

Clay County Courthouse Citizen Survey

19 February 2021

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Executive Summary

- In September 2020, Bob Fuller, the Clay County Courthouse Commission partnered with the Chiesman Center for Democracy at the University of South Dakota, to conduct a community survey to assess opinions and preferences for the future of the Clay County courthouse. Respondents were specifically asked about three options developed by the Clay County Commission:
 - Maintenance of the current courthouse and closing the current jail pay to house our inmates at other communities and to transport them at a significant additional cost.
 - Renovation of the existing courthouse and building a new jail and law enforcement center at the current location.
 - Move out of the current courthouse and build a justice center and courthouse, which includes a jail, courthouse, and other services at a new location.

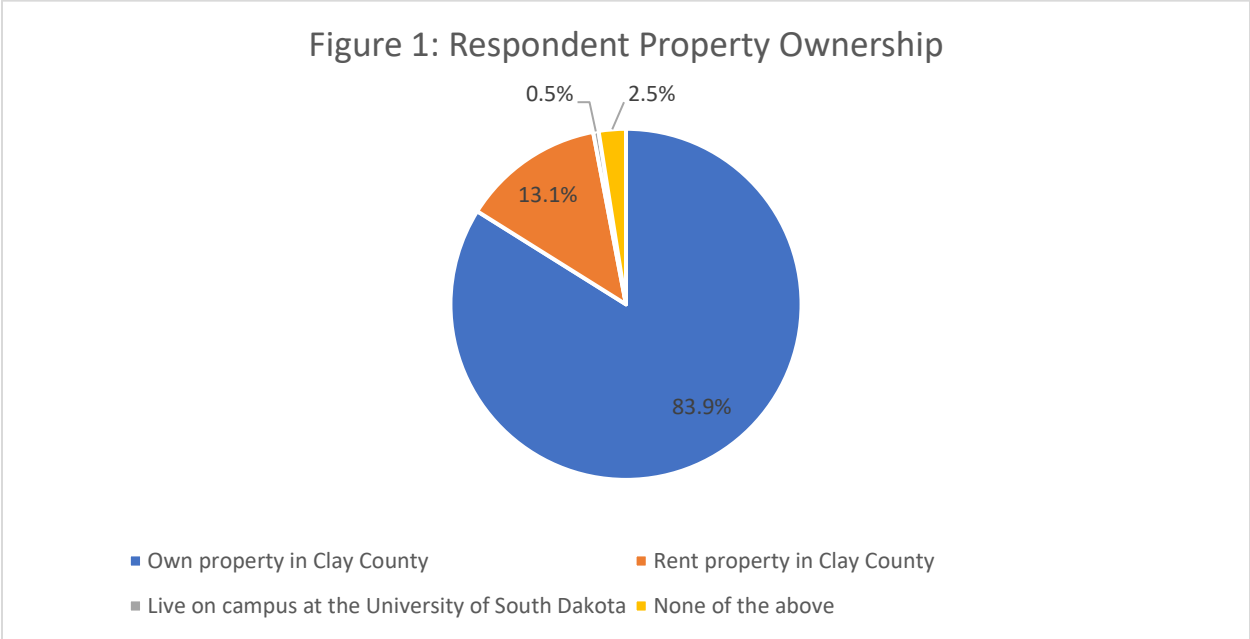
The results of the survey will determine the next steps to be taken in response to the poor conditions of the courthouse and jail.

- After collaborating with the Chiesman Center for Democracy to develop the final survey instrument, invitation postcards for an online survey were sent to 6538 households in Clay County. We utilized Every Door Direct Mail through the United States Postal Service to deliver invitations to residential addresses in available Clay County postal routes. Each residential household received a postcard with an invitation to complete the survey online with a web address and QR code to access the survey. An additional 17 printed surveys were mailed to households upon request.
- The final survey included 10 questions including a few demographic questions to ensure the representativeness of the sample. A full copy of the survey instrument is included in Appendix A. From December 8th, 2020 to February 4th, 2021 we received 688 complete responses. The results reported below are for all respondents, unless otherwise indicated. Not all respondents answered every question. While survey respondents are largely representative of the broader community, both higher income and older individuals are over-represented. This should be kept in mind while interpreting results.
- Survey respondents were generally familiar with the courthouse and the vast majority of respondents utilized the services at the courthouse at least occasionally.
- While respondent opinions varied widely on all questions regarding the future of the courthouse, there was a slight preference for the importance of historic preservation over other values. There was also more support for renovating the existing courthouse and expanding the building at the same location than other options offered.
- Respondents also offered a variety of suggestions for utilizing the existing space if the courthouse were to be moved. The most frequent suggestions were for a museum, office space, and a community center.

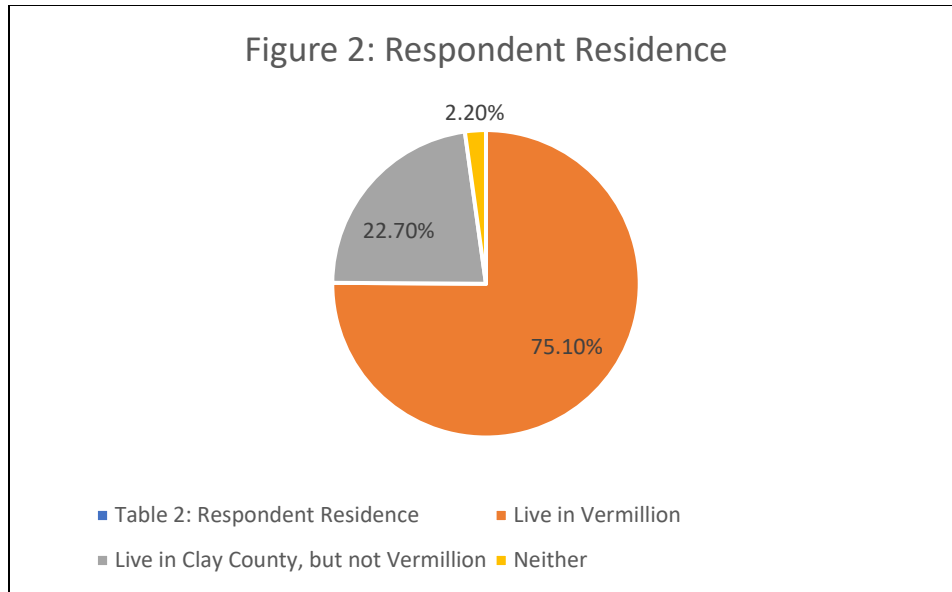
Survey Results

Demographics

In order to ensure the sample was representative of the larger population, and to allow for meaningful cross tabulations, we included several demographic questions. First, we asked respondents two questions about their residence in Clay County. As seen in Figure 1, the vast majority of survey respondents (83.9%) indicated they owned property in Clay County, with 13.1% renting property, about 0.5% indicating they live on campus at USD, and 2.5% indicating none of the above.



Survey respondents were then asked whether they lived in Vermillion, somewhere else in Clay County, or neither. As can be seen in Figure 2, a majority of respondents (75.1%) answered that they lived in Vermillion, 22.7% answered somewhere else in Clay County, and 2.2% answered neither. Census data from 2019 places the population of Vermillion at 10,753 persons or 77% of the total population of Clay County (13,957 persons). The survey sample is representative of the broader community in this respect.



Next, survey respondents were asked to indicate their age. As can be seen in Table 3, respondents from all age categories were represented in the survey sample. Compared to 2019 census data, the 18-24-year-old age group was substantially underrepresented and those in the older age categories were overrepresented, particularly the 65-74 years group. While older respondents are over-represented in the survey, which is true for most public surveys, direct comparisons with census data are complicated by the large percentage of college students residing in Clay County.

