



SMITH COUNTY COURTHOUSE BOND PROPOSAL

**ELECTION DAY
NOV 8**



In 2019 and 2020, the Smith County Judge and Commissioners held numerous Citizen Meetings and Public Commissioners Court Workshops. They also met with individual stakeholders, community organizations and civic groups, and received input from the community via Citizen Input Surveys. This was the capstone to 20 years of study and planning for a new Courthouse. Calling a bond in 2020 for a new Courthouse was put on hold because of the pandemic and in an effort to provide additional tax relief. But, now is the time for the community to finally get the chance to decide the future of the Courthouse. It's the people's building and the people's choice.

ELECTION DAY INFORMATION

General Election Day: **35 polling locations** on Tuesday, **November 8**
Early Voting: **5 polling locations** from **October 24** through **November 4**

www.smith-county.com/government/departments/elections

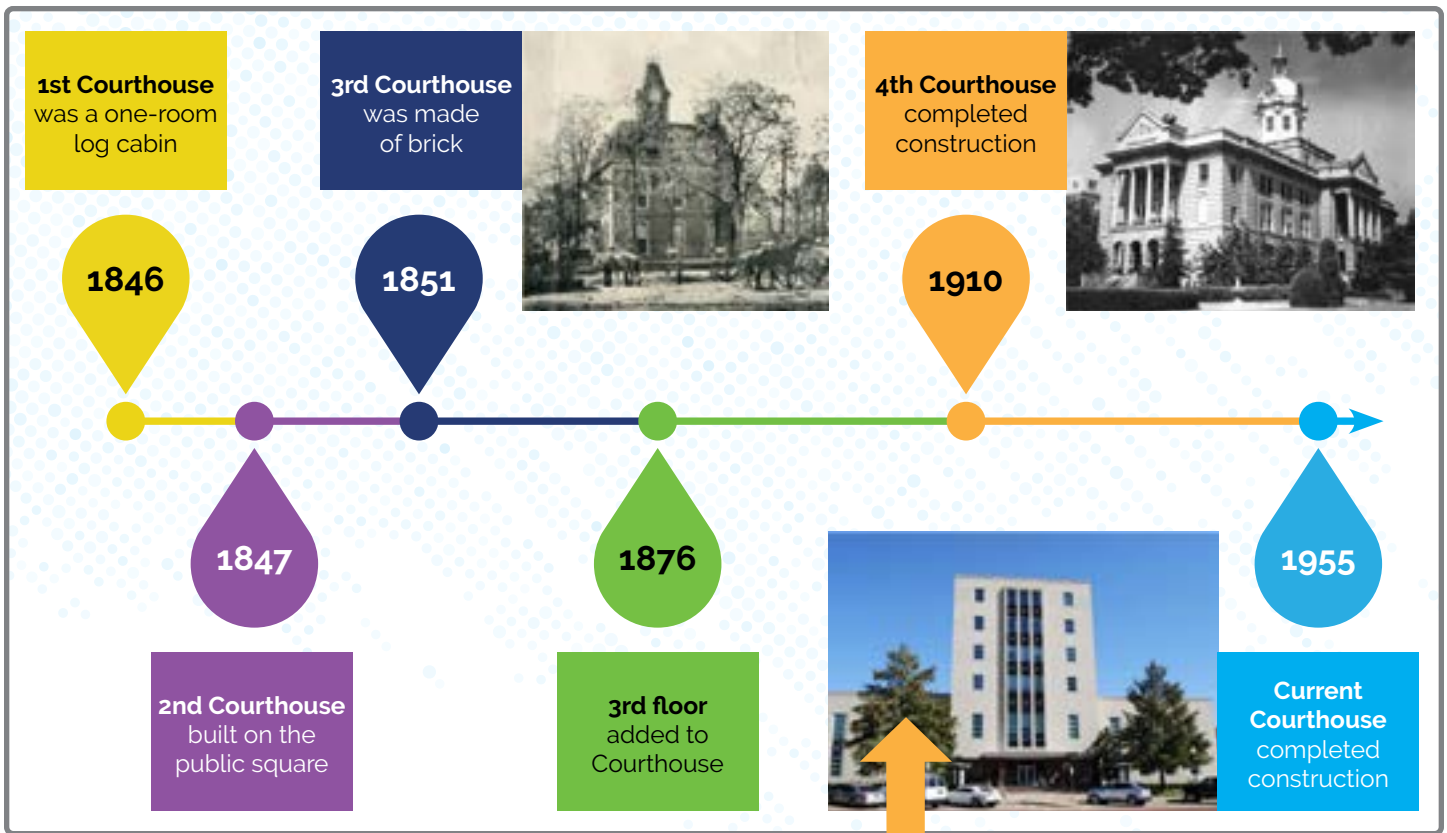


SMITH COUNTY COURTHOUSE HISTORICAL TIMELINE

1910 Smith Co. Population 42,000 Texas Almanac

1950 Smith Co. Population 74,701 Texas Almanac

2020 Smith Co. Population 233,479 -US Census



Built for 2 trial courts; Currently has 7.



