

EPIC ▪ MRA Otsego County Jail Millage Survey – SSA&B – April/May, 2007
[FREQUENCY REPORT of SURVEY RESPONSES – 300 SAMPLE – ERROR ±5.7%]

SEQUENCE: _____ ZIPCODE: _____ DATE: ____ / ____ / ____
PHONE # _____ INTERVIEWER _____
COUNTY _____ JURIS _____ WARD _____ PRECINCT _____

Hello, this is (NAME) calling from EPIC ▪ MRA, a Lansing based survey research firm. We're conducting a survey with voters in your area about important local issues. This is not a sales call, you will not be asked for a donation and you will not be called again because your household participated in a survey. This is strictly research and I'd like to take a few minutes to include the opinions of your household.

We need to have a balance of men and women in this survey, and we also need to have young voters represented. May I please speak to the youngest [MALE/FEMALE, depending on quota specified on list] registered voter, aged 18 or older who is at home now?

IF YES: REPEAT INTRO FOR NEW RESPONDENT & CONTINUE.

IF NO, ASK: "Is there any other [MALE/FEMALE, as specified] registered voter, 18 years or older, who is at home right now?" **IF NOT, TERMINATE INTERVIEW.**

Are you currently registered to vote at the address I am calling?

IF YES --- GO TO Q. 01

IF NO --- "Is there another [MALE/FEMALE, as specified] registered voter at home who I can talk to?" If not, **TERMINATE INTERVIEW.**

__01. Did you get a chance to vote in the November 2006 election when [ROTATE] Jennifer Granholm and Dick DeVos were running for Governor? How about in the 2004 election when [ROTATE] George W. Bush and John Kerry were running for President?

- 3% Yes, only in 2006
- 3% Yes, only in 2004
- 93% Yes, both 2006 & 2004
- 1% Too young to be eligible in either

__02. Voter turnout in local government, school or special elections when bond, millage or tax related proposals are often voted on, is usually much lower than turnout for other elections. In fact, most people do not vote in these elections. How often do you vote in these kind of local or special elections -- all of the time, most of the time, half of the time, seldom or never?

- 48% All the time
- 33% Most of the time
- 7% About half of the time
- 8% Seldom

__03. Overall, do you think that Otsego County is headed in the right direction, or, do you think that things are pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

- 46% Wrong track
- 33% Right direction
- 21% Undecided/don't know/refused

__04. What would you say is the single, most important problem or issue facing the residents of your community that your local city, village, township, or county government must address?

[WRITE COMMENT AS STATED]

- | | | | |
|-----|------------------------|----|---------------------------------|
| 47% | Business closings/jobs | 3% | The economy |
| 10% | Schools | 3% | Traffic |
| 7% | New jail | 1% | Focus on residents/not tourists |
| 7% | Taxes | 1% | Land use |
| 6% | Budget/spending | 1% | Crime |
| 4% | Roads | 2% | Other |
| | | 8% | Undecided/don't know |

__05. How would you rate the job that County government in Otsego County is doing providing basic services to the residents of the county? Would you give Otsego County a positive rating of excellent or pretty good, or a negative rating of only fair or poor?

- 11% excellent
- 63% pretty good
- 74% Total POSITIVE**
- 23% just fair
- 2% poor
- 25% Total NEGATIVE GO TO Q. 07**
- 1% Undecided/don't know/refused **GO TO Q. 08**

__06. What stands out for you as the main reason why you gave Otsego County government a positive rating of (**Excellent/Pretty good**) for the job it does providing basic county services?
[WRITE COMMENT AS STATED, THEN GO TO Q. 08]

- | | | | |
|-----|----------------------|----|------------------------|
| 27% | Doing a good job | 3% | Room for improvement |
| 26% | Good services | 2% | Handle money well |
| 11% | Trying hard | 2% | Good police protection |
| 6% | Infrastructure/roads | 2% | Honesty |
| 5% | Emergency services | 1% | Public transportation |
| 4% | Snow removal | 1% | Other |
| 4% | Local programs | 6% | Undecided/don't know |

__07. What stands out for you as the main reason why you gave Otsego County Government a negative rating of (**Only fair/Poor**) for the job it does providing basic county services?

