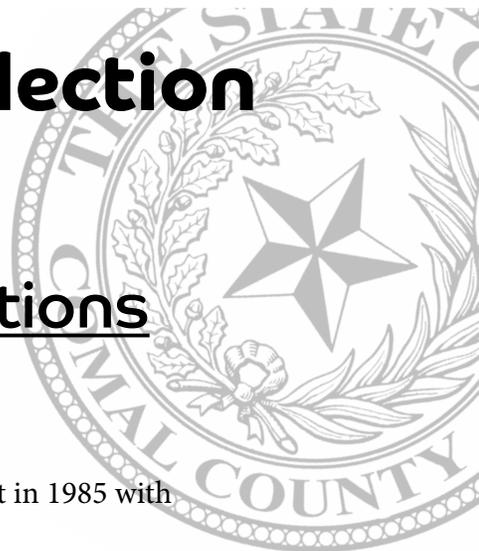


# Comal County Jail Bond Election

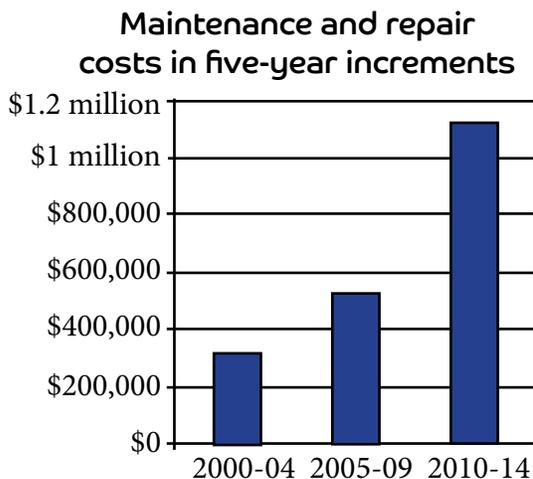
Nov. 3, 2015



## Answers to your questions

How old is the current Comal County Jail?

The Walter Fellers Law Enforcement Center opened on West San Antonio Street in 1985 with 144 beds in its jail. A major expansion to 337 beds took place in 1999.



What is its capacity?

Although containing 337 beds, the Texas Commission on Jail Standards has determined the jail's effective maximum capacity is 300, which allows space for processing and classifying new inmates as they come in.

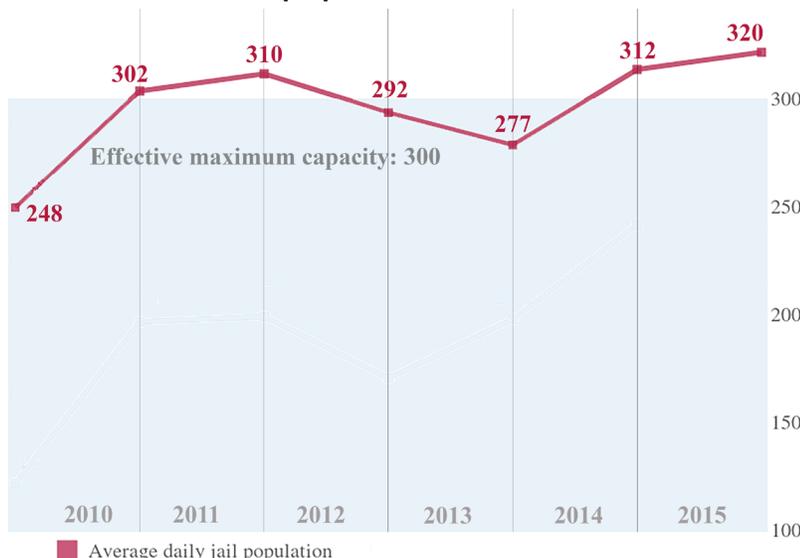
What are its maintenance costs?

As shown in the chart to the left, costs over the past 15 years have risen at an exponential rate, to an average of more than \$200,000 per year.

How crowded is the jail?