Table 3: Respondent Age

	Respondents	Clay County
18 - 24 years	5.5%	40.0%
25 - 34 years	12.3%	14.4%
35 - 44 years	17.6%	10.4%
45 - 54 years	16.2%	9.5%
55 - 64 years	18.3%	11.4%
65 - 74 years	21.7%	8.3%
75 – 84	6.7%	3.6%
85 or Older	1.9%	2.4%
Total	100%	100%

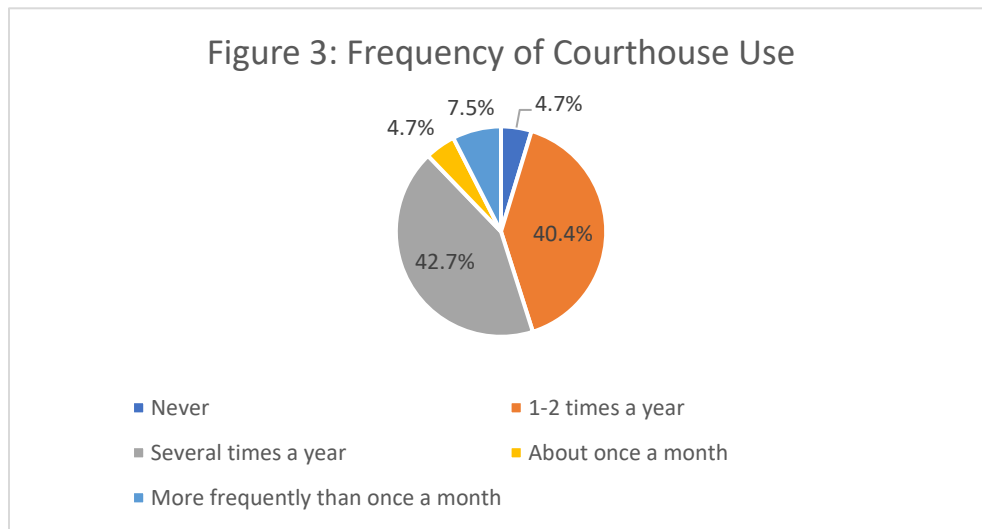
Finally, Survey respondents were asked to indicate their entire household income. As can be seen in Table 4, a majority of respondents (52%) indicated their household made upwards of \$80,000. This is much higher than 2019 census information regarding Clay County, which places the median income at \$50,724, and a substantial percentage of 50% under \$50,000. Hence, higher incomes are over-represented in our sample data; this should be kept in mind when interpreting the results.

Table 4: Respondent Household Income

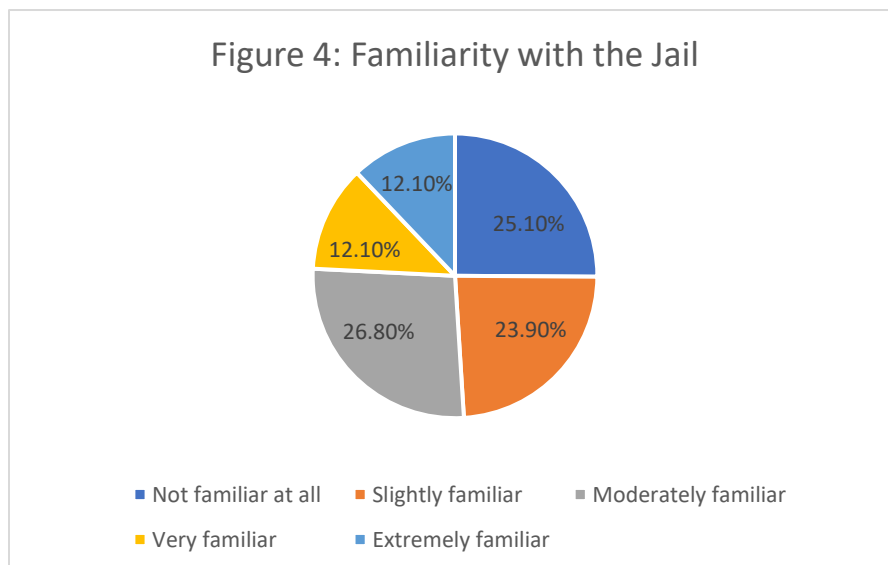
Less than \$10,000	2.9%
\$10,000 to \$19,999	3.6%
\$20,000 to \$29,999	4.7%
\$30,000 to \$39,999	7.0%
\$40,000 to \$49,999	7.4%
\$50,000 to \$59,999	5.8%
\$60,000 to \$69,999	7.6%
\$70,000 to \$79,999	8.9%
\$80,000 to \$89,999	9.6%
\$90,000 to \$99,999	7.2%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	19.5%
\$150,000 or more	16.0%
Total	100%

Courthouse Use and Familiarity

Survey respondents were asked about their own personal experience with the courthouse. The first question in this section asked survey respondents “How frequently do you use services in the Clay County courthouse?” As can be seen in Figure 3, their responses were mixed but most respondents used services within the courthouse at least occasionally. A full 42.7% of respondents indicating using the services several times a year, with another 40.4% saying they used the services 1 to 2 times a year. Only 4.7% of respondents indicated that they never use the services provided.



Respondents were also asked about their familiarity with the jail. Specifically, they were asked “How familiar are you with the current condition of the Clay County jail/law enforcement center?” As can be seen in Figure 4, the answers were again fairly mixed. About a quarter of respondents each were moderately familiar (27%), slightly familiar (24%), and not familiar (25%). Roughly another quarter of respondents indicated they were very or extremely familiar.



Respondent Values and Preferences

Clay County residents were also asked to indicate their level of agreement with several questions about the Clay County courthouse and potential renovations. As can be seen in the Table 5 below, opinions varied widely. The only statement with a clear majority opinion was related to prioritizing historic preservation over low taxes. A full 68.1% of respondents either somewhat or strongly disagreed with the statement “Keeping county taxes low is more important than historic preservation.” When evaluating mean responses, we find the greatest level of agreement with the statements “It is important for us to have our own jail in Clay County,” and “It is important to preserve the historic character of the Clay County courthouse.”

Table 5: Respondent Agreement

Question	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Mean
It is important to me to keep the courthouse in the same building.	15.9%	8.4%	22.6%	17.0%	36.1%	3.49
It is important for us to have our own jail in Clay County.	2.7%	4.3%	13.5%	26.3%	53.2%	4.23
It is important to preserve the historic character of the Clay County courthouse.	5.3%	6.2%	12.8%	23.8%	51.8%	4.11
It is important for the jail and courthouse to be in the same location	11.7%	16.0%	32.4%	19.2%	20.7%	3.21
It is important that the solution for the courthouse has room for expansion to meet community needs over the next 30 years.	3.0%	7.6%	12.4%	34.3%	42.7%	4.06
Keeping county taxes low is more important than historic preservation.	18.6%	23.5%	20.2%	17.5%	20.3%	2.97

Next, respondents were asked to rank their preferred values when discussing the courthouse renovation. As can be seen in Table 6, the results were again fairly mixed. There were spikes in those ranking historic preservation the most at 1 (32.8%), convenience of courthouse location the most often chosen second (37.9%), minimizing cost to taxpayers at third (33.0%), and courthouse facilities being able to expand at fourth (30.1%), though there was a notable amount of additional variation in each of those fields.

Table 6: Respondent Ranking of Value Priorities

Preference	First	Second	Third	Fourth
Historic preservation	32.8%	21.9%	17.7%	27.6%
Convenience of courthouse location	15.1%	37.9%	29.4%	17.5%
Minimizing cost to taxpayers	22.6%	19.6%	33.0%	24.8%
Courthouse facilities able to expand for future needs.	29.4%	20.6%	19.9%	30.1%

Respondents were also asked to rank their choices for the courthouse among the options proposed by the committee. As can be seen in Table 7, like the previous question, the results are decidedly mixed. The highest percentage of respondents indicated their first preference was to build a new justice center and courthouse (44.2%). However, almost 40% of respondents also ranked that option as their last choice. Renovating the existing courthouse and building a new jail and law enforcement center at the current location had almost as many people choose it as their first response (44.2%) but another 47.8% chose it as the next best option. Only 13.3% of respondents chose maintaining the current courthouse and closing the jail as their first choice. When we calculated the average rank for these options (see Table 8), renovating the existing course house emerges as a strong first preference among respondents.

Table 7: Respondent Ranking of Available Options

	First	Second	Third
Maintenance of the current courthouse and closing the current jail pay to house our inmates at other communities and to transport them at a significant additional cost.	13.3%	34.0%	52.8%
Renovation of the existing courthouse and building a new jail and law enforcement center at the current location.	42.5%	47.8%	9.7%
Move out of the current courthouse and build a justice center and courthouse, which includes a jail, courthouse, and other services.	44.2%	18.2%	37.6%

Table 8: Available Options Average Rank

Renovation of the existing courthouse and building a new jail and law enforcement center at the current location.	1.67
Move out of the current courthouse and build a justice center and courthouse, which includes a jail, courthouse, and other services.	1.93
Maintenance of the current courthouse and closing the current jail pay to house our inmates at other communities and to transport them at a significant additional cost.	2.40

Finally, we asked respondents about their ideas for potential uses of the existing courthouse if the court and law enforcement center were moved to a new location. Specifically, we asked, “If the courthouse and jail were moved to a different location, how else could the community use the existing historic courthouse building. This question allowed for an open-ended response. These responses were coded by emergent categories. Table 9 provides a count of the number of individuals that provided a similar response as well as an illustrative quote of the responses received for each category. If the courthouse were to be relocated, respondents suggested that the existing building could be used as a museum, office spaces, or a community center, though many respondents took the opportunity to reinforce their perspective that the current services should stay in the courthouse. Full qualitative comments are provided in Appendix B.

