



Warren County
Iowa



Important Information for August 7th Election

After 80 years of service, the current courthouse no longer meets the needs of the county due to limited remodeling options, failure to meet state codes, decaying infrastructure, and lack of adequate space for necessary functions. The estimated total project cost of the Warren County Law Enforcement Center and Courthouse is \$31.1 million, comprised of \$29.9 million in the referendum with \$1.2 million from reserves if needed.



On **Tuesday, August 7th 2018**, Warren County Residents have the opportunity to vote on a referendum for \$29.9 million to construct a new Law Enforcement Center and Courthouse that combines Sheriff's Offices, 911 Communications, Booking and Inmate Detention, Law Enforcement and Emergency Services training facility, Emergency Management Office, County Attorney's Offices, and Iowa District Court Services into one complex on the Square.

Vote **YES**, if you **want** the new Law Enforcement Center And Courthouse

Vote **NO**, if you **do not want** the new Law Enforcement Center And Courthouse



The following questions and answers offer additional information into the construction of a new Law Enforcement Center and Courthouse for voter consideration on August 7th.

What will the Law Enforcement Center and Courthouse Cost?

The estimated total project cost is \$31.1 million. The referendum is for \$29.9 million and \$1.2 million from reserves if needed.

How can this facility grow with Warren County over time?

The current courthouse is 31,000 sq. ft. compared to the proposed Law Enforcement Center and Courthouse estimated at 80,000 sq. ft. The increased size is projected to meet the usage needs for 30 years and with planned additions, even longer. Initially constructed with 4 jury courtrooms, space is included that can be finished for 2 additional jury courtrooms. Inmate housing will initially be 72 beds and by installing additional bunks, 16 beds can be added (total 88 beds). A second, 32 bed housing addition is also planned (total 120 beds). These projections are based on input from the Courts, County Attorney, Sheriff, Emergency Management, and Shive-Hattery, the project architect. If more space is needed many years from now, an option to add a third floor (additional 30,000 sq. ft.) to the facility has been structurally included.

Will this facility be large enough?

Average inmate housing estimates are based off many factors including population growth, demographics and incarceration rates. In 2016, the U.S. Census reports Warren County had 48,010 residents and by calculating a 2% annual growth, the population is estimated to be 88,938 by 2046. Applying the Incarceration rate information provided by the State of Iowa Department of Corrections, an estimated 93 average inmate beds per day are needed.

Why can't the existing building be retrofitted to meet state code?

The design of the current 80 year old structure would require relocation of floors, columns and foundations limiting renovation options. The expense of these changes when combined with replacing plumbing, electrical and HVAC, are too costly.

How will the new Law Enforcement Center and Courthouse be paid for?

If the referendum is passed, Warren County will implement a property tax levy for \$29.9 million over approximately 20 years. If the referendum fails, County reserves may be depleted with possible property tax increases to fund transportation and housing inmates. We are currently transporting and housing an average of over 40 inmates daily in other counties. Transportation is expensive, time consuming and creates a lot of extra work. We pay other counties fees to care for Warren County inmates which are subject to the costs of their jail operations which will increase.

What amount of tax increase is estimated for the referendum?

If the referendum is passed, Warren County will implement a property tax rate of \$0.95/\$1,000 and with rollbacks, the estimated annual tax increase examples are:

Assessed Value	Est. Annual Tax Increase	Est. Monthly Tax Increase
Residence—\$100,000	\$53.04	\$4.42
Multi-Residence—\$100,000	\$75.09	\$6.26
Commercial—\$500,000	\$429.09	\$35.76
Agricultural—40 Acres	\$27.04	\$2.25

What can we expect with the new Law Enforcement Center and Courthouse?

Depending on the election results, additional design and pre-construction would ramp up immediately. With the goal of construction in late Spring 2019 and is estimated completion by May of 2021.

What do I need to do?

Be sure to vote on August 7th, 2018 in the special election. Absentee ballots available July 9th. You can find polling locations and times at www.warrencountyia.org/auditor.shtml, contact the Warren County Auditor's office at 515-961-1020 or at www.wccitizens.org (click polling places button).

Find more information at www.wccitizens.org