



Graham County

Jail District-Proposition 400

In the early 1970s, Graham County purchased an old National Guard warehouse, converting it into what is now the Graham County Jail. It is the only jail in Graham County and serves all local communities. Designed for its initial 25 prisoners, today it holds as many as 160 inmates at a time.

With expensive maintenance, repair and operational costs, mounting safety concerns, increasing federal regulatory requirements, etc. your Graham County Board of Supervisors has set Proposition 400 for the November 4th election that would finance a new jail.

In order to help you make an informed decision, inside this folder you will find a pictorial tour of jail issues, the November 4th ballot language, and a fiscal impact summary. In addition, the county will be hosting public forums, mailing all voters a publicity guide with pro/con statements, and conducting tours of the existing jail. To join one of the tours, contact JoAnn Andrews at 928-428-3250, or email jaildistrict@graham.az.gov



Impact on Firth Park

All prisoners enter, get transported to court, and are released from this point. The park shares its parking lot with the jail, and since there are no public restrooms in the jail, inmate visitors often use park restrooms.

The park has also been the site of two escapee pursuits.

Members of the Board of Supervisors have stated that they are committed to locating the new facility away from the park, neighborhoods and schools.



The jail building has makeshift electronics, as well as utilities. Here (top left) you see the control room with wires hanging from every wall. To the right is the boiler room which will need overhaul within the year.

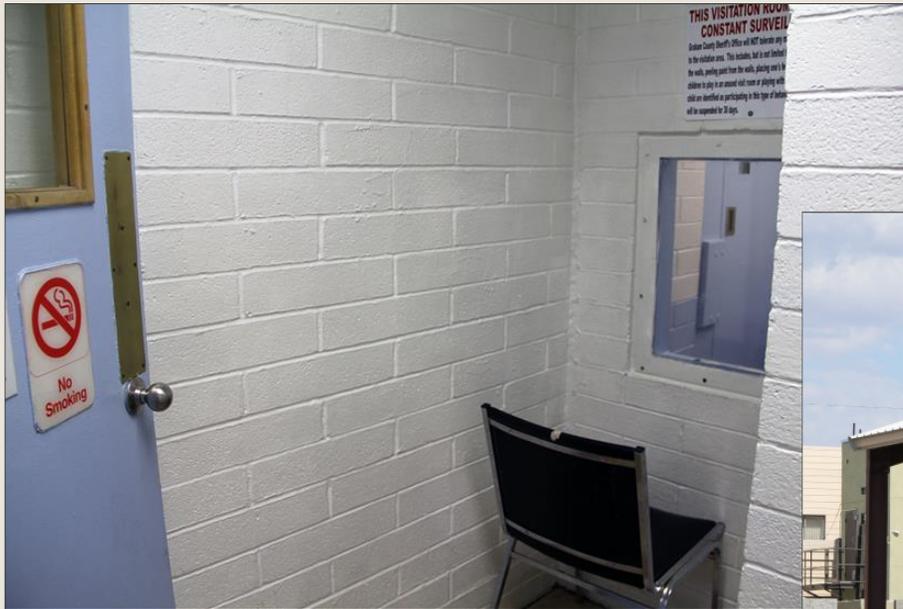
The Federal Justice Department has the ability (and has exercised this authority in the past) to close dated correctional facilities in Arizona counties.



Built in the 1930s and renovated many times, the existing jail sits on $\frac{1}{4}$ acre of land, and is woefully short of space and services. Here you see the 600 sq. ft. kitchen used to cook as many as 500 meals a day (top left). Also pictured is the 200 sq. ft. “laundry room” consisting of one washer and one dryer used for 160 prisoners.



Evidence, including hazardous materials, has been subject to leaking and broken water pipes. Evidence is now stored in plastic containers stacked throughout the downstairs area with hazardous materials in refrigerators.



Here is an 18 sq. ft. “family room” where family members are allowed to visit (top left). Since there are no public restroom facilities in the jail, family members often go to Firth Park across the street.



Look carefully from Highway 70 or from Firth Park and residents/tourists see the jail fence topped with barbed wire that awaits anyone charged with a crime. Once inside that wall, prisoners are strip-searched in this 16 sq. ft. space (top right).



Prisoners have this view (top left) of any member of the public: educators, child care providers, domestic violence shelter workers, or others being fingerprinted for certification, background checks, etc.

To the right is the classroom where classes are taught for the federally-mandated GED classes.



The existing jail has no courtroom. Each time a prisoner has a court appearance, he/she must be transported by two armed guards in a government-maintained vehicle. Last year the county conducted 3,600 such trips to and from the courthouse.

The proposed new jail will have courtroom facilities on-site, lowering costs and increasing security.

Ballot Language

**GRAHAM COUNTY, ARIZONA
GENERAL ELECTION/SPECIAL ELECTION
NOVEMBER 4, 2014**

SAMPLE BALLOT

SPECIAL ELECTION

Graham County Jail District

Graham County, Arizona - November 4, 2014

QUESTION

Shall the Graham County Jail District levy an excise tax for a period of twenty-five (25) years at a maximum rate of not to exceed half of one percent (0.50%) to be used only for acquiring, constructing, operating, maintaining and financing of county jail facilities and county jail system? The future revenue needs of the Jail District, including Graham County's maintenance of effort obligation, is estimated to be an average of \$4,900,000 per year.

Shall the Graham County Jail District be authorized to levy the excise tax?

A "YES" vote shall be a vote to authorize the Graham County Jail District to levy the excise tax.

A "NO" vote shall be a vote not to authorize the Graham County Jail District to levy the excise tax.

Points of Discussion

- New construction would be financed by a sales tax, similar to the “tent city” in Maricopa County. Companies headquartered outside Graham County that work here but own no property, will still have to pay a portion of the jail construction costs.
- The jail has limited medical facilities on-site and last year Graham County spent \$500,000 dollars on inmate medical costs not including transportation costs.
- When at capacity, inmate classifications require additional space. Graham County contracts throughout Arizona for more space. For example, just the transportation costs to the Apache County jail are \$400 in salaries, \$92 vehicle, and .44 cents per mile.
- Last year, in an effort to meet federal and state mandates, the county spent \$92,000 in overtime, \$78,000 on facility upkeep, etc.