



DAVISON COUNTY POTENTIAL PRISON

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PRISON RESET

- February 24, 2025
 - HB 1025 failed on a 35-35 vote, with voting error.
- February 27, 2025, Governor Rhoden announced Prison Reset.
 - Members:
 - 8 House members-Speaker Hansen, Majority Leader Odenbach, Speaker Pro Tempore Lems, Tim Reisch, Greg Jamison, Brian Mulder, Jack Kolbeck, and Erin Healy;
 - 7 Senators-President Pro Tempore Karr, Majority Leader Mehlhaff, Ernie Otten, Mark Lapka, Steve Kolbeck, Joy Hohn, and Jamie Smith; and
 - Outside individuals will include Lt. Governor Venhuizen, who will chair the group; a judge; a behavioral health specialist; a Chief of Police; a Sheriff; a State's Attorney; and Attorney General Jackley.
 - Tasked with:
 - Need for a new prison?
 - Size of a new prison?
 - Location of a new prison? SF is not supportive.
- Workgroup Meeting #1-April 2-3, 2025, at SD Military Heritage Alliance.
 - Approved a \$729,000 consultant contract to update the \$323,000 original study.
 - Tour of SDSP, proposed Lincoln County site, overview of services & programs, public comment.
- Workgroup Meeting #2-April 29, 2025, at MDSP.
 - Tour, MH/SA, site proposals.
- Workgroup Meeting #3-June 3, 2025, in Pierre.
 - Tour of SDWP, narrow site proposals.
- Workgroup Meeting #4-July 8, 2025, TBD.
- July 22, 2025, Special Session for possible vote is now TBD.

SIOUX FALLS PRISON DETAILS

- The "Hill" (to be replaced) with 1,512 bed prison
 - Level IV High Custody Unit
 - Built in 1881, eight years prior to SD becoming a state.
- Jameson (will remain as is)
 - Level V Maximum Custody Unit
 - Built in 1993
 - Includes the Admissions and Orientation Unit
- Unit C (will remain as is)
 - Level II, Minimum Custody Unit
 - Built in 1993

PRISON-MITCHELL LOCATION



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- Location
 - I-90/HWY 37-Pennington County Shuttle travels I-90 twice weekly
- Community Acceptance
 - Proposed site is next to the landfill and sewage lagoons. Not suitable for housing, will be sold at some point. Alternative could be way worse than a prison.
- Zoning
 - Zoned Agriculture
 - State of SD does not need to follow local Zoning Regulations.
 - Jennifer Mammenga, Circuit Judge in Lincoln County, agreed with the State.
 - Lincoln County prison opponents appealed decision to the SD Supreme Court. Oral arguments heard at BHSU in late March, no opinion issued yet.
- Utilities
 - Gas, electrical service, water, sewage, roads. No game stoppers. Spruce St. and 411th would be rebuilt, assuming that is the primary route.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

- The annual financial impact is \$55.4 M
 - Estimated annual payroll is \$36.7 Million
 - Estimated annual operating cost is \$18.7 Million
 - \$600 Million has been placed in the Incarceration Construction Fund, which would still require a legislative vote to appropriate the funds.
- Sales Tax Implications for the City of Mitchell prior to and after the Soybean Plant started:

Sales Tax Implications	
1st/2nd Penny 10 Year Average Increase Prior to Soybean Plant	2.45%
1st/2nd Penny Since Soybean Plant	7.64%
3rd Penny Ten Year Average Increase Prior to Soybean Plant	3.68%
3rd Penny Since Soybean Plant	9.46%

- The prison will be twice the construction cost and six times the employees.
- Municipal Sales Tax collections would see a significant increase in the four years of construction, as well as the future years by adding the additional families to the community.

1-Crime in the Community

- Prisons bring crime to your community.
 - We currently have prisons in SF, Springfield, Yankton, Pierre, and RC, (previously Plankinton & Custer).
 - I have never felt crime was higher in these areas due to having a prison.
 - Crime is normally higher in areas where the population is higher.
 - Has anyone ever said, "Yankton is a terrible place to live because they have a Federal Prison, State Prison, and a County Jail"?

