

Courthouse Referendum

Vote: November 8, 2016

Location: Your Polling Location

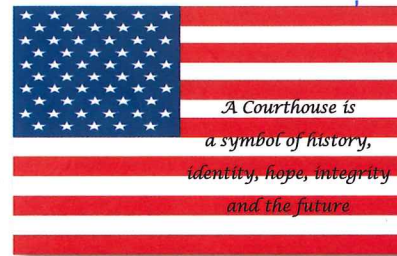
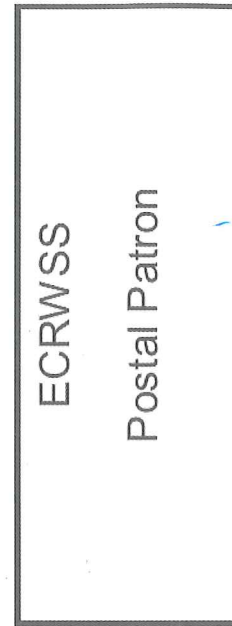
Ballot Question

Shall the Courthouse of Augusta County be removed to the Augusta County Government Center complex in Verona, Virginia, and shall the Board of Supervisors be permitted to spend \$45,000,000 therefore?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Virginia State Code
states a Courthouse should be
"Secure, in repair or otherwise sufficient"



- Five Courthouses since 1745
- Four renovations since 1901
- Nine Boards considering its future over the last 30+ years
- Relocation included in three County Master Plans
- Several studies and analysis completed since 2001

Looking for more information?

- www.co.augusta.va.us

Augusta County Courthouses

Referendum November 8, 2016



1901 Circuit Courthouse



1953 General District & Juvenile Domestic Relations Courthouse



Proposed Courts Complex



Augusta County Courthouses

Considerations

History indicates the Board of Supervisors struggled with the same issues at hand now. In the last 271 years, Augusta County has grown in population, court case loads and court functions. There is no longer ample room to expand to accommodate needs in the Circuit Courthouse or District Courts Building. Now is the time to consider relocating the County Seat to Verona, Virginia. **So, why should a new Courthouse Complex be considered?**

Consider Functionality

- Space to meet current and future needs, including future expansions
- Proximity to other County government functions, especially public safety, jail and Sheriff's Office
- Efficiency and current code compliance for electrical, mechanical, plumbing and structural systems
- Technology needs for now and for the future
- Location of all three courts to each other

Consider Accessibility

- Proximity to major highways
- Ample handicapped parking
- Ample free on-site parking
- Accessibility inside of the buildings

Consider Security and Safety

- Separation of victims, witnesses, incarcerated, staff and the public
- Secure transport between courthouse and jail
- Adequate meeting space and safe circulation
- Secure parking
- Adequate fire protection and emergency exits
- Proximity of the Sheriff's Office and regional jail to the courts

Consider Financial

- Building maintenance costs of a new building compared to an old building
- Operational savings
- Energy savings
- Staff efficiency savings
- Opportunities for increased tax base
- Utilization of existing land
- No permit fees or flood studies

Other Considerations

- Ambiance of historical 1901 Circuit Courthouse
- Moving centuries old County Seat from Staunton
- Separation of joint Juvenile Domestic Relations Courts, if moved to Verona

Progression to Referendum

- 2012 Frazier Study; Augusta County Feasibility Study - Circuit Courthouse only - \$11 Million
- 2014; Determined that the needs for General District Court, Juvenile Domestic Relations Court, and related court functions must be included
- 2015 Moseley Study; Space Needs Analysis & Conceptual Design for New Courts Facility - \$45 Million
- 2015 Moseley Estimate; \$45 Million Courts Facility located in Staunton, plus site specific estimated costs - \$59 Million
- 2015 Frazier Study; Staunton and Augusta County Conceptual Design for Consolidated Courts Facility - \$51 Million

If Referendum does not Pass

- If citizens vote "no," the matter cannot be reconsidered by the voters for ten years.
- County Circuit Court Judge could rule the existing Court facilities are not "secure, in repair, or otherwise sufficient". If they are found to be insufficient, required improvements could follow. The cost is depended upon the improvements required.

Estimated construction costs to meet the needs for years to come with the ability to expand

Verona Location \$45,000,000

vs

Staunton Location \$59,429,000