



# Local Level Funding in Washington State Courts

**BJA Policy and Planning Committee  
October 15, 2021**

# Local Level Funding in Washington State Courts



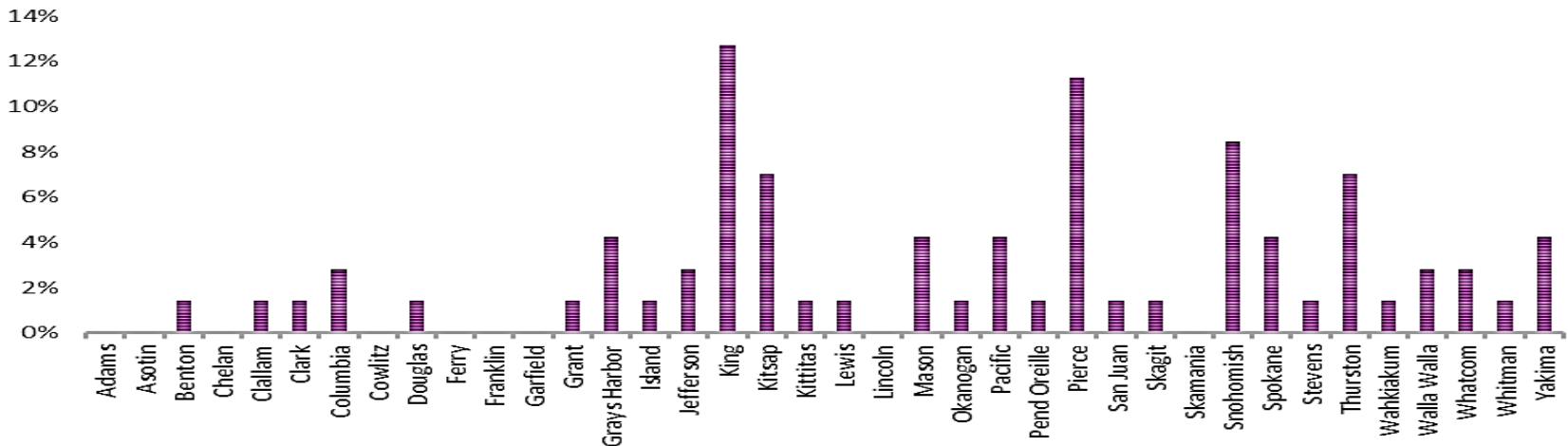
## Respondent Demographics

Respondents by Court Type (Answered 72; Skipped 2)		
Superior	28%	20
District	24%	17
Municipal	49%	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>72</b>

### Jurisdiction Size by Court Level

- 75% of Superior Court respondents are primarily in larger-urban areas.
- 50% of District Court respondents are located in larger-urban and half are located in semi-urban areas.
- 80% of Municipal Court respondents are primarily in semi-urban areas, with less than 3% of respondents reporting from a rural area.

PERCENT OF RESPONSES BY COUNTY



# How Do Courts Use Budget Requests to Address Funding for Priority Programs?



We wanted to know how courts address funding for these top program and management priorities. We asked a series of questions:

- Did you ask for funding?
- What was the outcome if you did ask?
- If you did not ask, why not?
- What other sources of funding are courts using?
- Would you be agreeable to explore alternative funding structures for the courts?