[WRITE COMMENT AS STATED]

21%	Poor leadership	5%	Just average
12%	Misspent money	5%	Don't listen to community
12%	Poor services	4%	Jail issue
9%	Road commission	3%	Poor trash pickup
7%	Losing jobs	1%	Traffic issues
7%	Caters to tourists	14%	Undecided/don't know

__08. Specifically, how would you rate the job that Otsego County does in managing county finances? Would you give Otsego County a positive rating of excellent or pretty good, or a negative rating of only fair or poor?

5%	excellent
42%	pretty good
47%	Total POSITIVE
30%	just fair
9%	poor
39%	Total NEGATIVE
14%	Undecided/don't know/refused

__9. In your opinion, which specific county service provided by Otsego County needs the most improvement? [WRITE COMMENT AS STATED]

3%	None	1%	Parks
24%	Roads/commission	1%	Snow plowing
8%	Sheriffs department	1%	Working together
6%	Jail	1%	Recycling
4%	Creating jobs	1%	Housing
3%	Schools	1%	Transportation
3%	Using money better	1%	Senior services
2%	Taxes and fees	1%	Sewers
2%	Traffic	2%	Other
1%	Courthouse services	34%	Undecided/don't know

__10. When you think about the amount and quality of services you receive from Otsego County in return for the property taxes and fees you pay to fund those services, do you think your taxes and fees are too high, too low, or about right for what you get back in County services? [**IF TOO HIGH, PROBE TO SEE IF MUCH OR SOMEWHAT TOO HIGH/LOW**]

16% much too high
 23% somewhat too high
39% Total TOO HIGH
 56% About right
 —% Too low
 5% Undecided/don't know/refused

__11. How serious a problem is crime in your community? Is it a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, only a minor problem or not really a problem at all?

7% very serious problem
 35% somewhat serious problem
42% Total SERIOUS PROBLEM
 43% only a minor problem
 14% not really a problem at all
57% Total MINOR/NO PROBLEM
 1% Undecided/don't know/refused

__12. Based on what you know or have heard or read about the County Jail, would you say that there is a prison overcrowding problem that requires more jail space, or, do you think the existing jail facility provides enough space to house the number of prisoners that serve jail sentences?

68% Overcrowding problem in the jail/needs more space
 21% Existing jail facility provides enough space **GO TO Q. 14**
 —% Too much space (*volunteered*) **GO TO Q. 14**
 11% Undecided/don't know/refused **GO TO Q. 14**

__13 a-b. What are the one or two most important things Otsego County can do to address the overcrowding problem in the jail? [**WRITE COMMENT AS STATED FOR 2 RESPONSES**]

38%	Build new jail	2%	Share facilities
13%	Enlarge facility	2%	Use tethers more
8%	Better judgment in sentencing	2%	Make jail more uncomfortable
7%	Early release for lesser crimes	2%	More communication of need
7%	Send elsewhere	1%	Use township hall for jail/build new hall
2%	No inmates from other counties	1%	Ask state to re-open prison
2%	Crime prevention programs	1%	Make prisoners pay
2%	Reduce repeat offenders	1%	Privatize
2%	More community input	7%	Undecided/don't know

__14. On August 8th of last year, voters in Otsego County defeated four ballot proposals and approved one. A millage renewal for Parks and Recreation was approved, but proposals for a new jail, two I-75 crossovers, a Sportsplex addition, and a millage renewal for the operations of the Sportsplex, were all defeated. Did you vote in that election, either by going to the polls, or by voting by absentee ballot, or, were you unable to vote in that election? **[IF VOTED, PROBE TO SEE IF VOTED ABSENTEE OR GOING TO POLLS]**

69%	Voted by going to the polls	
19%	Voted by absentee ballot	
11%	Did not vote	GO TO Q. 17
1%	Can't remember	GO TO Q. 17

__15. Thinking specifically about the jail millage proposal, did you vote Yes in favor of that proposal or did you vote No to oppose it?

