

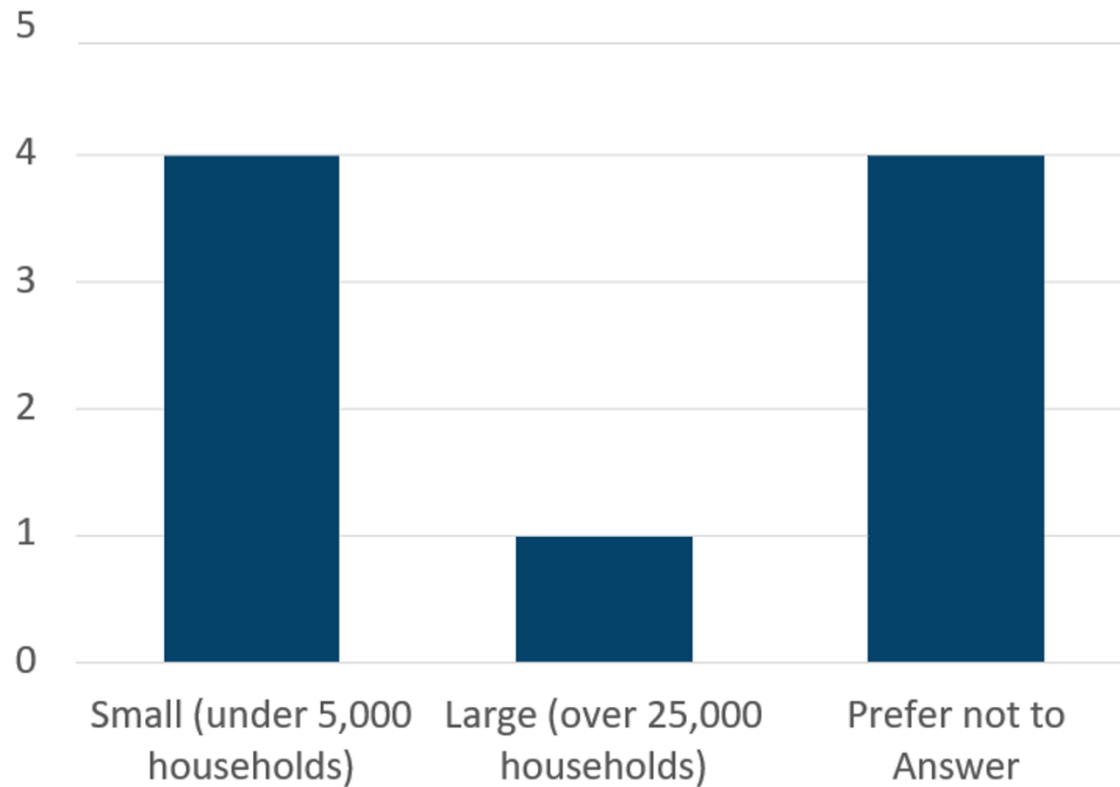


# TRASH COLLECTORS FORUM

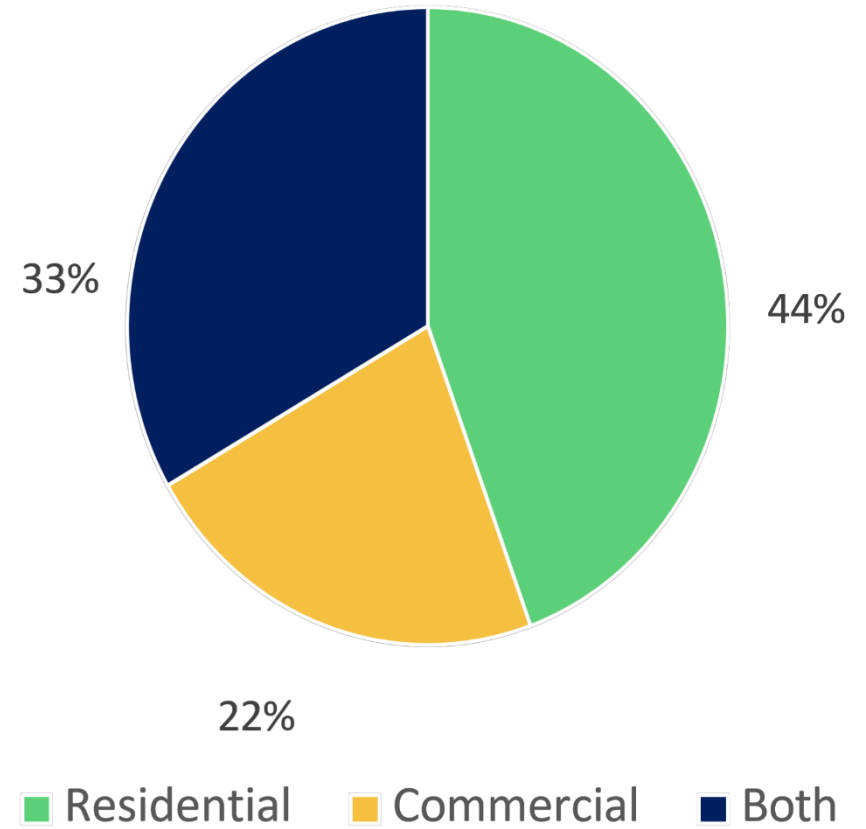


# Survey Participation

### Residential Customers



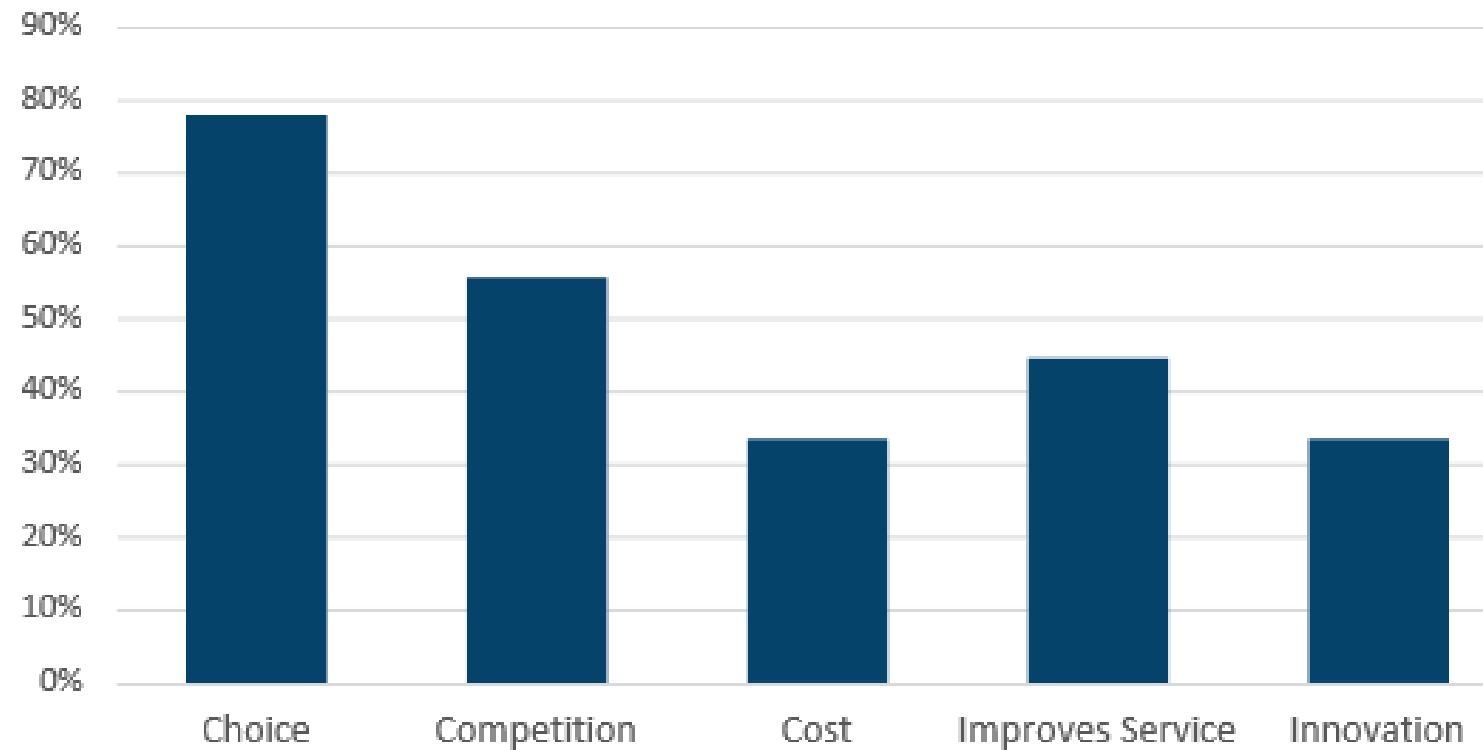
### Collection Type



# Survey Responses- Question 1

- "Customer choice. Promotes excellent customer service. "
- "The competitive environment drives continuous innovation, with companies introducing new technologies and service improvements annually to earn customer loyalty."

