



The Case FOR A NEW JAIL

As of the 2020 Census, the population of Anoka County was 363,887. The county has one jail in Anoka to serve that population, and it was originally built in 1983, when the county had 205,362 residents. At that time, the jail had functional bed capacity for 139 inmates, and that number has only increased to 180 usable beds based on current inmate classifications.

Unlike office buildings and many other facilities, jails are used extensively seven days a week, 24 hours a day. The Anoka County Jail, as one would expect from population growth and continuous use, is struggling to serve the county's growing population. Subsequently, the county has been looking at options for building a new jail in Anoka — state statute requires jails to be built in county seats. Two jail assessments were completed, one in 2017 and another in 2020, to identify the shortcomings of the current jail and to offer options for housing inmates into the future.

Following those studies, several scenarios and locations were discussed, with the preferred option being a two-story, 540-bed facility. The county continues to work with the City of Anoka about the location of the proposed building. The estimated cost for a new jail is \$159.2 million.

Construction of a new jail is currently still in the planning phases — no building has yet to be approved by the Anoka County Board of Commissioners. The last action the board took on this issue was in October of 2021, when it approved a contract amendment with Wold

Architects and Engineers for site plan and design services related to the construction of various public safety and correctional facilities, including a new jail, new parking ramp and new emergency communications facility.

The following pages will detail some of the issues facing the Anoka County Jail and the benefits of the proposed new facility.

"The county has been researching options for housing inmates for several years, and during that time a criminal justice workgroup was formed, consisting of representatives from county administration, social services, corrections, 10th Judicial District, public defenders, Sheriff's Office, jail administration, and the County Board of Commissioners," said Scott Schulte, chair, Anoka County Board of Commissioners. "This group, along with other board members and county staff, have been diligently working to identify the best options for our jail population, moving forward."

Classifications Affect

HOW MANY INMATES CAN BE HOUSED

The Minnesota Department of Corrections requires jails and prisons in the state to implement an inmate classification system that necessitates differently classified inmates be separated, for safety reasons. The growing number of classifications include:

- Minimum security
- Medium security
- Maximum security
- Discipline segregation
- Protective custody
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Male/Female



So, for example, overcrowding in a male housing unit cannot be resolved by moving males into a female housing unit that has empty beds. Thus, each housing area must have excess capacity to accommodate normal fluctuations in the various types (classifications) of inmates. This is the reason that a jail with unfilled beds may have to transport inmates, who cannot fill those beds, to out-of-county jails.

“Older jails, like Anoka County’s, are impacted more severely by classification issues than newer ones that are designed with classification requirements in mind,” said District 2 Anoka County Commissioner Julie Braastad. “Our jail is currently licensed for 238 inmates, but it only has a functional capacity of 180, primarily due to classifications.”



Cost to BOARD INMATES OUT

Due to insufficient capacity at the jail, Anoka County has been paying other counties for years, primarily Wright and Sherburne, to house the overflow of inmates. Paying for beds at other jails is expensive, and not part of this amount is the cost of transportation to out-of-county jails — e.g., vehicle depreciation, maintenance costs, gasoline, and deputies to conduct the transport. During 2019-20, the county spent over \$1 million to house inmates in other jails. Recent years have seen this problem exacerbated even more, since some jails are taking less out-of-county inmates amid the pandemic.

2019-2020 Cost
\$1 + Million



Age, Wear, Design CAUSING PROBLEMS

Given that the jail is a heavily used facility and the oldest in the metro area, fixes have been implemented over the years to address deterioration, but issues still arise.

The jail has dealt with roof leaks, pipe bursts and other age and wear-related problems that have damaged parts of the building and have resulted in costly repairs.

Additionally, some high-traffic areas are overused due to the burgeoning inmate population.

Core services (kitchen and laundry) were originally sized in 1982 to accommodate a population of 139 inmates. Modifications were made to the facility to increase the bed capacity, but the kitchen and laundry have not been increased in size or modified for functionality.

The current facility is situated on a site that cannot accommodate additional expansion. The courthouse size and parking requirements prohibit expansion of the site. Moreover, engineers have indicated expansion cannot be added vertically to the building.

Functional design issues have been a problem with the jail for years. This chart details some of those problems, which can increase danger for both jail staff and detainees, in the jail inmate and support areas.

