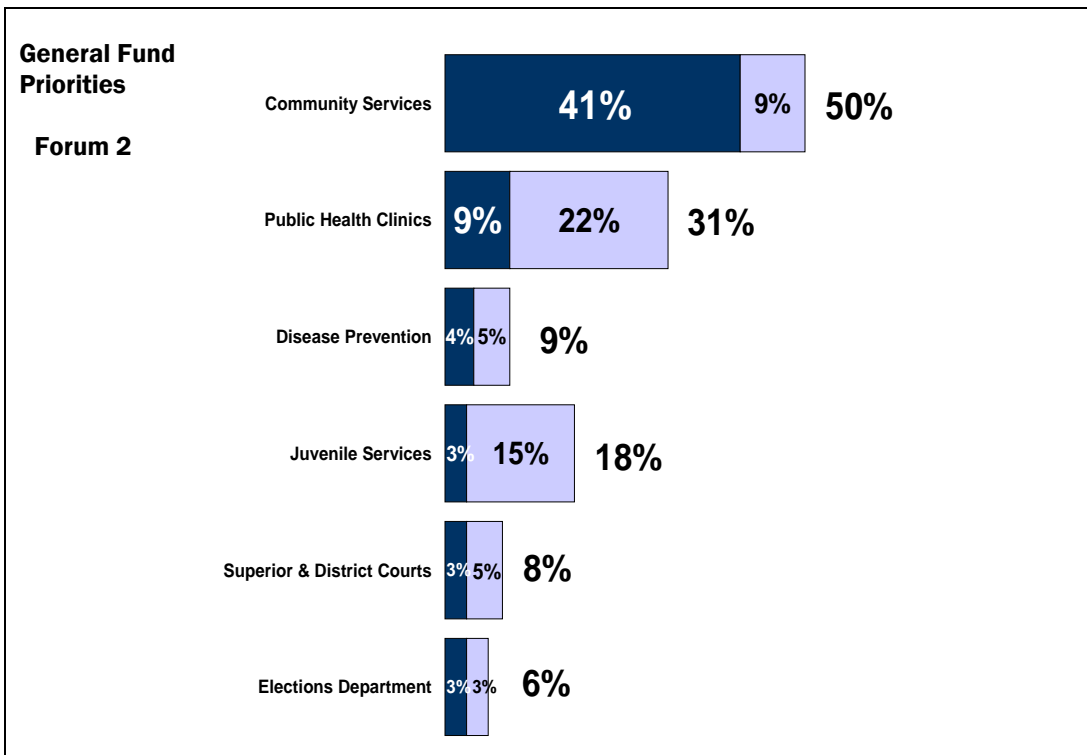


GENERAL FUND PRIORITIES

■ #1 Priority ■ #2 Priority



Participants were asked to rate their first and second priorities from 6 General Fund program areas. The chart above reflects the #1 and #2 priorities for the 1st Forum, and the chart below reflects these priorities in the 2nd Forum.