Table 9: Suggestions for Other Uses of the Courthouse Building

Category	Number of Responses	Illustrative Quote
Museum	93	"It could become a museum pertaining to Clay County and perhaps Vermillion."
Don't move	83	"I don't believe that the courthouse should be moved to a different location. The current location is central and convenient. The location should be downtown. We have such a beautiful and unique building in the old courthouse. It should be renovated and updated to allow for continuing use."
Office space	56	"Other county office could be in the facility. I think it could be used for a one stop for community offices, non-profits. There are a lot of options for those who need office space."
Community Center	48	"Community gathering place and asset would be to turn it into an indoor garden with various rooms for educational opportunities and skills development (e.g., rooms for cooking, gardening, brewing, etc. classes)."
Housing	22	"I would love to see this turned into planned community housing. It's a great location with easy access to the senior center, library and downtown. There is already an elevator and parking. This would be a great addition to town. Sioux City and Yankton have done similar projects."
Demolish	17	"Demolish it. The tax dollars needed to maintain a large inefficient building would not be it. Put up a park or a green space."
USD Usage	15	"It could be used by USD for a variety of purposes - including expansion of the USD Knudson School of Law. The Law School needs additional mock courtroom space and additional clinical space. How cool would it be for law students to practice and hold regional and national mock trial and appellate tournaments inside a real, historic courthouse building?"
Other	14	"Animal rescue center."
Specific Retail Idea	13	"Turn it into a place to handle multiple retail ventures, add a coffee shop and a bookstore and some benches in common areas so it could function a bit like an indoor mall where there are areas for people to gather and socialize between shopping"

Conclusions

Collectively, the responses to the survey indicate that opinions and preferences for future of the Clay County courthouse are decidedly mixed. Respondents indicate a preference for renovating the current courthouse with an expansion for a new jail and law enforcement center at the current location. However, this is also the most expensive option and respondents were not provided cost data when ranking preferences. Respondents did value historic preservation and convenience over keeping county taxes low. It is important to keep in mind though that older and higher income respondents are over-represented when interpreting this data. It is also important to remember that respondents were not provided with cost estimates when ranking their responses. Had respondents had more information about the relative difference in costs, their preferences may have been different.

Given the highly varied nature of respondent perspectives, the commission will need to engage in an active public information and education campaign regardless of the alternative chosen.

Appendix A: Survey Instrument

Clay County Courthouse Survey

Start of Block: Knowledge

Q1 A Clay County Courthouse committee was recently formed to evaluate options for renovating and/or replacing the county courthouse and jail to better meet current county and city needs. This survey is designed to assess your opinions and priorities to inform that decision making process. Your responses will be kept anonymous and only be reported in the aggregate. The survey should take no more than 10 minutes to complete.

Q2 How frequently do you use services in the Clay County courthouse?

- Never
 - 1-2 times a year
 - Several times a year
 - About once a month
 - More frequently than once a month
-

Q3 How familiar are you with the current condition of the Clay County jail/law enforcement center?

- Not familiar at all
- Slightly familiar
- Moderately familiar
- Very familiar
- Extremely familiar

End of Block: Knowledge

Start of Block: Opinion

Q4 In addition to the county court, the courthouse building in Clay County also houses the offices of the County Assessor, Auditor, Register of Deeds, States Attorney, Treasurer, Probation, Court Services, Nurse, Emergency Management, Court Services, Zoning/Veterans/Welfare and the law enforcement center which includes our only county jail, Vermillion Police Department and the Clay County Sheriff. Local law enforcement and the County Commissioners have agreed that the facilities and physical structure of Clay County courthouse are no longer able to meet current needs. The County Commission is currently considering options to improve those facilities. Each of these options includes tradeoffs in terms of cost, convenience of location, historical preservation, and ability to expand for future needs. The next section asks questions designed to better incorporate the perspectives of Clay County residents about these tradeoffs.

Q5 Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements.

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
It is important to me to keep the courthouse in the same building.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is important for us to have our own jail in Clay County.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is important to preserve the historic character of the Clay County courthouse.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is important for the jail and courthouse to be in the same location	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is important that the solution for the courthouse has room for expansion to meet community needs over the next 30 years.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Keeping county taxes low is more important than historic preservation.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q6 Please rank the following in terms of importance to you

- Historic preservation
- Convenience of courthouse location
- Minimizing cost to taxpayers
- Courthouse facilities able to expand for future needs.

End of Block: Opinion

Start of Block: Preference for alternatives

Q7 Please rank these options for the jail and courthouse from most favorable to least favorable by dragging and dropping each option so that your most favored option is listed first.

Maintenance of the current courthouse (including waterproofing the roof, new windows, ADA compliance, and elevator) and closing the current jail pay to house our inmates at other communities and to transport them at a significant additional cost.

Renovation of the existing courthouse and building a new jail and law enforcement center at the current location, which includes a new courtroom and judicial chambers. This would meet current needs, but not offer room for expansion.

Move out of the current courthouse and build a justice center and courthouse, which includes a jail, courthouse, and other services. This would allow opportunities for future expansion as well as alleviate concern about liability with the current jail.

Q8 If the courthouse and jail were moved to a different location, how else could the community use existing historic courthouse building? This is an open-ended response.

End of Block: Preference for alternatives

Start of Block: Demographics

Q9 Now we are going to ask a few questions about you to ensure that our sample is an accurate representation of the population of Clay County. Please answer them to the best of your ability.

Q10 Which best describes you?

- I rent property in Clay County.
 - I own property in Clay County.
 - I live on campus at the University of South Dakota.
 - None of the above.
-

Q11 Which best describes where you live?

- In Vermillion
 - In Clay County, but not Vermillion
 - Neither
-

Q12 How old are you?

Under 18

18 - 24

25 - 34

35 - 44

45 - 54

55 - 64

65 - 74

75 - 84

85 or older



Q13 Please indicate the answer that includes your entire household income in (previous year) before taxes.

- Less than \$10,000
- \$10,000 - \$19,999
- \$20,000 - \$29,999
- \$30,000 - \$39,999
- \$40,000 - \$49,999
- \$50,000 - \$59,999
- \$60,000 - \$69,999
- \$70,000 - \$79,999
- \$80,000 - \$89,999
- \$90,000 - \$99,999
- \$100,000 - \$149,999
- More than \$150,000

End of Block: Demographics

Appendix B: Full Qualitative Comments to Question 8

“If the courthouse and jail were moved to a different location, how else could the community use existing historic courthouse building? This is an open-ended response.”

<p>1) Low-cost housing (or emergency housing) resources or help people connect to resources to meet their basic needs, 24/7.</p> <p>2) Offices with resources to help educate people on life-skills such as keeping a checkbook or job training.</p> <p>3) Offices to help develop new businesses or steps to develop a new business that would create new jobs emphasizing recycling, clean environments & clean water.</p>
<p>1. Children's museum/community event space/Maker's space</p> <p>2. Vermillion needs a brewery. Taxes will be raised to pay for these needed improvements and studies show that communities that add breweries to their area will see as much as 10% increase in their property values.</p>
<p>A clay county museum</p>
<p>A community center housing arts, music, meeting rooms, computers, historical library, activities, etc</p>
<p>A community center, able to include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - basketball and other sports - art exhibits - meeting rooms for nonprofits, clubs -coffee shop
<p>A hotel maybe? Or an events space for weddings since vermillion doesn't have many</p>
<p>A museum might be nice or something that would connect the town and gown of the community and the university community</p>
<p>A Museum or Art center similar to the Terry Redlin museum in Watertown but maybe for Oscar Howe exhibits.</p> <p>or</p> <p>Downtown condominiums</p>
<p>A museum??</p>
<p>A tri-state brothel.</p>
<p>Allow community non-profits a room/area to meet. Such as food bank, veterans services and VSO's, Boy Scouts ect...</p> <p>Maybe rent out the forum area for pictures for Prom/weddings.</p> <p>Create a ballroom where community can rent for private events</p>
<p>Animal rescue center and community center.</p>

