



Court Facilities Capital Review Board

September 25, 2025 Meeting

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Agenda

- Approval of 4/29/25 Meeting Minutes (Vote)
- Introducing Panagiota Hyde – Capital Planning Counsel
- Interim Counsel's Report
 - Update on Capital Plan Solicitations
 - Priority Political Subdivisions
 - Secondary Political Subdivisions
 - Suitable and Sufficient Political Subdivisions



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Agenda (part 2)

- Board Action Item (Vote)
 - Dutchess County – Approval of Capital Plan Amendment
- Board Discussion Items
 - City of Schenectady
 - City of Buffalo
 - City of Albany
 - City of Rye
 - New York City
 - Website
- Old Business/New Business
- Next Meeting Date/Miscellaneous



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Counsel's Report



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Capital Plan Solicitations (At a glance)

- Since the Board was reconstituted in 2024, it has approved five capital plan amendments. One more amendment is on the agenda today.
- For the remaining priority political subdivisions, we will provide a more detailed update on four cities later in the meeting.



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Counsel’s Report – 14 Priority Political Subdivisions

Political Subdivision	Judicial District	Date Solicited	First Response	Capital Plan?	FDCAJ Recommendation	UCS Assessment of Deficiencies
Greene County	3rd	11/27/2024	1/8/2025	YES	Board approved	Windows/Doors, Insufficient Space, Elevators, Heating/Cooling; Construction underway to address space concerns
City of Watertown	5th	11/27/2024	1/10/2025	YES	Board approved	Insufficient Space
City of Mount Vernon	9th	12/2/2024	2/14/2025	YES	Board approved	Windows/Doors, Parking, Leaking Roof, Elevator(s)
Steuben County	7th	11/27/2024	1/28/2025	YES	Board approved	Former renovations and alterations made in 2021 need to be approved after-the-fact
City of Middletown	9th	12/2/2024	12/3/2024	YES	Board approved	Insufficient Space
Dutchess County	9th	12/2/2024	1/17/2025	YES	Board vote	Structural Deficiency, Mold, Parking, Insufficient Space, Heating / Cooling, Parking, Elevator(s)



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Counsel’s Report – 14 Priority Political Subdivisions

Political Subdivision	Judicial District	Date Solicited	First Response	Capital Plan?	FDCAJ Recommendation	UCS Assessment of Deficiencies
City of Schenectady	4th	11/27/2024	1/14/2025	NO	Contact the State Comptroller if no response by October 3	Insufficient Space (need additional chambers)/ Split Location(s), Space Configuration Insufficient
City of Buffalo	8th	11/27/2024	None	NO	Wait for new city leadership	Structural Deficiencies, Mold, Windows/Doors, Leaks, Security or Perimeter Access, Building Exterior/Façade, Elevator(s), Safety, Heating/Cooling, ADA Noncompliance
City of Albany	3rd	11/27/2024	1/14/2025	NO	Wait for new city leadership	Mold, Parking, Elevators, Leaking Windows, Insufficient Space/Split Location(s)
City of Rye	9th	12/2/2024	1/8/2025	NO	Continued UCS engagement	Windows / Doors, Insufficient Space, Security or Perimeter Access, ADA noncompliance



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Counsel’s Report – 14 Priority Political Subdivisions

Political Subdivision	Judicial District	Date Solicited	First Response	Capital Plan?	FDCAJ Recommendation	UCS Assessment of Deficiencies
City of Lackawanna	8th	11/27/2024	12/16/2024	NO	Continued UCS engagement	Insufficient space
City of Poughkeepsie	9th	12/2/2024	1/21/2025	NO	Continued UCS engagement	Windows/Doors, Insufficient Space
City of Auburn	7th	11/27/2024	1/14/2025	NO	Continued UCS engagement	Parking, Insufficient Space, Heating/Cooling
Niagara County	8th	11/27/2024	12/5/2024	NO	Continued UCS engagement	Insufficient Space (additional judicial appointment); Safety-Related Concerns, Outdated Design/Configuration



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Secondary Political Subdivisions

- In February and March 2025, we solicited 62 additional counties and cities to engage them in providing us with updated capital plans to address critical deficiencies in the courthouses.
- Eighteen of them responded back and have addressed the issues that we pointed out in our letters. Some of these political subdivisions now have facilities that are considered suitable and sufficient. Some are also working on future capital plans.