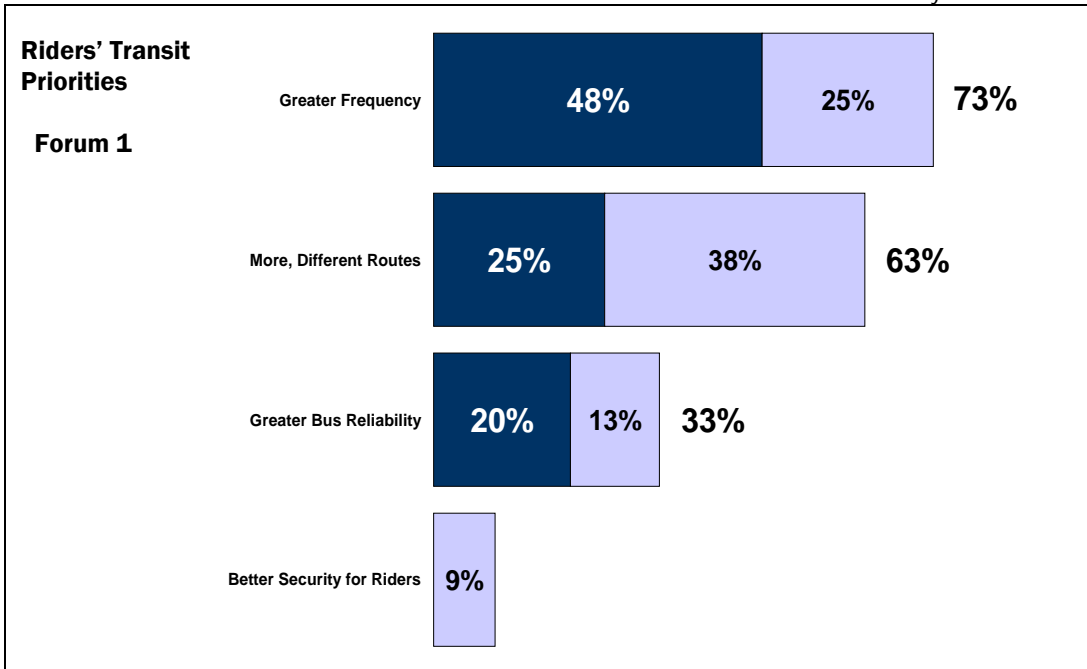


TRANSIT

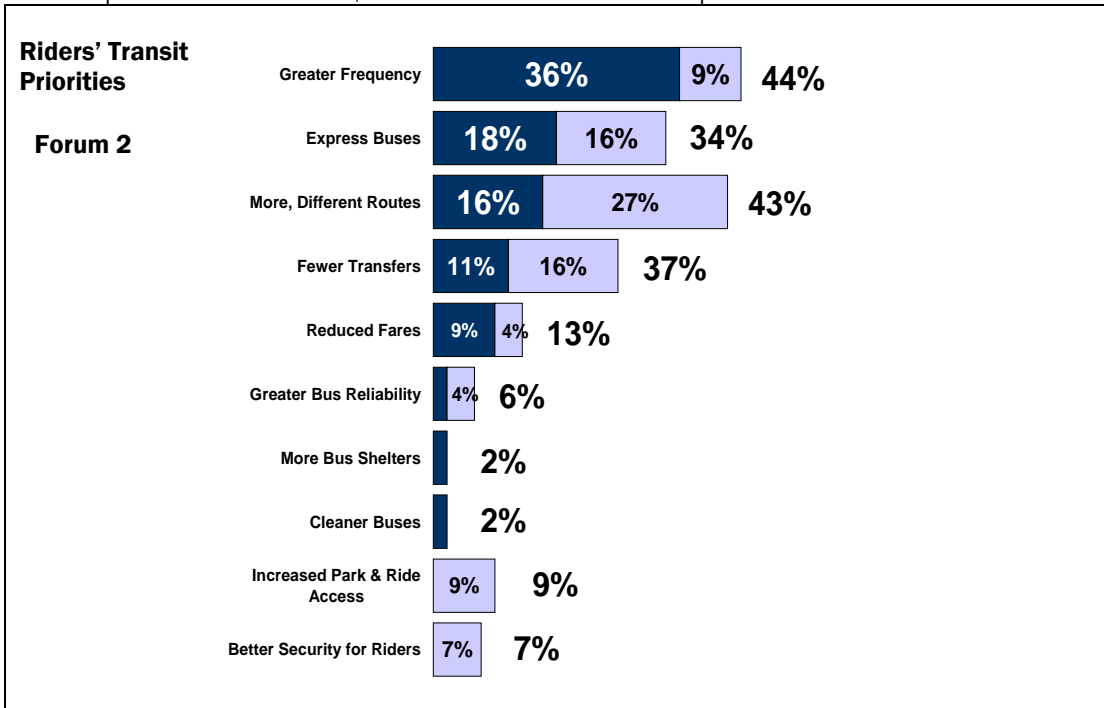
Forum participants were divided into riders and non-riders and asked what would motivate them to ride public transit, or ride it more.

Transit Riders: Would be more satisfied if...