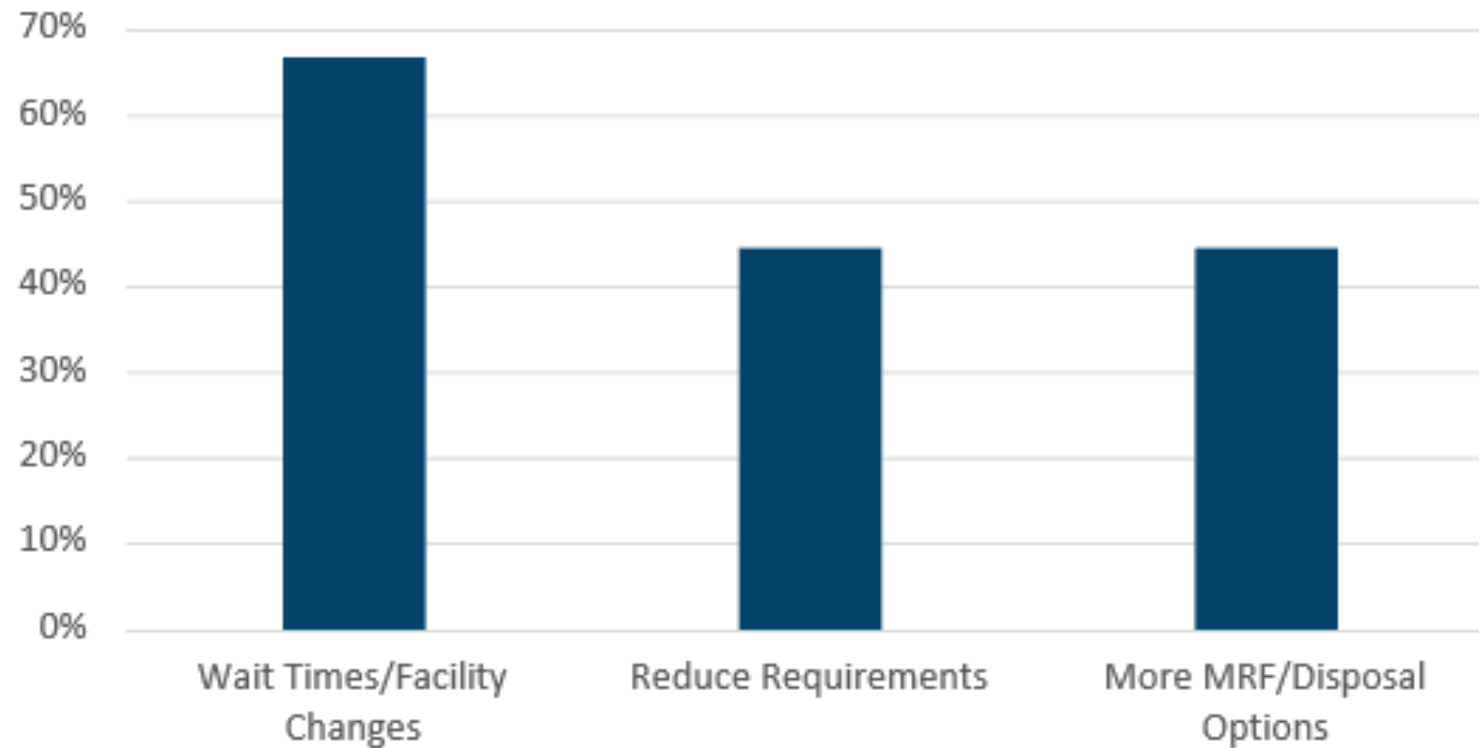
Question 1: What do you think works well with our current residential system?



# Survey Responses- Question 2

- “Add Disposal Options throughout the County for Solid Waste, Recycle and Yard Waste Processing to cut down on time delays at current sites.”
- “Update the yard waste system—maybe reduce services to encourage better practices.”

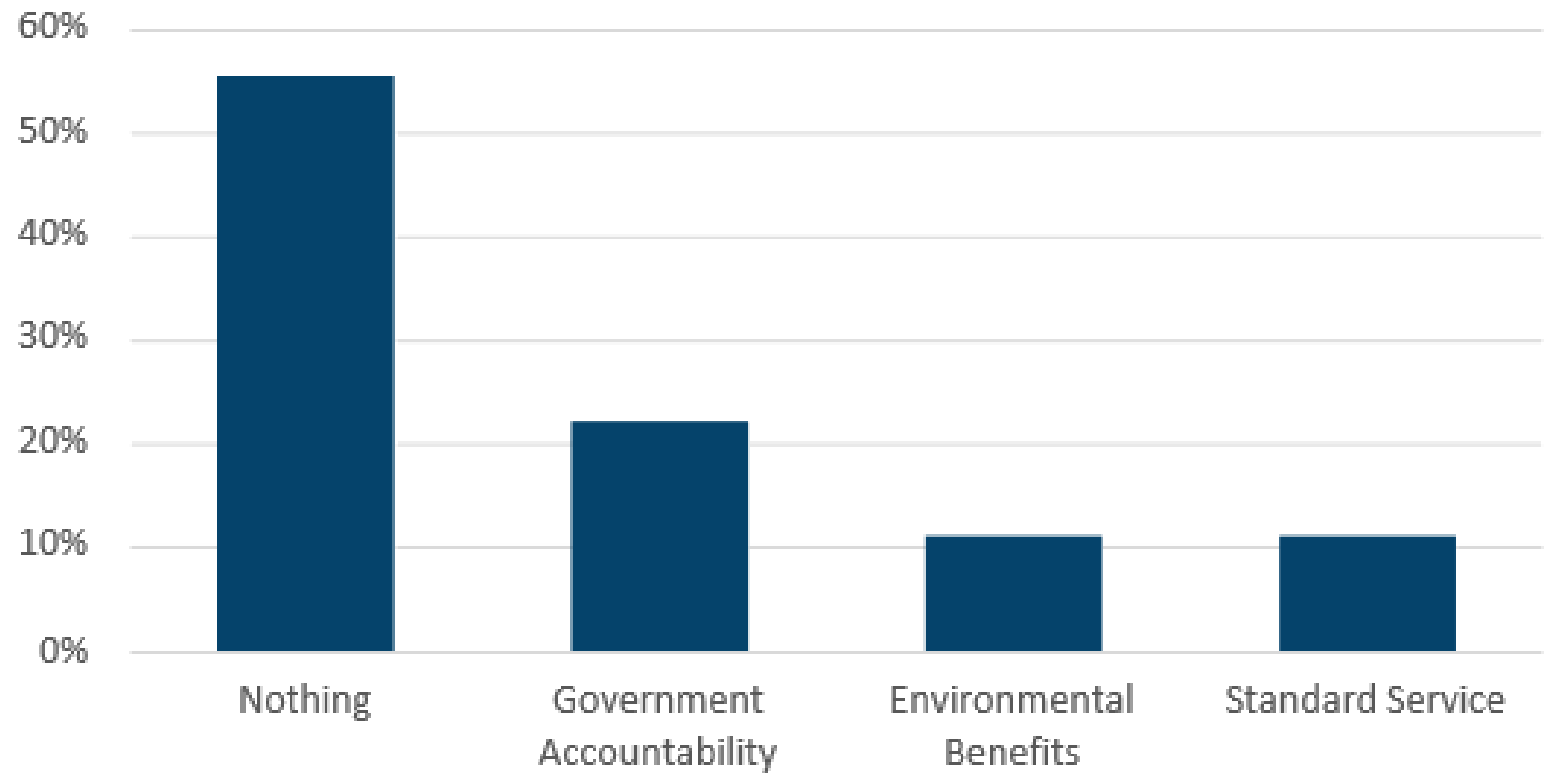
Question 2: What do you think could be improved with the current waste collection system?



# Survey Responses- Question 3

- "It would hold the county more accountable for facility issues."
- "The proposal's emphasis on environmental goals aligns with industry priorities."
- "The question isn't whether these theoretical benefits exist, it's whether government management can deliver them more effectively than the competitive market already does."

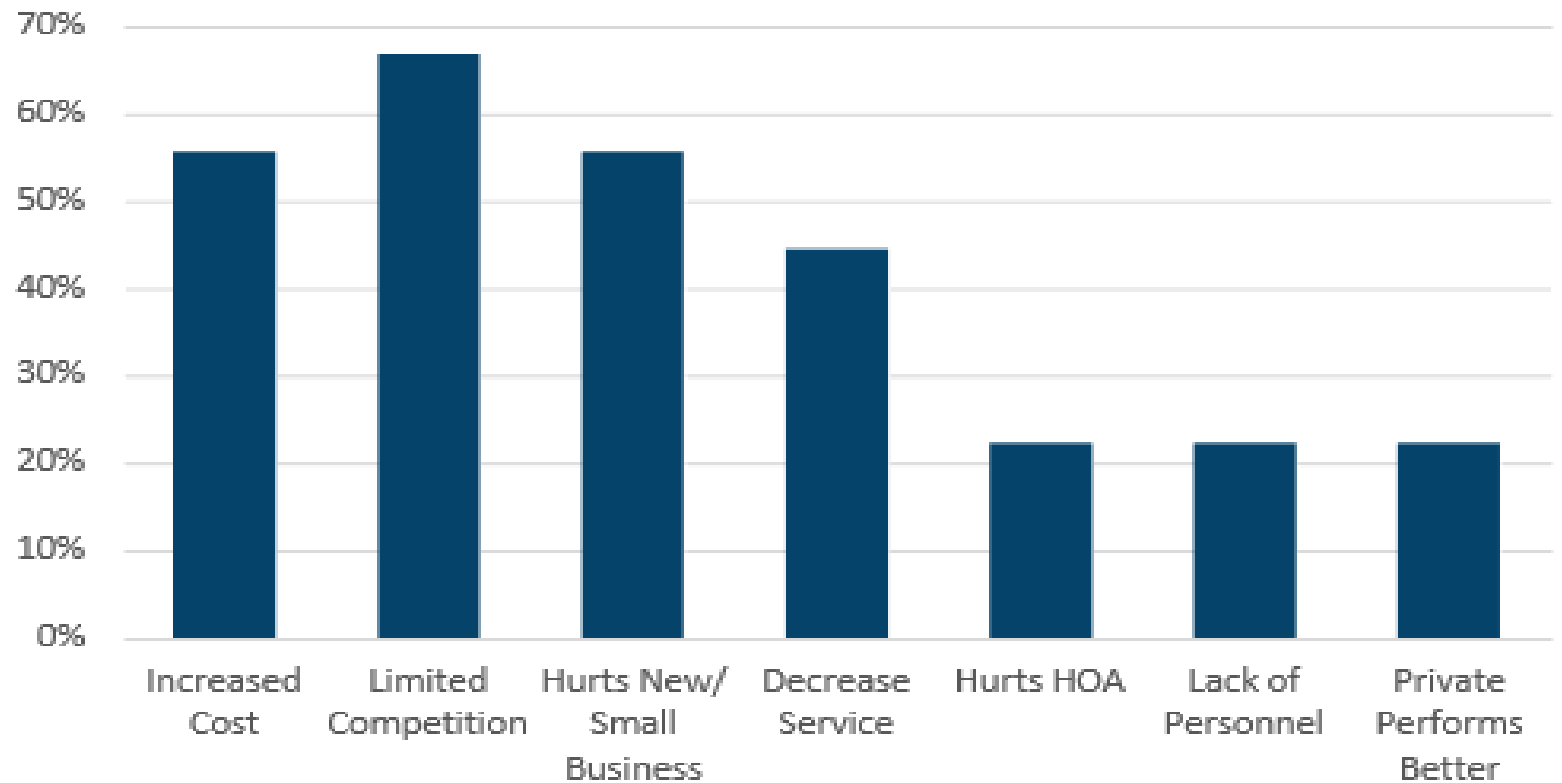
Question 3: What do you like about the proposed USD approach?



