

From: jeff_ids@g.com
To: SAC
Subject: Survey
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I failed to finish your survey, too much modern day thinking was encrypted into it, as least for me. I believe we need not look deeply into populations of prisons. Modern day thinking has lead to an increase in crime across the country. On three occasions in the past eighteen months I have witnessed individuals walking out of the Fred Meyer on Lakeway with unpaid merchandise. Theft and crime and drugs and homelessness are every where here in Bellingham. I was accosted by a homeless man in the Fred Meyer parking lot on two separate occasions. Walking on Bellingham trails, I have witnessed on several occasions homeless walking out of the woods on unmarked trails from their tents / camps. These people steal to survive, this is not the Bellingham I moved to on 1992. I obtained a concealed carry permit and am now armed when about Bellingham. How sad is that?? And their are others like me. We need to go back to basics in our thinking. The Romans had their centurions and the West had their sheriffs. There will always be criminal minds as well as Mother Teresas. No modern thinking will change this. Public Safety not modern day thinking should be at the forefront.

Somewhat confusing is the conflict between special treatment for "populations" and the need to for a new jail. If we lead into early intervention, there should no need for a new jail. But in reality, crime will increase no matter wihat society does because we have created a society of "have nots" with no hope and dont' care and live in crowed apartments, with their parents and on the street. Modern day thinking, greed and bureaucracy have created this. These issues are what need to be addressed.

Personally, I paid \$5,100 in property taxes for 2021, about of which \$2,000 to the Bellingham School District which pays Superintendent Greg Baker \$400,000 annually. State of Washington teachers are the fifth highest paid in the nation. Another school levy was passed last year and my taxes with go up further for 2022. I have gotten new property assessments, last year and this year totaling another \$200,000 to the value of my house. More taxes, probably totaling over \$6,000 for 2022 and \$7,000 for 2023. A new waste water treatment plant will up our monthly bills another \$200. Do advisory committees take any of this into consideration? County / City councils? We retire in two years. We will not be able to "afford" Bellingham, we won't be able to meet the thresh hold for lessening property taxes. Modern day thinking, crime, taxes, and the ugliness of homelessness will have us moving elsewhere. We supported and help build Bellingham for over thirty years and "we have been shown the door". That is our reward for "The Golden Years" No modern day thinking for us.. None.....