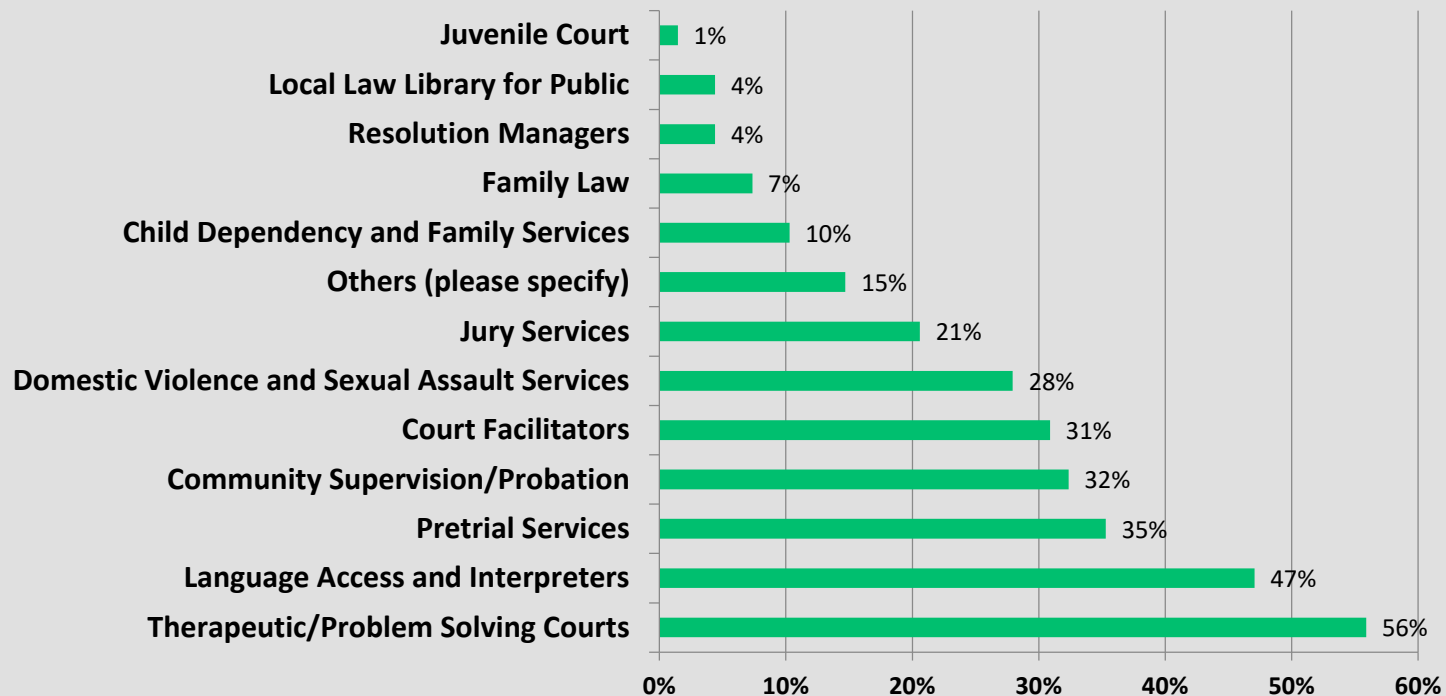
Here is what we found:

