



Cowlitz County

Department of Public Works
1600 – 13th Avenue South
Kelso, WA 98626
www.co.cowlitz.wa.us

News Release

August 14, 2025

Contact

Savannah Clement, Deputy Director
Public Services
Phone: (360) 577-3030 ext. 6533
clements@cowlitzwa.gov

For Immediate Release:

Cowlitz County Hall of Justice to Undergo Major Renovation Beginning September 2025

Cowlitz County announces a comprehensive renovation project for the Hall of Justice, located at 312 SW First Avenue in Kelso. Scheduled to commence the week of September 1, 2025, the project aims to modernize critical infrastructure and enhance energy efficiency, with completion anticipated by the end of May 2026.

Key upgrades include:

- Installation of a new HVAC system to replace inefficient and broken mechanical systems
- Replacement of aging electrical panels
- Upgraded lighting with energy-efficient LED fixtures
- Replacement of ceiling tiles on the first and second floors

Aside from replacing aged and broken mechanical systems, these improvements are part of a broader initiative to also enhance the building's energy efficiency, which includes utility rebates and potential annual savings.

Construction activities will occur Wednesday through Saturday. To minimize disruptions, court operations will continue as normal Monday through Thursday, even during overlapping construction on Wednesdays and Thursdays. However, due to anticipated noise and access limitations during certain construction phases, adjustments to court schedules are necessary.

Court Schedule Adjustments:

- Effective September 5, 2025, no court hearings or trials will be scheduled at the Hall of Justice on Fridays until further notice.
- Friday court dockets for both District and Superior Courts will be relocated to the Cowlitz County Administration Building at 207 N. 4th Avenue in Kelso.

During construction, certain areas within the Hall of Justice may be temporarily inaccessible. Clear directional signage will be provided to assist visitors and staff. Security protocols will continue at both locations; the Hall of Justice and the Administration Building.

~End~