Functional Areas	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA										
	Obscured Visibility	Capacity Limitations	Movement Problem	Escape Risk	Inmate Harm Risk	Staff/Public Harm Risk	Accident/Safety Risk	Communication Issue	Design Problem(s)	Deterioration	Ease of Resolution
Male Housing Units	Moderately serious problem	Serious problem	Serious problem	No serious problem	Serious problem	Serious problem	Serious problem	Serious problem	Serious problem	Lesser serious problem	Serious problem
Female Housing Units	Moderately serious problem	Serious problem	Moderately serious problem	No serious problem	No serious problem	No serious problem	No serious problem	No serious problem	Serious problem	No serious problem	Serious problem
Medical Area	Serious problem	Serious problem	Serious problem	No serious problem	No serious problem	Serious problem	No serious problem	No serious problem	Serious problem	No serious problem	Serious problem
Kitchen Area	Lesser serious problem	Serious problem	No serious problem	No serious problem	No serious problem	No serious problem	No serious problem	No serious problem	Lesser serious problem	No serious problem	Serious problem
Laundry Area	No serious problem	Moderately serious problem	No serious problem	No serious problem	No serious problem	No serious problem	No serious problem	No serious problem	Lesser serious problem	No serious problem	Serious problem
Program Space	No serious problem	Moderately serious problem	No serious problem	No serious problem	No serious problem	No serious problem	No serious problem	No serious problem	Serious problem	No serious problem	Serious problem
Professional Visiting Area	Serious problem	Moderately serious problem	Moderately serious problem	No serious problem	No serious problem	Serious problem	No serious problem	No serious problem	No serious problem	No serious problem	Serious problem
Staff Locker Rooms	No serious problem	Moderately serious problem	No serious problem	No serious problem	No serious problem	No serious problem	No serious problem	No serious problem	No serious problem	No serious problem	Serious problem

- Serious problem
- Moderately serious problem
- Lesser serious problem
- No serious problem

2020 Jail and Workhouse Study



- Make a Difference in the Community
- Protect Public Safety
- Competitive Wages
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- Advancement Opportunities

Learn About Becoming A CORRECTIONAL OFFICER

Search for openings at
[governmentjobs.com/
careers/anoka](https://governmentjobs.com/careers/anoka)

The Benefits OF A NEW JAIL

A new jail has a variety of benefits that would positively impact jail staff, inmates and the public.

General	Mental Health
Flexibility to build out space to respond to inmate classification changes and needs.	Dedicated beds designed for inmates experiencing mental health issues.
Supports security and safety for inmates/staff.	Space to provide better access to psychiatric services, counseling, and case management.
Minimizes vertical circulation, more secure.	Flexibility to build out space to respond to inmate classification changes and needs.
Larger vehicles can fit in sally-port for inmate transport (improves safety).	Child-friendly visitor spaces to reduce adverse childhood experiences.
Significant boarding out and transportation cost savings (\$1 M+ in 2019-20).	Room for program services designed to help reduce chances of inmates reoffending.



“The purpose of our county jail is not to just house pre-trial and sentenced detainees,” said District 6 Anoka County Commissioner Jeff Reinert. “A main focus of our jail is to help cut down on the instances of recidivism, and a new facility, with spaces dedicated to rehabilitating offenders, would certainly help aid in this effort. The benefits of a new facility would be many, and the county will keep researching options and working with our partners to figure out the best long-term solution for our jail.”

License Centers Offer Several Services, Job Opportunities

When Anoka County residents come into the county’s License and Passport Centers or search for this department online, they might not be aware that the array of services goes beyond the two mentioned in the department’s moniker, or that this can be an interesting, rewarding place to work.

In addition to issuing and renewing driver’s licenses and passports, the centers offer other services, such as tab renewal, titles and transfers, ID card procurement, and more.

How to access services

While walk-ins are still welcome, there are now other options to get your documentation processed, including the county’s eight drop box locations — License Center staff can process 16 different types of documents delivered to drop boxes. More information on this service, including drop box locations and printable forms, can be found at anokacounty.us/3897/Drop-Box-Services.