# What are courts' top PROGRAM funding priorities?

All Trial Court Levels



**TOP THREE PROGRAMS that need more funding in order to serve court users in your community.**  
Answered 68, Skipped 6



# What are courts' top PROGRAM priorities?

## BY COURT LEVEL



### TOP THREE programs that need more funding in order to serve the courts users in your community.

Answered 68, Skipped 6

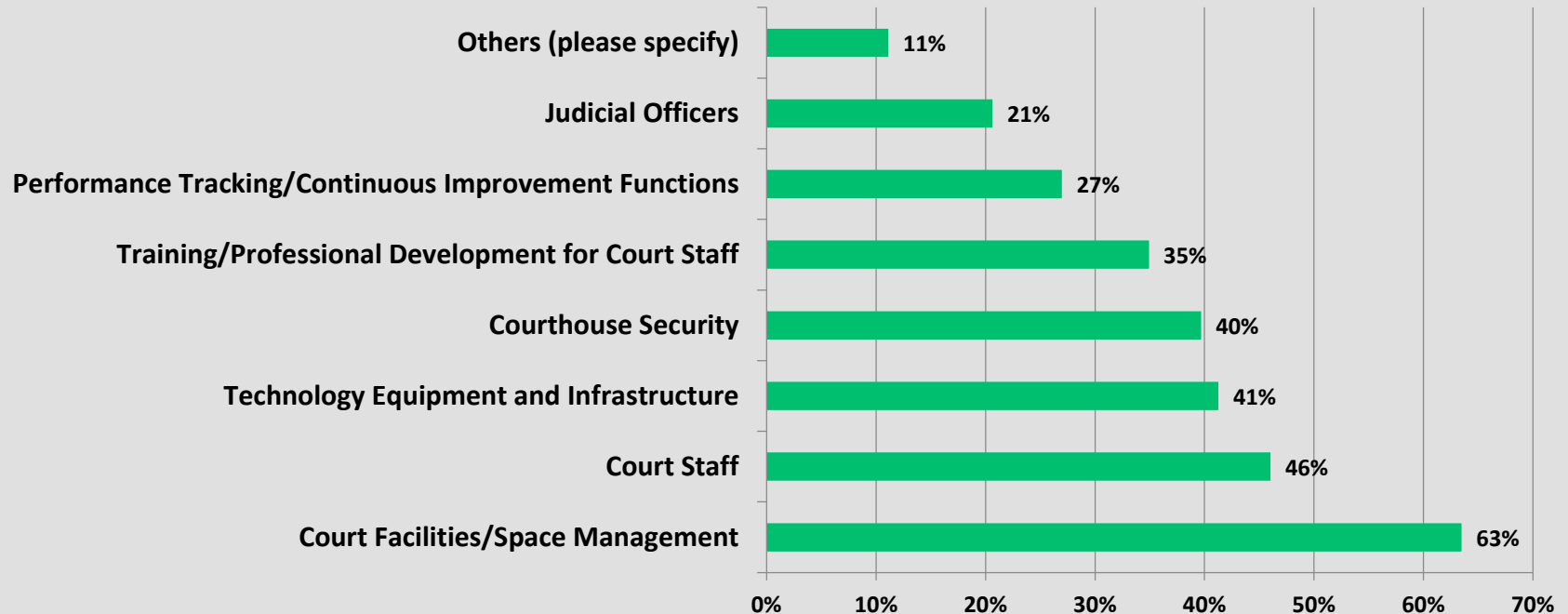
	Top Ranked Priority	Second Ranked Priority	Third Ranked Priority
<b>Superior (20)</b>	Court Facilitators ( <b>65%</b> )	Language Access ( <b>55%</b> )	Tie: Therapeutic Courts & Pretrial Services ( <b>35%</b> )
<b>District (15)</b>	Therapeutic Courts ( <b>67%</b> )	Tie: Community/Probation & Language Access ( <b>53%</b> )	Tie: Pretrial Services & Sexual Assault Services ( <b>33%</b> )
<b>Municipal (32)</b>	Therapeutic Courts ( <b>66%</b> )	Community/ Probation ( <b>44%</b> )	Language Access ( <b>41%</b> )
<b>Total Courts Responding</b>	Therapeutic Courts ( <b>38</b> )	Language Access ( <b>32</b> )	Pretrial Services ( <b>24</b> )

# What are courts' top MANAGEMENT funding priorities?

## All Trial Court Levels



From the list below, select the TOP THREE management functions that are underfunded or not currently funded and needed for your court. Answered 63, Skipped 11  
**ALL COURTS**



# What are courts' top PROGRAM priorities?

## BY COURT LEVEL



**TOP THREE programs that need more funding in order to serve the courts users in your community.**

Answered 68, Skipped 6

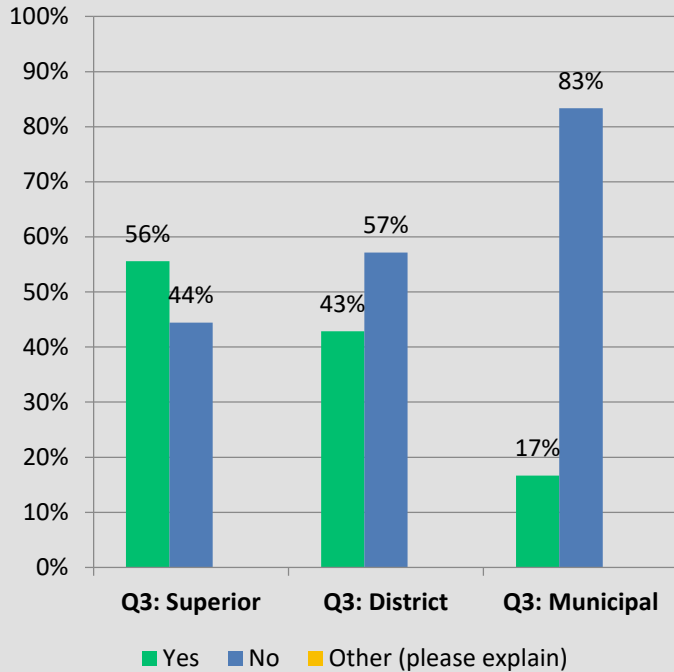
	<b>Top Ranked Priority</b>	<b>Second Ranked Priority</b>	<b>Third Ranked Priority</b>
<b>Superior (19)</b>	Facilities/Space (84%)	Court Staff (53%)	Court Security (42%)
<b>District (14)</b>	Facilities/Space (71%)	Court Security (42%)	Training/Prof Dev (43%)
<b>Municipal (32)</b>	Technology (53%)	Facilities/Space, Court Staff, and Training - Tied (47%)	Court Security (30%)
<b>Total Courts Responding</b>	Facilities/Space (40)	Court Staff (29)	Technology (26)

