



Howard County Commissioners Release Request for Proposals as Preparations for Construction of New County Jail Begin

For Immediate Release

January 21, 2025

KOKOMO, Ind. – The Board of Commissioners of Howard County, Indiana, today approved the publication of a request for proposals (RFP) for a build-operate-transfer (BOT) contract to provide for the design, financing and construction of a new county jail.

The RFP will be published January 27, 2025.

Ahead of the approval, Board President Jack Dodd made the following statement:

“For nearly two decades, county officials exhausted all possible options to protect taxpayers from the cost of constructing a new county jail. That included making changes to the judicial system, such as opening a work release center and creating a magistrate court with a dedicated prosecutor and public defender to expedite the judicial process. It also included making renovations and improvements to the county jail to expand capacity and improve inmate conditions.

“Having faced multiple lawsuits from the American Civil Liberties Union within the last year and a half, one of which has now concluded with a private settlement agreement, we no longer have any more options to exhaust.

“In compliance with the private settlement agreement, the county today will approve for publication a request for proposals for the design, financing and construction of a new county jail. As we begin this process, we will continue to maintain appropriate numbers and conditions for our inmate population.

“This is not something the county has rushed in to. For nearly a year, the jail committee has worked diligently to gather information, engage with surrounding counties to determine best practices and weigh our options.

“As we continue to move through this process, we are committed to doing it right — for the taxpayers and the future of our county.”

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