38%	Voted Yes	GO TO Q. 17
57%	Voted No	
2%	Can't remember (<i>volunteered</i>)	GO TO Q. 17
3%	Refused	GO TO Q. 17

__16. What stands out for you as the main reason why you voted NO to oppose the proposal? **[WRITE COMMENT AS STATED]**

22%	Too much money	7%	Need other solution
20%	Tax increase	4%	Misuse of jail space
19%	Too big of plan	3%	Misspent money
13%	Location	1%	Poor management
10%	Not needed	1%	Undecided/don't know

__17. As you may know, the jail millage, if approved, would have funded the construction and operation of a 120 bed jail facility on the Alpine Center property, costing \$13 million. The proposal would have required a property tax increase of 1.6 mills for 20 years, raising a total of \$1.89 million per year to repay the bonds and to operate the jail. For the owner of an average home with a market value of \$100,000 and a taxable value of \$50,000, property taxes would increase by \$80 per year. Based on what you know or have heard or read about the proposal, do you think most voters who opposed the jail millage did so because of the amount of the tax increase required, because they opposed the specific plan for the new jail, or, for some other reason?

51%	Amount of the tax increase proposed	1%	Too fancy
18%	Specific plan proposed	1%	County using scare tactics
4%	Equally both above	1%	Not needed
12%	Location	1%	Lack of information
5%	Too many proposals at once	1%	Other reason
		5%	Undecided/don't know/refused

__18. As was indicated earlier, there were five separate tax issues on the ballot last August. Do you think having this number of tax questions on the ballot was a major factor in the defeat of the question on a millage for a new jail, a significant but not major factor, only a minor factor, or not a factor at all?

42% major factor
 23% significant but not major
65% Total FACTOR
 14% only a minor factor
 18% not a factor at all
32% Total MINOR/NO FACTOR
 3% Undecided/don't know/refused

__19. If Otsego County placed the same jail millage on a future election ballot, they would try to keep it as the only proposal for voters to consider. If approved, it would provide funding for a new 120 bed jail facility at a cost of \$13 million, requiring a property tax increase of 1.6 mills to be repaid over 20 years, raising a total of \$1.89 million per year to repay the bonds for construction and to pay for operation of the jail. For the owner of an average home with a market value of \$100,000 and a taxable value of \$50,000, property taxes would increase by \$80 per year. Based on what you know or have heard or read about the proposal, if the election were held today, would you vote Yes in favor of the proposal or No to oppose it?

[IF UNDECIDED/DON'T KNOW] Well, if the election were held today and you had to decide right now, would lean toward voting **YES** in favor of the proposal or **NO** to oppose it.

35% vote yes
 4% lean toward voting yes
39% Total YES
 57% vote no
 —% lean toward voting no
57% Total NO
 4% Undecided/don't know/refused

SPLIT SAMPLE A

Now I would like to read some of the reasons that have been made to **SUPPORT** a new jail millage, and then I will read some of the arguments made to **OPPOSE** the millage proposal. Putting aside how you said you would vote on the proposal when I asked you before in this survey, after I read each statement, please tell me if the statement I read is a very convincing reason, a somewhat convincing reason, or not a convincing reason at all to vote FOR the jail millage. If you are undecided or neutral about any statement, please say so and we will move on.

[ROTATE Qs 20A TO 32A]