# Did Court Request Funding For Their Priorities?

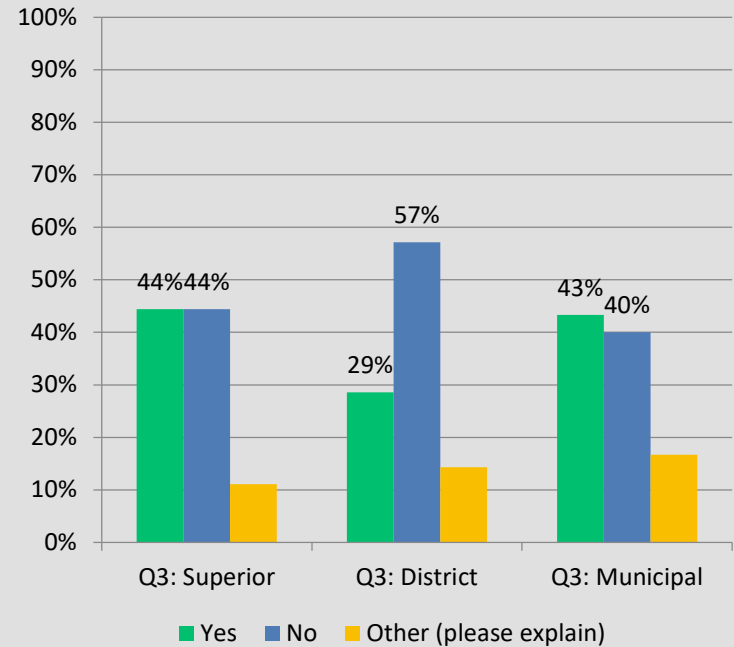
Courts Reporting: Superior 18, District 14, and Municipal 30



For any of the top three PROGRAM priorities, did you ask for new or additional funding in your most recent budget request?



For any of the top three MANAGEMENT priorities, did you ask for new or additional funding in your most recent budget request?



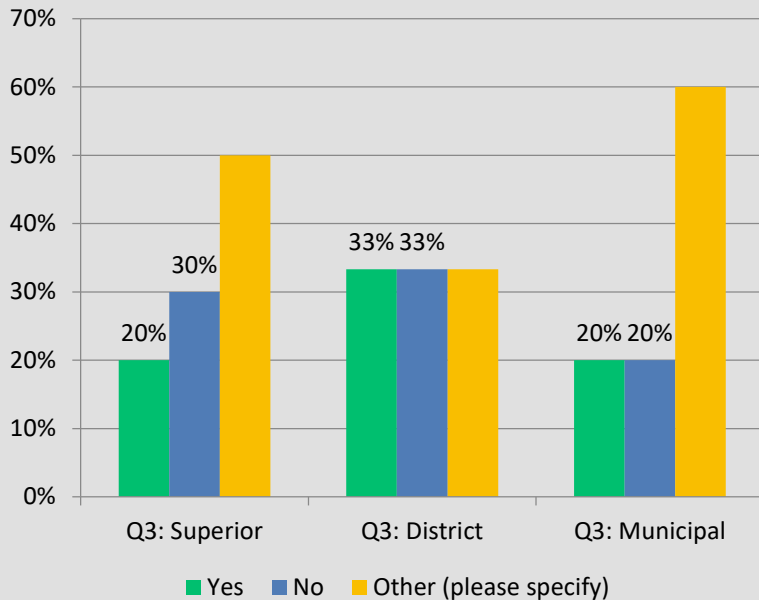
Much less variance for mgt requests. The Muni asks for programs is really low.