■ #1 Priority ■ #2 Priority

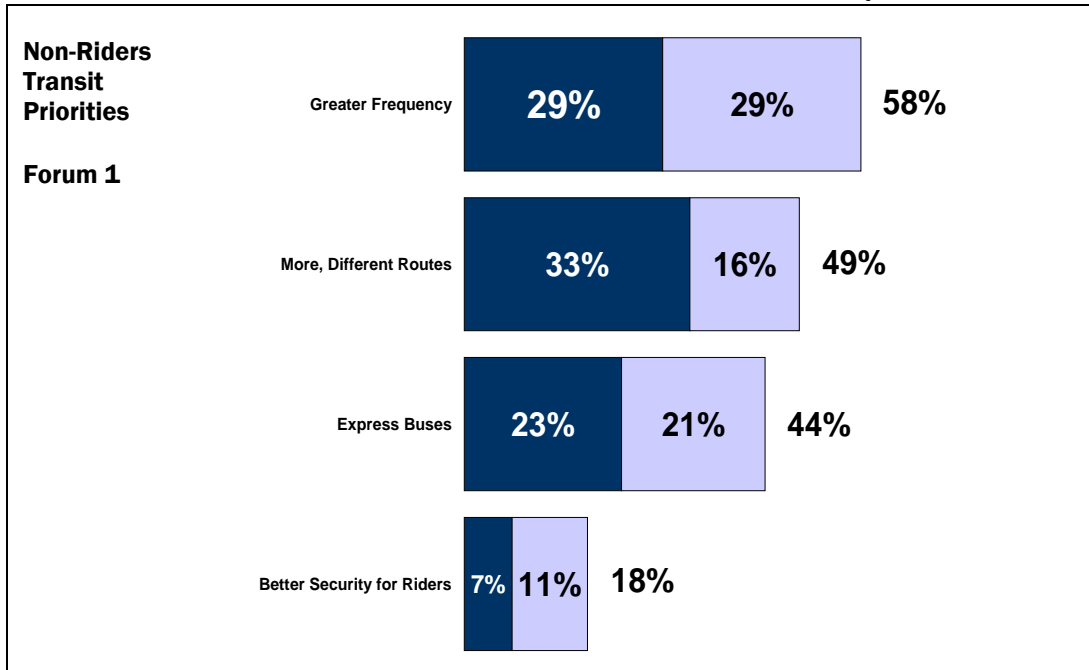


Riders were asked to rate their first and second priorities for Transit spending. The chart above reflects the #1 and #2 priorities for the 1st Forum, and the chart below reflects these priorities in the 2nd Forum.

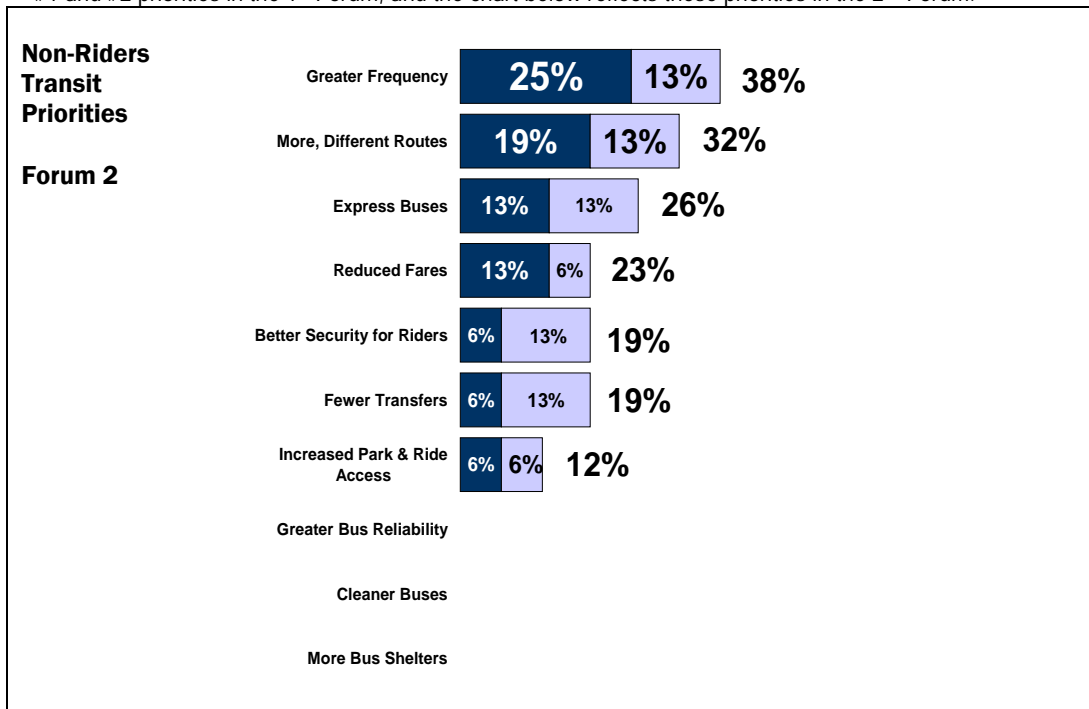


Non-Riders: Would Ride if...

■ #1 Priority ■ #2 Priority



Non-Riders were asked to rate their first and second priorities for Transit spending. The chart above reflects the #1 and #2 priorities in the 1st Forum, and the chart below reflects these priorities in the 2nd Forum.



Additional Discussion Topics

Mental health was a recurring theme in both Forum discussions despite the fact that it was not an explicit option in the budget priority process. The comments below are representative of the discussion.

Veterans

The fact is that we have veterans coming back from over seas. They often have mental health problems. I would like to see money funded for the veterans returning. It not only affects the veterans themselves, but their families as well. It has far-reaching, long lasting, devastating effects on not only the returning veterans, but also their entire families. We know this and knowing it, we should plan ahead for it. If it were not for the veterans, we would not be sitting here having this meeting. (Forum 1)

Mental Health

...King County has the lowest funding per client of any area of the State and yet we have the greatest needs. If we don't solve this problem and make sure there is adequate funding for the people in our community who desperately need these services, we will see more people in more costly settings like jails and hospitals. So, if we address the mental health funding questions, we will be addressing many other needs in the community. I urge the council to go ahead and pass (the one-tenth of one percent mental health/substance abuse tax) as soon as possible. (Forum 1)

I want to make sure that we send a very clear message about our concern about the mental health system. Mental health funding is kind of included under Superior and District Courts with other issues. I just want to make sure you know that many of us are very, very concerned about mental health issues. I have been with the mental health system for 18 years, and this is the worst that we have seen. We are turning down many people who need critical services because they don't have Medicaid. We are carrying 5,200 cases and it is difficult. I encourage you to seriously consider one-tenth of one percent sales tax to save the system. (Forum 2)

