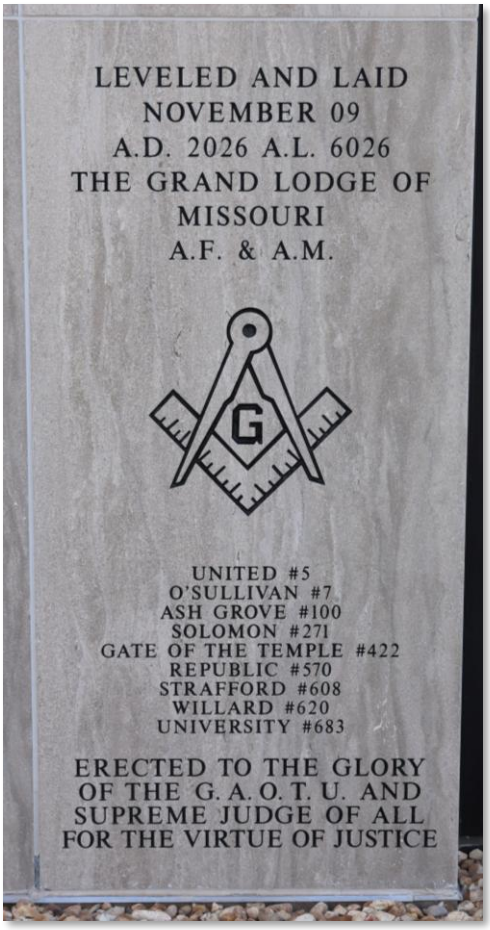
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 9, 2026

Greene County dedicates cornerstone for new Judicial Center and courts expansion



SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – The Greene County Commission and the 31st Judicial Circuit dedicated a cornerstone Monday for the county's newly constructed Judicial Center. The $24.8 million project turned the former Greene County Jail into a home for family courts, juvenile services and created a new secured lobby.



The Grand Lodge of Missouri, A.F. & A.M., dedicated and laid the cornerstone in a traditional Masonic ceremony. Officers of the Grand Lodge led the ceremony with help from members of the nine lodges in Greene County. Masonic cornerstone ceremonies for public buildings go back to 1793, when George Washington laid the cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol. A plaque honoring the construction team and the project's completion was also unveiled and will hang in the lobby.