		very	CONVINCING smwt	Total	Not Conv.	undec
_20A	The current 34 bed county jail was built in 1967 when the population was 10,000 people. Today the population is almost 26,000 and in 2020, it will be 35,000 people. We have outgrown the current jail and need to build one for the future.	37%	32%	69%	30%	1%
_21A	The current jail is closer to St. Mary's Elementary School than the proposed site at Alpine Center is to the high school.	13%	14%	27%	67%	6%
_22A	Senior citizens and others on a fixed income may not have their property taxes increased at all, or very little, if they apply for the homestead property tax exemption on their state income tax.	28%	24%	52%	44%	4%
_23A	While the current jail is designed for 34 prisoners, it normally has 45 to 58 prisoners housed there, and the ratio of felons to misdemeanor prisoners is 3 to 1, which means there is no space for people convicted of misdemeanors.	28%	25%	53%	43%	4%
_24A	There is not enough space to make sure hard core prisoners are separated from first time offenders, or young inmates are not housed with career criminals	44%	22%	66%	29%	5%
_25A	Currently, there are more than 1,000 arrest warrants outstanding – 128 of them for serious crimes – because there is not enough space in the county jail.	42%	21%	63%	33%	4%
_26A	The current jail only has space for four prisoners per cell, but each cell usually has 8 to 10 inmates in it, which creates conflict between prisoners and increases the danger for sheriffs deputies	43%	25%	68%	31%	1%
_27A	Because of the jail overcrowding condition, first-time and repeat offenders do not go to jail to pay for their crimes in Otsego County	32%	20%	52%	45%	3%

[ROTATE Qs 20A TO 32A]

			CONVINCING	Not		
			very	Conv.	undec	
			smwt	Total		
_28A	By law the jail cannot continue to hold prisoners if jail population exceeds 34 prisoners for more than 10 days. This means that there have been early releases required for drug convictions, arson, drunk driving, fraud, bad checks, larceny, assault and battery, failure to register as a sex offender, and selling cocaine	51%	26%	77%	22%	1%
_29A	Public safety is diminished when people are not held accountable for their actions. The judicial system release many prisoners early, not as a result of good behavior, or completion of corrective programs, but because of lack of space	37%	32%	69%	27%	4%
_30A	The site at Alpine Center is the best location because it can be connected to the courts through a tunnel, which will greatly reduce the risk of escape, the county already owns the land, and essential services are already available	43%	22%	65%	34%	1%
_31A	The proposed new jail will have only one story above ground, which will appear to be a typical office building, it will not be visible from the high school and it is located further from that school than the St. Mary's School building where the current jail is located.	31%	34%	65%	31%	4%
_32A	If we build a jail large enough to meet future needs through 2020, until we need all of the space, we will be able to rent jail space to surrounding counties, thereby reducing the cost of jail operations for taxpayers.	34%	24%	58%	39%	3%

Thinking about the arguments in favor of the jail millage proposal, now I would like to ask you again how you would vote on the plan...

__33A. The 120 bed jail facility would cost \$13 million, requiring a property tax increase of 1.6 mills for 20 years to repay the bonds for construction and operation of the jail. For the owner of an average home with a market value of \$100,000 and a taxable value of \$50,000, property taxes would increase by \$80 per year. Knowing this, if the election were held today, would you vote Yes in favor of the proposal or No to oppose it?

[IF UNDECIDED/DON'T KNOW] Well, if the election were held today and you had to decide right now, would lean toward voting **YES** in favor of the proposal or **NO** to oppose it.

44% vote yes
 2% lean toward voting yes
46% Total YES
 50% vote no
 1% lean toward voting no
51% Total NO
 3% Undecided/don't know/refused

You just heard the arguments in **SUPPORT** of the jail millage proposal. Now I would like to read some of the reasons people have given to **OPPOSE** it. Again, putting aside how you may have voted on the proposal before in this survey, after I read each statement, please tell me if that statement is a very convincing reason, a somewhat convincing reason, or not a convincing reason at all to vote **NO** on the jail millage. If you are undecided or neutral toward any statement, please say so and we'll move on.

