



Waukesha County

Office of the County Executive

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WAUKESHA COUNTY EMBARKS ON FOUR-YEAR COURTHOUSE REMODELING PROJECT

Construction will update aging mechanical systems, create a more efficient layout, and increase accessibility.

(Waukesha, WI) – September 12, 2023 – It’s the beginning of a new era at the Waukesha County Courthouse. We are excited to announce that today Tuesday, September 12, 2023, Waukesha County Executive Paul Farrow, alongside other County, Elected and Judicial officials, wielded sledgehammers to ceremoniously smash a wall, marking the official commencement of an extensive remodeling project at the Waukesha County Courthouse.

“When this courthouse complex was built in 1959 the population of Waukesha County was about 158,000. We had 3 circuit courts. Today we have over 400,000 county residents, and 12 circuit courts, and we’re still growing. With the boom in economic development and overall success as a community we now have justice and public safety needs that we did not anticipate 6 decades ago. This project is part of that evolution,” County Executive Paul Farrow said.

Project Highlights: This four-year transformative renovation is set to bring the Waukesha County Courthouse into the 21st century. The project will encompass state-of-the-art upgrades in HVAC, plumbing, electrical, and audio-visual systems. Security systems will be bolstered, and a modernized public announcement system will be put in place. The entrance will undergo a significant expansion, and secure, state-of-the-art courtrooms will be established, including moving juvenile court into the courthouse.

Improving Public Service and Safety: This ambitious endeavor is particularly exciting because it promises to significantly enhance customer service and wayfinding for the public. This substantial construction project will result in several years of disruption not only for courthouse staff and the building itself, but also for administrative staff and their facilities.

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“We are presented with an opportunity to modernize this institution, making it not only safer, but also more efficient. It will create a three-way separation, ensuring distinct areas for staff, the public, and prisoners. This separation limits unnecessary interactions and prevents potential confrontations, enhancing the overall safety and functionality of our courthouse,” County Executive Paul Farrow said. Upon its completion, this remodeling project will create a one-stop shop government center and judicial complex.

Throughout this process we appreciate the public’s patience. The public will notice new wayfinding routes to navigate through the courthouse and to the secure courts tower.

About the Waukesha County Courthouse: The Waukesha County Courthouse, an enduring symbol of justice, was constructed in 1959. Step one of this project saw the construction of our secure courts tower, an achievement that reinforced our dedication to upholding the law. Step two includes the construction of the new entrance, expected to span approximately 2 years, with each department/division temporarily relocating within the courthouse as their respective areas are being constructed. The project is slated for completion in late 2026. Funding for this \$115 million, four-year project has been carefully planned and sourced from a variety of channels.

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