<p>Any adapted use would have similar infrastructure issues as the courthouse does now.</p> <p>We have so few trial cases that a second courtroom is not needed.</p> <p>There are electronic options to inmate transport.</p>
<p>apartments museum</p>
<p>Apartments, perhaps? Anything would require major renovations.</p>
<p>As a museum</p>
<p>As a museum with a concert hall for the USD music department to do events for the community</p>
<p>As I am not in support of expanding the jail or policing staff in any measure I do not have an answer for this.</p>
<p>As services move online, I do not see a great need for office expansion. The jail is clearly inadequate, however.</p> <p>A museum of SD History might be appropriate similar to the Meade Center at the Human Services Center in Yankton. It could also prove a delightful venue for a tea room or wedding receptions.</p> <p>It is a beautiful old building which has limited uses because of the many stairways both up and down. However, its location is certainly an advantage.</p>
<p>As to the above, I can't believe that these are the only options. For example, is there any consideration for renovations and keeping the current courthouse, adding on to it, and building a new jail either nearby or somewhere else in the area?</p> <p>People who respect historic preservation will want to know what's to happen to the old courthouse if it is abandoned. Don't let it fall into disrepair, as happened with the Carnegie Library (even though it is technically occupied). The potential uses for this building are few, and that's why I would support renovating and using the building along with an addition.</p>
<p>Build a new jail and law enforcement building wherever. Leave the courtroom where it is. Move some of the county offices into the current law enforcement addition and renovate same.</p>
<p>Build a new jail and leave the court house alone.</p>
<p>Build a separate facility for Sheriff's functions (maybe at old golf course). Keep city police functions at old courthouse but upgrade facilities as needed.</p>
<p>can a justice center be built elsewhere in vermillion that would include a courtroom and continue to use the courthouse for other County business? Law enforcement would get the space they need and their old space could be used for other county offices. can updated maintenance still be done on the Courthouse.? Grants and low interest state and federal programs? Did Olivet get those dollars for their new courthouse? can some of the houses north of the Courthouse be bought and resold and use that area for a justice center? And just walk across the street to the courtroom in the courthouse?</p>
<p>Can it be remodeled : to be a civic meeting place? also possibly for art displays, craft displays, and such?</p>
<p>Child's Museum (similar to Brookings), classroom spaces</p>

Children's museum? Traveling museum exhibits? Rental rooms for community use (ie: birthday parties, meetings, etc).
Clay county wont need to be moved the current building works great and the county wont grow enough to justify the new location
Combination of community event center with available space for rent, space for after-school programs as well as a county museum and educational center?
Community Center or museum
Community center
Community center and Children's museum similar to what is located in Brookings,SD
Community center and public gathering space
Community event or collaboration center. Bed and breakfast. Historical society/museum.
Community events center. Community courtyard/plaza(a larger Platz) with ice skating rink in winter. Rec center. Shops. Apartments.
Community Hall for meetings/events
Community meeting rooms
Community rooms Office space for rent Could the Courthouse remain as is and extend into the law enforcement area, then buikd a law enforcement area in another area? Would City allow for the street behind the law enforcement center to be closed and build over that area?
Community services combined in one location. Domestic Violence, Housing, ROCS, Social Services etc...
Condos? I would like to see it used as some sort of community central location but it would need to be able to fund the cost of the building and to maintain it. Suggestions for possible uses along these lines don't usually come up with tenants who can actually afford to be there.
Consider renovation of the current courthouse for all offices. Build a new the jail and law enforcement center at a different site. Would moving jail/law enforcement give the expansion for future that we would need?
Continue use for county offices
Could some of the existing services stay and expand? Find another city/county/state dept that could adopt it for use? Convert it into professional office spaces or small retail venues for rent?
Could the USD law school move there?

<p>Could turn into rentable office spaces for nearby and local companies.</p> <p>With some renovation each floor could be a unique rentable space. (As long as pieces of the building that are renovated/removed have a chance to be auctioned off or displayed in alternative location such as features for the future courthouse)</p> <p>Two floors could be renovated for rentable use, perhaps one would be opened up for large families or alma matter to have a potluck get together. Another floor could be used for a work/office space where a push button combination lock would allow access into a more private area with amenities for residents willing to pay a monthly fee.</p> <p>Additional floors could be renovated for more community oriented activities such as 4-H, FFA meetups, Boys and Girls club, or other out of school programs. These floors could have time slots that could be reserved, at no cost to community members. With WiFi available from the work space to all floors in the building.</p> <p>Contact Trebor with any further questions or if you'd like to designate a time to go over blueprints of the building or to further expand upon different designations of floors while preserving as much history as possible. TreborJobe@gmail.com</p>
<p>Could use it as a community facility and to host events that would bring money to the city rather than renting space from USD all the time.</p>
<p>County offices</p>
<p>County offices, possibly attorney offices. Realize the cost of a museum would be out of the question to renovate but, would like to see it some day.</p>
<p>Courthouse does not need to be moved. It is in good shape and needs to help preserved. If we build a bigger jail we will just fill that one too!</p>
<p>Current county offices exclusive of the courts and jail could remain at that facility.</p>
<p>Definitely should be part of the plan to provide the necessary maintenance to keep that beautiful building. It is one of the highlights of our downtown. I don't think it's a good idea to allow it to be privately held. Perhaps just the law enforcement and contingent needs could be relocated somewhere else in Vermillion. It seems that their part of the building is what is needing more room. Give them a perfectly designed facility for their needs while retaining the Clay county courthouse building for all the other purposes that it serves. I love visiting the building!</p>
<p>Demolish it. The tax dollars needed to maintain a large inefficient building would not be it. Put up a park or a green space.</p>
<p>Destroy it.</p>
<p>Do not move...try to be fiscally responsible for a change in vermilion... But I'm sure our city council will just spend, spend, spend</p>
<p>Do the jail and courthouse both have to be moved? Could you just move the jail and law enforcement center yet leave the courthouse?</p>
<p>Don't care</p>
<p>Don't know-it is a classic building & should be used as a courthouse-as for the jail, I have not seen it so I have no opinion other than the fact that prisoners do not need a motel setting. If it is too comfortable, they will want to come back. My numbers for the previous screens would not pull down but are 1,3,4,2 for the first one & 2,3,1 for the second one.</p>
<p>Don't move the jail and courthouse.</p>

<p>Don't know. That is why I don't favor this option. I was not given a choice of renovating the courthouse for use as a courthouse and then building a law enforcement center/jail at a different location. This would allow for expansion into the former law enforcement/jail area for future courthouse type need and for a new jail which could meet all current and expected rules and regulations. At the same time, the law enforcement center would be convenient to the jail (same building). The obvious problem is that the jail and courthouse would require transportation of inmates to and from the courthouse in some instances.</p>
<p>Don't agree with moving out</p>
<p>Don't move out, expand to the north if needed.</p>
<p>Don't see a feasible use other than county government.</p>
<p>Entrepreneur center, offices, museum on vermillion and state history.</p>
<p>Events, alternative school site, museum space, USD classrooms.</p>
<p>Expand other offices in the building. Put all city offices in one location.</p>
<p>Expanding current departments. Dividing or Creation of new departments.</p>
<p>Fine Arts Center / Native american center = Oscar Howe Bobbi Penn Center for the Arts & Culture - But since we are not supporting our museums and cultural programs well this is a great idea but crazy idea without a "major" benefactor.</p>
<p>First, in response to the notion of future expansion, is this predicated on needing an even larger jail in 30 years? Is that the future we're creating? Not speaking from an informed opinion in public administration, criminal justice or prison policy, this is sad to me.</p> <p>The activities that take place in the courthouse, enumerated in previous questions, bring many people to downtown Vermillion. I would hate to see this flow of traffic interrupted. What other use of the building could possibly be as meaningful to the community? In other places, many historic government buildings sit derelict and neglected once new facilities are built. Is that the future I'd like to see for this one? No. I would, frankly, sooner raze the historic building. Perhaps, the new design could be inspired by the old, even incorporating salvaged architectural elements.</p>
<p>First, why ask the first questions and then pigeon hole me to the final three options? Now, Build a few facility elsewhere for all public services and renovate the current courthouse for the exclusive use of criminal justice. With reduced public access need, there should be room for a new jail on the back parking lot.</p>
<p>Fitness center Daycare Preschool Performing arts studio</p>
<p>For all other government transactions. Community meetings Expanded space for veteran affairs such as VFW, AMERICAN LEGION meetings Museum with county artifacts</p>
<p>For community meetings, museum, some county and/or city offices</p>
<p>Green Space.</p>
<p>Have it be used in several ways to support many diverse groups in the community: arts, community service opportunities, indoor walking for citizens.</p>
<p>Have no good ideas at this time.</p>