[ROTATE Qs 34A TO 43A]

		CONVINCING		Total	Not Conv.	undec
		very	smwt			
_34A	By voting against this bond proposal, my property taxes won't go up.	27%	28%	55%	44%	1%
_35A	Instead of building a new jail, we should rely more on the use of alternative sentencing options so judges do not have to sentence as many people to jail	20%	28%	48%	50%	2%
_36A	With a continuing concern about the economy and layoffs, now is a bad time to consider a tax increase for any purpose	54%	27%	81%	18%	1%
_37A	The current jail can be expanded to house more prisoners, and it would solve the overcrowding problem for several years before we had to build a new jail, and this could be done for less money than a new jail	27%	35%	62%	33%	5%
_38A	As an alternative to a new prison the county could rent bed space from other counties for less cost than building a jail.	27%	31%	58%	39%	3%
_39A	With the state considering tax increases for roads and to balance the state budget, we really need to know where we stand on other taxes before increasing taxes for a new jail in Otsego County	44%	33%	77%	21%	2%
_40A	The proposed new jail will be too extravagant; we don't need space for 120 beds since that's twice the number of prisoners than when we have had our most severe overcrowding issues.	44%	23%	67%	33%	—%
_41A	Why should taxpayers pay for the operation of a jail now when it will take at least a two or three years to build a new jail	21%	20%	41%	53%	6%
_42A	The proposed site at the Alpine Center is too close to the high school.	31%	18%	49%	48%	3%
_43A	The proposed site is not zoned for a correctional facility. Even though the zoning laws don't apply to the county, they should still go through the full public process to rezone the land.	35%	24%	59%	35%	6%

__44A After hearing arguments both for and against the jail millage, let me ask you a final time: The 120 bed jail facility would cost \$13 million, requiring a property tax increase of 1.6 mills for 20 years to repay the bonds for construction and operation of the jail. For the owner of an average home with a market value of \$100,000 and a taxable value of \$50,000, property taxes would increase by \$80 per year. Knowing this, if the election were held today, would you vote Yes in favor of the proposal or No to oppose it?

[IF UNDECIDED/DON'T KNOW] Well, if the election were held today and you had to decide right now, would lean toward voting **YES** in favor of the proposal or **NO** to oppose it.

43%	vote yes	
1%	lean toward voting yes	
44%	Total YES	GO TO Q. 47
51%	vote no	
2%	lean toward voting no	
53%	Total NO	
3%	Undecided/don't know/refused	

END SSA

SPLIT SAMPLE B

Now I would like to read some of the reasons that have been made to **OPPOSE** a new jail millage, and then I will read some of the arguments made to **SUPPORT** the millage proposal. Putting aside how you said you would vote on the proposal when I asked you before in this survey, after I read each statement, please tell me if the statement I read is a very convincing reason, a somewhat convincing reason, or not a convincing reason at all to vote AGAINST the jail millage. If you are undecided or neutral about any statement, please say so and we will move on.

[ROTATE Qs 20B TO 29B]

		CONVINCING		Total	Not Conv.	undec
		very	smwt			
_20B	By voting against this bond proposal, my property taxes won't go up.	23%	22%	45%	51%	4%
_21B	Instead of building a new jail, we should rely more on the use of alternative sentencing options so judges do not have to sentence as many people to jail	27%	29%	56%	40%	4%
_22B	With a continuing concern about the economy and layoffs, now is a bad time to consider a tax increase for any purpose	69%	23%	92%	6%	2%
_23B	The current jail can be expanded to house more prisoners, and it would solve the overcrowding problem for several years before we had to build a new jail, and this could be done for less money than a new jail	31%	33%	64%	33%	3%
_24B	As an alternative to a new prison the county could rent bed space from other counties for less cost than building a jail.	33%	28%	61%	36%	3%
_25B	With the state considering tax increases for roads and to balance the state budget, we really need to know where we stand on other taxes before increasing taxes for a new jail in Otsego County	48%	30%	78%	19%	3%
_26B	The proposed new jail will be too extravagant; we don't need space for 120 beds since that's twice the number of prisoners than when we have had our most severe overcrowding issues.	37%	26%	63%	32%	5%
_27B	Why should taxpayers pay for the operation of a jail now when it will take at least a two or three years to build a new jail	16%	23%	39%	57%	4%
_28B	The proposed site at the Alpine Center is too close to the high school.	46%	11%	57%	40%	3%
_29B	The proposed site is not zoned for a correctional facility. Even though the zoning laws don't apply to the county, they should still go through the full public process to rezone the land.	36%	20%	56%	36%	8%

Thinking about the arguments against the jail millage proposal, now I would like to ask you again how you would vote on the plan...