# Survey Responses- Question 4

- “It will not compensate small businesses who have worked decades building clientele and relationships in the community they wish to serve by giving excellent service and not door to door campaigning “
- “County lacks the personnel to implement and manage this system effectively.”
- “Private sector consistently outperforms public sector in service and price.”

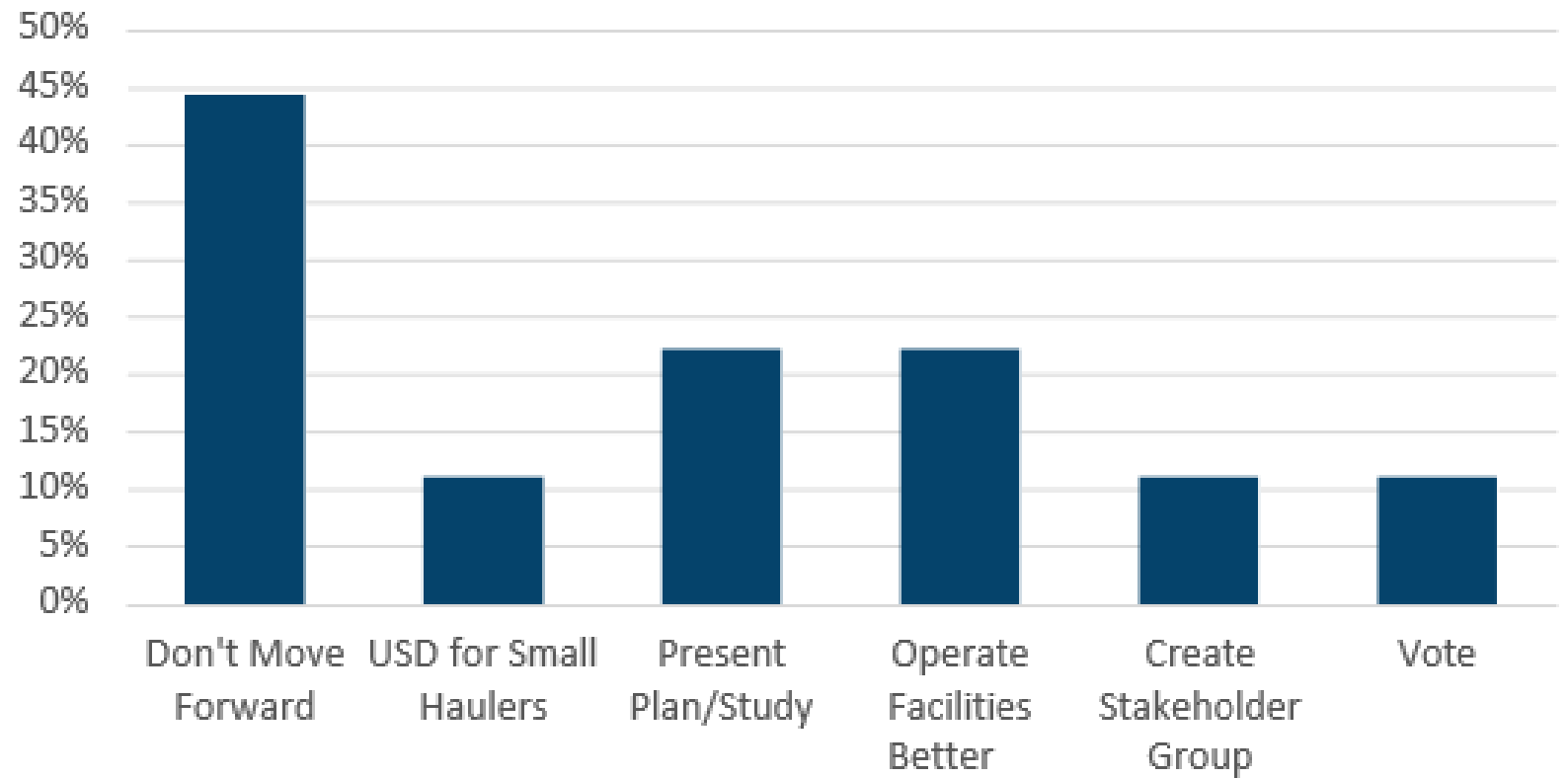
Question 4: What concerns do you have with the proposed USD approach?



# Survey Responses- Question 5

- “I believe it should be voted on and if the residents want county controlled districts, then that's what they should have.”
- “Guarantee small businesses who only operate in Fairfax County with the area they have built their business on. “
- “Present a plan ensuring all existing haulers remain viable and profitable throughout any transition.”

Question 5: What could the county do to mitigate your concerns about the USD proposal?



# General Comment Section

General Comments





# TRASH COLLECTORS FORUM



## Attachment 4. Residential Association Leadership Forum Summary

A Public Input survey was distributed through the County's residential property owner association contact lists, civic associations, and Board offices, with a request that it be shared broadly with association boards throughout the County. The survey was open from January 5, 2026, until January 27, 2026. There were 174 individual responses from association representatives. Although additional responses were received, these additional responses were removed from the analysis as some associations put forward conflicting or contradictory information that resulted in multiple responses from a single association or were not from associations members. The responses from the survey were reviewed and summarized into important themes. Survey participants by Magisterial District, association size, and delineation if those associations provide trash service to their residents is provided (Table 1).

On February 3, 2026, DPWES held a virtual countywide Residential Association Leadership Forum. Participants represented a wide range of community sizes, governance structures, and service arrangements. Key themes elicited include:

- **High satisfaction with current association-managed services:** Many associations reported strong relationships with private haulers, frequent collection (often twice weekly trash), and rates generally below current County sanitary district fees. Many perceive the current system as working well.
- **Cost and tax/fee concerns:** Association leaders expressed consistent concern that a USD would increase costs through higher service rates and new fees or taxes to support County staffing, enforcement, and administration.
- **Loss of local control, customization, and choice:** A central concern was losing authority to choose haulers, negotiate contracts, and tailor service levels (frequency, timing, truck size, container options, amenity/common area service) to community needs.

## Attachment 4 Continued

- **Desire for voluntary or optout structures:** Many commenters requested that any USD model be voluntary (option) or allow associations with existing or effective contracts to opt out and asked for clarity on how such mechanisms would operate.
- **Bureaucracy, accountability, and implementation risk:** Stakeholders questioned whether a centralized County managed system could provide the same responsiveness and accountability as direct association–hauler relationships and expressed concern about service disruptions during transition.
- **Administrative and legal implications for associations:** Several communities noted that trash service is embedded in governing documents, raising concerns about the cost and difficulty of amending covenants and long-term contracts in response to a USD.
- **Recognized benefits for some communities:** A subset of civic associations and smaller/self-managed associations indicated that a more structured program could help communities with fragmented service, high or unstable rates, or limited administrative capacity, particularly for residents on fixed incomes.
- **Environmental and program design questions:** Association leaders generally support the County’s environmental goals but requested clearer information on how pay-as-you-throw, organics collection, and expanded recycling would be implemented, enforced, and designed to address equity concerns.
- **Requests for more data and transparency:** Participants asked for clearer cost comparisons, program details, geographic phasing, treatment of condos and multifamily units, and examples from comparable jurisdictions, as well as broader outreach to communities that may not yet understand USD implications.

Table 1. Association Survey Responses by District and Contracted Collection Status (No = association does not manage trash service for residents; Yes = association manages trash service for residents)

Supervisor District	0 and 50 homes	50 and 250 homes	250 and 500 homes	500+ homes	Total
<b>Braddock</b>	12	10	5	4	31
No	6	6	3	2	17
Yes	5	4	2	2	13
<b>Dranesville</b>	11	10	1	2	24
No	8	5	1	1	15
Yes	3	5	0	1	9
<b>Franconia</b>	5	6	3	5	19
No	1	4	2	1	8
Yes	4	2	1	4	11
<b>Hunter Mill</b>	8	17	1	0	26
No	0	6	0	0	6
Yes	8	11	1	0	20
<b>Mason</b>	3	5	4	2	14
No	2	1	2	1	6
Yes	1	4	2	1	8
<b>Mount Vernon</b>	2	2	0	3	7
No	1	0	0	0	1
Yes	1	2	0	3	6
<b>Providence</b>	6	3	3	1	13
No	4	0	2	1	7
Yes	2	3	1	0	6
<b>Springfield</b>	8	8	3	2	21
No	8	3	2	0	13
Yes	0	5	1	2	8
<b>Sully</b>	2	8	4	5	19
No	1	3	3	0	7
Yes	1	5	1	5	12
<b>Total</b>	57	69	24	24	174

# USD HOA Leadership Forum February 3, 2026



Stay Tuned!

