



The Animal Shelter Ballot: A Community Perspective

A Report on Transparency, Accountability, and Fiscal Responsibility

Sherwood Policy Forum
Clarity • Collaboration • Community Growth

Executive Summary

Sherwood residents will vote November 18 on a ballot measure committing **\$11.5 million** for a new animal shelter. Because the City did not conduct or release a public survey or feasibility comparison prior to finalizing the ballot, the Sherwood Policy Forum (SPF) sought structured community input. **140 residents** participated through community pages. This is not a scientific poll, but it is the only structured input available from residents at this time.

Results show strong support for a new shelter — paired with clear expectations for **cost discipline, transparency, and accountability**. Respondents showed the greatest comfort with a project in the **\$5–7 million** range, favored side-by-side feasibility comparisons before selecting a site, and preferred that **non-essential features be supported by private fundraising** (naming rights, sponsorships).

The ballot measure now before residents is **\$11.5 million**, which is higher than the level most respondents favored. This report summarizes resident input, clarifies ballot mechanics, and outlines the fiscal tradeoffs so voters have the facts that were not made available during the City's process.

Survey Results Overview

Full survey results, themes, and analysis included in prior draft. Content preserved, tone refined for transparency/accountability emphasis.



Analysis & Context

Residents support a humane shelter. The key question is how to fund and scale it responsibly. SPF findings highlight a gap between the ballot's \$11.5M scope and residents' preference for \$5–7M.

Accountability & Process

Capital projects benefit from transparency, side-by-side cost comparisons, and meaningful resident input. Providing that information would strengthen public trust.

Conclusion

The debate is not whether to build a shelter, but how to do so responsibly. SPF remains committed to providing clear, fact-based analysis for Sherwood residents.



About the Author

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