

Comment by Ingham County Board of Commissioner Carol Koenig on Ingham County Justice Millage Question. Sent to East Lansing Info on July 8, 2018.

I am supporting the Justice Complex Millage (jail millage) because it is needed and will help us to appropriately serve justice to all of the people of Ingham County including those from East Lansing and MSU. This millage includes a programming piece that is especially important to enhance options for young people and allow the courts to consider more alternatives to incarceration.

It will increase pre-trial services for everyone, including college kids that make a mistake their first time away from home. It will allow for increased tether, alcohol monitoring, mental health/crisis services for those MSU students who get arrested and think it is the end of the world, when really it is a new start, their first chance to get a handle on issues that may be life-long.

It is a small ask, only a dime a day, for every \$100,00 of home value, for potential life changing interventions and pay off forever.

Our community should expect this much from their criminal justice system. We know how to change lives and we know that it is the right thing to do.

We hope that the voters will let us do it, for themselves, their neighbors and everyone's future.

Everyone should care about this millage because even if you personally never come into contact with the criminal justice system...someone you know does.

Only about 10 percent of people in our jail right now have charges out of 54B District Court. *[54B District Court has jurisdiction over cases arising within East Lansing, including MSU.]*

Many people do not understand that people arrested in EL/MSU usually spend about 1 day in their local lock up and then get sent out to the county jail if they do not post bond or if they are sentenced to jail time.

The current jail has been in operation 24/7/365 for the last 53+ years. It is worn out, tired, broken and needs to be replaced. Our citizens expect good quality government and they want decent public safety. Part of that equation is a humane, fair and just place to house people sent to jail. We owe it to our community to do everything we can to correct bad behavior rather than just lock people up, that is why we will incorporate more programming ... because it works.

Settings and conditions matter, the current jail is in terrible condition and if you would like to see for yourself the Sheriff will arrange for you to have a tour. Dozens of people have come to see for themselves and I don't think anyone walked away not convinced that this is a need and not just another want.