1-Crime in the Community-Cont.

- Prisons bring crime to your community.
 - 43 years ago, we had two prisons and one juvenile facility in SD, the hill (1881), the Yankton Minimum Unit (1970's), and STS (1887). Since then, SD has expanded or constructed a new prison or juvenile program 10 times. None have had a negative effect on the community.
 - 1982 Minimum Custody Unit opened in Rapid City.
 - 1984 USD Springfield was converted to Springfield Prison.
 - 1988 Federal Prison opened in Yankton.
 - 1993 Jameson Annex opened in Sioux Falls.
 - 1993 Unit C Minimum Unit opened in Sioux Falls.
 - 1995 Juvenile Prison opened in Plankinton.
 - 1996 State Developmental Center in Custer converted to juvenile program.
 - 1997 Women's Prison opened in Pierre.
 - 2004 Major expansion of the prison in Springfield.
 - Currently a new Women's Prison is being built in Rapid City.

2-Parole to the Community

- Inmates parole into a community where a prison is.
 - Parolees normally return to their home community, or to a halfway house, which we already have and already accept parolees to.
 - Parolees are required to have a suitable release plan.
 - Many hours are put into a release plan so the parolee has the best chance of survival at making a better life for themselves and their families.
 - A release plan includes housing, employment/education, family involvement, and social influences. The new prison will have a Technical Education Program provided by a SD Technical School.
 - Evidence Based Programs are used to determine static vs. dynamic factors and reduce recidivism. (Dr. Ed Latessa, University of Cincinnati, Previous SD DOC Consultant)
 - Static factors can't change. Example: They are a convicted Felon, that will never change.
 - Dynamic factors can change an inmate/parolee. For example, they can get a High School Diploma, get a job, move to a better residence, associate with positive family and friends. A lot of good things happen inside a prison also.

3-Dangerous Inmates Escape

- Dangerous Inmates escape into your community.
 - The consultant, and subsequently some neighbors, mentioned a prison should not be near a major highway, river, or railroad due to escape routes.
 - SD has not had a successful prison escape in the last 33 years, since Richard McNair escaped in 1992. Trustees have walked away, which are non-violent offenders who do not return from work release. The new prison is not planned to have work release, so this should not be a concern. Since no prisoner would ever be outside the prison secure perimeter, there is no need for signs on the road that say, "Don't pick up hitchhikers".

4-Dangerous Inmates Parole

- Dangerous Inmates Parole out of Prisons:
 - Whether we like it or not, most inmates will be paroled and move into our communities across the state. We can't restrict that other than the residence locations for certain offenders (schools, parks, etc.)
 - 88% of SD male inmates are incarcerated for less than 3 years. Page 33, Figure 2.39: [DOC Annual Report](#)
 - 62% are incarcerated 1 year or less
 - 20% are incarcerated 1-2 years.
 - 6% are incarcerated for 2-3 years.
 - 47% of SD Male inmates are convicted of non-violent crimes.

5-Famlies Move

- Families of Inmates move to the community their family member is incarcerated in.
 - Families do not move to where the prison is. Sadly, families do not visit their incarcerated family member very often.
 - Inmates are moved from one prison to another to accommodate DOC housing needs. Therefore, an inmate's family is not going to move to Sioux Falls to be closer to them while they are in the intake unit, then to Springfield where they are assigned, then move to Yankton when their family member is moved to the Yankton Trustee Unit.

6-Visitors

- Visitors of inmates bring crime to your community:
 - Visitors must pass a background check to visit.
 - For security reasons, felons or former inmates aren't allowed to come back and visit.
 - Visitors do not drive to the prison on a Sunday afternoon to see Dad, then rob a gas station on the way home.

