

## The future of the Berks County Jail.

We are relatively early in the investigative process. The current jail is composed of a 1933 section and a 1993 addition. Based on a recent report from LR Kimball the cost to build new or renovate the old jail is enormous. The numbers are between \$142 and \$158 million. [Here is a link to the PPT report from LR Kimball.](#) Neither of the cost options are acceptable to the commissioners or the taxpayers. The jail's annual budget is \$36 million and the construction like the cost of jail operations is borne entirely by local property taxpayers.

We are facing a major decision regarding the future of the jail. It will likely be the most expensive capital project in the history of the county. My decision must be thoughtful and diligent. Here are some important points that I have and will continue to make until I reach a decision.

1. All options are and must be on the table. I will not take any option off the table until the issue is fully vetted. Anything to reject any option without fully vetting is completely irresponsible.
2. I have three critical parties I must answer to when considering the solution/s to the jail dilemma; the taxpayers, the jail staff and the inmates. All three are important.
3. I'm not going to take anyone's word on anything. Every issue has multiple sides and viewpoints. It's my job to look at and consider all of them. That includes considering your concerns as well.
4. The only option I will not consider is doing nothing.

I have and likely will continue to receive varying input and viewpoints and plan to take all into consideration.

I'm focused on proactively obtaining the verifiable facts needed to make the best decision possible.

Thank you again for your input regarding this critical decision.

Please be patient. We are early in the first quarter of a critical four quarter process.