

*Commissioners Court
Kenneth Weeks, County Judge
Danny Bentsen, Comm. Pct. 1
Phillip A. White, Comm. Pct. 2
Gary Fomby, Comm. Pct. 3
Wesley G. Thompson, Comm. Pct. 4*



November Bond Election Set for Newton County Jail and Annex

Newton County Commissioners Court has ordered a Bond Election on November 2, 2021. Early voting will start October 18th. The election will present a proposition on authorizing up to \$12 million for a new jail and law enforcement center and justice center annex at the old detention center.

If authorized, the County's plan is to renovate part of the existing detention center on Highway 87 into a county jail and Sheriff's Office. A metal building on that site would be expanded into a justice center annex, housing the district attorney, district clerk, multipurpose courtroom, and justice of the peace. Newton County bought the existing detention center and 29- acre site for \$100,000 earlier this year from the facility bond holders.

The new jail will provide enough capacity to house all Newton County inmates at the facility. Newton County has spent over \$300,000 in cost of transferring prisoners to Jasper, Polk, and other counties during the last 18 months.

The current County Jail is too small to house all of Newton County prisoners. The jail is costly to maintain and can be dangerous for jail staff and the public. The jail operates with several variances to State standards and is subject to cancellation of those variances by the Texas Jail Commission.

County Officials plan to hold public meetings in the coming weeks to allow citizens to get additional information on the project and ask questions about the Bond Election and cost.

PUBLIC HEARING LOCATIONS AND TIMES

October 5, 2021	6:00 p.m.	Toledo Village Community Center
October 7, 2021	6:00 p.m.	Cade Building, Burkeville
October 12, 2021	6:00 p.m.	Hughes Outreach Center, Bon Wier
October 14, 2021	4:00 p.m.	Trout Creek Volunteer Fire Department
October 14, 2021	6:00 p.m.	Deweyville Sub-Courthouse
October 18, 2021	6:00 p.m.	Iris & Anne Howard Civic Center, Newton