A 2009 report by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards (TCJS) projected that in 2015, Comal County would have an average daily jail population of about 313 inmates, exceeding its effective maximum capacity of 300. Large increases in the number of inmates in 2010 and 2014, however, have led the jail population to exceed even the TCJS projection, as shown in the chart below.

**Jail population, 2009-15**



What happens on days the jail is over capacity?

When the jail is too full to accept new inmates, sheriff's deputies transport them to the Guadalupe County Jail, at a cost to Comal County of \$50 per inmate per day, plus transportation and personnel costs.

How much will a new jail cost?

Costs are estimated to be about \$76 million for a new jail, including the renovation of the current facilities for the sheriff's office.

How much will my taxes increase?

If you do not own property or if you are over 65 years old, this bond issue will not increase your taxes. For property owners under 65, the county property tax rate will increase about 1 cent per \$100 of value.

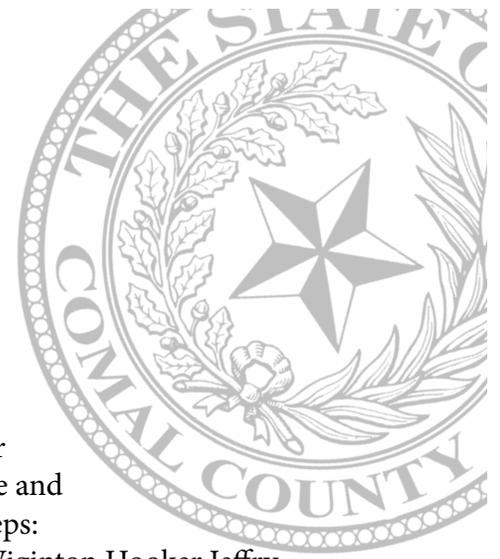
**Jail bond estimated tax impact**

Property value	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$300,000
Annual tax cost	\$10	\$20	\$30

## Who uses the jail?

Nearly every person arrested in Comal County is brought to our jail. Along with Comal County sheriff's deputies and constables, the following entities also use it:

- City of New Braunfels
- City of Bulverde
- City of Garden Ridge
- City of Schertz
- City of Selma
- City of Fair Oaks Ranch
- U.S. Marshals Service
- Texas Department of Public Safety
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department



## How has Comal County planned for this?

In 2009, the TCJS recommended that Comal County 1) “choose a site sufficient for growth,” 2) “design a jail that is truly expandable,” and 3) “provide adequate service and support space” for such an expansion. The county has since taken the following steps:

- Architect consulting — In 2011, the county commissioned a jail study from Wiginton Hooker Jeffrey Architects, which in 2012 suggested three options: building entirely new facilities, renovating the existing ones or a combination of the two.
- Site selection — After looking at potential sites on FM 306 and FM 482, the county purchased 11.5 acres adjoining the current jail for \$1.675 million in August 2014.
- Cost estimate — In early 2015, the Commissioners Court contracted with Brinkley Sargent Wiginton Architects to estimate the cost of building a new jail and renovating the current facilities into new sheriff's offices. On Aug. 10, the firm returned an estimate of about \$76 million.

## How long would a new jail last?

The new jail would have 589 beds, with a design that would accommodate expansion to about 900 beds — which, according to the Texas Commission on Jail Standards' projections, would last Comal County at least 20 years.

## When and where do I vote?

Early voting locations — Comal County Elections Office (178 E. Mill St., Suite 101, New Braunfels)  
Bulverde/Spring Branch Library (131 Bulverde Crossing)  
CRRS Building (1909 FM 2673, Canyon Lake)  
Garden Ridge City Hall (9400 Municipal Parkway)

Early voting times — Monday-Friday, Oct. 19-23, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Saturday, Oct. 24, 7 a.m. -7 p.m.  
Sunday, Oct. 25, 1-6 p.m.  
Monday-Friday, Oct. 26-30, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.  
(except at Garden Ridge City Hall on Tuesday, Oct. 27, 7 a.m.-4 p.m.)

Election Day — Tuesday, Nov. 3, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

For more information on Comal County elections, including Election Day polling places, visit [votecomal.com](http://votecomal.com).