# What are Unified Sanitation Districts?

## What is a USD?

- USD or a Unified Sanitation District is an area where all single-family residential customers, including townhomes, in a defined area would receive trash service under contracts administered by the county.
- The County would competitively procure and manage transparent contracts with multiple private trash collectors.
- Your customer service contact would be Fairfax County.
- Fairfax County would hold collectors accountable through contract standards.
- This would allow for expanded service options (e.g., food waste collection, bulk pickup, choice of cart size, and other services)



# Why is it being considered?

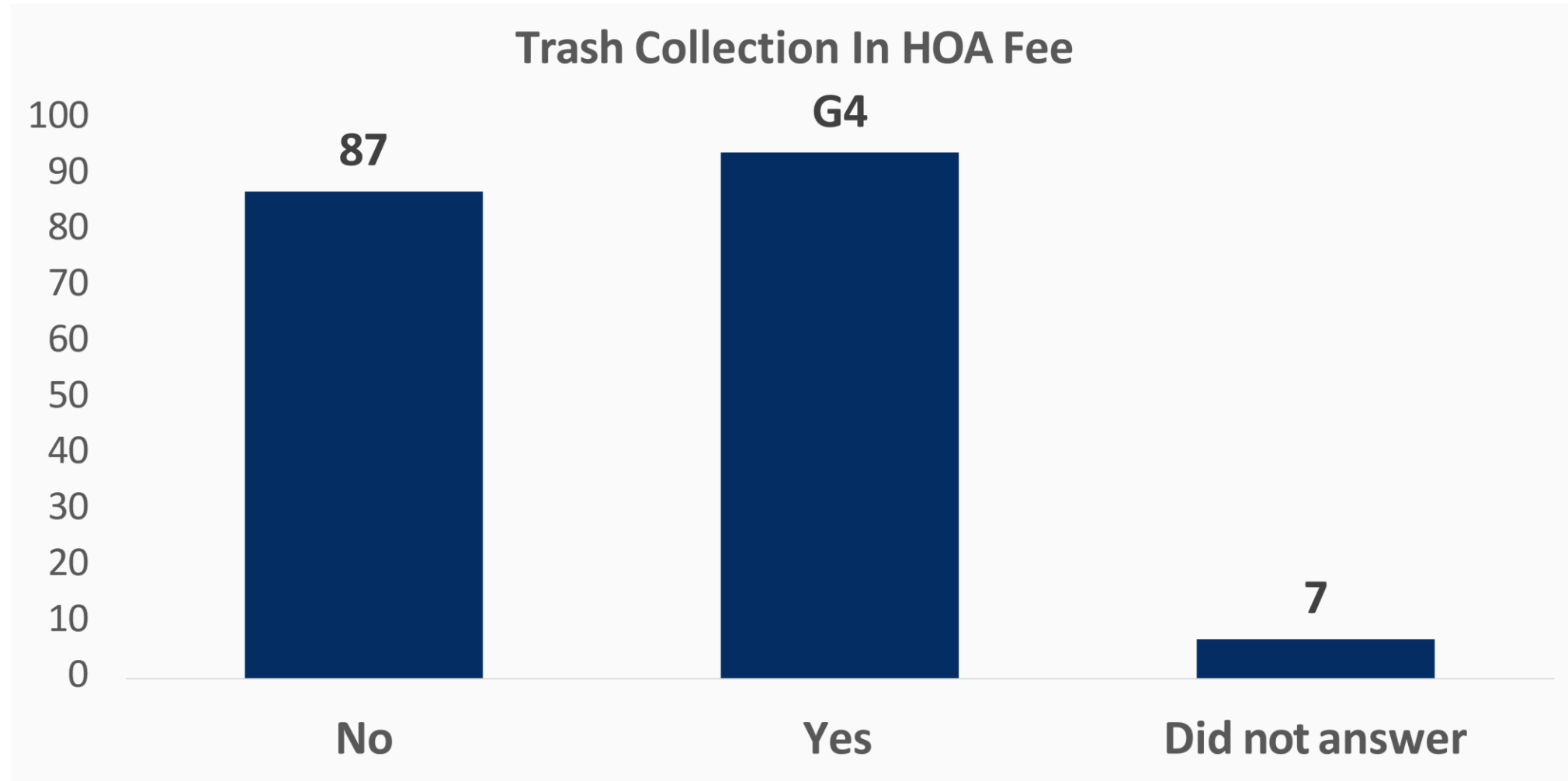
## Why

- Without the USD, the County does not have the authority to:
  - Limit the # of private haulers operating in a neighborhood
  - Regulate trash collection price
  - Achieve the community's sustainability goals for residential service
- There are many examples of communities that have a USD system that benefits the residents and are successful.

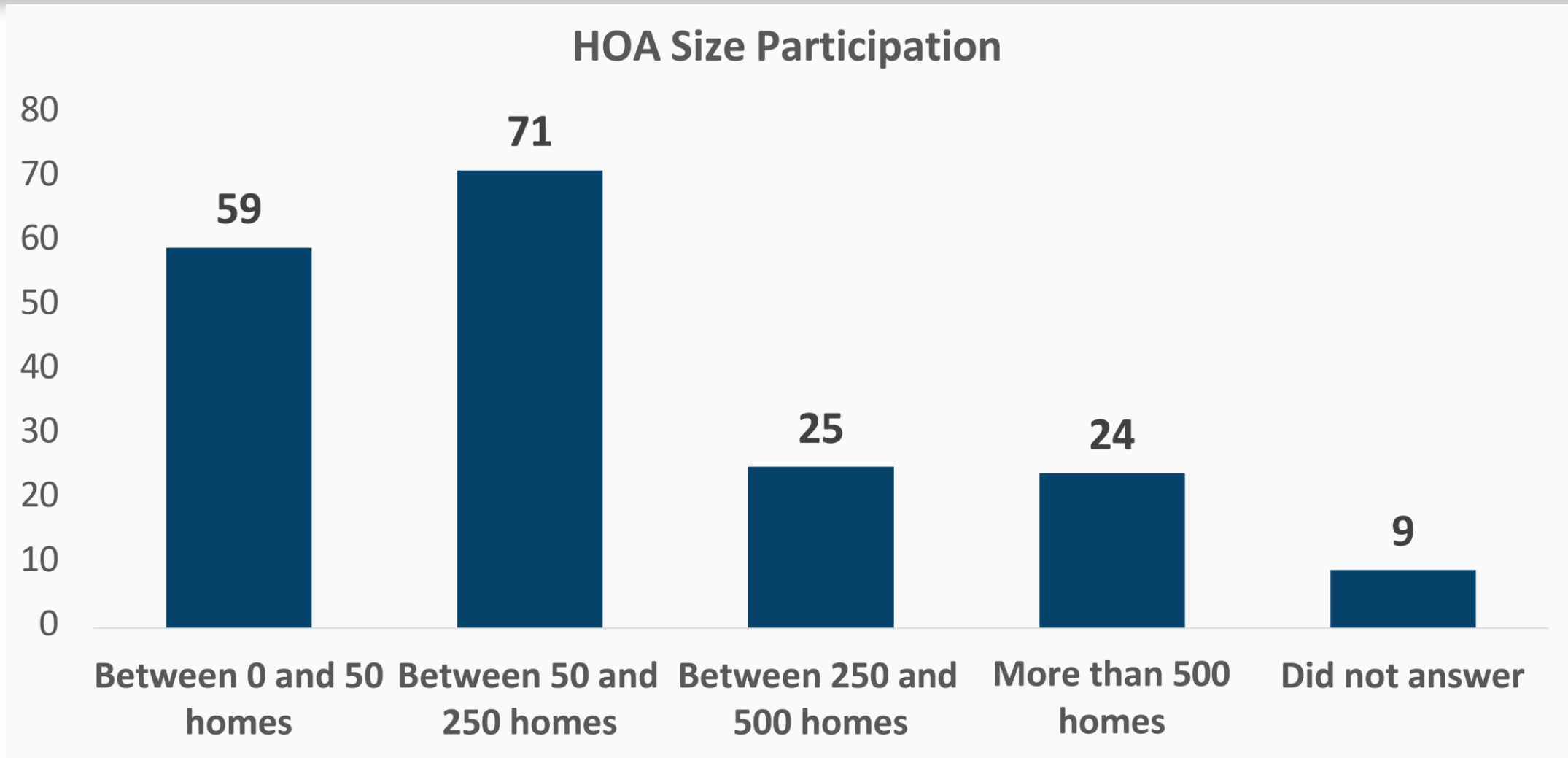
**USD can only be started with a Board Vote and implemented after a 5-year waiting period required by Virginia law**