Comments About the Forum Process

It was hard for me to make a choice. A lot of them were important and I didn't have a main number one or I wanted something more clarified, or I didn't want to hit any of the buttons because I felt all of them were important. I'm just telling you that. (Forum 1)

I feel very uncomfortable about what I'm being asked to decide here. I feel like I'm on a pop show and I'm being asked, without preparation, discussion or information, to make selections out of what I think are all important issues that need to be decided by council through your professional involvement in your first hand experience with these various departments of life. For us to be asked to sit here and press buttons to pick one of these things out of all of them makes me feel silly, like I shouldn't be participating and we shouldn't be making these kinds of choices. (Forum 1)

I appreciate the value of what you're doing and I appreciate the explanation. One concern I would offer is that it seems that the format doesn't take advantage of something that perhaps would be of value in a format like this, and that is to ask for the citizens input into what you're not doing and what's not on the list that you should be doing. (Forum 1)

I have a feel for how the people in this group feel. I'd like to find out the consistency of the 250 people and how differently they are thinking from us here. How many male and female, and things like that. What part of the county were the 250 from? (Forum 1)

ON-LINE SURVEY

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FINDINGS: ON-LINE SURVEY

The third tier of this program was an on-line survey linked from the County Council website alongside the preliminary report from the Workshops. The survey was activated on March 22.

This survey followed the question format of the first public Forum. That is, participants were asked to indicate their priorities for the county budget categories, then to prioritize a list of four programs in each budget category. The four programs in each category were the top-ranked programs from the Workshops.

The final question asked Transit Riders what would make them more satisfied riders and asked Non-Riders what might motivate them to ride transit..

After each prioritization, respondents were given the opportunity to comment on their selections. These verbatim responses are included in the appendix under separate cover.

RESPONDENT PROFILE

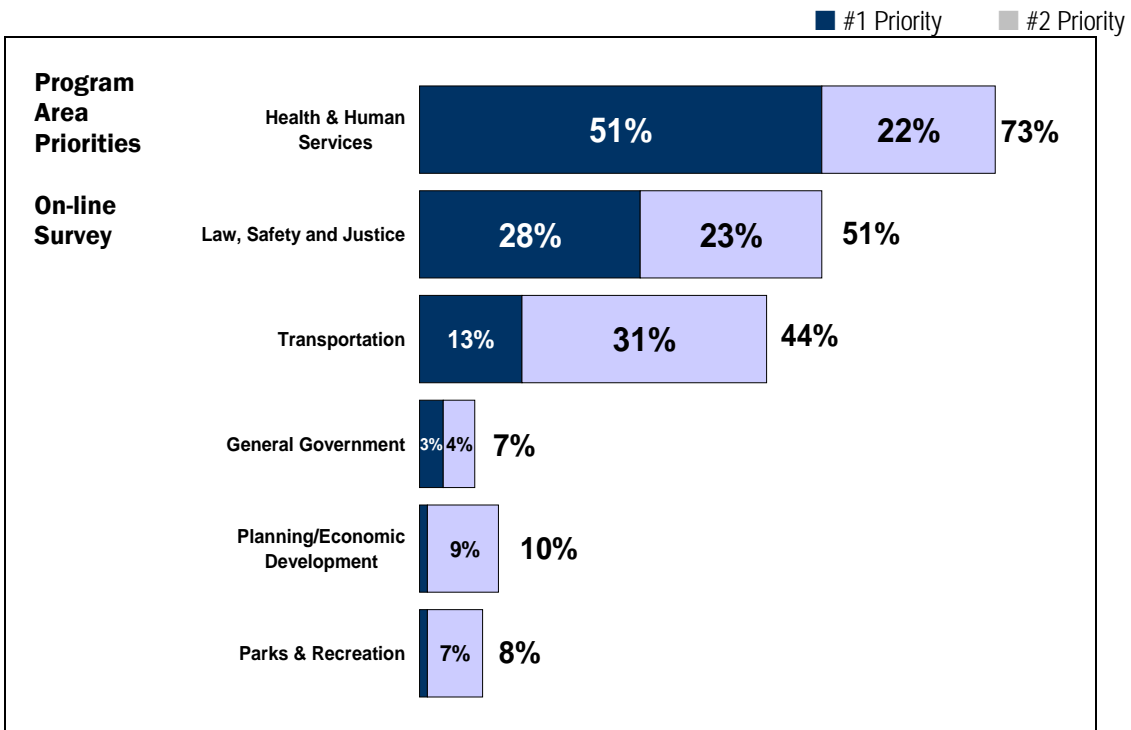
In interpreting these findings, it is important to keep in mind the characteristics of the citizens who participated in this online survey. As with the Forums the online survey was an open-door format. Participants were self-selected and no screening questions were used to provide a representative sample of King County citizens.

The table below presents the demographic profile of the online survey, as well as a list of key differences from the Workshop sample.