Career Opportunities

Positions at Anoka County License and Passport Centers are currently available, and people who are organized, interested in public service, and thrive in fast-paced environments are encouraged to apply when positions become available. The centers are implementing a career ladder system based on aspects such as length of service, increases in job responsibilities, ability and proficiency in processing difficult transactions, and assignment of advanced job duties. Being employed at a License Center location offers people opportunities to work in their communities at jobs that have great variety — every day brings something different. To find out if positions at the License and Passport Centers (or other Anoka County Departments) are currently open, visit anokacounty.us/1432/Career-Opportunities.



Legal Team Advises Several **DIVISIONS, INCLUDING JAIL**

Similar to many large corporations, Anoka County has an in-house legal team. The County Attorney's Office provides legal counsel to County Administration and other departments, including the Sheriff's Office and the jail. "Jails generate a lot of liability questions, data issues, and questions about constitutional rights," said Bryan Frantz, chief of the County Attorney's Office Civil Division.

Civil Division attorneys regularly field questions from the Sheriff's Office and jail staff to review issues through a legal lens. The goal is twofold: To make sure inmates' rights are protected and to protect the county from litigation. The County Attorney's Office also helps navigate personnel matters at the jail and will provide guidance if a court order impacts the activities of inmates.

Though the jail isn't new, novel questions arise frequently. Examples of emerging issues include religious attire, food and diet requirements, and the ever-evolving methods of smuggling in contraband.

"The new issues we see are a reflection of society," said Civil Attorney Bryan Lindberg, who advises the Sheriff's Office, "because that's who's in the jail. And when you go to jail, you lose your freedom, but you don't lose your constitutional rights."

New Jail Would be **BETTER FOR COUNTY STAFF**



The mission of the Anoka County Sheriff's Office's Jail Division is to provide secure, safe, and humane confinement to individuals legally committed to the jail. Daily, employees at the jail see some of the worst experiences that an individual, and a society can endure. Their environment is always unpredictable and often volatile. However, their mission remains steadfast to keep everyone in the building safe and secure.

The growing number of required inmate classifications continues to reduce the jail's functional capacity as more inmates require separation due to discipline segregation, protective custody, mental health, etc. Due to the lack of space for COVID-19 positive and exposed inmates, there were periods when the entire jail had to go on lockdown to properly segregate inmates to decrease the risk of spreading the virus. However, extended lockdown periods can take a toll on inmate behavior and usually lead to increased aggression and assaults to staff. Additionally, staff see an increase of workload during a jail lockdown to care for inmates.

The goal of the Anoka County Sheriff's Office is to

Lindberg continued, "Inmates are getting more assertive about the rights they have and wishing to be treated fairly within the constitution and the law. There are more resources available to them, and more information is readily available because of the internet. I think that is why these questions come up more frequently than in previous decades."

A large portion of the Civil Division's jail-related work focuses on contracts. Any equipment used or service provided by an outside agency in the jail requires a vendor contract. This includes food service, communication equipment, security technology, and health care services. The goal is again twofold: to make sure the county is getting a service it paid for and to ensure vendors do not violate inmates' constitutional rights.

As the county explores the idea of a new jail facility, the Anoka County Attorney's Office works alongside project staff to provide legal guidance.

"We're advising county staff who are working with city officials to make sure it's a good situation for both the county and the city," Frantz said.

release inmates back into the community better than when they came in. However, programming for inmates is severely limited due to the lack of space for them to receive these services. As the current facility is a high-rise building, emergency response times are not as efficient due to the jail's layout. Unruly behavior that requires additional responders takes extra minutes due to staff having to wait for elevators or climb multiple flights of stairs to respond. The Anoka County Jail has experienced many challenges hiring and retaining detention staff throughout the years. As county representatives have met with jail administrators from other areas who recently built new facilities, it was consistent that after new jails were built, employee sick time decreased, and employee retention and the number of qualified candidates applying increased.

It is clear that a new jail for Anoka County is long overdue and essential to ensure that all who work in and are legally confined to jail are in a secure, safe, and humane environment.

"After many years of exploring the best way to meet the future needs of Anoka County, we are on a solid path forward," Anoka County Sheriff James Stuart said. "The new jail will provide a safer environment for staff and inmates while ensuring programs and treatment options that can tackle recidivism while creating more constructive futures. I am grateful for all of the hard work that has gone into the development of this plan to date."





County Moving Forward WITH NEW 911 CENTER

Plans are in the works to build a new facility in Andover that will house the county's 911 Emergency Communications Center and Radio Shop.