# Survey Participation

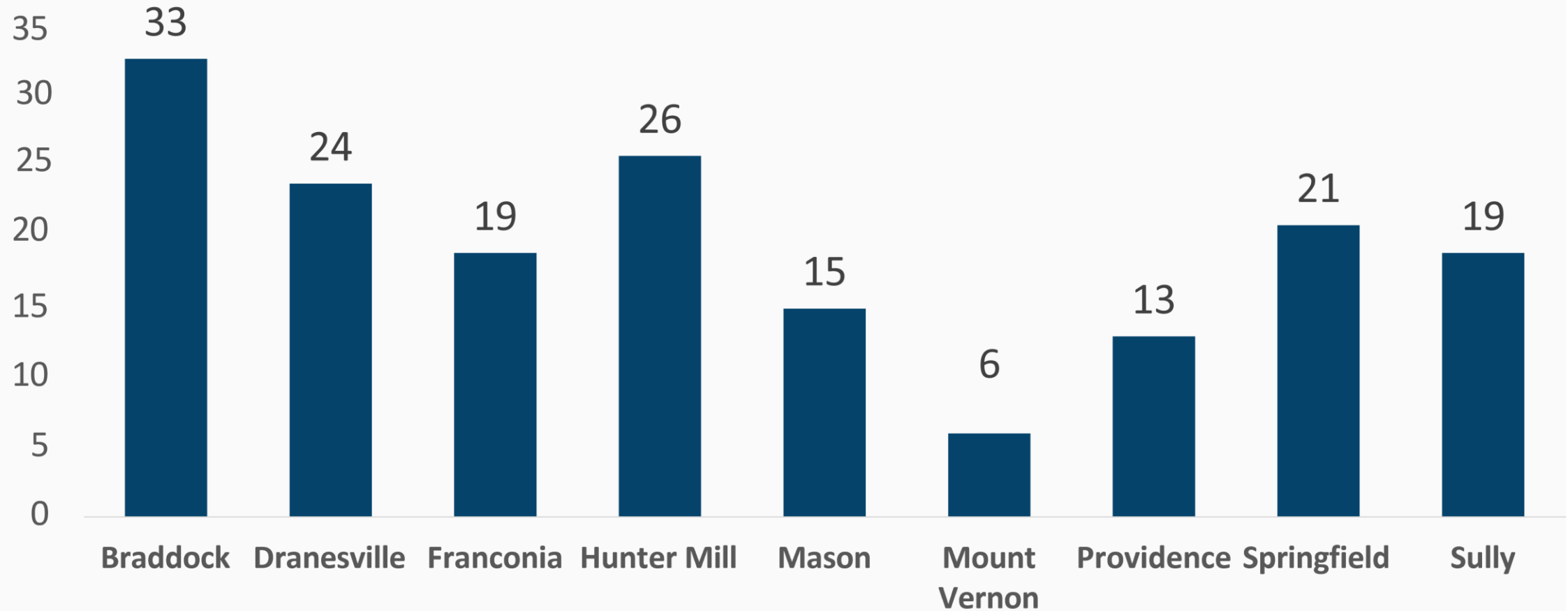


# Survey Participation- HOA Size Participation



# Survey Participation- Responses by District

## Survey Responses By District



# Survey Responses- Question 1

Question 1: Consider the current Fairfax County waste collection system, where residents and homeowners' associations arrange their own service independently and prices for these services vary depending on the hauler they choose. What do you think works well with the current system?

## **THEMES**

- Choice
- Competition
- Service
- Flexibility
- Cost



# Survey Responses- Question 2

Question 2: What do you think could be improved with the current waste collection system?

## **THEMES**

- Costs
- Accountability
- Trucks
- Expanded Service Options
- Outreach/Facilities
- No improvements needed



# Survey Responses- Question 3

Question 3: Under the proposed USD approach, the county would negotiate contracts with haulers and oversee trash and recycling services for neighborhoods across the county. What do you like about the USD approach?

## **THEMES**

- Lower costs
- Contract Management
- Consistency
- Trucks
- Expanded Service Options
- Nothing



Question 4: What concerns do you have with the USD approach?

## **THEMES**

- Costs
- Loss of Choice/Flexibility
- Bureaucracy
- Transparency and Accountability
- Hauler Impacts



# Survey Responses

Question 5: What could the county do to mitigate your concerns about the USD proposal?

## **THEMES**

- Do not move forward with the proposal
- Make USD voluntary (opt in)
- Allow for exemptions (opt out)
- Communication and Engagement
- Costs
- Contracts
- Service Options
- Additional Analysis
- Customer service
- Transition



# Survey Responses

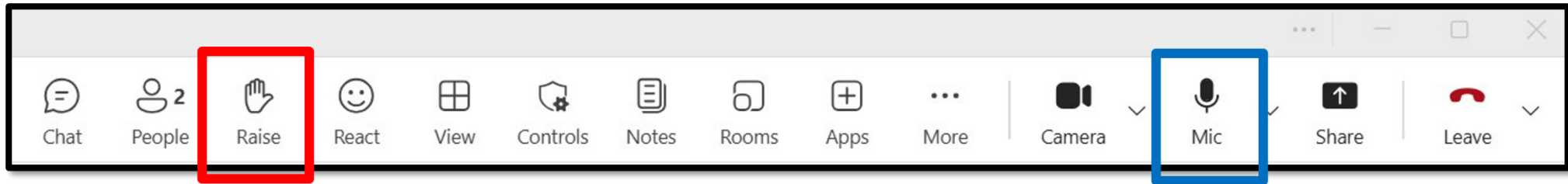
## Question 6: What questions do you have about the proposed USD approach?

- Why are you pursuing a USD?
- How will USD impact my current level of service and cost?
- What added costs will there be to support county contract management and oversight?
- Provide more details on the contract terms, including service options, performance requirements, etc.
- What service options will be available (bulk pickup, twice a week collection, Christmas tree pickup, multiple cart sizes, etc.)?
- How will residents be billed for the service (tax, fee, through HOA, pay-as-you-throw, etc.)?
- What is the USD plan timeline?
- How will you transition HOAs and residents from the current system? Will there be impacts to our service (ex. collector goes out of business)?
- Is USD mandatory or will there be an opt-in or opt-out process?
- How will USD impact small local haulers?
- How will you ensure the collector addresses service issues?
- What future opportunities will you provide for stakeholder input? How will you keep HOAs informed?



# General Comment Section

## General Comments



# For More Information

For More Information  
[Unified Sanitation Districts -  
Transforming Residential Waste  
Collection | Public Works and  
Environmental Services](#)

[https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/  
publicworks/recycling-  
trash/unified-sanitation-  
districts](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/unified-sanitation-districts)



## Attachment 6. Summary of Public Engagement on USD since May 2024

These public forums and surveys are a continuation of SWMP's outreach and education efforts concerning USDs. SWMP's communication efforts are outlined below:

- May 2024, Environmental Committee meeting Update
- July 2024, Environmental Committee meeting Update and Waste Characterization Study
- August 2024, Completed a community wide survey of nearly 5000 responses,
- September 2024, Not-in-Package Memorandum
- October 2024, Environmental Committee Update
- February 2025, public hearing deferred
- May 2025, Hosted Dranesville District Unified Sanitation Districts Town Hall,
- June 2025, Participated in the Springfield District Unified Sanitation Districts Town Hall,
- August 2025, public hearing deferred indefinitely.
- January 2026, USD Collector Forum
- February 2026, USD HOA Leadership Forum
- March-April 2026, presenting for Braddock, Franconia, and Dranesville Districts.

Additionally, staff continue to provide updates on frequently asked questions via our residential USD website:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/unified-sanitation-districts>



# Solid Waste Management Program

Solid Waste Tip Fee and Future Service Delivery Options

October 2025

# Outline

- Solid Waste Fund 40150
  - Tip Fee
  - Operational Reserve Funds
  - Neighboring Jurisdictions
- Options to Stabilize Fund
  - Sustainability Fee
  - Operational Changes
- Unified Sanitary District
  - History and Public Feedback
  - Service Delivery Options
- Additional Options
- Next Steps
  - Community, HOA, and Hauler Outreach
  - Legislative Agenda
- Summary