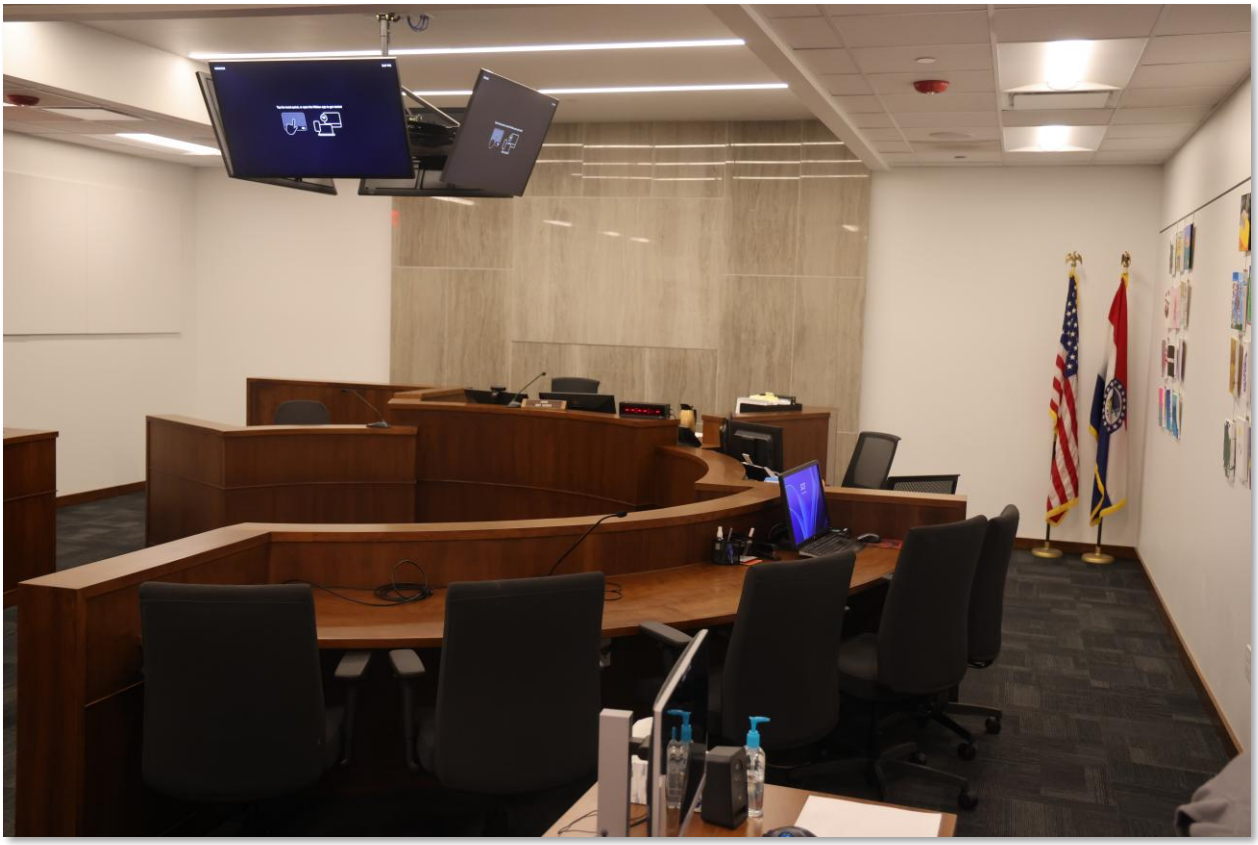
Presiding Judge T. Todd Myers of the 31st Judicial Circuit, former Presiding Judge Jerry Harmison Jr. and members of the county's project team spoke at the ceremony, held in the main lobby of the new building at 1010 N. Boonville Ave in Springfield. An open house followed, giving visitors a look at the new and renovated spaces.

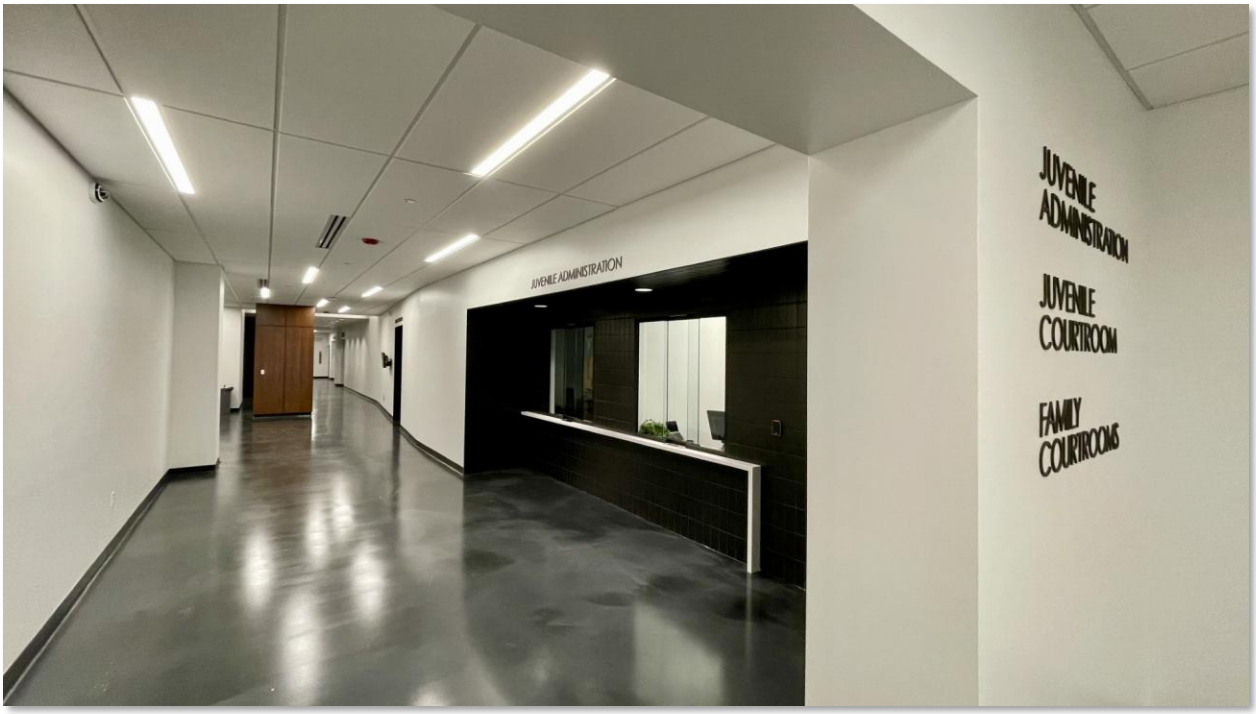
The Judicial Courts Facility opened in 1995. As caseloads grew and more judges came to serve the circuit, the courts needed more room. The Greene County Sheriff's Office moved to a new jail in west Springfield in 2022. Rather than build a new courthouse, the county reused the former jail next door and connected the two buildings with a new 11,000-square-foot secure lobby. The project is part of the county's campus plan, unveiled in 2022, to put the space the Sheriff's Office left behind to new use and cut the county's reliance on leased office space.