A COURTHOUSE REFLECTIVE OF THE COMMUNITY

Safety & Security

- Safe location for jurors, victims, witnesses, families, judges and staff
- Separate corridors of traverse inside for the public, judges, staff, litigants and criminal defendants

Value to Taxpayer

- Value-engineered design that was peer-reviewed
- Efficient court layout to reduce the size and cost
- Avoids future expensive maintenance on current aged Courthouse that has growing maintenance needs

Efficient Administration of Justice

- Multi-use spaces to maximize space usage and frequency of use
- Basement holding cells for inmates with court hearings and courtroom holding cells on each floor with attorney visitation
- Court-support services all under one roof

Law & Order

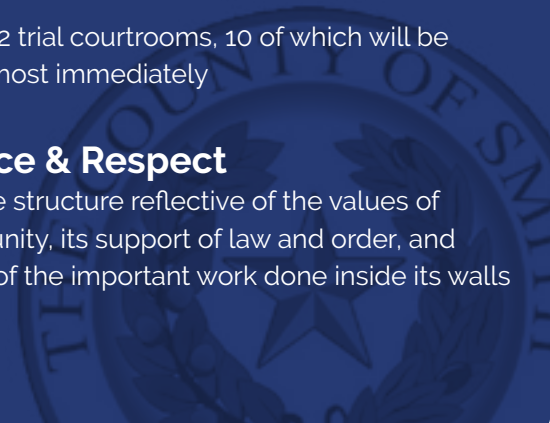
- Reduce jail population and time to trial
- Bring swift and fair justice to defendants
- Protect victims and their families

Logistics & Long-Term Planning

- Shelled space to plan for at least 75 years of logistical growth
- Space for 12 trial courtrooms, 10 of which will be needed almost immediately

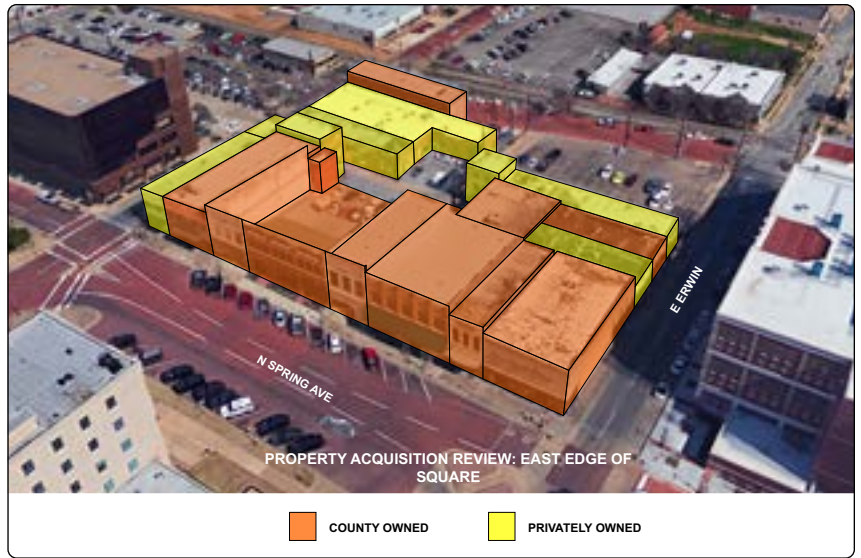
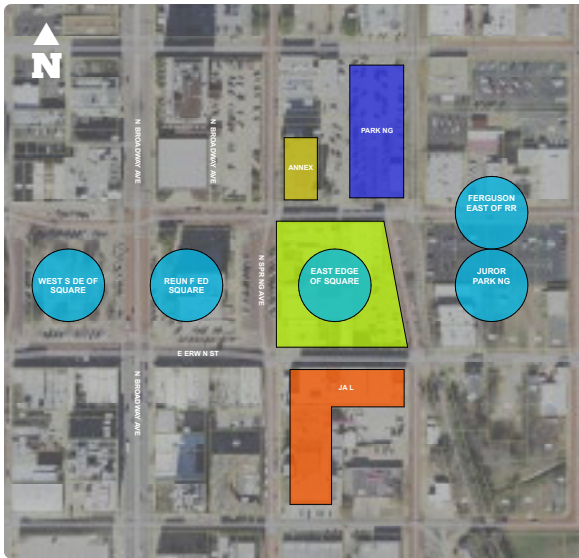
Reverence & Respect