# Understanding Fund 40150 Tip Fee: Purpose, Uses, and Resident Services



**Permitting and Enforcement**



**Transportation and Disposal**



**Legacy Landfill Liabilities**



**Outreach and Education**



**Recyclables (Purple Can Club)**



**Household Hazardous Waste**

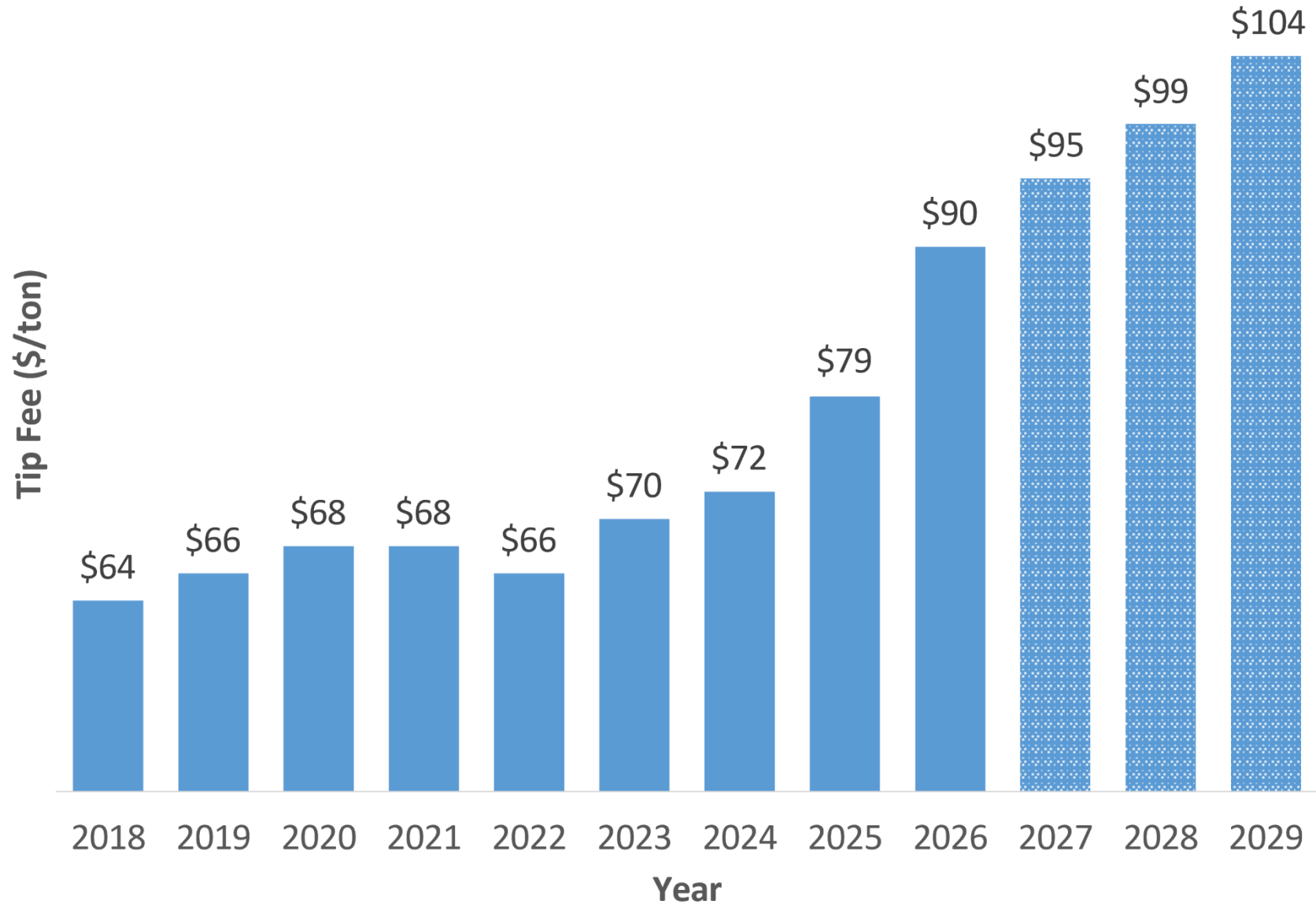


**Electronic Waste**

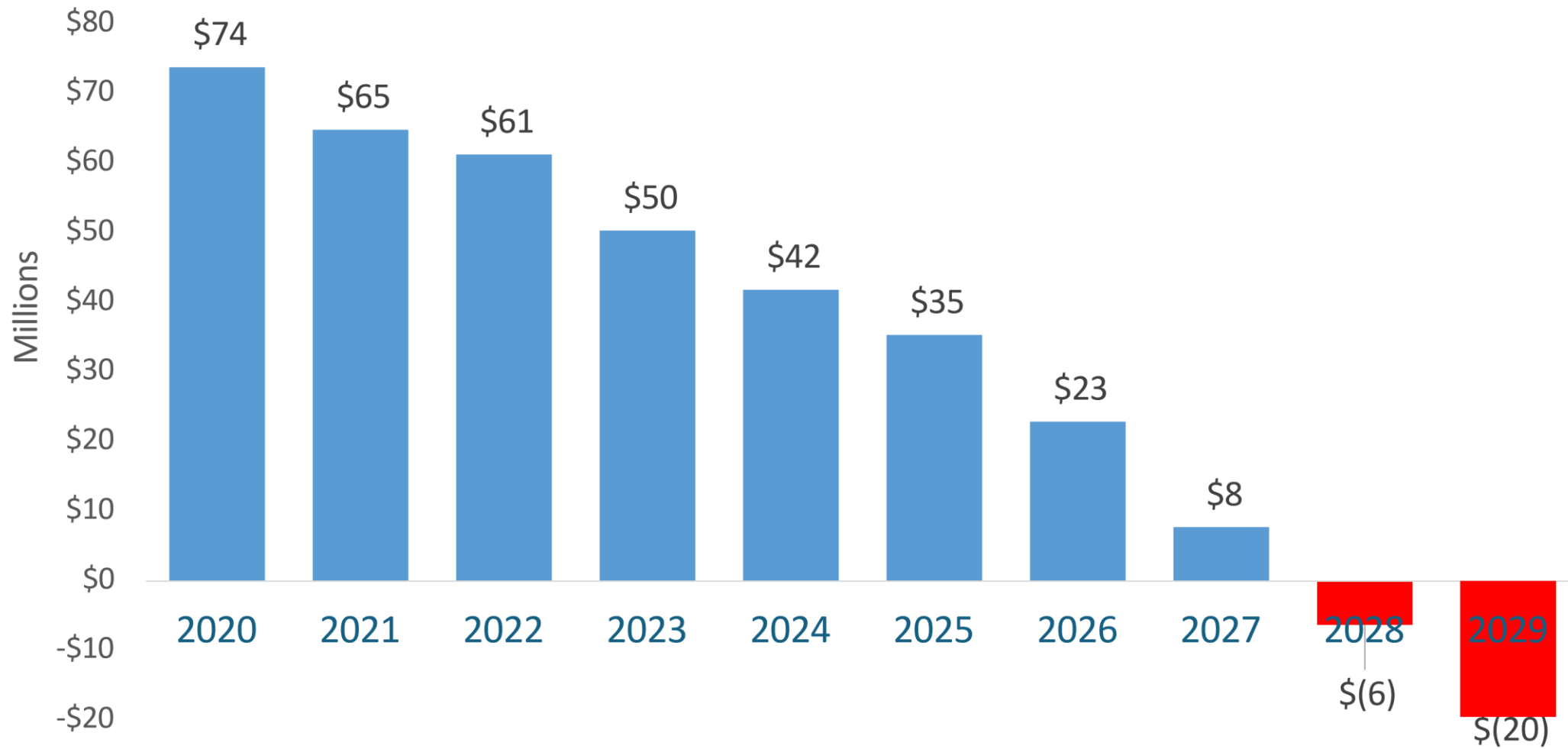


**Waste Oil**

# Fund 40150 Historical and Projected Tip Fees

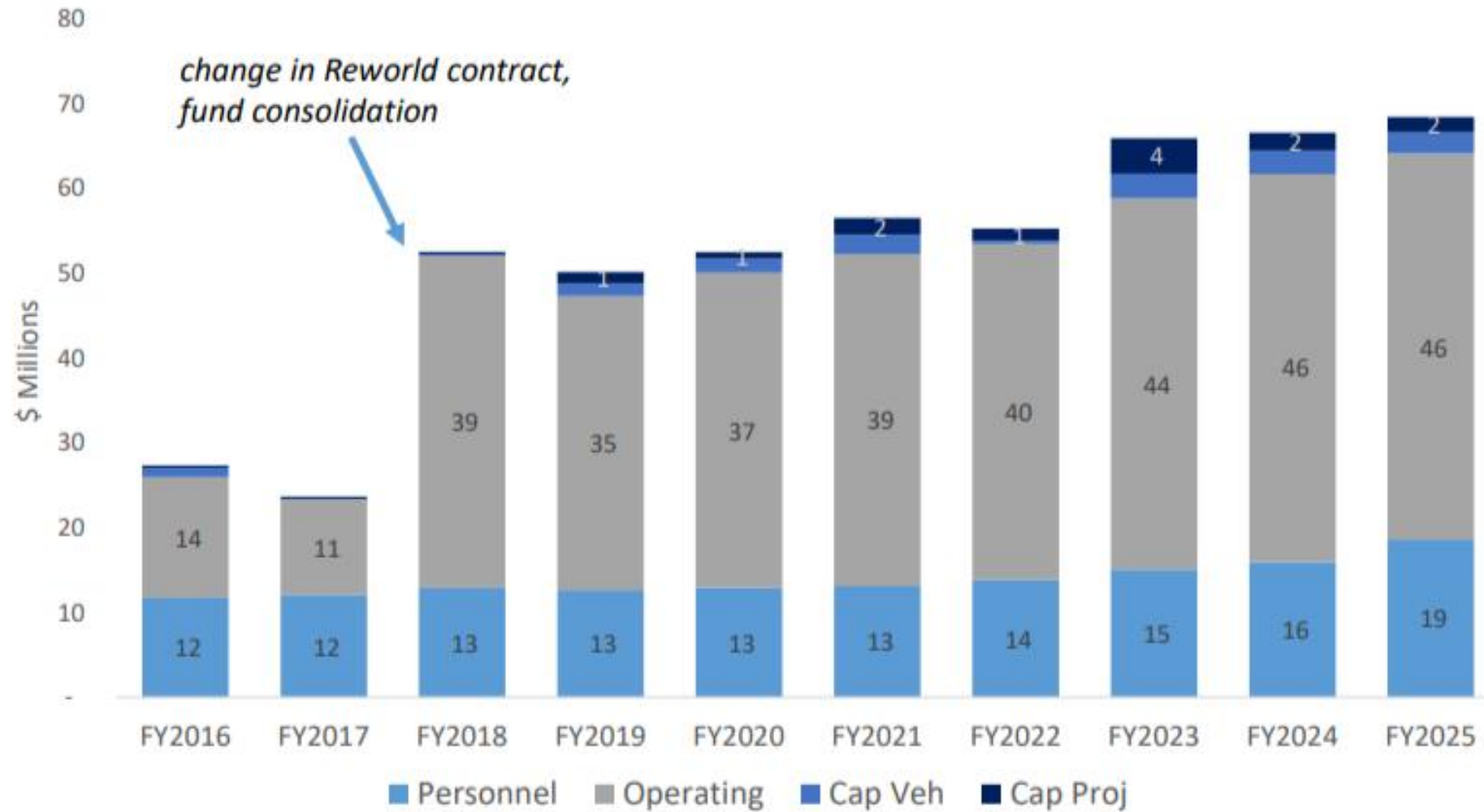


# Fund 40150 Operational Reserves (Tip Fee stays \$90/ton)



**Disposal rates will continue to increase unsustainably, creating risk to flow control**

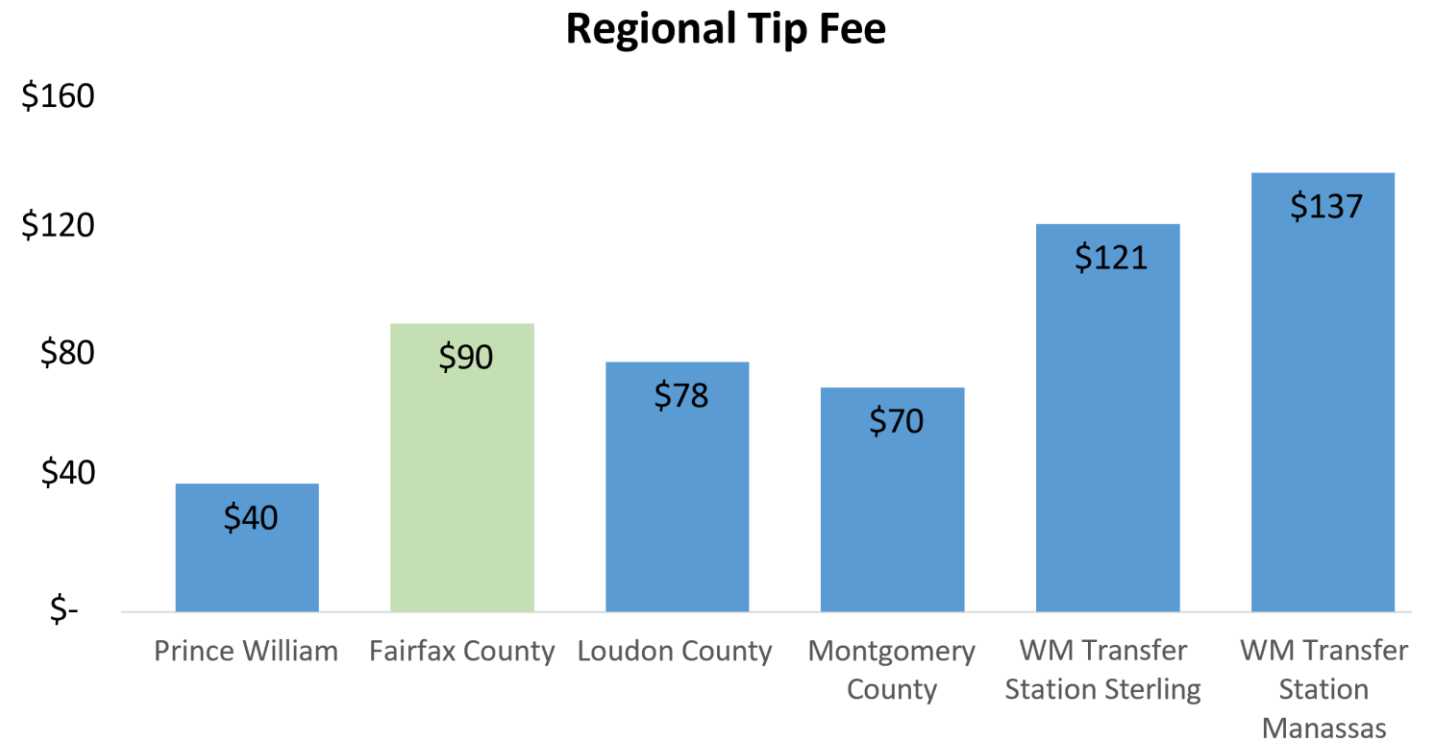
## Actual Expenses by Category



# Neighboring Jurisdictions

Jurisdiction	Residential System	Days Open
Fairfax County	Free Market	Monday- <b>Sunday</b>
Prince William County	Free Market	Monday-Saturday
Arlington County	USD	Monday-Saturday
Loudoun County	Free Market	Monday-Saturday
Montgomery County, MD	USD	Monday- <b>Sunday</b>

*All commercial collection is free market*

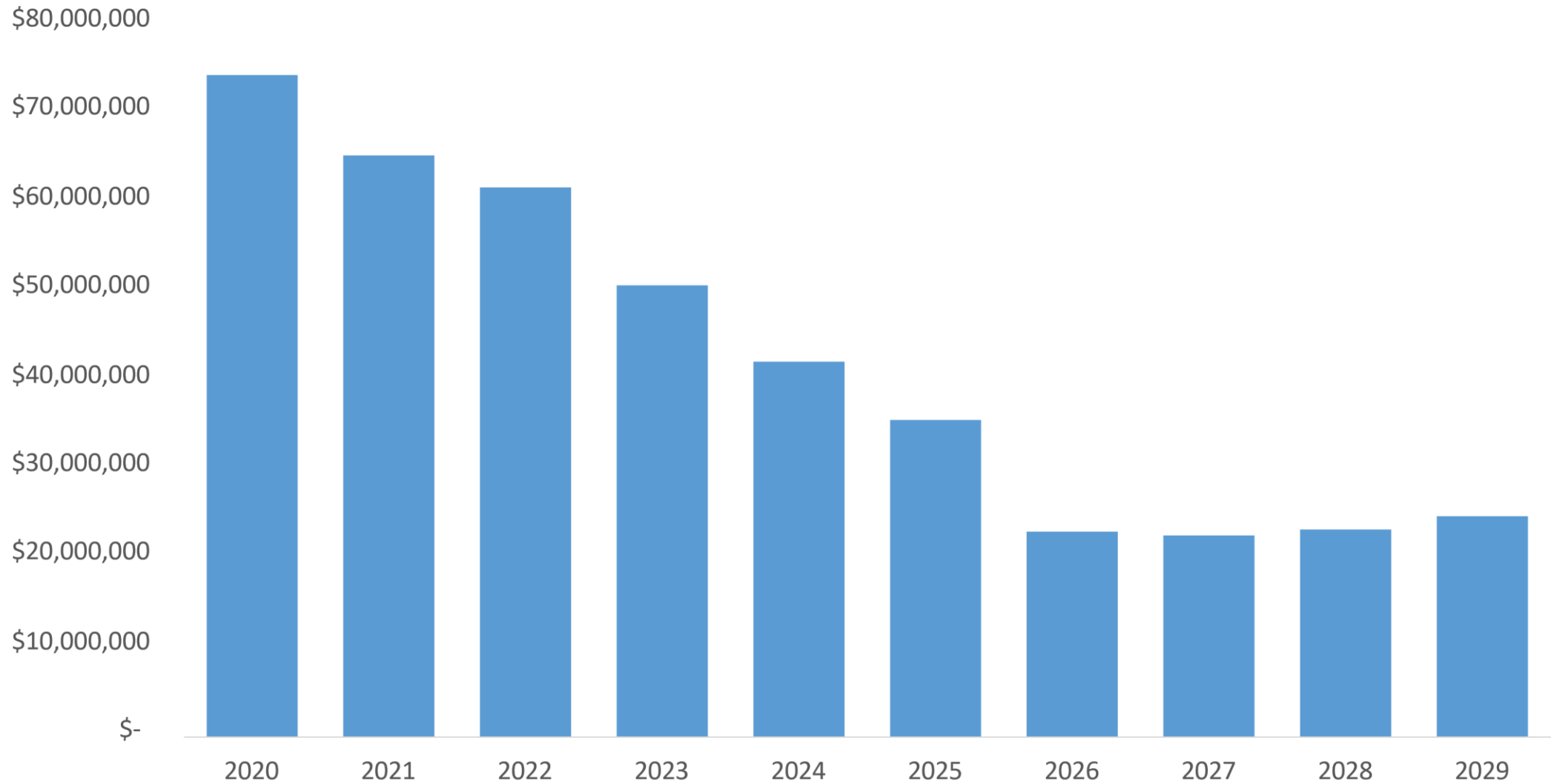


# Options to Stabilize Reserve Fund

# Sustainability (aka, Zero Waste) Fee Proposal

Residence Type	Units	Cost Per Year	Total Revenue
Single Family Home	201,157	\$ 24	\$ 4,827,768
Townhome	89,615	\$ 20	\$ 1,792,300
Mobile Home	1,354	\$ 12	\$ 16,248
Condo	55,979	\$ 12	\$ 671,748
Commercial	39,073	\$ 190	\$ 7,423,870
<b>Total Incremental Revenue</b>			<b>\$ 14,731,634</b>

# Operational Reserve (Fund 40150) impact with Sustainability Fee Assessment



# Risks for continued increase to disposal fees

Leakage and  
Revenue loss

Illegal  
Dumping

Increased  
Contamination

Political and  
Public  
Pushback

Legal Flow  
Control  
Challenges

# Strategies to Manage Tip Fees Without a Sustainability Fee

Strategy	Est. Annual Savings
Close Sunday	\$1M
Increase enforcement actions and penalty revenue for private haulers	\$4.6M
Eliminate free services (purple can, recycling drop off, e-waste)	\$2.7M

Implementing all three = ½ deficit