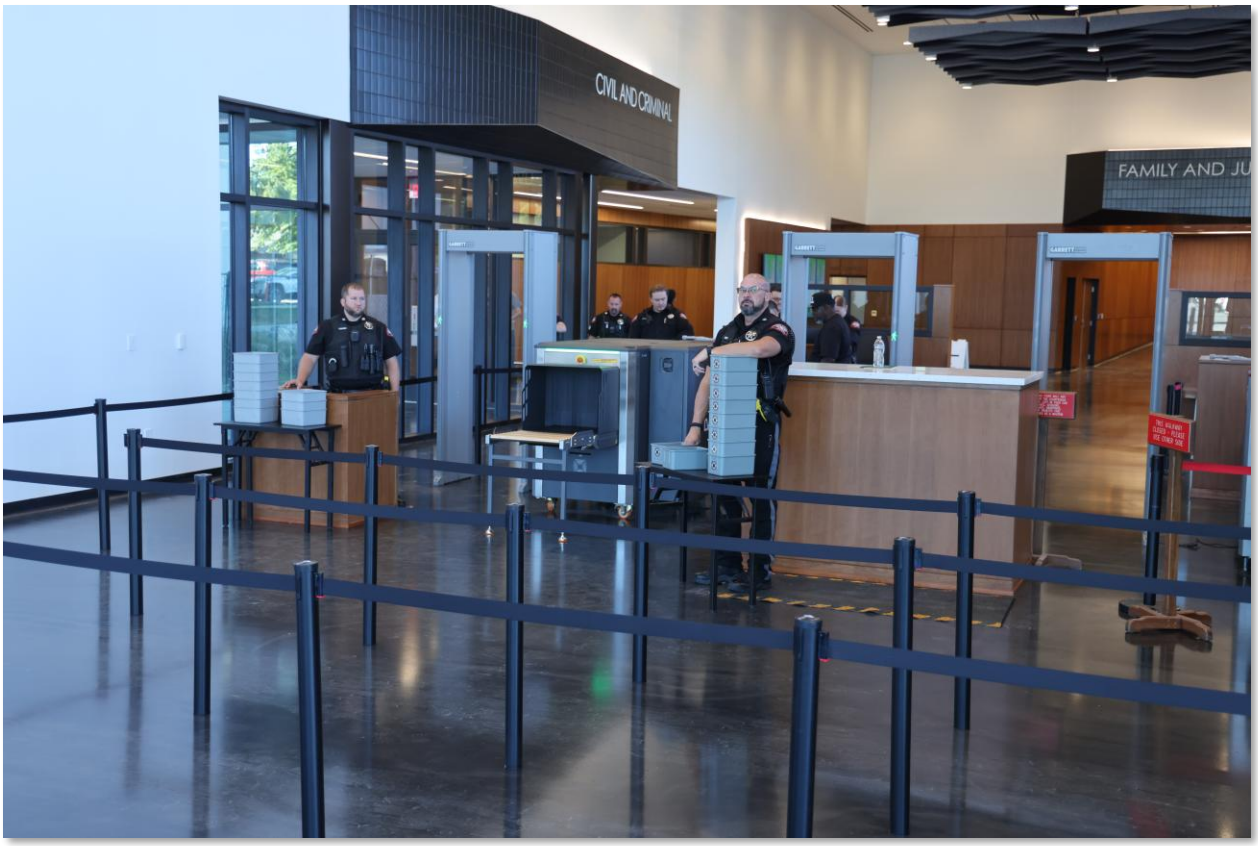
"Greene County voters gave us the tools to meet a real need in our courts, and we worked hard to make every dollar count," said Presiding Commissioner Bob Dixon. "Instead of building a new courthouse, we gave the old jail a new purpose and created one safe, welcoming front door for the families, children and residents who come here, often on some of the hardest days of their lives. We're proud that so much of this work was done by people and businesses right here in Greene County."

