



## City of Owatonna | Community Center Project

### Project Overview

The **City of Owatonna** is seeking legislative authorization to allow local voters to consider a **0.5% local sales tax** to help fund the construction of a **new community center** that will serve residents, families and visitors from across southern Minnesota.

Owatonna is a **regional destination** for work, shopping, healthcare and recreation, yet it is one of the largest communities in the area **without a community center**. For decades, residents have expressed strong interest in building a centralized, inclusive facility that supports health, wellness, recreation and community connection.

### Why a Community Center is Needed

Owatonna continues to grow as a regional hub, and demand for year-round recreational, wellness and gathering spaces has outpaced existing facilities. A community center would:

- Provide **indoor recreation and wellness opportunities** for all ages
- Create a central gathering place that strengthens **community connection**
- Support **youth, families and seniors**
- Attract and retain talented workers to the City and surrounding area
- Serve residents of Owatonna and surrounding communities who already live, work, shop and recreate in the city

Community engagement conducted over multiple years demonstrates **strong, sustained public interest** in a community center and support for using a local sales tax as a funding tool.



## Why a Local Sales Tax

A local sales tax is a **fair and responsible funding mechanism** because it:

- Shares the cost with **visitors and non-residents** who use Owatonna amenities
- Reduces reliance on property taxes for Owatonna residents
- Has been successfully used in Owatonna before—a sales tax approved by voters in 2006 funded transportation, parks and trails, and city facilities
- Allows local voters to determine if this is a priority for our community

Based on analysis by the University of Minnesota Extension Center for Community Vitality in 2025, a 0.5% sales tax is estimated to generate an average of \$2 million annually in new, incremental revenue.

### Regional and Statewide Benefits



Supports quality of life in  
**Greater Minnesota**



Strengthens Owatonna's role  
as a **regional hub**



Enhances economic vitality and  
workforce competitiveness



Creates a long-term, community-  
driven public asset

### Contact Information

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### Additional Project Information

[OurCommunityOurCenter.org](http://OurCommunityOurCenter.org)