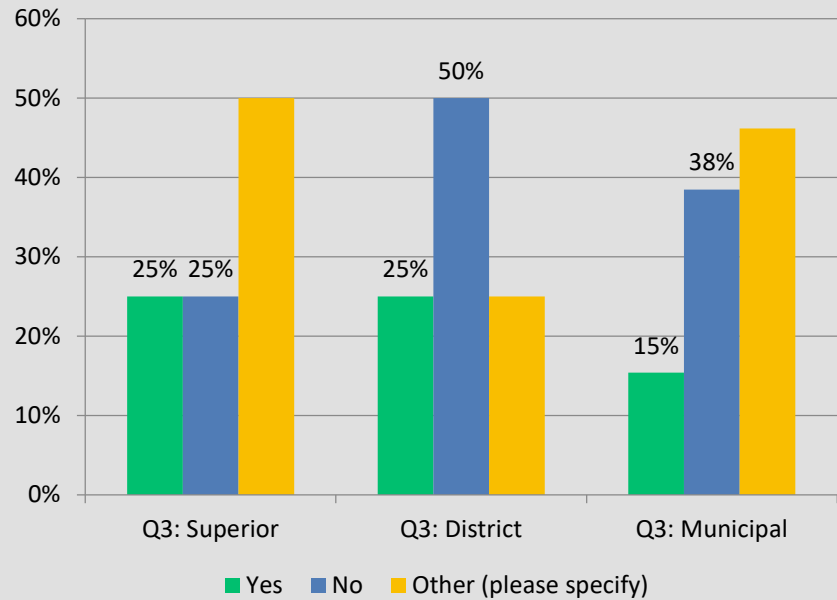
# Were courts that applied for funding successful?



**Were you successful in getting more funding for your top three PROGRAMS in your most recent budget proposal?** Answered 21, Skipped 51



**Were you successful in getting more funding for your top funding MANAGEMENT priorities in your most recent budget proposal?** Answered 25, Skipped 47



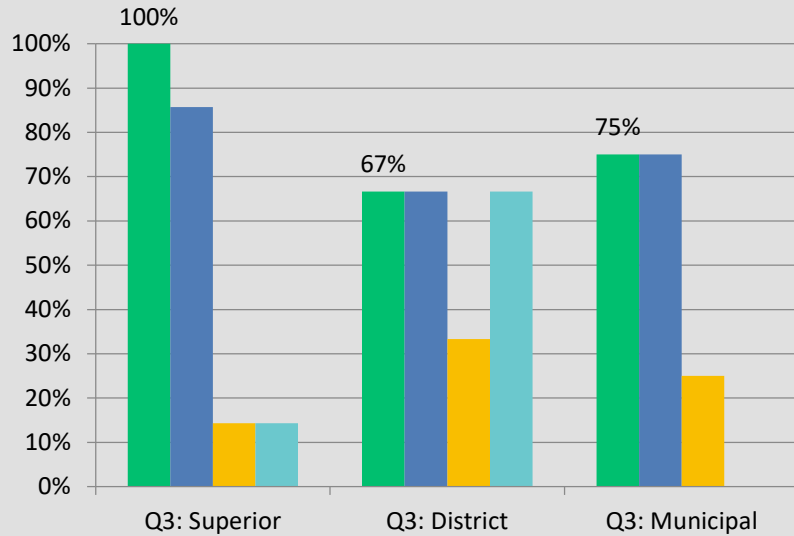
Courts seem to be equally likely to be successful with both types of requests. How do we get the **Yes** higher?