The county will go out for bids later this year, with the construction, estimated to last around 16 months, likely beginning in mid-spring 2024. The estimated cost for the building is \$29 million, a large portion of which will be funded by American Rescue Plan Act dollars.

For years, Anoka County 911 dispatchers have worked in the basement of the Government Center, with no access to windows or daylight. This work environment has been difficult, as these are high-stress jobs and dispatchers need optimal working conditions to be in the right mindset to expertly help the public.

In addition to the sub-par mental health aspect of the current setup, scattered consoles make coordination and supervision difficult, the low ceilings create noise issues that can affect calls, and there's no room for expansion or social distancing.

Emergency call volume handled by 911 staff continues to increase — in 2020, staff fielded about 496,000 calls, which equates to about one a minute. Subsequently, increased staffing is needed to handle this volume, and a new facility can accommodate future growth.

Other beneficial features of the new facility will include:

- A dedicated space for a social worker to assist callers experiencing mental health issues.
- A quiet room for staff to step away and collect themselves privately.
- A wellness/fitness room to reduce stress.
- A setup that is more conducive to learning and distraction reduction.
- Energy conservation.

The new facility will be thoroughly storm-proofed, to ensure it is operational during potential natural disasters. Critical areas of the building will be able to withstand 300-plus-mph winds.

"This new Emergency Communications/Radio Shop facility is designed to meet today's sustainability and construction standards, said District 3 Anoka County Commissioner Robyn West. "Our staff and the public will benefit from a safe, new facility for all our vital emergency telecommunicators."



Artist rendering of the new facility.

RECREATION PROGRAMS



Introduction to Kayaking

Aug. 11, 4 – 6 p.m.

Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park

Aug. 31, 6 – 8 p.m.

Rum River South County Park

Stand Up Paddle Boarding

July 18, 1:30 – 3 p.m.

Rice Creek Chain of Lakes, Centerville Beach

Aug. 23, 12 - 1:30 p.m.

Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park

Nordic Walking

Aug. 16, 9 - 10 a.m.

Lakeside Lions Park, Spring Lake Park

Fat Tire Biking

Aug. 22, 4 - 6 p.m.

Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve

Rice Creek Paddling Adventure

Aug. 25, 12 - 4 p.m.

Rice Creek — water levels will determine which section is paddled

Introduction to Fly Fishing

July 7, 6 - 8 p.m.

Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park

CANOE AND KAYAK RENTAL AVAILABLE AT WARGO NATURE CENTER

GO TO ANOKACOUNTYPARKS.COM OR CALL 763-324-3350 FOR MORE INFORMATION

NATURE PRESCHOOL

Forest Kids Club

Wednesdays, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Wargo Nature Center

Ages 4-5 Join us for a season or register for the whole school year! We will spend Wednesday mornings exploring and learning about different nature topics and seasonal changes along the way. In addition to guided activities, each week will include a free-explore time where participants will be encouraged to follow their senses and create their own adventure with new friends! This is a great hands-on experience for young children. Pre-registration is required.

\$110/session +tax

Fall session: Sept. 7 - Nov. 16

Winter session: Jan. 4 - March 15

Spring session: March 29 - June 7

***\$30 off when you register for all 3 sessions**



Anoka County News

C H O M O N I X G O L F C O U R S E

MONIKER OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT

FEATURING THE COMMON MAN, DAN COLE, FROM KFAN

FRIDAY,
AUGUST
12

\$65 INCLUDES LUNCH, 18 HOLES, CART, DRIVING RANGE, AND CONTEST HOLE PRIZES

1:30 P.M. SHOTGUN START // CALL THE PRO SHOP TO REGISTER 763-324-3434



BUNKER BEACH WATER PARK

NEW: WATER AEROBICS & LAP SWIM SESSIONS

ENJOY THESE NEW OPPORTUNITIES DURING CARDIO CLUB HOURS. FREE FOR CARDIO CLUB SEASON PASS HOLDERS

WATER AEROBICS DATES

Tuesdays (Space is limited)
Aug. 16
Aug. 23

LAP SWIM DATES

(In Rocky Bay)
Monday Mornings
Wednesday Mornings
Saturday Mornings
Sunday Mornings

FIND MORE INFORMATION AT BUNKERBEACH.COM

CONOCER LOS PARQUES (MEET THE PARKS)

TODOS SON BIENVENIDOS (EVERYONE IS WELCOME)
GIVEAWAYS THROUGHOUT THE EVENT!