GENDER:	34% Male
	66% Female
AGE:	23% 18-35
	32% 36-50
	34% 51-60
	12% 61+
HOUSEHOLD:	32% Single, No Kids at Home
	40% Couple, No Kids at Home
	5% Single, Kids at Home
	24% Couple, Kids at Home
CITY/UNINCORPORATED:	84% City
	17% Unincorporated
COMMUTE STATUS:	51% Commute to a job in my community
	33% Commute to another part of county
	4% Commute to outside King County
	13% Retired/Not Working
ATTENTION TO COUNTY GOV'T:	20% [1] Follow it Very Closely
(SCALE 1-6)	32% [2]
	30% [3]
	14% [4]
	4% [5]
	1% [6] Do Not Follow It At All

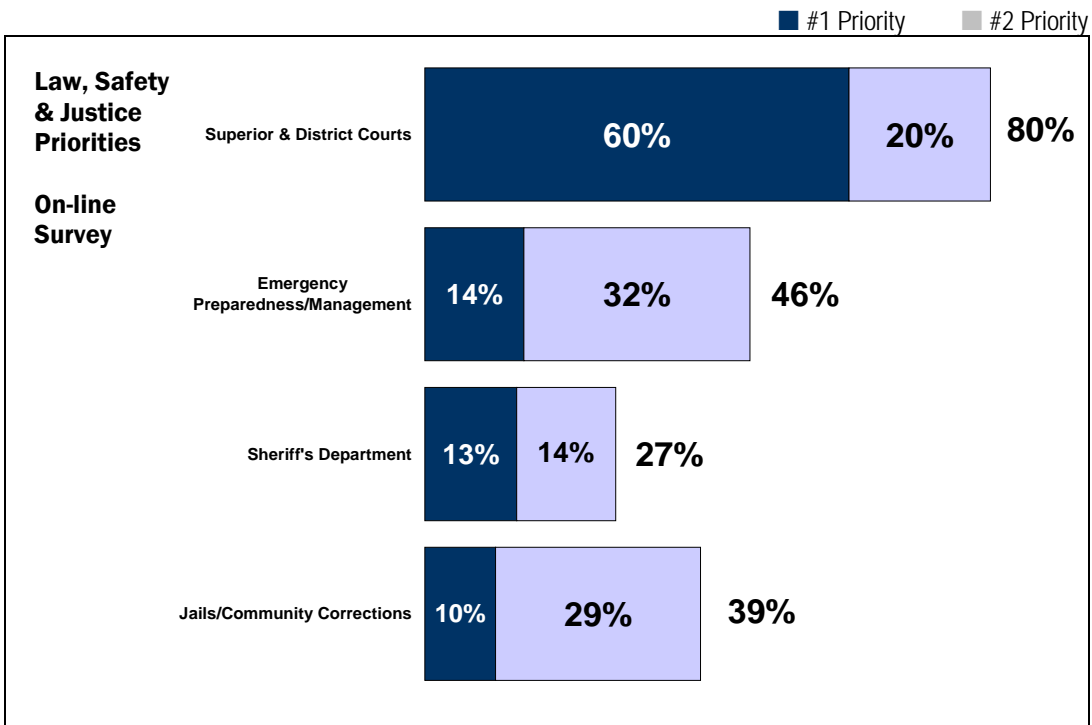
- Compared to Workshop participants, Survey participants were more likely to:
 - Pay significant attention to county government (52% vs. 18%)
 - Be Female (66% vs. 50%)
 - Be under 50 years old (55% vs. 41%)
 - Commute within their community (51% vs. 32%)