# Why were courts that applied for funding successful?



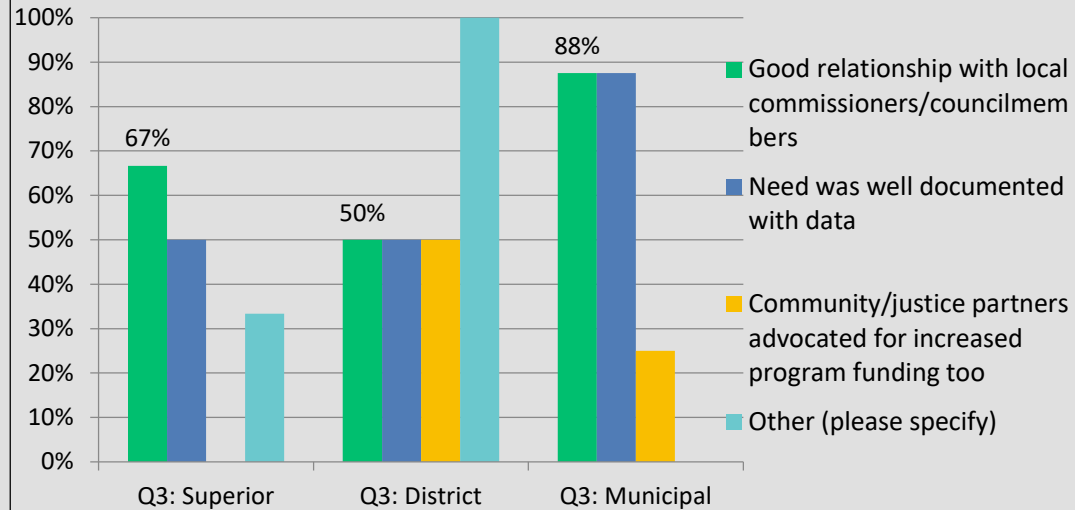
What factors do you think led to the successful increase in funding for your top PROGRAM priorities?

Answered 14, Skipped 58



What factors do you think led to the successful increase in funding for your top MANAGEMENT priorities?

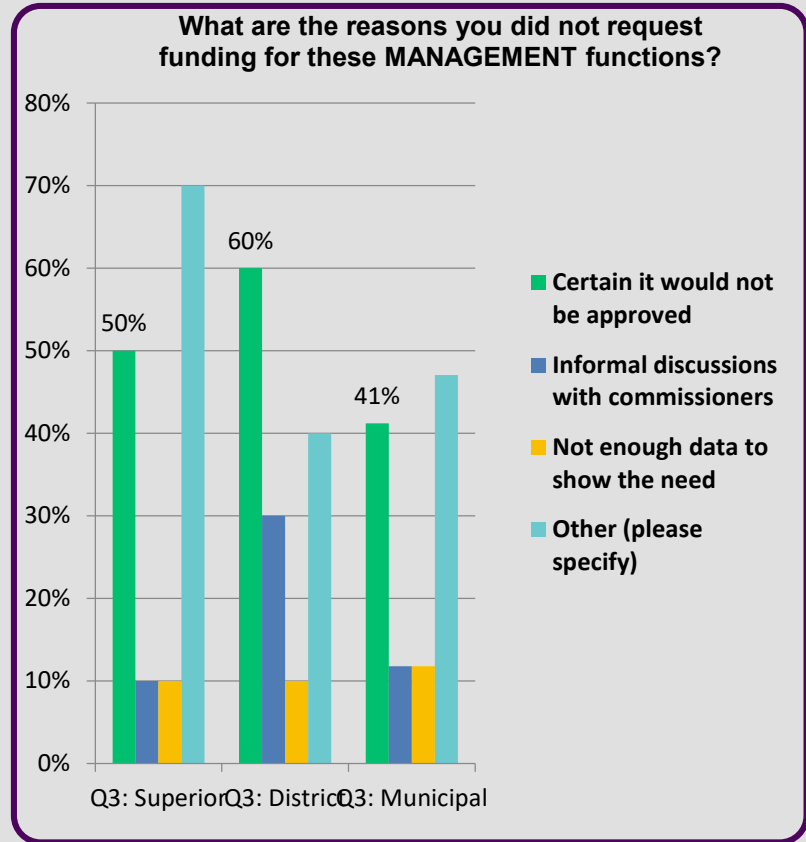
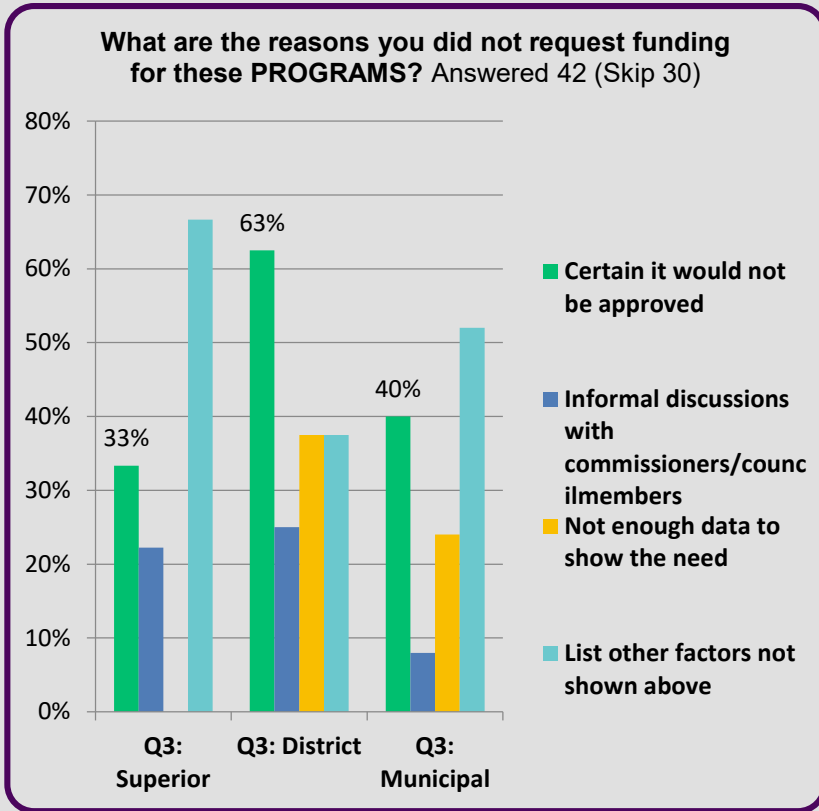
Answered 16, Skipped 56