Have no idea. Needs to be retained.
Health and wellness for kids
Historic apartments
Historic building/museum I am not opposed to tearing it down
Historic museum of old Vermillion or Lakota culture
Historic preservation, community center
Historical society maybe or give to someone who asks
Historical society. Community center offices.
Homeless Housing Fine Art Center SHops
Hotel/short term rentals Long term rentals Event/shopping center Brewery
House a historic center or museum. Do some renovations and create some type of community engagement building or rent out office space to people who may need a small space
House the Oscar Howe Art Gallery from USD. It would make the collection more accessible to the general public and would be easier on the building than any commercial endeavor. Such usage could also bring in USD, the South Dakota Arts Council, and other arts organizations as vested interests in the courthouse, which may help the long term viability of maintaining the building.
I am extremely familiar with our town's courthouse and the county and state offices housed in it, and I am extremely familiar with Sioux Falls', Yankton's, Union's, Lincoln's, Sioux City/Woodbury Iowa's, Dixon, Cedar, Dakota Nebraska's courthouses and county and state offices housed within. The Vermillion current office rooms for the county & state departments located in the courthouse are more than ample size. When counties move to modern admin buildings the office size remains the same or gets smaller, with a lower height. The only difference is modern central air/heating. Building a new admin center, in my opinion, is simply based on a desire to have modern, not based on a need for a new building. FURTHER Our courthouse is located downtown-adjacent where businesses are located that routinely access the departments in the courthouse. It anchors our Vermillion downtown business district. If it is moved from the current location, the law offices, the title companies, will vacate the downtown business district. The restaurants that depend on business employees' lunch traffic, will lose that daily traffic and will either move or close. MOVING THE COURTHOUSE OFFICES FROM DOWNTOWN WILL HAVE A DISASTEROUS EFFECT ON THE DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES AND COULD LEAD TO THE ATROPHY OF THE DOWNTOWN. This is a bad idea.
I am not sure but I would like to see it used. Maybe have some offices stay there and just move the law enforcement and jail to a new building
I believe it would be a good location for WO Over museum or other public space. It could also be renovated to become a incubator building for future private business adventures.
I can't think of anything that that space could be used for other than a courthouse. I not concerned about future expansion needs. Clay County hasn't grown in 50 years, what makes anybody think that is going to change?

I do not favor moving the court house to a different location. We have a beautiful structure that should be remodeled.
I do not favor moving the courthouse from its current location.
I do not know. Have the commissioners been asked by anyone?
I DO NOT SUPPORT MOVING MOST COURT HOUSE FUNCTIONS TO A DIFFERENT BUILDING. ONLY BUILD AN ANNEX IF YOU MUST. SAVE TAX DOLLARS! CONTRARY TO IMPLICATIONS OF THIS SURVEY, EFFICIENT USE OF TAXES AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION ARE NOT IN CONFLICT.
I do not think there were enough options given in the previous ranking. There is adequate land surrounding the current courthouse and jail for their expansion. If the jail were either expanded or torn down and re-built on the adjacent or nearby land, there would still be room to expand both structures. As for other uses for the historic courthouse building, I can think of none that would serve the community as well as using it for what it was built for--to conduct the county's business and hold court.
I don't have particular ideas right now but sure there some good possibilities.
I don't see why the jail and courthouse would have to be at one location. So the previous question doesn't have an actual #1 response for me. But, IF we don't keep the current building as Courthouse and jail, would the other services still be located in it? Could we have some type of county museum? Would all the renovations s needed still be done, if the other services offered there stay there? I have too many questions with no hypothetical answers to be of much value to you at this point.
I don't want the courthouse to be anything but the courthouse!
I don't believe that the courthouse should be moved to a different location. The current location is central and convenient. The location should be downtown. We have such a beautiful and unique building in the old courthouse. It should be renovated and updated to allow for continuing use.
I don't know that you would have to completely move the courtroom functions.. maybe keep the courtroom in use, and then open up walls/offices on other floors for expanded SA office, offices to rent to other lawyers, space (to rent or provide) for community non-profits or (state/local) services like child protective services and domestic violence center, etc. Not sure how to make that financially viable along with the needed new courthouse and jail that would have to be built, but just tossing out a mixed-use legal building space concept so that it can generate some revenue in rent versus other options like a museum where little or no revenue is made. Failing that, I think you move everything from the old courthouse to new, and focus on getting Federal money or grants to reuse the building for a pre-K children's center (combine Vucurevich with offices and resources for education and young families under one roof).
I don't see how else the building could be used. It needs to be saved and maintained and used for its intended purpose. All one needs to do is look at Old Main and the National Music Museum to see what is possible. It may be a "significant additional cost" to transport inmates, but it can't hold a candle to the cost of building new.
I don't see when we'd find enough occupants/offices to fill the building and have funds to cover operation and maintenance.
I don't think the courthouse can be used for anything else, I would like to see a new law enforcement center and jail, use the courthouse and try and update what we got. It seems like our city leaders like

<p>spending tax payer money and not doing what the payers want - like a swimming pool that only gets used maybe 3 months out of the year. For what we spent on it, it should have been enclosed for year round use!!</p>
<p>I don't think the historic courthouse building is that great to begin with. One problem is that you have to go down four stairs or up a whole floor to access the elevator. It doesn't make sense in terms of being accessible to wheelchairs etc. I haven't ever seen a ramp going down the four stairs either, which would seem to be the easiest solution. I like the idea of historic preservation, but I'm not sure it's possible.</p> <p>For easy transportation of prisoners, I think the courthouse and jail should be in the same building. I do not think the courtroom and jail need to be in the same location as the courthouse offices (auditor, treasurer, etc.). I would actually prefer not to have the courthouse, jail, and the other offices in the same location. However, it is *essential* that county offices (auditor, treasurer, nurse, VA, etc.) are in one building.</p> <p>I don't know what we could do with the historic building. It seems like it would require an extensive, expensive renovation to be used for any other purpose just as it requires an extensive, expensive renovation (or at least expensive maintenance) to keep functioning for its current purposes.</p>
<p>I dont want the courthouse moved. You could certainly move the jail.</p>
<p>I fear it would be a white elephant, would fall into disrepair and ultimately have to be destroyed.</p>
<p>I have heard there are people interested in making apartments or condos in the building. I think that would be a nice option downtown.</p>
<p>I have no idea, but I don't want to see this beautiful, historic building torn down.</p>
<p>I have no idea.</p>
<p>I have no idea. Perhaps it is the responsibility of the committee/county to conduct a needs assessment to answer this question.</p>
<p>I have no idea.</p>
<p>Have you talked to the City about housing some of the offices in their building?</p>
<p>I honestly believe that the current courthouse should still house county employees, even if I new jail/courthouse is built elsewhere.</p>
<p>I love living in Vermillion and the courthouse as it stands is a "star" in Vermillion. It is beautiful and it is Vermillion. I would hate to see it torn down just like that. I hated to see that old old beautiful house torn down.</p>
<p>I really don't know. I would appreciate hearing from police chief/officers and hearing their opinion or experience working in their current location (hearing pros and cons to the facility they have). I would like to hear from courthouse workers as well regarding their facilities and their views about the building.</p>
<p>I see no realistically likely other use for our courthouse building. I fear that if we abandon the building, no good use will be found, taxpayers will pay to minimally maintain the building for a term of years, and eventually the historic building will be torn down.</p>

I should hope that would not happen, but the Dept of Social Services, Social Security, and Drivers Exams, could be housed there. Also, the current food pantry, which is in a really bad location (across from the Post Office), could be housed there.

There is plenty of space in the current "block" of the court house, to add on a new jail and court services area.

I think it could become a multipurpose space and combine some disparate elements, business. It could house an incubator space for small business much better than McVickey. Could have community events, art/culture events etc

I think it should be used for a museum or other offices that do not require the needs a courthouse and jail require.

I think it would be too much of a burden to let someone else fix the courthouse up. It's a courthouse - let it be the center of the community for many years to come. It's beautiful and will outlast a lot of the USD buildings that are a lot newer.

I think our taxes could be used for better things needed, rather than spending lots of money on a new building. The present building looks good!

I think the courthouse has reached the end of it's useful life. It would take so much money and work to be able to use this building for any use. It simply wasn't made on a proper foundation to start. I think there is no way to rehab that building.

I think we need a good use for the current building before we would even consider a new building. It's a big area with land, Is there no room for adding on or tearing down the non-historical area and rebuilding to accommodate a new jail?

I used to work for the county so I know first hand that the courthouse is in bad shape. It is a lovely building and using it for a museum or community center would be good options. The necessary renovations will be costly to the community. This is an example of what happens when the can is continually kicked down the road. The County Commissions of the last 6 or 7 years have been stuck with the results of the inaction and lack of forethought by previous commissions.

