

PORTAGE COUNTY COURTHOUSE PROJECT

FACTSHEET

The Portage County Board of Supervisors voted in December 2009 to recognize the need for, and favor the construction of, a new Courthouse. They also set a referendum vote on the issue for April 6, 2010.

WHY NOW?

Courthouse needs have changed since the 1950's.

- More people, more and different types of cases today:
Frequency and intensity of cases create different needs for security in the courtrooms, hallways, and entrances.
- Current technology needs (video conferencing, electronic communications, etc.) not adequately met.
- Justice operations have been studied for over a decade, and Court operations have been identified as greatly benefiting from an overhaul.

“The current Courthouse is a great office building. It is no longer a great building for the courts.”

John Cain,
Venture
Architects.

“The Courthouse is a more dire need than jail space. I can find beds for prisoners in other counties. We need space and better security at the Courthouse. I’m all in favor of doing the Courthouse first.” Portage County Sheriff John Charewicz.

Construction costs are currently low and financing is reasonable.

- Today’s economy has driven down construction prices; a UWSP project recently came in 33% under estimate. Courthouse needs will not go away, and delaying this inevitable project could greatly increase its price.
- The County Board has been setting aside funds for this major project for several years.
- Bonding to finance this project can be done WITHOUT raising taxes.

For More Information:

- Website: www.co.portage.wi.us/Building%20Review/
- Meeting videos on-line: <http://stevenspoint.com> (Meeting Videos 2009, Portage County)
- Contact your County Supervisor
- Contact the Building Review Committee Chairperson: Jeanne Dodge at (715) 592-4153