30B. The 120 bed jail facility would cost \$13 million, requiring a property tax increase of 1.6 mills for 20 years to repay the bonds for construction and operation of the jail. For the owner of an average home with a market value of \$100,000 and a taxable value of \$50,000, property taxes would increase by \$80 per year. Knowing this, if the election were held today, would you vote Yes in favor of the proposal or No to oppose it?

[IF UNDECIDED/DON'T KNOW] Well, if the election were held today and you had to decide right now, would lean toward voting **YES** in favor of the proposal or **NO** to oppose it.

- 30% vote yes
- % lean toward voting yes
- 30% Total YES**
- 67% vote no
- 1% lean toward voting no
- 68% Total NO**
- 2% Undecided/don't know/refused

You just heard the arguments to **OPPOSE** the jail millage proposal. Now I would like to read some of the reasons people have given to **SUPPORT** it. Again, putting aside how you may have voted on the proposal before in this survey, after I read each statement, please tell me if that statement is a very convincing reason, a somewhat convincing reason, or not a convincing reason at all to vote **YES** on the jail millage. If you are undecided or neutral toward any statement, please say so and we'll move on.

[ROTATE Qs 31B TO 43B]

			CONVINCING	Not		
			very	Conv.	undec	
			smwt	Total		
<u>31B</u>	The current 34 bed county jail was built in 1967 when the population was 10,000 people. Today the population is almost 26,000 and in 2020, it will be 35,000 people. We have outgrown the current jail and need to build one for the future.	33%	28%	61%	37%	2%
<u>32B</u>	The current jail is closer to St. Mary's Elementary School than the proposed site at Alpine Center is to the high school.	22%	17%	39%	51%	10%
<u>33B</u>	Senior citizens and others on a fixed income may not have their property taxes increased at all, or very little, if they apply for the homestead property tax exemption on their state income tax.	22%	21%	43%	52%	5%
<u>34B</u>	While the current jail is designed for 34 prisoners, it normally has 45 to 58 prisoners housed there, and the ratio of felons to misdemeanor prisoners is 3 to 1, which means there is no space for people convicted of misdemeanors.	25%	27%	52%	41%	7%

[ROTATE Qs 31B TO 43B]				CONVINCING	Not	
		very	smwt	Total	Conv.	undec
_35B	There is not enough space to make sure hard core prisoners are separated from first time offenders, or young inmates are not housed with career criminals	42%	21%	63%	31%	6%
_36B	Currently, there are more than 1,000 arrest warrants outstanding – 128 of them for serious crimes – because there is not enough space in the county jail.	40%	20%	60%	31%	9%
_37B	The current jail only has space for four prisoners per cell, but each cell usually has 8 to 10 inmates in it, which creates conflict between prisoners and increases the danger for sheriffs deputies	35%	32%	67%	31%	2%
_38B	Because of the jail overcrowding condition, first-time and repeat offenders do not go to jail to pay for their crimes in Otsego County	30%	28%	58%	35%	7%
_39B	By law the jail cannot continue to hold prisoners if jail population exceeds 34 prisoners for more than 10 days. This means that there have been early releases required for drug convictions, arson, drunk driving, fraud, bad checks, larceny, assault and battery, failure to register as a sex offender, and selling cocaine	41%	29%	70%	27%	3%
_40B	Public safety is diminished when people are not held accountable for their actions. The judicial system release many prisoners early, not as a result of good behavior, or completion of corrective programs, but because of lack of space	37%	34%	71%	22%	7%
_41B	The site at Alpine Center is the best location because it can be connected to the courts through a tunnel, which will greatly reduce the risk of escape, the county already owns the land, and essential services are already available	35%	29%	64%	35%	1%
_42B	The proposed new jail will have only one story above ground, which will appear to be a typical office building, it will not be visible from the high school and it is located further from that school than the St. Mary's School building where the current jail is located.	29%	33%	62%	35%	3%
_43B	If we build a jail large enough to meet future needs through 2020, until we need all of the space, we will be able to rent jail space to surrounding counties, thereby reducing the cost of jail operations for taxpayers.	31%	28%	59%	38%	3%

__44B After hearing arguments both for and against the jail millage, let me ask you a final time: The 120 bed jail facility would cost \$13 million, requiring a property tax increase of 1.6 mills for 20 years to repay the bonds for construction and operation of the jail. For the owner of an average home with a market value of \$100,000 and a taxable value of \$50,000, property taxes would increase by \$80 per year. Knowing this, if the election were held today, would you vote Yes in favor of the proposal or No to oppose it?

