

2 BILLION REASONS

FULTON COUNTY

DOESN'T NEED

A NEW JAIL

ACLU

Georgia

www.acluga.org

@acluga f X @

Half of Fulton County voters believe Fulton County Jail is poorly managed, dangerous, and overcrowded.

In February of this year, we polled 800 Fulton County registered voters to understand their knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs about Fulton County Jail and support for policies to reduce overcrowding.

ABOUT THE POLL

The African American Research Collaborative (AARC) conducted a blended phone and online poll of Fulton County voters between January 31 and February 14, 2024. The poll was weighted to reflect the race, age, gender, and education of the population of Fulton County according to Census data. The margin of error for the full sample is +/-3.5%.

Through this poll, we learned the majority of voters agree with our assessment that the criminal justice system in Fulton County is broken.

Too many people are held in jail for too long without bail, without the ability to afford bail, or without treatment for mental health issues, creating a perfect storm for dangerous—and often deadly—conditions.

Furthermore, voters across races and political leanings who have formed opinions about Fulton County Jail widely perceive it as a problem. In addition, **we found voters most strongly agree with solutions the ACLU of Georgia champions**—solutions that center more support for people with mental disabilities, people suffering from substance use disorder, and people experiencing homelessness.

POLL FINDINGS:



3 OUT OF **4**

Fulton County voters **believe people with mental health and substance abuse issues should receive treatment instead of being sent to jail**, which would help reduce overcrowding and safety issues.

MORE THAN HALF



of Fulton County voters believe Fulton County Jail is overcrowded because too many people cannot afford to pay their bail and **support efforts to reduce or eliminate excessive bail.**

2 OUT OF **3**

FULTON COUNTY VOTERS

believe Fulton County **should renovate the existing facility instead of spending nearly \$2 billion on a new jail** and support using the savings to invest in alternatives to incarceration.

NEARLY 3 OUT OF 4



Fulton County voters **believe too many people are being held in jail for minor crimes that people experiencing homelessness are often charged with**, such as trespassing, loitering, and panhandling. These voters support strategies like supportive housing that help these people get the services they need.

More findings from the poll:

- **More than half of voters believe we should fix the management of the existing jail** instead of building a new facility to address overcrowding and safety concerns.
- **Voters most strongly agree with solutions that center more support** for people dealing with mental health issues, substance use disorder, and homelessness, including using ticketing instead of incarceration for petty crimes.
- **Fulton County voters are most troubled by how the problems at Fulton County Jail impact people with mental health needs**—even more so than guards and staff.