# Countywide Unified Sanitary District (USD) History and Community Feedback

*how did we get here?*

# USD History

- 2021: initiated by [CECAP](#) Zero Waste 2040 Goal
- 2024:
  - BOSEC: [5/14/24](#), [7/23/24](#), [10/29/24](#), [12/10/24](#)
  - [Zero Waste Survey](#), majority support for USD
  - USD is foundational strategy (09/20/24 NIP)
- 2025: USD public hearing to start 5-year displacement
  - 06/24/25 to 10/14/25 to indefinite postponement
  - 08/26/25 Board Matter- conduct private hauler/HOA forum

# Community Feedback

- Summer 2024 focus groups:
  - Current system inequitable
  - Standardizing services and communication beneficial
- Fall 2024 Public Input Survey (4,947 participants):
  - 82% Neutral to Strongly Agree with USD
  - 65% in favor of Sustainability Fee
- Summer 2025 Townhalls and Community Meetings concerns:
  - Loss of choice
  - Cost implications
  - HOA impacts
  - Service changes
  - Loss of small private collection companies

# Solid Waste Service Delivery Model Options

*where do we go from here?*

# Option #1 Countywide Residential USD

Description	Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following a public hearing and a 5-year waiting period, County assumes responsibility for countywide single-family residential waste collection by contract with private haulers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>County serves all customers, maximizing local control</li> <li>Lowers average collection charge to customers</li> <li>County controls charge to all customers</li> <li>County regulates # of trucks in neighborhoods</li> <li>Enables CECAP diversion goals to be achieved</li> <li>Relieves DTA of billing responsibility for solid waste collection service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public hearing required, controversial</li> <li>Requires additional staff to manage contracts, billing, customer service</li> <li>Will displace some private haulers</li> <li>Allowing customers to opt-out increases costs for remaining customers and reduces diversion</li> <li>High risk of immediate legal challenge</li> </ul>