Good relationships and need-documentation seem to matter more for program funding requests

# Why didn't courts apply for funding?

Courts Reporting: Superior 18, District 14, and Municipal 30; Answered 37, Skipped 35



A42/Skip 30

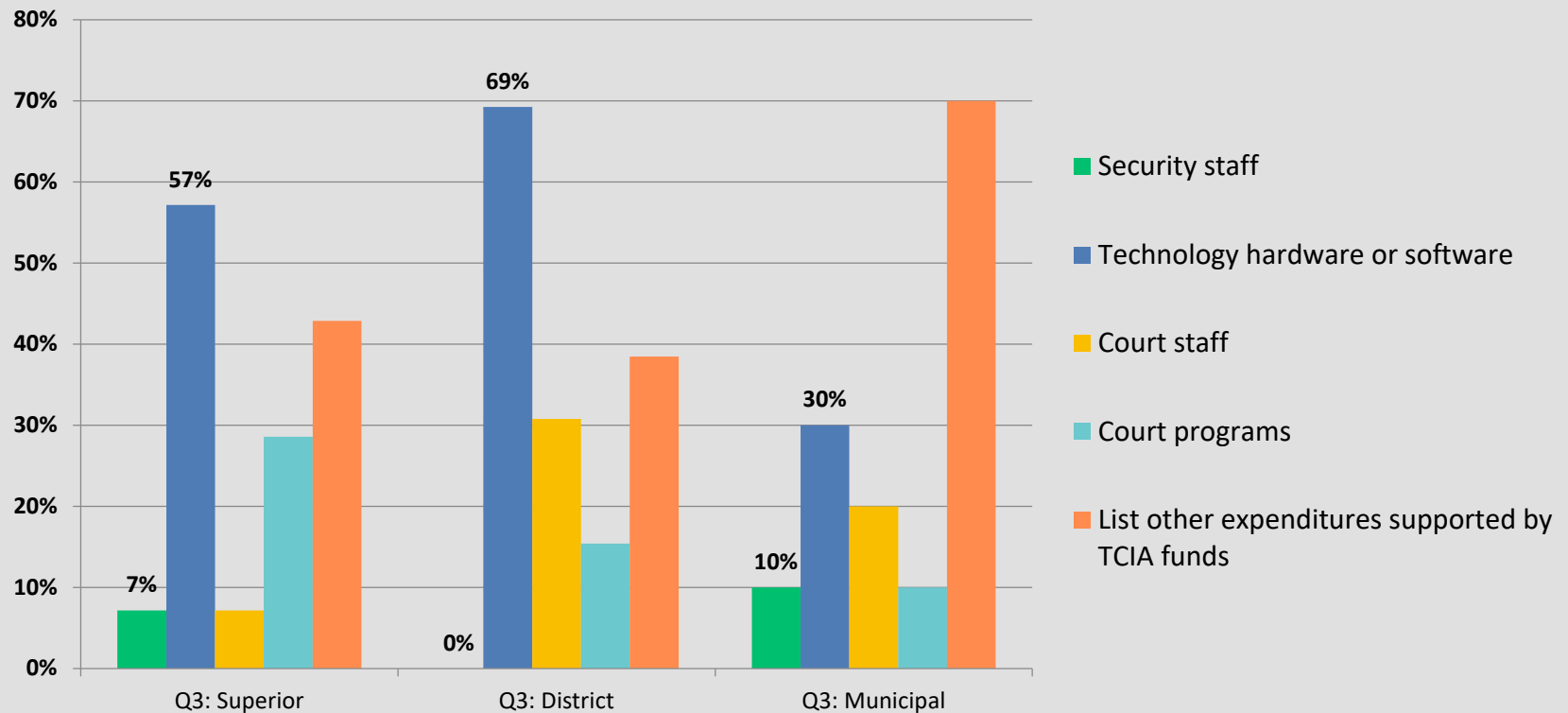
Are courts pessimistic or realistic when they don't ask because they are certain to be it won't be approved?