The renovated building now houses Juvenile Office staff, Juvenile Program Services and four new family courtrooms built in former jail housing pods on the second floor. The Juvenile Office moved into the building from North Robberson Avenue.


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The new lobby is now the single public entrance and security checkpoint for the 31st Judicial Circuit, Juvenile Program Services and the Family Courts. After screening, signs direct visitors to the correct building. Pre-Trial Services is now located in the new entrance building.

N-Form Architecture designed the project, and KCI Construction Co. built it under a $19.8 million contract. The county spent about $5 million more on architecture and engineering fees, heating and air conditioning equipment it bought directly, furniture, technology and security screening equipment, for a total project cost of about $24.8 million. The project was primarily funded with bonds from the public safety sales tax Greene County voters approved in 2017. The 31st Judicial Circuit also contributed to the project using discretionary funds collected through court costs and fees.

Construction on the secure entrance began in March 2025, and the first phase took about 19 months. A second phase is expected to be finished in January 2027. It includes new space in the renovated building for the Public Administrator's Office, which will move out of leased space in the Cox Medical Tower.

Much of the project's spending stayed close to home. About 60% of KCI's subcontractors and suppliers have offices in Greene County, and roughly 70% of project costs went to companies with offices in the county. Other subcontractors have offices in neighboring Christian, Polk and Webster counties, so the benefit reached across the region.

Greene County's Resource Management Department oversaw the project, led by Project Manager Rob Rigdon and under the direction of Kevin Barnes. The design team also included Mettemeyer Engineering for structural engineering, IMEG Corp. for mechanical and electrical engineering, CJW Engineering, landscape architect Frank Zanaboni and Entegrity Services, which commissioned the mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems.

Subcontractors and suppliers on the project included A-1 Walls & Landscaping, Acer Cabinets, Artisan Construction Services, Atkins Weatherproofing, Benton Daylight Control Systems, Bryant Edgeman Masonry, CIS Data Services, Control Service Co., Custom Manufacturing & Polishing Inc., DeVille Steel, Dyke Industries, Electronic Contracting Co., Engineered Industrial Products, Falcon Electric Co., Freedom Fire Pro LLC, G5 Enterprises, Greene County Concrete Cutters, Grooms Office Environments, Hulett Heating & Air Conditioning Co., Imperial Woodworks, James River Mechanical, Kimberling City Plumbing, Kone Inc., Missouri Terrazzo, NetWatch, nPrint Graphix, Palmerton & Parrish, Phoenix Hill LLC, Queen City Roofing, Robinson Fence Co., Springfield Glass, TABCO, Talon Technology Systems, TML Casework, Watkins Roofing, Wells Brothers Coatings and Zickel Flooring.



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Greene County is the State of Missouri's fourth most populous county, serving approximately 308,000 people. Its mission is to provide all citizens of Greene County, including those in its cities, a safe and thriving community through excellent customer service, unparalleled dedication, and the efficient use of taxpayer dollars. The Greene County Commission is the executive body of Greene County operating under guidelines established in the Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri. Within that authority the Commission enacts ordinances, resolutions and policies, supervises the activities of county departments, fixes salaries, adopts the annual budget, provides for construction and other services, and conducts hearings on planning and zoning matters.

For additional information contact the Greene County Commission's Public Information Office at 417-844-4311 or pio@greenecountymo.gov.