RESERVA (SAVE THE DATE)

DOMINGO 22 DE AGOSTO (SUNDAY AUGUST 22)
2-5PM - LOCKE PARK - 840 71ST AVE NE, FRIDLEY, MN 55432

COMIDA
FOOD

MÚSICA
MUSIC

ACTIVIDADES AL AIRE LIBRE
OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

PREGUNTAS SOBRE EL EVENTO
(QUESTIONS ABOUT THE EVENT)
info@outdoorlatinominnnesota.com

ANOKA
COUNTY
PARKS

@anokacountyparks



@CityofFridley



@outdoorlatinominnnesota



Having Trouble Breaking Away from Screens this Summer?

Use screen time for learning, exploration, and fun with apps and resources from the library.

BOOKFLIX Pairs classic video storybooks with related nonfiction eBooks to build a love of reading and learning. Includes games and fun activities related to the stories.

kanopy Stream over 30,000 films and TV shows for all ages anywhere, anytime on your device. Includes The Great Courses series, English as a Second Language Videos, and Cooking videos from The Culinary Institute of America. Check out the “**Kanopy Kids**” section for family friendly viewing including video books brought to life in Kanopy’s Storytime collection.

libby Audiobooks, eBooks, and eMagazines for all ages. Great for summer road trips and time at the cabin! Items from the eLibrary automatically return on the due date, so you never have to worry about making it back to town to avoid overdue fines — plus, they don’t take up room in your suitcase!

SUMMER ADVENTURES -UNEARTHED-

June 1 - Aug. 14

Register at anokacounty.beanstack.org

All ages can register for the summer reading challenge; track your reading minutes, share book reviews, enter for prize drawings.

- Kids get a free book for registering.
- Complete fun activities and earn digital badges to enter weekly prize drawings.
- Youth under 18 can read down their fines through Aug. 14.

Collective Reading Goal

Last summer Anoka County readers logged more than 1 million minutes of reading during the 2021 #ACLSummerAdventures reading challenge. This summer we will try to reach a goal of 1.5 million minutes by Aug. 14. Join the community in tracking your reading online and contribute to the collective reading minutes on the Beanstack Tracker app or visit anokacounty.beanstack.org.

beanstack

Did you know you can use the Beanstack Tracker app all year long? We add extra activities and have prize drawings during our seasonal challenges, but you can track your reads, share reviews, and compete with friends and family all year long.

Always FREE at the library

Visit the online event calendar for information on upcoming events & programs

anokacountylibrary.org

Reading Mentors Needed

Did you know only about half the students in our county are reading at grade level? This fall, the Library is offering a new program to support 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders build a love of reading and practicing their skills to become more confident readers. The Library needs volunteers who can commit to one hour per week September to December to read and play literacy games with students.



Visit anokacounty.us/4197/Volunteer-Reading-Mentors to learn more about becoming a reading mentor at the library.



EVERY MEAL
FIGHTING CHILD HUNGER

Every Meal focuses on the food gaps when children aren't able to receive free and reduced meal programs. This summer, Anoka County Library locations will offer free meal bags for pickup July 29 to Sept. 5. No questions asked. Visitors can take what they need from the table near the entrance.

Friends 
of the Anoka County Library



Thank you to the Friends of the Anoka County Library for your generous \$10,000 donation to support library programs and services!

Friends is a 501(c)(3) organization that has been dedicated to supporting and promoting library services since 2003. They donate their time to help with library programs and the funds they raise make it possible for every child to receive a book to keep when they register for Summer Adventures. They also sponsor the annual Teen Write On! Contest, the Book Club in a Bag collection, and provide bike locks, diapers, and USBs for people who visit the library and find themselves in need.

Support high-quality education and entertainment in our community with the Friends. Ways to get involved:

- Become a Friends member for as little as \$10 a year.
- Give a one-time donation.
- Follow them on Facebook at Friends of the Anoka County Library to learn about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.

For more information about the Friends, visit anokacounty.us/2680/Friends-of-the-Library or email friendsofanokacolib@gmail.com.



New! Bring Lead Tackle to the HHW Facility



What's the problem with lead?



Lead is toxic to wildlife. Even in small amounts, it is lethal to loons, eagles, and trumpeter swans. It is estimated that lead is responsible for up to 25% of loon deaths.