[IF UNDECIDED/DON'T KNOW] Well, if the election were held today and you had to decide right now, would lean toward voting **YES** in favor of the proposal or **NO** to oppose it.

33%	vote yes	
3%	lean toward voting yes	
36%	Total YES	GO TO Q. 47
59%	vote no	
3%	lean toward voting no	
62%	Total NO	
2%	Undecided/don't know/refused	

END SSA

“NO”/UNDECIDED IN FINAL TEST AFTER ALL ARGUMENTS

__45. If there is not enough support for a new jail with 120 beds, the County may place a bond proposal on a future election ballot to fund the construction and operation of a smaller facility that would have space for 80 beds to address immediate overcrowding problems, but be built so that it could be easily and economically expanded to accommodate any future population growth. This \$10.5 million plan would require property taxes to be increased by 1.6 mills to repay the construction bonds over 15 years. Knowing that for the owner of an average home with a market value of \$100,000 and a taxable value of \$50,000, property taxes would increase by \$80 per year – if the election were held today, would you vote Yes in favor of the bond proposal or No to oppose it?

[IF UNDECIDED/DON'T KNOW] Well, if the election were held today and you had to decide right now, would lean toward voting **YES** in favor of the proposal or **NO** to oppose it.

12%	vote yes	
7%	lean toward voting yes	
19%	Total YES	GO TO Q. 47
72%	vote no	
3%	lean toward voting no	
75%	Total NO	
6%	Undecided/don't know/refused	

__46. If there is not enough support for any new jail construction, the County may place a bond proposal on a future election ballot to fund the operation, expansion and improvement of the current jail to a 66 bed facility at a cost of \$5.2 million. Property taxes would be increased by 1.4 mills to repay the bonds over 10 years. Knowing that for the owner of an average home with a market value of \$100,000 and a taxable value of \$50,000, property taxes would increase by \$70 per year – if the election were held today, would you vote Yes in favor of the bond proposal or No to oppose it?

[IF UNDECIDED/DON'T KNOW] Well, if the election were held today and you had to decide right now, would lean toward voting **YES** in favor of the proposal or **NO** to oppose it.

16%	vote yes
4%	lean toward voting yes
20%	Total YES
69%	vote no
4%	lean toward voting no
73%	Total NO
7%	Undecided/don't know/refused

COMBINED AND EXTRAPOLATED RESULTS

COMBINED RESULTS

Q44 A&B FINAL TEST AFTER ALL ARGUMENTS

After hearing arguments both for and against the jail millage, let me ask you a final time: The 120 bed jail facility would cost \$13 million, requiring a property tax increase of 1.6 mills for 20 years to repay the bonds for construction and operation of the jail. For the owner of an average home with a market value of \$100,000 and a taxable value of \$50,000, property taxes would increase by \$80 per year. Knowing this, if the election were held today, would you vote Yes in favor of the proposal or No to oppose it?

38%	vote yes	
2%	lean toward voting yes	
40%	Total YES	GO TO Q. 47
55%	vote no	
2%	lean toward voting no	
57%	Total NO	
3%	Undecided/don't know/refused	

EXTRAPOLATED RESULTS

Q44 A&B FINAL TEST AFTER ALL ARGUMENTS & Q 45

If there is not enough support for a new jail with 120 beds, the County may place a bond proposal on a future election ballot to fund the construction and operation of a smaller facility that would have space for 80 beds to address immediate overcrowding problems, but be built so that it could be easily and economically expanded to accommodate any future population growth. This \$10.5 million plan would require property taxes to be increased by 1.6 mills to repay the construction bonds over 15 years. Knowing that for the owner of an average home with a market value of \$100,000 and a taxable value of \$50,000, property taxes would increase by \$80 per year – if the election were held today, would you vote Yes in favor of the bond proposal or No to oppose it?