I wish the courthouse could stay at it current location and the jail\police department could be moved off site to a new location. Do the renovations on the courthouse, I hate to lose that part of history, remodel and expand courthouse offices to entire building. House inmates and law enforcement at new location.

I would like to see it turned into a museum

I would like to see renovation and preservation of the current courthouse /jail with a new addition on the current property. Example: National Music Museum has renovated the historic Carnegie Hall and added on the new wing of the museum.

I would like to see some combination of space for the Clay County Historical Society coupled with light retail. Light retail could include a restaurant or coffee-shop space.

Another option would be a holistic evaluation of social services and county offices to see if it makes sense to move/consolidate them into the historic courthouse building. In other words, keep the building as a "county services" space, but perhaps with slightly different tenants than the current mix.

I would like to see the current court house renovated, maintaining its historical identity. A new Jail/law enforcement center could be built in the parking lot adjoining the building.

I would love to see this turned into planned community housing. It's a great location with easy access to the senior center, library and downtown. There is already an elevator and parking. This would be a great addition to town. Sioux City and Yankton have done similar projects.
I would recommend tearing down the building and building a quality park similar to the one in Elk Point that focuses on fitness. Maybe even add a sidewalk track
I'm not certain but I think we would regret destroying the current building even if it's not used as a courthouse we have several community needs that could Be met by keeping it.
I'd love for it to include affordable mixed housing. I imagine tens of ways "affordable mixed housing" could be defined and the building configured. Would take a ton of money to renovate, and I'm sure a long-shot to find some grant funding to help. But it's fun to dream. In general, housing is what I come back to in terms of a long-term sustainable use. Would prefer that it remain in the hands of a community-based organization or city management. If mixed, maybe there could be some rent revenue.
Lower on my list is moving the WH Over, but that doesn't feel too imaginative and make me think of so many regional museums that are always in need of extra money for...everything.
Last, a special events center kind of like the old opera house in Aberdeen. Not sure there's enough demand for that to be an option for private or public without major up-front investment that might never be returned.
If not good enough for you why would any other organization want to do the work that needs to be done?
If someone else, besides tax payers, want the building I say let them have it. Otherwise tear it down, sounds like it has been a money pit for decades.
If the courthouse and jail were moved to a different location, how else could the community use existing historic courthouse building? This is an open-ended response.
If the existing Courthouse was to be used for other purposes it would lose its historical value - because the inside of the building would be changed. For anything to be "historical" it has to remain as much the same, both inside and outside, as it was in its original state. Keep the present building and use it as "The Clay County Courthouse."
I'm afraid it would turn into another bunch of apartments and this beautiful building would end up being torn down. Not acceptable
I'm not sure.
I'm surprised that the leaders of this community are also not concerned with the sad state of the dilapidated elementary schools in Vermillion, especially with the presence of the University of South Dakota here. If you want to attract people to this community, you need to start with improving the elementary schools not with the courthouse.
Is it possible to build as new law enforcement center and jail while leaving the court system and administrative offices in the current courthouse?
Is there interest of a private agent to purchase and renovate the old building which could at least partially fund the new bldg?
It could be an office space for people in the community to rent. You could also make part of it in to an expansion of the WH Over museum where it's more local history in the location. Or even use it as

classrooms for the alternative school. There are a lot of uses for this building, but not for the staff in it's current format.
It could be made into a museum. Perhaps the Over Museum could move there and that building used for other purposes.
It could be used as a history center/museum, with different and changing displays. Perhaps the courtroom could be rented as a hall for some events. The grounds could be a community garden.
It could be used as a museum showing local history as well as South Dakota history and could be used as a memorial for local fallen soldiers in the various wars. In addition rooms could be set aside for events like weddings. Because of its historical significance you may even be able to get USD to assist in transitioning it in to a museum. I would say using it for military history would be a really great way to go with it also.
It could be used by USD for a variety of purposes - including expansion of the USD Knudson School of Law. The Law School needs additional mock courtroom space and additional clinical space. How could would it be for law students to practice and hold regional and national mock trial and appellate tournaments inside a real, historic courthouse building?
It could become a museum pertaining to Clay County and perhaps Vermillion.
It could easily be transformed Into a community market. Small, local vendors can be given the opportunity to rent spaces at very low, reasonable fees. A small stage/courtyard can be incorporate into the design.
It could possibly be a venue to rent for weddings and such. I'm thinking of the Old Courthouse Museum in Sioux Falls. They converted it into a museum and then rent the ballroom. The offices could maybe be rented for office space. But, I really think we need to keep the courtroom in the current courthouse. I don't object to building a jail and emergency center, but it will be a travesty if Vermillion loses this historic structure.
It could potentially be renovated into office space, apartments, and/or a hotel. Other options could include a retirement facility or school. One idea that could serve as a community gathering place and asset would be to turn it into an indoor garden with various rooms for educational opportunities and skills development (e.g. rooms for cooking, gardening, brewing, etc. classes).
It could still house all of the current offices, just not the courtroom, the jail, and law enforcement offices.
It is a county responsibility to make at least the delinquent repairs first. Following that, perhaps some kind of community center or event space
It should be torn down. Why pass on the inevitable renovation expense to another party? Old buildings are beautiful, but this one has served it's time.
It shouldn't move.
It will require significant remodel and repair to continue use as a public building. If sufficient funds were raised it could be a museum.
It would be an extremely poor decision to not retain the present courthouse - instead, begin the necessary repairs and create a schedule of maintenance so the condition wouldn't deteriorate as it has. This is site of history in Clay County.
It would be dumb to move it. It is centrally located now. Leave it where it is.
It would be wonderful to still use the courthouse. A museum would be a good fit, or a bed and breakfast.

It would fall into disrepair and be demolished. Bad idea!
Jail needs to be moved. Courthouse needs to stay.
Keep as is
Keep it where it is and build jail if necessary to another location
Keep other government services there (dmv, treasurer, etc).
Keep the civil based services there, perhaps. With the judicial and law enforcement pieces out, there would be ample room. Investment should be made to preserve the building.
Keep the courthouse and the offices and move the jail.
Keep the present court house. Many of questions are slanted.
Lease out to a business activity
Lease to someone for a local business. Renovate into a historic inn. Renovate to an event center to host meetings, university events, private/public events, weddings.
Leave courthouse where it is currently located.
Leave current offices in place. Replace windows and roof of current building. Remodel current court room and jail/ law enforcement center for additional offices for other State or county offices....there is the room for future expansion such as Drivers License office etc. Utilize current parking lot for courthouse and law enforcement center. Combine/expand current law enforcement. Use property across street to the north for parking lot needs. Expand parking lot by purchasing house on the corner of High and National and remove it. Potentially close the through street between courthouse and north property.
Leave it
Leave offices at court house and build new jail
let another business or organization have an option to use it.
Let the historical group run it and let them see all the issues. Great building in its days but no longer serving the county or the safety for the employees who work there in both buildings.
Lewis & Clark expedition museum &/ Or move WH over museum to that space. Renovate and turn in to a community event Space.
Look like building a new jail to the north across the street. Keep the historic old side look.
Maintain functions at current location, vacate street north of courthouse (National), purchase properties on north side of National Street and move/demolish existing structures, and construct new law and public safety center - attached to a renovated courthouse - on the north side of the existing structure.
Make it a center of the community for meetings, community celebration, holiday concerts, school programs, historic communities.....
Maybe the existing courthouse could be used as a museum and maybe the law enforcement center could be used for business start-ups or for community organizations.
maybe turn it into a public meeting place.
Meetings etc.

Move drivers licensing back in and host more of the state services that are spread out and paying rent in other buildings reducing the cost to all taxpayers. Talk to the city about thier future needs. Some rooms may need to sit unoccupied for a while.
Move the law enforcement facilities to another location. Renovate the current building for all other county needs. This survey appears to be skewed in favor of keeping the law enforcement facilities and the other county facilities together.
Move the WH over museum into it. Renovate it into apartments
Move the WH Over Museum into the courthouse to preserve the historic building. Allow certain county offices to remain that are not directly related to the jail, law enforcement and courthouse.
Museum
Museum
Museum
Museum
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Museum
Museum
Museum
Museum
Museum / events center for the city
Museum and art gallery ala Meade Building on HSC campus. House other non-public county services.
Museum and community activity spaces.
Museum and event cener
museum and offices for rent
Museum and/or visitor center
Museum for the courthouse, and bulldoze the law enforcement center.
Museum of some kind, arts center
Museum or event space (think of Old Courthouse Museum in Sioux Falls).
Museum Community center Wedding and event center
Museum, apartment building,
Museum, apartments
Museum, arts creation and/or gallery spaces, events space
Museum, work spaces
Museum. Performance space.
Museum. Business incubator space. Common space for small non profits and share collective resources.

