



Changes to the Howard County Justice System and Jail

Last updated: Apr. 1, 2025

Below is a year-by-year breakdown of changes made to the Howard County justice system and jail since 2006, with the jail's yearly average daily population (ADP) noted.

2006

- Created Superior Court 4

2007

- Superior Court 1 began drug court
- ADP: 338

2011

- Superior Court 1 began reentry court
- ADP: 308

2013

- Converted indoor recreation area into a dormitory-style housing unit to add 36 beds, bringing the facility total to 364 beds
- ADP: 328

2018

- January: Opened a work release center
- July: Superior Court 2 began mental health court and veterans court
- ADP: 440

2019

- January: Began renovation project of jail intake area to improve safety of corrections officers and inmates
- January: Approved one-time sign-on bonuses to corrections officers to help with retention and address staffing shortages
- August: Opened a new magistrate court
- ADP: 431

2020

- December: Conducted jail staffing analysis. The analysis by Bill Wilson of the Indiana Sheriff's Association recommended the county increase corrections officer staffing from 39 full-time officers to 54 full-time officers
- ADP: 437

2021

- March: Approved bid for final phase of jail roof replacement project. The project was spread over three years
- Purchased storage container for inmate property and additional storage per recommendation from Indiana Department of Corrections Jail Inspection
- Replaced material in padded cells
- ADP: 446

2023

- February: Hired DLZ to conduct a feasibility study and needs assessment for the jail. The DLZ report recommended the county should either add onto the existing facility or construct a new jail
- September: INMOD Security designed an 80-bed temporary unit addition for the county's consideration
- October: American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) filed a lawsuit over jail conditions
- October: Approved 0.2% increase to local income tax rate to support salaries and operating expenses at the jail
- November: Garmong Construction and Willoughby Water Management conducted a unit renovation assessment
- Visited jails in Hendricks and Hancock counties to observe their new facilities and gather information about the building process
- ADP: 413

2024

- January: Hired an additional prosecutor and dedicated public defender for the magistrate court
- January: ACLU filed an additional lawsuit over jail conditions
- January: Visited Steel Cells and Titan Security Door factories to learn more about potential new security solutions for the jail
- February: Created the Howard County Jail Committee comprised of the sheriff, jail commander, one county commissioner, three county councilors and the county attorney
- March: Crowder Detention Inc. visited the jail to exam facility doors for potential replacement
- March: Released RFQ to replace the jail's HVAC system
- April: Hired Baker Tilly to advise on financial aspects of a potential addition to the existing facility or construction of a new jail
- April: Pauly Jail Building Co. examined the jail for potential upgrades
- April: Hired two additional corrections officers to reduce overtime and improve facility safety, bringing the total to 42 officers
- May: Moved approximately 80 inmates to other counties to reduce the overall inmate population
- May: Toured property adjacent to the jail to see if it could be used as a site for a potential new jail

- May: Baker Tilly attended Jail Committee meeting to discuss how to finance a potential addition to the existing facility or construction of a new jail
- June: Jail and justice system assessment conducted by the National Institute for Corrections
- June: ACLU dropped one of two lawsuits
- July: Increased salaries for corrections officers by five percent to help with retention and address staffing shortages. Hired three additional corrections officers, bringing the total to 45
- July: Garmong Construction and Envoy toured the jail
- August: Hired Garmong Construction and Envoy to provide cost estimates for a potential addition to the existing facility or construction of a new jail
- September: Hired five additional corrections officers, bringing the total to 50
- September: Held joint meeting of county commissioners and county council to discuss the cost estimates from Garmong Construction and Envoy
- October: Provided an offer to the landowner of the property adjacent to the jail to use as a site for construction of a new jail
- October: Met with legal counsel from Barnes & Thornburg to discuss potential bidding and delivery methods for construction of a new jail
- October: Discussed possible settlement of the remaining ACLU lawsuit with legal counsel
- October: Updated staffing analysis by Bill Wilson of the Indiana Sheriff's Association
- December: Submitted a purchase agreement on property to be the site of a new jail
- December: Reached a settlement with the ACLU on the remaining lawsuit
- ADP: 374

2025

- January: Approved the release of an RFPQ for a BOT contract
- January: Released an RFPQ for a BOT contract
- January: Closed on property to be the site of a new jail
- February: Held interviews with respondents to the RFPQ
- March: Awarded RFPQ contract