45%	vote yes	
6%	lean toward voting yes	
51%	Total YES	GO TO Q. 47
43%	vote no	
2%	lean toward voting no	
45%	Total NO	
4%	Undecided/don't know/refused	

Q44A&B & Q45 &
Q 46

If there is not enough support for any new jail construction, the County may place a bond proposal on a future election ballot to fund the operation, expansion and improvement of the current jail to a 66 bed facility at a cost of \$5.2 million. Property taxes would be increased by 1.4 mills to repay the bonds over 10 years. Knowing that for the owner of an average home with a market value of \$100,000 and a taxable value of \$50,000, property taxes would increase by \$70 per year – if the election were held today, would you vote Yes in favor of the bond proposal or No to oppose it?

53%	vote yes	
8%	lean toward voting yes	
61%	Total YES	GO TO Q. 47
33%	vote no	
2%	lean toward voting no	
35%	Total NO	
4%	Undecided/don't know/refused	

ALL RESPONDENTS

__47. Where would you say you get most of your information about the activities of Otsego County government? **[DO NOT READ -- CODE UP TO TWO RESPONSES]**

- 49% Gaylord Herald Times
- 1% The Weekly Choice
- % Other local newspaper
- 12% Television coverage of the county
- 9% Radio coverage of the county
- 1% Commission meetings on cable
- 1% Newsletters from the county
- 24% Comments from friends/word of mouth

Finally, there are a few questions for statistical purposes only.

__48. How many years have you lived in Otsego County? **[DO NOT READ -- CODE RESPONSES]**

- 10% 5 years or less
- 19% 6 to 10 years
- 12% 11 to 15 years
- 14% 16 to 25 years
- 36% Over 25 years
- 9% All their life (*volunteered*)

__49. How many school age children, age 18 years or younger, are living in your household? **[DO NOT READ -- CODE RESPONSE]**

- 9% One
- 13% Two or more
- 77% None/No children
- 1% Undecided/don't know/refused

__50. Could you please tell me in what year you were born? **[RECORD YEAR HERE _____ AND THEN CODE BELOW]**

- 2% 18 to 24 years **(1983 to 1989)**
- 2% 25 to 29 years **(1978 to 1982)**
- 4% 30 to 35 **(1972 to 1977)**
- 3% 36 to 40 **(1967 to 1971)**
- 14% 41 to 49 **(1958 to 1966)**
- 12% 50 to 55 **(1952 to 1957)**
- 23% 56 to 64 **(1943 to 1951)**
- 39% 65 and over **(1942 or before)**
- 1% Undecided/don't know/refused

__51. What is the last grade or level of schooling you completed? (**DO NOT READ – CODE RESPONSE**)

4%	1 st to 11 th grade
26%	High school graduate
2%	Non-college post high school (technical training)
27%	Some college
30%	College graduate
10%	Post graduate school
1%	Undecided/don't know/refused

__52. Would you please tell me into which of the following categories your total yearly household income falls --- including everyone in the household? Please stop me when I get to the category that applies to you? (**READ LIST --- 1 to 5**)

16%	Under \$25,000
26%	\$25,000 to \$50,000
22%	\$50,000 to \$75,000
13%	\$75,000 to \$100,000
7%	Over \$100,000
1%	Retired
15%	Undecided/don't know/refused

__53. Sex of respondent (**DO NOT ASK -- BY OBSERVATION ONLY**)

49%	Male
51%	Female

**THANK RESPONDENT FOR HIS OR HER TIME AND TERMINATE
[IF ASKED WHO COMMISSIONED SURVEY, INFORM RESPONDENT
ONLY AFTER COMPLETING THE INTERVIEW:
“This survey was commissioned by Otsego County.”**