Political Subdivisions That Adequately Responded to UCS' Letter

Ulster County	Sullivan County	Schoharie County	City of Cohoes	Albany County	City of Saratoga Springs
Herkimer County	Schenectady County	City of Rochester	Livingston County	City of Geneva	City of White Plains
Orange County	City of Newburgh	Putnam County	City of Lockport	City of Olean	Suffolk County



Secondary Political Subdivisions

- For the remaining 44 political subdivisions, we have either sent follow up letters to determine the status of necessary repairs and maintenance and their planning for future capital work, or our local facilities staff are engaging in dialogue with them.
- Some of the political subdivisions have given us much-needed space, issued RFPs, made ADA improvements, and begun renovation projects in response to Judge St. George's letter.



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Suitable and Sufficient Political Subdivisions

- Forty-two political subdivisions did not receive a letter from UCS because their facilities were deemed suitable and sufficient (see at-a-glance chart).
- Combined with the 18 localities that made improvements or are making progress towards a capital plan amendment, there are now 60 cities and counties with either suitable and sufficient court facilities or that will soon have capital plan amendments for the Board's review.



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Board Action Item



New York State Unified Court System

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Dutchess County – Capital Plan Documents

- Dutchess County is upgrading its heating and cooling systems in all county buildings.
- This is a \$30+ million project at the Dutchess County Courthouse at 10 Market Street, Poughkeepsie.
- Construction commenced in June 2024 and is scheduled to conclude in 2028.



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Dutchess County – Capital Plan Documents



- Current Commissioner of Jurors space (pictured) is no longer adequate. Dutchess County will be leasing One Civic Center Plaza, across from the Supreme Court building.



Board Discussion Items



Priority Political Subdivisions

- **City of Schenectady** – Mediation ended at an impasse. UCS sent a letter informing them that we will contact the State Comptroller to withhold funds by October 3rd.
- List of deficiencies:
 - Failed to submit a capital plan for a suitable and sufficient court facility for over 30 years.
 - Failed to accommodate a fourth City Court judge since 2014.
 - Court facility is split between two locations, which creates operational inefficiencies, staffing shortages, etc.



Priority Political Subdivisions

- **City of Schenectady – List of deficiencies (cont'd)**
 - Criminal court location (co-located with police department) – Existing criminal courtroom lacks a jury box or a witness stand. There is an inability to hold jury trials there.
 - Lack of appropriate space around the magnetometers for the screening of all court users.
 - Criminal court lacks conference rooms for attorneys and clients to meet confidentially. No ADA-compliant restroom in the building.
 - A gun range is located below the criminal courtroom, and the gunshots are loud and disruptive to court proceedings.



Priority Political Subdivisions

- **City of Schenectady – List of deficiencies (cont'd)**

- The City Hall building, which houses the civil portion of City Court, has insufficient conference rooms for attorneys/clients and no public restroom on the court floor.
- Lack of appropriate space around magnetometers for the screening of court users.
- Judges must go through public hallways to access the bench.
- There is no A/C in the hallways of the building. The courtrooms have A/C units, but they may have to be turned off if the court reporters cannot hear who is speaking.



Priority Political Subdivisions

- **City of Buffalo** – We are awaiting a potential change in leadership, which may occur in January 2026. The current administration has failed to install scaffolding to protect against falling debris from the façade.
- **City of Albany** – We are awaiting a potential change in leadership, which may occur in January 2026. Progress on plans for a multi-use facility with Albany County has stalled.
- **City of Rye** – The city of Rye also has a long history of inaction and a great need for a new court facility. They state that they are in the process of acquiring land to site a new facility.



New Website

- A new website for the Court Facilities Capital Review Board will provide further resources and information for political subdivisions seeking information about their statutory obligations with respect to court facilities.
- <https://www.nycourtfacilitiesboard.org/>