# Option #2 Countywide USD, Single Family Non-HOA Only

Description	Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pursue Countywide USD for all single-family homes not in an HOA. Service begins following a public hearing and 5-year displacement period.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>County serves some customers, expanding local control</li> <li>Enables marginal improvement in CECAP diversion goals</li> <li>Relieves DTA of billing responsibility for solid waste collection service</li> <li>May reduce future collection cost increases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires public hearing</li> <li>Requires additional staff to manage contracts, billing, customer service</li> <li>May displace some private haulers</li> <li>Private haulers will still oppose</li> <li>Will not achieve as large a price reduction as Option 1</li> <li>Will not achieve diversion goals of CECAP</li> <li>Still requires 5 years waiting prior to implementation.</li> <li>Maintains mixed public-private service delivery model.</li> <li>Unknown # of HOAs.</li> <li>High risk of immediate legal challenge</li> </ul>

# Option #3 Phased USD by Magisterial District

Description	Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Slowly implement USDs across supporting magisterial districts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>County serves some customers, expanding local control</li> <li>Enables marginal improvement in CECAP diversion goals</li> <li>May reduce future collection cost increases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires public hearing</li> <li>Requires additional staff to manage contracts, billing, customer service.</li> <li>May displace some private haulers</li> <li>Requires 5 years before implementation of the first USD, so no feedback on pilot for 6 years or more.</li> <li>Will not achieve CECAP diversion goals.</li> <li>Will not achieve economy of scale to reduce cost, meaningfully address CO2 emissions, or improve services.</li> <li>High risk of immediate legal challenge</li> </ul>

# Option #4 Opt-In Countywide Residential USD

Description	Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents self-identify as wanting to be served by the County, service begins following a public hearing and 5-year displacement period, scheduled periods for customers to opt-in/opt-out over time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public hearing likely to be less controversial since only those wanting to be served would be affected</li> <li>Removes petition process as a barrier to start/end County service</li> <li>Allows neighborhoods who want County service to restrict # of trucks</li> <li>Streamlines administration of sanitary district process</li> <li>Provides larger customer base to enable additional diversion</li> <li>May reduce future collection cost increases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires public hearing</li> <li>Requires additional staff to manage contracts, billing, customer service</li> <li>May displace some private haulers</li> <li>Private haulers will still oppose</li> <li>Will not achieve as large a price reduction as Option 1</li> <li>Will not achieve diversion goals of CECAP</li> <li>Still requires 5 years waiting prior to implementation.</li> <li>Maintains mixed public-private service delivery model</li> <li>High risk of immediate legal challenge</li> </ul>

# Option #5 Free Market Competition Model

Description	Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• County would “bid” on solicitations in competition with private sector.</li> <li>• County would provide subscription collection service through contractors <b>outside</b> of existing refuse sanitary districts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removes petition process as a barrier to County service</li> <li>• Relieves DTA of billing responsibility for solid waste collection services</li> <li>• Customers could opt-in/opt-out overtime</li> <li>• Depending on # of customers that subscribe, could buffer future cost increases</li> <li>• Demonstrates Interest and Need.</li> <li>• No 5 year waiting period required</li> <li>• No public hearing required</li> <li>• Expansion of services offered (food scraps/organics is in the contract for collection)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• County competing with private haulers on open market</li> <li>• Requires increased administrative burden</li> <li>• Requires additional staff to manage contracts (likely 100s), billing, customer service</li> <li>• Cannot regulate private service price</li> <li>• Cannot regulate # trucks in neighborhoods</li> <li>• Unlikely to achieve CECAP diversion goals without broad community adoption</li> <li>• Low risk legal challenge</li> </ul>

# Option #6 Add Customers through Marketing Campaign

Description	Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• County creates marketing campaign to increase interest in creating Sanitary Districts.</li> <li>• Residents/HOAs/Civic Associations petition Board to create new Sanitary Districts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No USD public hearing, controversy ends.</li> <li>• Customers can continue to opt-in/opt-out through petition process</li> <li>• Increased awareness of how residents can get County service</li> <li>• Some outreach materials already in development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cannot regulate private service price</li> <li>• Cannot regulate # trucks in neighborhoods</li> <li>• Cannot achieve CECAP diversion goals</li> <li>• County cost will continue to increase over time</li> <li>• Petition process is a barrier to County service</li> <li>• Maintains mixed public-private status</li> </ul>

# Option #7 – Status Quo

Description	Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No new initiatives or authority.</li> <li>• No marketing campaign.</li> <li>• No change to the current system.</li> <li>• Residents/HOAs/Civic Associations petition to create new Sanitary Districts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No USD public hearing, controversy ends.</li> <li>• Customers can continue to opt-in/opt-out through petition process twice a year.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cannot regulate private service price</li> <li>• Cannot regulate # of trucks in neighborhood</li> <li>• Cannot achieve CECAP diversion goals</li> <li>• County costs will continue to increase over time</li> <li>• Petition process is a barrier to County service/authority</li> <li>• Maintains mixed public-private status</li> </ul>

# Option #8 County Ends Residential Collection

Description	Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public hearing to decrease all sanitary districts, County would unwind existing collection system operations, transfer employees to alternative functions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishes entirely open market system countywide</li> <li>Reduces County liability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires Public Hearing</li> <li>Current customers will oppose</li> <li>Cannot regulate private service price</li> <li>Cannot regulate # trucks in neighborhoods</li> <li>Cannot achieve CECAP diversion goals</li> </ul>

# Additional Options

*other than USD, what else can we do?*

# Privatize Transfer and Disposal Operations

Description	Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Privatize some or all I-95 and I-66 waste transfer and disposal operations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduces some County liability</li> <li>May reduce costs</li> <li>Reduces DVS burden</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current customers will oppose</li> <li>Cannot regulate private service price</li> <li>Cannot achieve CECAP diversion goals</li> <li>Reduced regulatory authority</li> <li>High risk of legal challenge</li> </ul>

# Sustainability Opportunities independent of USD

Description	Pros	Cons
Education, Engagement, and Enforcement	Supports all other Initiatives	Increases operational costs
Mandatory Recycling and Composting	High diversion potential	Requires organics facility investment, Requires USD or new authority
Pay As You Throw	Lowers price for some customers, High diversion potential	Requires enforcement, Increases administrative cost, Requires USD or new authority
Comprehensive Commercial and Multi-family Programs	High Diversion Potential, Addresses 60% of overall, waste stream	Requires more staff, Increases operational costs
Zero Waste Centers	High community support, High diversion potential	Increases operational costs, Need to identify locations

# Pursue New Legislative Authority

- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
- Expanded Material Ban/Tax Authority
- Food Waste as a Recyclable
- Local Authority for Building Code Update
- Requirements for Displacement of Private Sector Collectors

*\*See Sep 20, 2024, “Unified Sanitary District and Countywide Service Model for Waste Collection” Not-In-Package Memo*

# Next Steps for Community Discussion

*what info do you need to make a decision?*

# Community, Hauler, and HOA Input

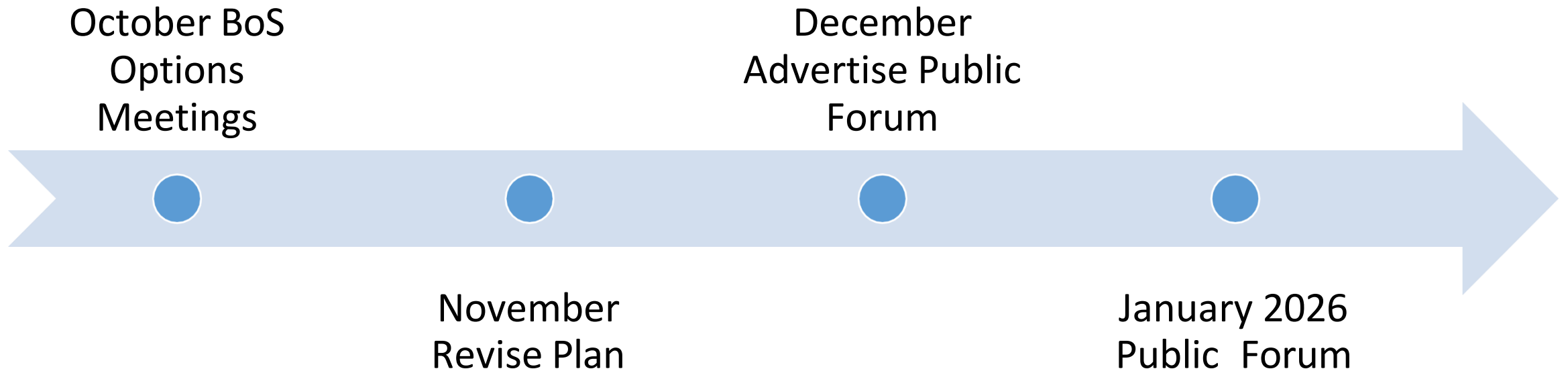
## Initial Public Forum with Private Haulers and HOA in January 2026

- Objectives?
- Venue?
- Format?

### Additional Feedback Options:

- Open Space Meeting @ the Expo
- Roadshow in each Magisterial District
- Statistically Valid Public Input Survey
- Taskforce
- Televised Channel 16 Public Forum

# Community, Hauler, and HOA Timeline



# Summary

**Operational Reserve Fund depleted in 2 years. Options:**

- Add new countywide Sustainability Fee
- Cut solid waste programs plus increase enforcement and fees

**Pursue additional legislative authority now.**

**Need to choose our service model.**

- Staff continue to recommend USD

**What do you need from next round of community input in January?**