Museum. Community meeting and event space. Additional office space for not for profit agencies donated space for community early learning center
Museum. Partner with USD History Dept. the Shrine of Music and W. H. Over. Start a new 501(c)3 for the Clay County Court History -- fill it full of Art Rusch books. Mental health triage (e.g., LSS, CPS, DPS, etc.). Community Food bank. Rent out a floor to private attorneys, doctors, etc. USD Law could take over 3rd floor for Trial Practice Mock Trial. Juvenile "Teen Court" could use the 3rd floor of the Courthouse. Have an office for Supreme Court Chief Justice Stevens and his clerk.
Museum...law offices
Museum; classrooms; housing; small businesses; art center; storage; daycare;
museum?? Art center? Perhaps utilized through USD?
My first choice would be to renovate the existing building for offices and move the jail to a new site.
My preference was not available above. I would like to renovate the existing courthouse - including the courtroom - and use the existing jail for courthouse storage and expansion. Then build a new jail at a different location - preferably close by (across the street?) for convenience.
na
No clue, perhaps as a small collection of boutiques
No Idea
No idea
No idea, unless indoor farmers market or something similar... Something school or district related?
No idea.
No thoughts currently. I'm sure someone has an awesome idea.
Non profit offices. Private business offices
Not financially viable for other than County use. It would end up being demolished, and our county would lose a wonderful and historic building. How about purchasing houses to the west or north for new jail? Then update current courthouse for use other than the jail?
Not sure
Not sure
not sure what options there are - maybe an events building
Not sure.
Not sure. After renovations should see if it worth anything on the open market
Not sure. It seems no matter what happens, as a historical building the court house should be properly maintained.
o not move to a different location. close Nat street fo expansion
Office space - Hotel - mixed commercial
Office space or apartments
Office space for other government departments. Community meeting space. Community volunteer organizations.

Office space,, etc. Income housing, domestic violence shelter, homeless shelter, animal shelter, etc.
Offices
Offices for various departments of the county
Offices, apartments, museum
One possible use would be as a community space for things such as organization meetings or art exhibit space for artists in the community. Another option would be for a shelter of some kind if the community is in need of that
Open a children's discovery museum or a pop culture museum and use the proceeds to pay for the new jail.
Open for rental office space?
Open it up for rental space for offices. Make the larger area a large meeting room available for rental, perhaps suitable as a dance and reception place for marriage receptions. Turn it into a place to handle multiple retail ventures, add a coffee shop and a bookstore and some benches etc in common areas so it could function a bit like an indoor mall where there are areas for people to gather and socialize between shopping. Could part of it be turned into a youth center? Many kids have no place to go in the winter and stay at the library to stay warm after school (pre covid) but they get rowdy and make it hard for those trying to use the library services. That might be better suited to the armory but there is a need for a warm place for kids to be active in the winter months. What I would have given for a YMCA or a McDonald's Playplace in Vermilion when my kids were smaller.
Open up the possibility of selling to investors or developers to convert the building into assisted living or retirement condos/apartments while maintaining the historic exterior profile of the building.
Option...use the parking area of courthouse for expansion. Employees/citizens use parking lot across on the south side, as well as current street parking. Buy half of the block to the south for parking expansion/ additional buildings. Close National St for that one block area for entrance into and out of Judicial Center.
Other county office could be in the facility. I think it could be used for a one stop for community offices, non profits. There are a lot of options for those who need office space.
Other county or city functions, county museum, rent out as business offices, business incubator or temporary housing for business startups, office space for local community organizations (e.g. Vermillion theater, United Way, Veterans, etc.)
Other government offices. Social services, etc
Perhaps renovate the structure to allow for some of the current functions to be maintained and adequately supported. such as Welfare Office, County Nurse and attendant programs, Veterans Service, Emergency Management and perhaps Probation and Court Services. Could also be utilized, in conjunction with above, to house and expand Historical Society efforts and programs
Perhaps for nonprofit orgs.
Perhaps rooms/office spaces could be rented out to USD if they were running short on classroom lecture space.
Perhaps USD would buy or long term lease the existing building. Whatever the solution is it will be important to attract businesses that pay taxes. Vermillion has vacant businesses all along Cherry Street. Home owners can only incur so much property tax. We should be planning a "what if"

scenario. What if USD relocated or slowly relocated to more progressive locations in South Dakota such as Sioux Falls or Yankton.
Please leave court house where it is
Possible museum, possible office space.
Possibly become a service center or offices
Professional office building? A business incubator building? A party venue? Govt offices?
Really don't care. Taxpayer money should be spent providing services to the County. Taxpayer money should not be used as an open-ended slush fund for pet passion projects. If an outside group has the money to preserve the existing historic courthouse building, good for them. If not, plow it over.
Renovate and move William H. Over Museum there.
Renovate courthouse build jail across street (west) of original
Rent it out to small businesses
Rental areas for businesses, stores, and group activities; Arts Center; Historical center; Meeting center for cultural and community activities; city and county offices and storage
Retail office space, Historic Clay County/Vermillion History museum, community center, community arts center,
See if someone would purchase it for other use. If not, then demolish it.
Sell it or tear it down.
It is not a functional building in 2021.
Sell it to a private contractor to maybe turn it into a professional building renting out office space By no means sell/give it to the university as Vermillion is known for doing. Let's get it on the tax rolls & get some tax revenue off of it.
Sell it?
sell the building to the private sector
Sell to highest bidder to use as they see fit and offset costs of a new facility. Possible use as a consolidated community center of some sort.
Sell to USD, administrative offices with lots of room to grow, rent office spaces to community members or students who may not return to physical workplaces following pandemic but wish to have a workspace or study space out of the home, event space
similar to Sioux Falls "old Courthouse museum" and charge a fee for visitors or tours....use for community service
Since there is no other place to comment I will use this space. If the current building is abandoned it will become a blight in the community. The courthouse should remain downtown in the central business district. We have enough empty buildings downtown as it is and the downtown courthouse location benefits the downtown businesses. More than spending thousands on a BID ever will and more than spending a quarter million for a driveway at Runnings. Take a road trip to Elk Point and see what an addition to the existing building looks like. Close off National St and use the lot on the north side for parking.

<p>small claims court divorce court marriages driver license on premise auditor property taxes automobile licensing hunting, etc</p>
<p>Something for cultural arts, replacing the Washington Street Arts building.</p>
<p>Stay in current location</p>
<p>Storage or educational tours.</p>
<p>Tear it down</p>
<p>Tear it down. Its time has ended.</p>
<p>Tear it down. The current courthouse is neat but that's about it. Just because it's old does not mean it's significant (i.e even worth saving)</p>
<p>That is precisely the problem with moving out of the courthouse. It probably can't be used for anything else that would need all that space and justify the expense of maintaining the building. I would prefer a fourth option of keeping the courthouse updated and building a separate public safety/jail building on the edge of town.</p>
<p>That's a big building to find another use for and someone to lease, rent, buy it. I don't think you will find them!</p>
<p>The "experts" need to advise people how to pay bills on a fixed income. Taxes keep going up and SS does not pay for the increase in Medicare. I would like to live in a new house, but guess what, I can not just raise taxes to do that. This is not hard to understand.</p>
<p>The clay county courthouse is a landmark in vermilion. I can not imagine downtown vermilion without it. The court room and the entire third floor have a beauty to them that you just dont see anymore. The people who designed the courthouse, were true artists and craftsmen. I cant understand the mentality or notion to tear this beautiful landmark down. Have you not seen the picture of them setting the cornerstone for this building? Everyone in the county showed up! This was an important addition to our county and our town. It was built to last! When we dont appreciate or take care of what we have , we end up with junk. The buildings and homes that were built a century or more ago Need our love and caretaking. Given that love and care, they will last into the next century. The homes and buildings that are being built now will be lucky to be here in 50 years. There is just not the same work being done. Our forefathers didnt expect the courthouse to be torn down. No, they expected it to outlive all of us, and our children and grandchildren and great grandchildren. Please, dont take this building down. It may be old but so was the Cathedral at Notre dame. We need to preserve our history. Sincerely Dale and Lisa Johnson</p>
<p>The community could use it as a place to hold more meetings and places to discuss different events, or maybe community members could use it to hold there own gatherings for events birthdays/reunions/or other family gathering they would have but charge an affordable donation fee (to pay for expence of electricity, water, sewer,garbage of the building) to use it and require cleanup afterwards, i have seen communities use large buildings this way and it has turned out very well, also then the historical mark would not be sitting abandoned or be torn down</p>
<p>The community could use the existing building as an art center, community center, office space, or it could be turned into condos or apartments.</p>

