

Washington County Historic Courthouse Restoration



Washington County supports \$2.5 million in state funding for exterior building restoration and roof and dome replacement for the Washington County Historic Courthouse. This funding will be matched with \$2.5 million of Washington County funds.

Issue At-A-Glance

- As the oldest standing courthouse in the state of Minnesota, the Washington County Historic Courthouse conveys a sense of civic pride to residents and visitors from across the state.
- Washington County commissioned a complete building and site assessment for the Historic Courthouse. This report concluded that while the building has been well maintained, repairs to the exterior, roof, and dome are required.
- Repairs to the the Washington County Historic Courthouse would ensure that the building will continue to serve as a historical touchstone, a tourism driver, and a community asset.

Support

Local partners and agencies support this project. The general public has provided comments supporting the need for restoration and repairs to the Historic Courthouse.

No Action

If funding is not allocated, the proposed project will either be delayed, or scaled back significantly. Within five years, the deteriorating condition of the Historic Courthouse may force Washington County to close it.

Financial Implications

Proposed improvements will extend the life of the building for almost a century. Maintenance costs of the building, which the county is responsible for, would also be greatly reduced.

Needed Improvements

- Leaks in the roof require immediate replacement
- Tuck pointing is required to address cracking and wear on the exterior walls
- Complete restoration of the wooden dome structure at the peak of the roof



Washington County Courthouse Facts

- Oldest standing courthouse in Minnesota.
- Added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1971.
- Serves as a community gathering space, a history museum, and a tourist attraction.
- The building has been well maintained and the county has invested in improvements, creating a space that can be used for public events and engagement.
- Draws almost 10,000 visitors per year.

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