PROGRAM AREA PRIORITIES



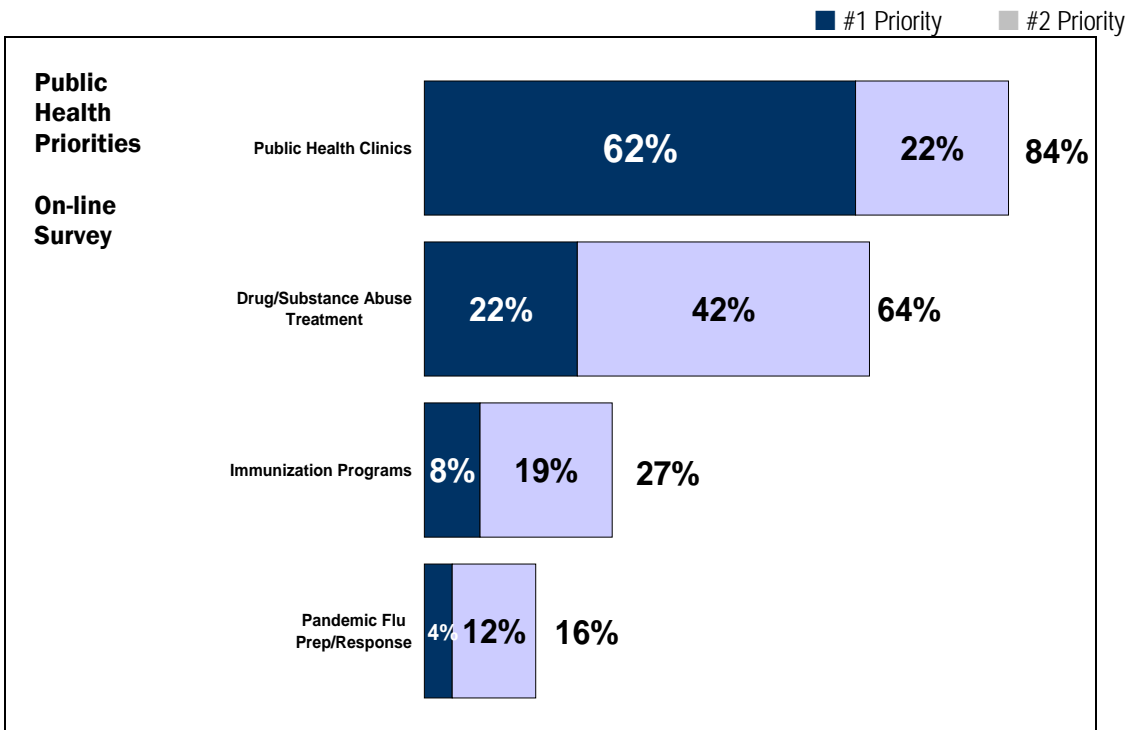
The chart above reflects the #1 and #2 priorities for King County Program Categories.

LAW, SAFETY AND JUSTICE



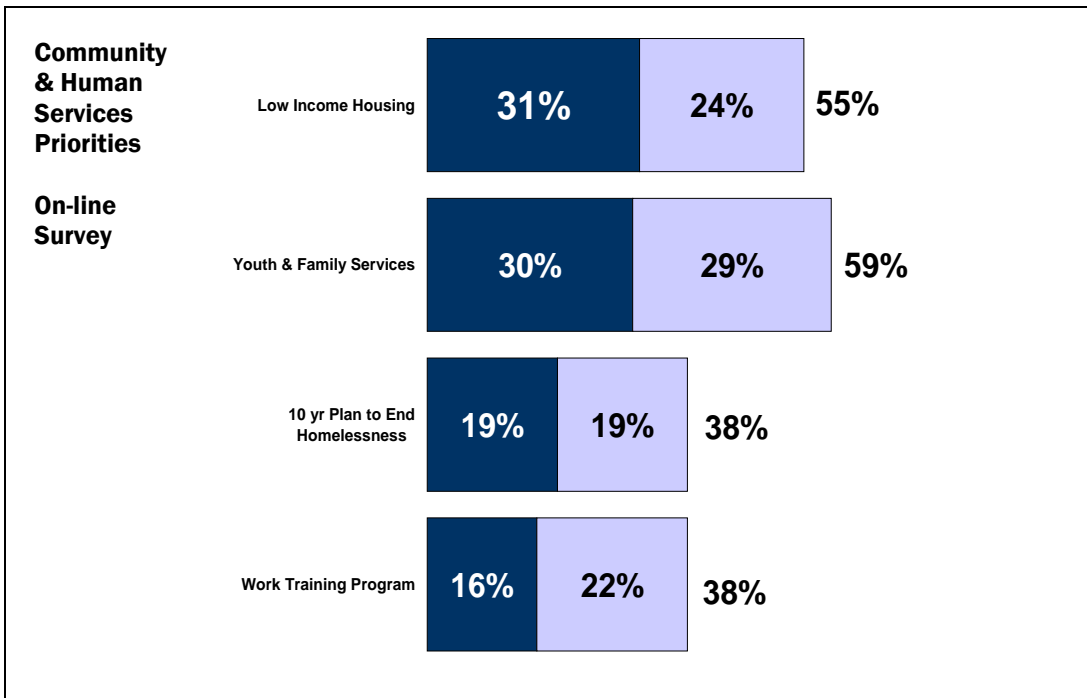
The chart above reflects the #1 and #2 priorities for Law, Safety and Justice spending.