# Other Funding Sources - TCIA

Trial Court Improvement Account



## How is your court using TCIA funds?



# Other Funding Sources - Grants

Does your court currently receive grant funding for any of the following programs? Please write in the name of the grantor next to the programs listed.



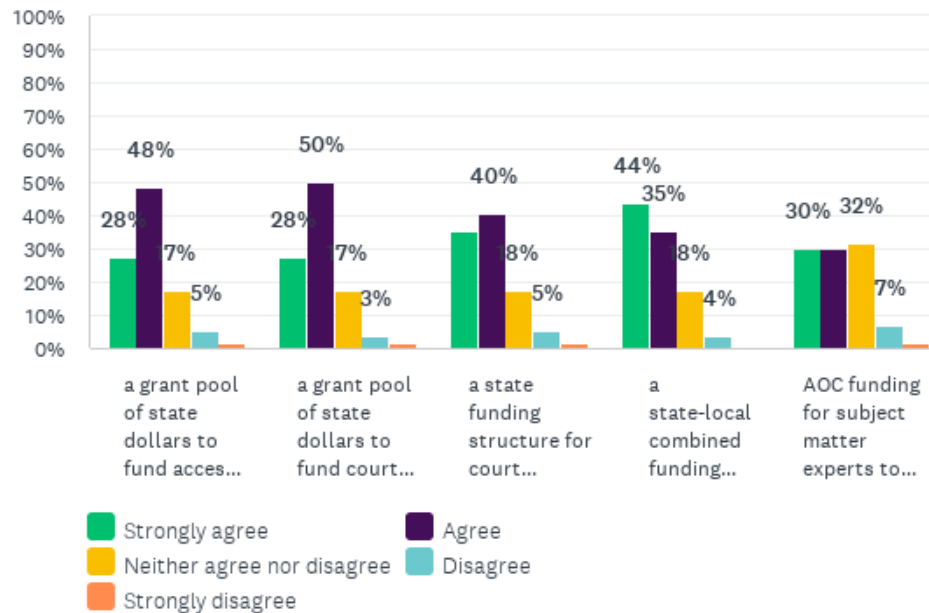
Answer Choices	Responses	
Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence	17 %	5
Therapeutic/Community Courts (e.g. drug court, veterans, etc.)	48 %	14
Courthouse Security	10 %	3
Child Welfare	31 %	9
Sexual Assault	10 %	3
Juvenile Justice	38%	11
Family Law	17%	5
Crime Victims	10 %	3
Other (please specify)	48 %	14
Other (please specify)	21%	6
	Answered	29
	Skipped	45

# Exploring Alternative Funding Structures

## Options to consider



Q25 Indicate your level of agreement for the following statements: "The judicial branch should explore pursuing..."



# How can we help?

## SKILLS and TOOLS Needed



Does your court need help with any of the following to pursue adequate funding?

Answered 58, Skipped 14

