

STRONG FACILITY. SAFER COMMUNITY. SECURE YELLOWSTONE COUNTY.



Why This Matters

Yellowstone County's detention facility was built in 1986. After multiple expansions, current rated capacity is 434 inmates. Today it regularly holds more than 600, about 50% over its rated capacity. To address current conditions and plan for the next 20 years, the county is proposing an expansion and renovation of the facility, funded by a bond and operations levy on the November 3, 2026 ballot.

By the Numbers

434

MAXIMUM CAPACITY

Capacity of the current facility

600+

AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION

Current average daily population exceeds design by 38%

1987

YEAR FACILITY OPENED

The current facility has been in continuous operation for nearly 40 years

NOV 3

2026 ELECTION DAY

Yellowstone County voters will decide on the bond and operations levy on 11/3/2026

THE FACILITY TODAY

THE YELLOWSTONE COUNTY DETENTION FACILITY OPENED IN 1987. THE ORIGINAL RATED CAPACITY AT THE CURRENT FACILITY WAS 174. TODAY, IT HOUSES MORE THAN 600 INMATES.

Facility Condition

As part of the Jail Needs Assessment Master Plan, the project team completed a Facilities Condition Assessment (FCA) of the existing building. The FCA evaluates the major systems including plumbing, electrical, mechanical, life safety, and code compliance and identifies issues that need attention.

\$9.5M

HIGH-PRIORITY
DEFERRED MAINTENANCE

- Aging plumbing, electrical, and mechanical systems
- Life safety and code-compliance deficiencies
- ADA accessibility issues throughout the facility
- Medical care delivery space limitations (ACA compliance)



OPERATIONAL IMPACT

How Capacity Affects Operations

When a detention facility operates above its design capacity, daily operations are affected in measurable ways. The following operational impacts are documented in the Jail Needs Assessment Master Plan and supported by Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office records.

CLASSIFICATION LIMITATION / PROGRAM AND SERVICE SPACE / MAINTENANCE PRESSURE

PROJECT OVERVIEW

WHAT THE PROPOSED EXPANSION INCLUDES,
WHAT IT COSTS, AND HOW IT WOULD BE PAID FOR.

On November 3, 2026, Yellowstone County voters will be asked to approve a bond and operations levy to fund an expansion and renovation of the Yellowstone County Detention Facility.

The Proposal at a Glance

\$195M

TOTAL PROJECT COST

Total cost of expansion and renovation, \$175M bond - expires 20yrs, \$20M Levy

332

NEW BEDS ADDED

New direct-supervision housing beds added to the existing facility

NOV 3

2026 BALLOT DATE

Yellowstone County voters decide on the general election ballot, November 3, 2026

How it Would be Funded

The proposal has two parts: a general obligation bond to fund construction, and an operations levy to fund staffing and ongoing facility operations.

What the Project Includes

The expansion is a combination of new construction and renovation of the existing facility on King Avenue East. The project is designed to meet projected detention needs through at least 2049, based on the Jail Needs Assessment Master Plan.

ADDED CAPACITY

- 332 new beds
- Modern direct-supervision housing design
- Dedicated medical housing units
- Dedicated mental health housing units

UPDATED OPERATIONS

- Modernized booking and intake areas
- Improved transport and sally port facilities
- Program space for substance abuse, mental health, job training, and education
- Renovations to address \$9.5M in deferred maintenance

BUILT FOR THE FUTURE

- Designed to meet projected demand through at least 2049
- Modular construction approach for future expansion
- Energy-efficient mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems
- Materials selected for durability and lower long-term maintenance costs

BOND PROPOSAL

Bond & Levy at a Glance

\$175M

TOTAL BOND AMOUNT

20 YR

BOND REPAYMENT TIMELINE

\$20M

TOTAL LEVY AMOUNT

GET OUT AND VOTE!

The bond election is November 3, 2026.
Find your polling place and make your voice heard.



WHAT THE BOND COVERS

- New 332-bed expansion wing
- Renovation of the existing 434-bed facility to restore rated capacity
- Expanded healthcare, intake, and inmate program spaces
- Life safety, ADA, and code compliance upgrades
- Site improvements including relocation of maintenance and evidence buildings

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY
STRONGER. SAFER. JAIL EXPANSION PROJECT

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