<p>The courthouse must be preserved. I hope demolition is not considered. Could it possibly be a visitor center, a community center, a historic preservation museum, a teen center, small theatre, housing for other offices, place for classes?</p> <p>To not have this building would be to drastically change the perspective of the downtown. Historians would look back and cite its demolition as one of the more short-sighted decisions of a community.</p>
<p>The courthouse should remain as our courthouse and we should not consider moving to a different location. Once we build the adjacent new jail and justice center, we can rehabilitate the present jail and utilize that for courthouse expansion.</p>
<p>The courthouse should remain in the same location, but the jail could be moved for expansion of the courthouse.</p>
<p>The courthouse's historical significance makes it important to keep where it is. It should not be moved. I would prefer to see the building renovated, and either expanded, or renovated in such a way that allows for expansion. The jail can either stay or move.</p>
<p>The current courthouse could be used as additional city or county offices. Perhaps the USD Law School could use it for classes or mock trials. The building could also be turned into a museum.</p>
<p>The existing courthouse is expensive to maintain and getting worse. Counterproductive to hold on to it except to use for other county offices (assuming jail and courts will get new facilities).</p>
<p>The facility could still house some county, state and city functions. With the remainder being used as a museum/information center.</p>
<p>The Law School could move from its current inadequate building. For an example of a law school in a former government building, see Memphis School of Law.</p>
<p>The one entity that has the funds to make use of the existing courthouse is the state of South Dakota. There are state offices in a variety of locations in Clay County that could be relocated to the courthouse. The state could also lease space to other entities including the federal government and/or USD.</p>
<p>The options above don't fully capture my opinions. I would suggest to maintain/renovate current courthouse to continue to house all functions except the jail. The jail could be moved to a separate location within the community. (not automatically assumed inmates would be sent to other communities)</p>
<p>The restoration of the old courthouse is very important to me DO NOT DESTROY IT LIKE YANKTON DID. WHAT A SHAME!!</p>
<p>The space could be used for offices or a museum.</p>
<p>There is ample room around the courthouse for expansion that allows keeping the original courthouse. Consider a two-story structure for the jail, either new or an addition so the footprint is either kept or expanded very little.</p>
<p>There is no likelihood of finding an alternative use for the courthouse.</p>
<p>There is no other use for a building like that. Renovate it and continue to use it as the court house.</p>
<p>There is no viable other use. If the courthouse is moved to another location this building will sit empty and ultimately be demolished.</p>
<p>There is very little chance that you can "sell" a place that needs major renovation. Other communities have turned old schools into apartments or condos, but Vermillion is awash in new apartment buildings which attract students (whose numbers WILL drop in 2025 according to the demographics used by the state). It could be renovated for seniors, but there is a lack of interest in</p>

that. We need to keep the courthouse where it is. We have destroyed enough historical buildings in this town.
There may not be a use for it. Between funding and its inherent limitations, there may come a point in the future where it is no longer viable to keep the old building standing. All the wishful thinking in the world can't erase 100+ years of neglect.
Think court house should continue and justice Ctr built on land already near by
This historic building could be renovated into a new children's science museum, such as what occurred in Brookings with their now well-known and visited children's museum - Children's Museum of South Dakota. This would be a good opportunity to partner with the University of South Dakota and Sanford Health.
This is a leading question and survey itself was very slanted. IF - big IF- the courthouse is no longer a county building, the county should still be responsible for the preservation of the historic building and also the repairs the Clay County Commissioners should have already authorized.
This is hard. There aren't a lot of scenarios that I have seen thriving. It could be rented to other small offices but without other re-habilitation of the building, that may not be appealing.
This survey seems to assume that if the courthouse moved out of the existing building, that it would somehow magically no longer have any maintenance cost on the building. But the fact is, as long as it stays publicly owned, the public will be paying to maintain it, PLUS the new building(s) you create. The only way you save any money is by finding a private buyer for the building, which seems unlikely given how much a building like that would bring, and all the strings that might be attached to owning it. Perhaps the university would be interested in owning it?
This topic is difficult to address without knowledge of constraints. Is it possible for some of the offices/services to be maintained there, but relocate others? Are there things that have to be housed in a building called the courthouse? What things need to be housed in same building for practical reasons? Do all "courthouse functions" need to be housed in same building?
This would depend what state the building is in. If the facility is up to date and there are funds available to renovate it, the possibility that another entity could use it is enhanced. If it is left in bad shape because maintenance is deferred, this will make use of another entity more problematic. This especially the case for non-profits to use the building. If a contractor has the funds to renovate the building into apartments (for example) and still can keep the historical aspects of the building, then that is a possibility. Since I have no information about the status of the building, I feel answering the question very difficult.
To house non-profits, as a museum, as a children's museum
Tourism enhancing use such as museum featuring Lewis & Clark, Native American art museum/center, USD related satellite center (GRB, Farber center of Government Excellence). Regional Native cultural center (due to our unique location to pre-European cultures), Early settlement of Siouxland museum. These ought to complement existing museums that presently enhance Vermillion/Clay County. Starter location for new entrepreneurs facilitated by coffee shop (Bean?), small art gallery, other naturally aggregated businesses/activity centers. Very successful examples of this elsewhere.
Tourism shop, mini market for antiques and flea markets
Turn entire existing courthouse into a large jail and justice center. Consider using the same courtroom. Somewhat refurbish all of it, how nice does it have to be to be a jail. Get paid to house other communities inmates here if there's decent money in it. Build new offices and maybe courtroom across the street to the north in that parking lot and maybe annex that house across the alley to the east.

Turn into historic apartments similar to Brookings?
Turn into museum with areas for meetings and activity rooms for kids to get them interested in the government, history and art.
University of South Dakota Law School.
Unknown
Unsure
Use it as a center of education about the history of law enforcement and corrections of Clay County Sheriff's Office, City of Vermillion Police Department, University of South Dakota Police Department, South Dakota Highway Patrol and South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. Also education on how the State's Attorney functions as well as it's history.
Use it as a county museum. Use it a community meeting space. Sell to a developer to renovate into apartments or business suites.
Use it for the administrative purposes such as auditor, treasure, zoning, ect.
Use it to house a museum. Sell it on the open market Raze to reduce the county's expense of maintaining
Use the space vacated for current staff with the city.
Veterans services, county health services, state extension offices, other state entities
We absolutely cannot maintain both places. If we build a new building, the old one needs to go away. If a group wants to maintain it, they can pay for it themselves.
We don't need a new house. The county has not grown in population. So why spend the money??
We should look to what Sioux Falls did with the Washington Pavillion. They turned that historic building into a beautiful multi-use facility.
WH Over Museum, office space for other state services, event center
What is wrong with the current building? This is shocking to hear that the town wants to waste money on this great building. Fix the elevator issue. This is easier than paying for a brand new building.
What public/private partnership would enhance Vermillion? I could see an opportunity for USD to use the courthouse facilities for an off-campus learning environment such as fine dining for a restaurant major, or museum, art gallery and performance opportunities for fine arts.
Why don't we have the option to renovate the current courthouse and build a new jail and law enforcement center at a different location? This is my preferred option.
Why move them we would have double the expense
With the amount of money it will take to bring the courthouse up to code I don't see how it can efficiently be used.
Would it be possible to maintain the current courthouse but build a new jail /law enforcement center on land across street or in general vicinity? This would be my choice.
You cannot stop using the courthouse. It is too historic. It's unclear why the courthouse would need to expand in the next 30 years. That hasn't been made clear. Just renovate the current building.
Your choices above are worded to get a specific response. Bias toward new location. Why?
Your options above do not allow for the option I would support. Renovation of the existing courthouse and building a new jail and law enforcement center at the current location AND expanding the building to the west or north to accommodate a new jail and law enforcement center

and room for expansion in the future. Close the street to the north or west to provide for this and future expansion. As to other uses for the building, no matter how it is used it will have to be at least repaired; renovation would definitely be preferable. If the building were to be sold, the county would not have any control over how it might be used.

Youth building: a place where kids, middle school and older, could hang-out. Keeps them from vandalizing our public places. It's safe, and entertaining. Help with homework, have games, computers available. If younger kids, maybe an after school program, with daycare. This town lacks stuff to do for our young adults. That's why people leave town, or get into trouble with the law, they're bored. Even, if we charge a fee, or have something for low income families, so it doesn't cost as much, or nothing at all.

Or, just tear it down. What it cost to keep it going, it's ridiculous.