7-Correctional Staff Pay

- Correctional Officers are not high paying jobs.
 - The starting Correctional Officer Hourly wage is \$25-\$30 per hour, which is \$51,000-\$61,200. For Mitchell, these are considered high paying jobs.
 - Correctional Staff have received a 41% increase in wages in the last few years. They have great benefits, on the job training, and Class B Retirement (8%/age 45).
 - The average annual salary in Mitchell SD in 2023 was \$49,007.
(<https://www.city-data.com/income/income-Mitchell-South-Dakota.html>)
 - The average annual salary for an "average job" in Mitchell SD in 2023 was \$39,000.
 - The median household income for Mitchell SD in 2023 was \$55,898. Over 52% of the households in Mitchell make less than this.
 - The median household income for the entire state of SD in 2023 was \$71,810.



8-Local Government Costs

- Mitchell and Davison County will have to spend millions.
 - The ongoing costs to local government will be the same costs we have today, maintaining the roadways already in place.
 - Springfield has a 1,200-bed prison, which does not cost the City of Springfield or Bon Homme County.

9-Housing

- Housing-Mitchell has several housing projects ready to build new houses on. It will take 3-4 years to build the prison, which is plenty of time to have the housing in place. If the prison can add 300 new employees, this will increase the housing tax base. (Assuming the other 141 will be existing residents who take a position at the prison.)
 - A \$300,000 Owner Occupied home in the City of Mitchell is taxed at $\$14.4436/\$1,000 = \$4,333$ per year.
 - There are currently 27 homes on the market under \$400,000. Assuming this same amount is available when the prison would open in 4 years, and assuming each would be sold to a new employee, that leaves a maximum of 263 new homes to be built in the area (some will choose a rental). 263 homes at \$4,333 per year in property taxes = \$1,139,579 in additional annual property tax for Davison County (or surrounding).

10-Employees

- Lack of Employees:
 - It will take 3-4 years to open the prison, which will have 441 FTE. There are currently 201 staff on the hill. Some current Correctional Officers and other support staff may move to Mitchell for the opportunity, purchasing or building a new home. They will also bring a family, with more children in our schools.
 - The prison may have high turnover, as many businesses do. When a local manufacturing business has high turnover is there community concern?

11-Property Taxes

- Property Taxes:
 - The proposed property has an annual property tax of \$2,910.48. This will be replaced by an annual financial impact of \$55.4 M.
 - Some residents have asked if their property taxes will increase. The local government in other communities with a prison do not provide additional services to support the prison. Davison County and the City of Mitchell do not intend to either, so taxes should not be affected.
 - Adding additional growth to the tax base will even out the tax burden and lower the property tax levy on existing homes, businesses, and ag land.
 - There are a handful of homes that are fairly close to the proposed site. There is no way to tell for sure, but neighboring houses may be attractive to employees working at the facility.

12-Medical

- Lack of Medical support:
 - We have a hospital who has written a letter of support and three clinics in Mitchell. However, these are rarely needed as the prison operates its own medical clinic.

13-Counseling

- Counseling support:
 - The prison operates its own Mental Health and Substance Abuse Programs. However, Dakota Counseling and Stepping Stones is interested in discussing a contract with DOC to provide these services to generate additional income for the facility.

14-Public Involvement

- The public should have had more involvement:
 - Projects are routinely submitted to the Development Corporation, Dakota Heartland Development, Davison County, and the City of Mitchell. We receive an inquiry on a potential business, fill out the information, and submit it. We do not complete a Facebook poll or discuss these potential investments with the community. Most are bound by confidentiality.
 - We have discussed Large Scale Animal Feeding Operations, Manufacturing, a Dairy, a Slaughterhouse, and even a Nuclear Power Plant. Very few make it to the final stage, such as the Soybean Plant.

15-Local Court Costs

- Davison County will be responsible for inmate court costs:
 - For new crimes committed while incarcerated the state pays for the prosecution through the AG and defense costs are reimbursed by DOC.

