

Jail Planning and the Criminal Justice System in Belknap County:

Sentencing and Community Corrections

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Why should we support the current proposal?

Goals of the Criminal Justice System—

1. Reduce Crime,
2. Prevent Crime,
3. Increase Public Safety

Most Common Types of Crime in Belknap County: Drug-Related Crimes; Property-Related Crimes; Assault-Type Cases

How to Handle Criminal Defendants; Sentencing Goals—

1. Deterrence
2. Rehabilitation
3. Punishment

N.H. Constitution Article 18

“All penalties ought to be proportioned to the nature of the offense. ... The true design of all punishments being to reform, not to exterminate mankind.”

Sentencing Philosophies Have Changed over Time; But We Must Consider the Following:

1. Fairness
2. Justice
3. Cost/Benefit Analysis

Evidence Based Research—Studies of Various Sentencing Models—Conclusions:

1. Punishment, alone, is not enough
2. Deterrence, alone, is not enough
3. Rehabilitation
 - a. We can change some Defendant’s criminal thinking and behavior
 - b. We can provide effective treatment to some offenders
 - c. We can do this in a cost-effective manner

Belknap County is a unique community and we should be leaders in this State in effective Criminal Justice. Approving this proposal achieves our mutual goals and saves taxpayer dollars in the long-run.