- Courthouse structure reflective of the values of the community, its support of law and order, and respectful of the important work done inside its walls





SITE LOCATION OPTIONS



EAST OF SQUARE LOCATION CHOSEN BY COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS

- Lowest cost to taxpayers
- No disruption to downtown businesses during construction
- Material staging off of the Square
- No disruptions to Court operations
- Broadway Avenue remains open
- Increases green space in Downtown
- Revitalizes dilapidated buildings
- Aligns County justice and administrative facilities
- Shortest tunnel and proximity to the Jail



SAFETY & SECURITY LAYOUT OF PLANNED COURTHOUSE

PUBLIC

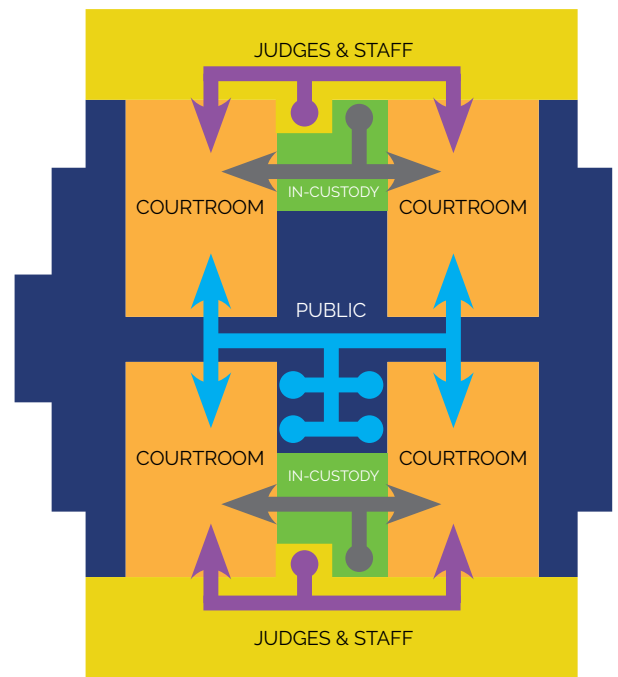
- Internal hallways and corridors that never cross paths with jail inmates, except in the courtroom
- Separate elevator systems for the public, apart from jail inmates
- Secure jury deliberation rooms with separate restrooms not accessible by defendants, witnesses or other parties
- Increased security measures at the public entry points and throughout the Courthouse
- Shortened travel distances to courtrooms with easy line of sight and wider hallways

JUDGES & STAFF

- Secured parking from elevator to judge's chambers and admin support
- Direct access from judge's chambers and staff office to courtroom
- Secured entry from public corridors to judge's offices

IN-CUSTODY

- In-custody holding cells on each floor that lead directly into each courtroom
- Service elevator from the basement that is connected to the jail tunnel for secure transport of inmates from the jail
- Shortened tunnel length from the Courthouse to the jail



No public, in-custody inmates, or judges and staff paths ever cross with each other without passing through additional security measures



BY THE NUMBERS

ESTIMATED COST OF COURTHOUSE AND PARKING STRUCTURE: \$179 MILLION

(Assuming 2024 construction start)

PROJECTED TAX RATE IMPACT ~3.67¢
(per \$100 valuation)

ESTIMATED TAX PAYER IMPACT:
\$73.4 PER YEAR FOR A \$200,000 HOME



ESTIMATED COST:

Courthouse	~ \$160 million
Parking	~ \$19 million
Total	~ \$179 million



PAST PLANNING & PROPOSALS

These studies were followed by The Carlton Building Feasibility Study in 2016, and an engineering analysis of the current Courthouse in 2019, which evaluated renovation alternatives, none of which were feasible



PROJECTED COURTHOUSE COST: \$63 MILLION

In 2000, a Task Force of 50 community members was formed and came up with a Master Plan that showed the need for a new Courthouse, Parking Structure, Sheriff's Administration Building and Jail.

***\$156 million** in current dollars*



PROJECTED COURTHOUSE COST: \$77 MILLION

In 2007, a second study by a different court and different consulting firm showed the need for a new Courthouse, along with a Jail and Sheriff's Office.

***\$163.6 million** in current dollars*



PROJECTED COURTHOUSE COST: \$125 MILLION

In 2020, Fitzpatrick Architects designed a new Courthouse after community and public meetings were held by the County Judge and Commissioners Court.

***\$160 million** in current dollars*



PROJECTED COURTHOUSE COST: \$160 MILLION

Same design from 2020 – Projected new Courthouse construction start in 2024. Parking structure is an additional \$19 million.

The 2011 Jail Bond Debt will be fully paid off in 2022



RESOURCES



For more information on Smith County Courthouse Planning, Scan the QR Code.

\$0 TAX IMPACT

Ages 65 and Over (over their frozen amount)

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