PUBLIC HEALTH

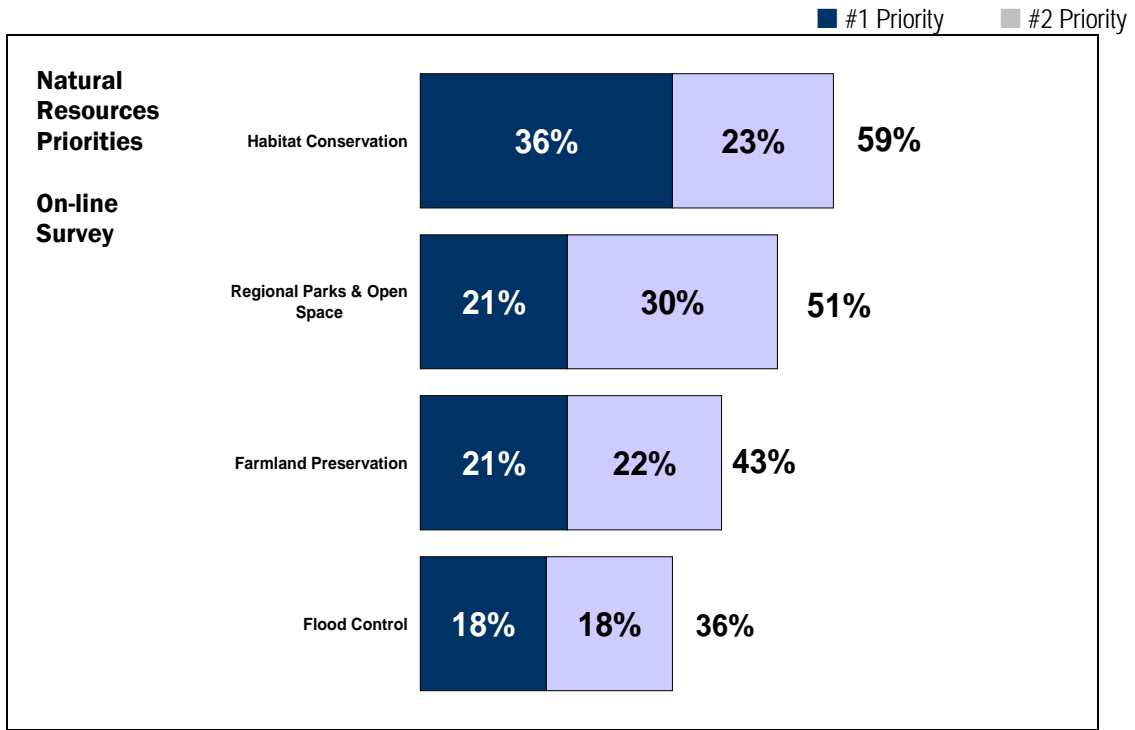


The chart above reflects the #1 and #2 priorities for Public Health spending.

COMMUNITY & HUMAN SERVICES



NATURAL RESOURCES/ ENVIRONMENT

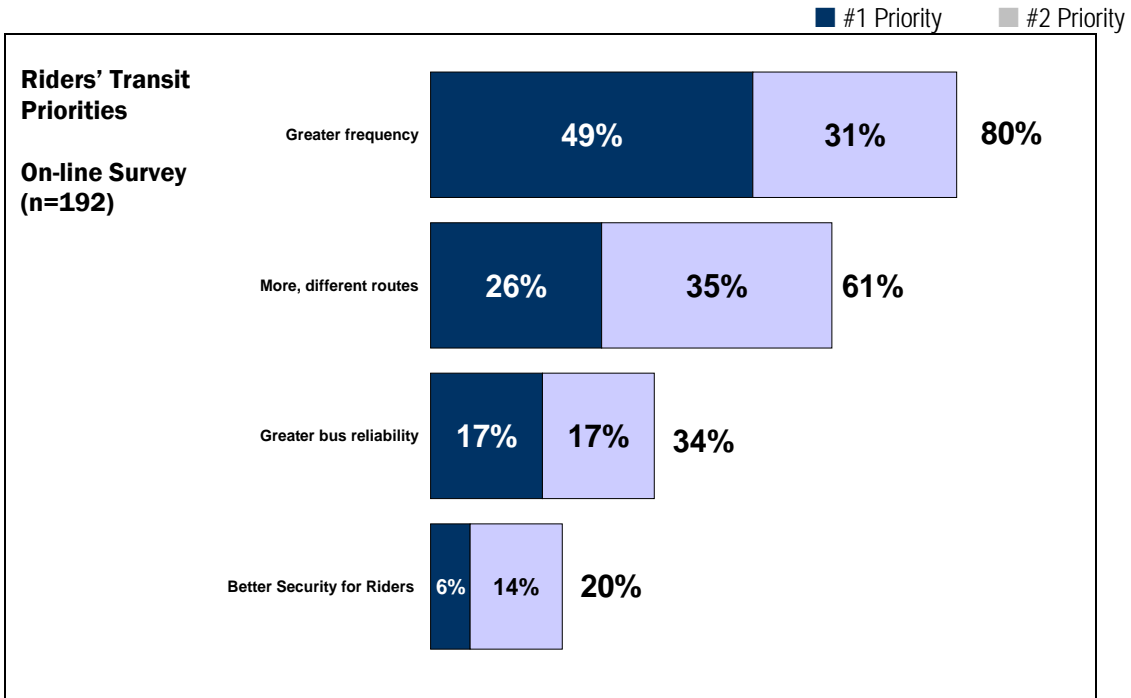


The chart above reflects the #1 and #2 priorities for Natural Resources/Environmental program spending.