Loons pick up lost lead tackle while gathering pebbles for their gizzards. Loons are also exposed when eating fish that have ingested lead.



Lead is toxic to people, both when handling lead products and in the manufacturing process.



Non-toxic alternatives

- Tungsten
- Bismuth
- Steel
- Tin
- Glass
- Stone
- Metal composite

DATE

Aug. 6, 2022

HOURS

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

LOCATION

Northtown Library
711 County Hwy 10 NE, Blaine



Want to get that much-loved item repaired free of charge? Join us at the Blaine Fix-It Clinic Aug. 6 and our fixers will try to fix your item. For details on what may be fixed, go to AnokaCounty.us/fixit or call 763-324-3400.

Paper shredding will be offered in conjunction with this event. Limit is up to three bankers boxes equivalent of paper per vehicle.



AnokaCounty.us/fixit
763-324-3400



Anoka County
MINNESOTA
Respectful. Innovative. Fiscally Responsible

Career Pathways TRAINING



For more information on job search and career services, visit careerforcemn.com/blaine, call 763-324-2300, or email careerforce.blaine@state.mn.us

CareerForce
It's your state of success



Healthcare

Short-term Certified Nursing Assistant training with strong employment growth.

Average starting wage \$18.11/hour



Transportation

Class B license training, including pre-trip planning and behind-the-wheel.

Average starting wage \$23.12/hour



Manufacturing

Training designed to assist justice impacted individuals prepare for:

- MIG welding training & 3G.
- Certification through American Welding Society.
- Forklift & OSHA 10 safety certifications.

Average starting wage \$23.31/hour

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No-cost training to eligible applicants (class sizes limited)

Inquire Today! Visit anokacounty.us/jtccapply

No computer access? Call 763-324-2284

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1201 89TH AVE NE STE 235

BLAINE MN 55434

 **Anoka County**
JOB TRAINING CENTER

Redistricting Summary, What to Know this Election Season

Redistricting

New election district boundaries were established during the 2022 redistricting process. Congressional and legislative districts were approved by the Judicial Special Redistricting Panel Feb. 15. Precinct and ward boundaries were re-established by cities and townships on or before March 29. Anoka County Commissioner districts, Anoka Conservation District Supervisor districts, and school board member districts (for Anoka-Hennepin ISD No. 11 and Elk River ISD No. 728) were approved on or before April 26.

The Anoka County Board of Commissioners adopted the map titled "Proposed Redistricting Scenario C" at a special board meeting April 26. All districts experienced a shift in boundaries that will require each commissioner seat to appear on the ballot in 2022. To comply with staggered term length requirements, districts 1, 2, 3, and 4 will each have 4-year terms. Districts 5, 6 and 7 will each have 2-year terms in 2022 (and will return to 4-year terms in 2024). More information and updated maps are available at anokacounty.us/4160/Redistricting.

Precincts & Polling Places

Now that the 2022 redistricting process is complete, voters are encouraged to reconfirm their polling place location if they plan to vote in-person on Election Day. Some precinct lines and/or polling place locations may have changed due to redistricting. Anoka County will mail a postcard to all households with registered voters in the county that will confirm election districts and polling place locations. Voters can also look up their polling location at pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us.

2022 Elections Key Dates & Information

- June 24 - start of absentee voting for the state primary election.
- Aug. 9 - state primary election.
- Sept. 23 - start of absentee voting for the state general election.
- Nov. 8 – state general election.

"Voters are encouraged to register to vote in advance of Election Day," said District 4 Anoka County Commissioner Mandy Meisner. "A resident can confirm if they're registered to vote at their current address by visiting mnvotes.org. Being involved in the electoral process as a voter is relatively simple, but people should take a moment to either register prior to Election Day or double check their registration, so the process goes as smoothly as possible."

In-person absentee voting is available at the city/township hall for the city in which the voter resides, or any voter can come to the Anoka County Government Center in Anoka. To vote absentee by mail, apply online at mnvotes.org or contact Anoka County Elections at 763-324-1300 to receive a paper application by mail.

More elections information is available at anokacounty.us/elections.



.Gov Transition

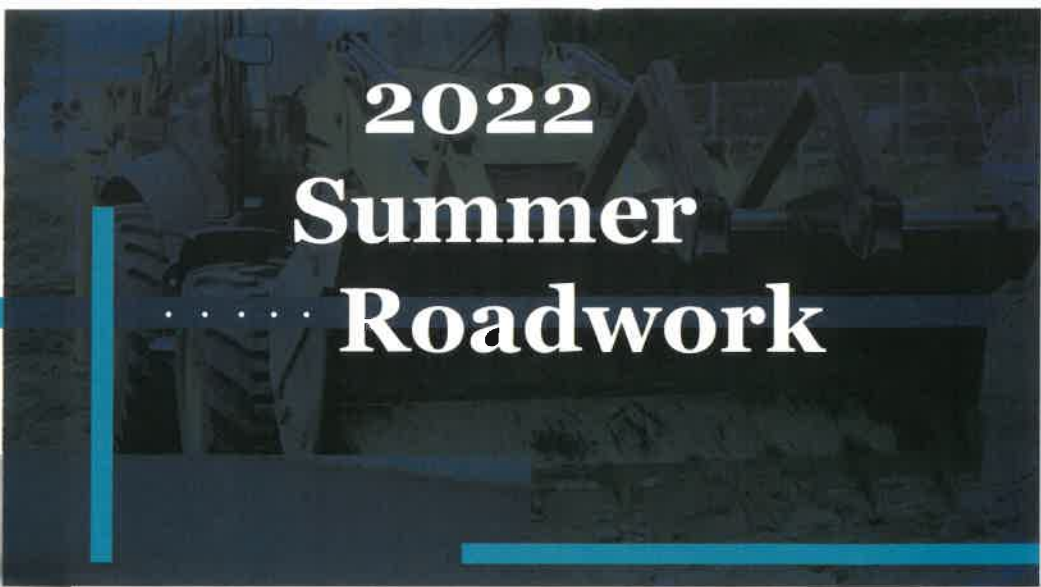
Coming this summer, Anoka County will be switching from the .us domain for its website and email addresses to the more trusted .gov extension. While this seems like a minor change, it actually has some major benefits.

The .gov domain is like a gated community — it's a digital space that's only available to genuine and vetted U.S.-based government organizations. This domain also has enhanced security benefits, which will enable Anoka County to better protect county systems from malicious email traffic and Domain Name System hijacking.

"When the .gov domain becomes active, the county's former .us domain will still remain active, for a time," said District 5 Anoka County Commissioner Mike Gamache. People who email an Anoka County employee with the .us domain or visit the website with that same extension will still be directed to the right person or place online. When the .us domain is set to be completely retired, this information will be communicated with the public prior to the cessation."

anokacountymn.gov





2022 Summer Roadwork



Those who drive through Anoka County have likely seen the orange cones, detour signs and construction workers at various thoroughfares this season. Several projects are underway to restore pavement, add lanes, improve accessibility and fix drainage issues.

For more information on current and upcoming Anoka County road projects, visit anokacounty.us/4065/Highway-Projects. This site also contains a helpful map that shows all in-progress projects, as well as detour maps.

“The projects being completed this summer/fall are going to help improve the flow of traffic, increase safety and add to the longevity of our highway infrastructure,” said District 1 Anoka County Commissioner Matt Look. “There will be detours and slowdowns in some areas, but as long as motorists plan ahead and visit our website for updates, they should be able to successfully navigate construction zones.”

125th Avenue in Blaine

- Reconstruction of 125th Avenue from approximately Harpers Street to Lexington Avenue.
- Replace the existing 2-lane roadway with a 4-lane roadway.
- Includes new curb and gutter, multiuse path, ADA improvements, stormwater/drainage improvements, new traffic control signal system at Legacy Creek Parkway/North Lake Boulevard, raised concrete median, and other associated improvements.
- Construction started in April and will be completed in November of this year.

Foley Boulevard Railroad Grade Separation Project

- Reconstruction of Foley Boulevard between East River Road and Coon Rapids Boulevard in the City of Coon Rapids.
- Includes the construction of a new bridge overpass over the railroad.
- Roadway will remain a 4-lane roadway.
- Includes the installation of a new traffic control signal on Foley Boulevard at the entrance to the Metro Transit park-and-ride.
- Also includes ADA improvements, sidewalk and multiuse trail enhancements, storm sewer system improvements, and water and sanitary sewer replacement.
- The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year (year 2 of 2 for project).