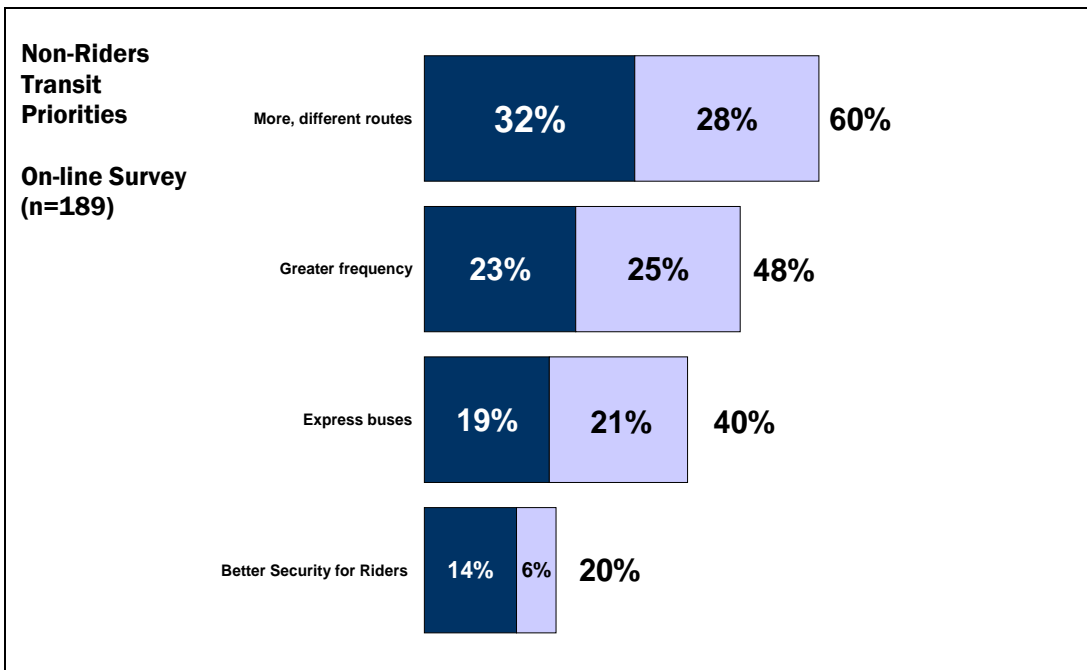
TRANSIT

For the Transit priority questions, Workshop participants were divided into Riders and Non-Riders.

Transit Riders: Would be more satisfied if...



Non-Riders: Would Ride if...



DISCUSSION

The overall purpose of this first-of-its-kind program was to use some innovative methods to hear from citizens about priorities for King County government. This program was designed to produce information that:

1. Is readily accessible to both decision makers and citizens;
2. Has a high level of credibility inside and outside government;
3. Provides high quality citizen input while;
4. Maintaining decision maker flexibility.

While it is tempting to try to draw out overall priorities from the three tiers of findings, caution is in order. Each of the three tiers of this project, while complimentary, were designed to accomplish different ends and they involved different sets of the population.

The participation, the agenda, and the format interact to produce qualitatively different results. To the extent that they compliment each other, we can be more confident that the results represent public opinion.

The Workshops were designed to be representative of the County electorate and to guide citizens through a facilitated consideration of the county budget. Workshop participants interacted with each other and had time to discuss their priorities and the implications of their choices.

The Public Forums were designed to allow public comment. They were open invitation and more time constrained than the Workshops. While more task-driven than a typical forum or hearing, the format limited the interaction and consideration of the budget categories and programs. The presence of council members nudged the format away from a citizen deliberation and more toward a public hearing. The interactive polling allowed every participant to be “heard,” and the polling results tended to focus the comments of both citizens and council members.

The On-line Survey was an attempt to allow anyone to weigh in on these budget categories. No restrictions were placed on participation, so we cannot know who completed the survey.

That said, there were some instructive themes. Chief among these is the salience of health issues.

- Among Workshop participants, “Law, Safety and Justice” was ranked as the top priority budget category, and by a strong margin. When individual programs were considered, however, “Public Health Clinics” were ranked #1. The courts and Sheriff’s Department were a distant second and third. This suggests that “Law and Safety” issues are a fundamental part of citizens’ mind sets, but public health issues rise in importance as people are reminded of them in discussion with their fellow citizens.
- Forum participants and On-line Survey respondents were much more likely to walk in the door with health issues– particularly mental health issues – on their minds. Community Health and Human Services ranked as the #1 budget category in both Forums and in the On-line Survey. This suggests that people for whom this is their top issue are motivated and organized to participate in the policy and budget discussion.

Across a range of issues and topics, there was a preference for “preventative budgeting.” Whether the issue was health, the environment or safety, participants time and again expressed a preference for emphasizing programs that would prevent greater problems later.

This project demonstrated that citizens are willing and able to engage in the discussion of budget priorities and that, given information and a chance to deliberate with fellow citizens, will work through the issues and trade-offs to arrive at a more reasoned opinion than is typically expressed in a telephone survey or public hearing.