Overlays

- Divided into two separate projects this year. One project covers the northern Anoka County area, and the other one covers the southern Anoka County area.

Intersection Improvements at Coon Rapids Boulevard and Blackfoot Street (Mercy Hospital’s main entrance) in Coon Rapids

- Replace existing traffic control signal with a new one.
- Includes ADA improvements, roadway surface improvements, and other associated improvements.

Intersection Improvements at Radisson Road and Cloud Drive in Blaine

- Install a new traffic control signal system.
- Includes ADA improvements and roadway geometric/lane configuration adjustments to facilitate the installation of the signal.

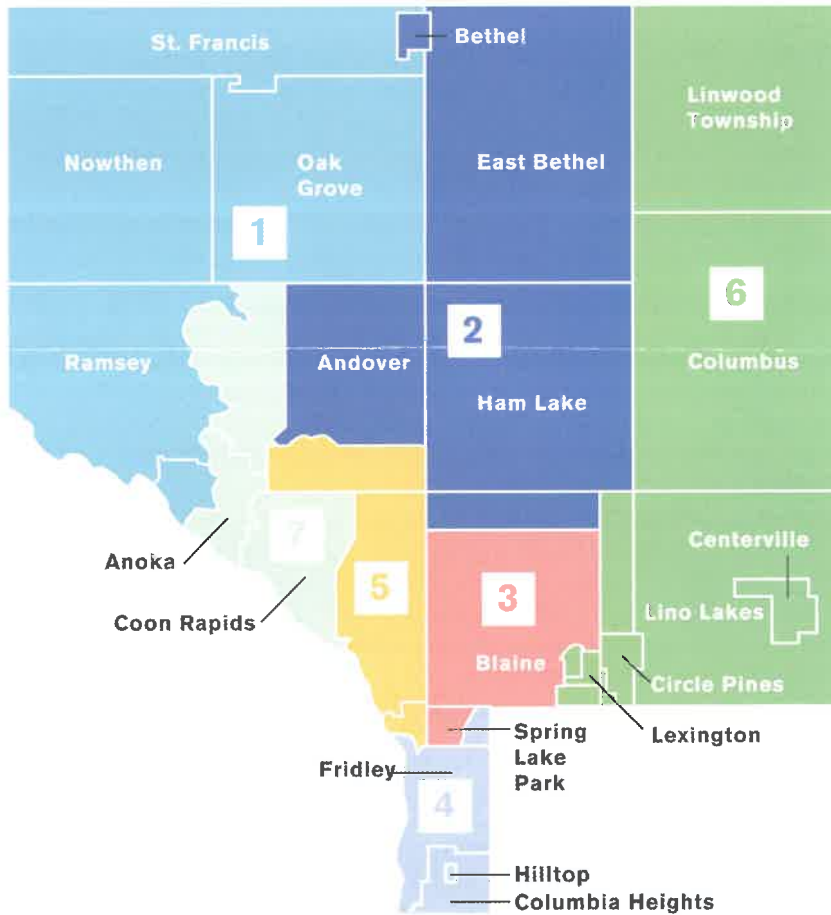
Anoka County
 2100 3rd Ave.
 Anoka MN 55303-5024



Visit our website!

ANOKA COUNTY LEADERSHIP

763-324-4700



Matt Look
 DISTRICT 1
 COMMISSIONER



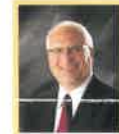
Julie Braastad
 DISTRICT 2
 COMMISSIONER



Robyn West
 DISTRICT 3
 COMMISSIONER



Mandy Meisner
 DISTRICT 4
 COMMISSIONER



Mike Gamache
 DISTRICT 5
 COMMISSIONER



Jeff Reinert
 DISTRICT 6
 COMMISSIONER



Scott Schulte
 DISTRICT 7
 COMMISSIONER



James Stuart
 COUNTY
 SHERIFF



Tony Palumbo
 COUNTY
 ATTORNEY

County board meetings are generally held the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 9:30 a.m. in Room 705 of the Anoka County Government Center in Anoka. Watch board meetings live at anokacounty.us. "Anoka County News" is produced by Anoka County Communications, Erik Thorson, Director, 763-324-4612 publicinfo@co.anoka.mn.us • anokacounty.us/newsletter
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