



# Morton County

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

**Commissioners:**  
Cody Schulz, Chairman  
Bruce Strinden, Vice Chairman  
James Boehm  
Andy Zachmeier  
Ron Leingang

**Auditor:**  
Dawn R Rhone

## For Immediate Release

October 26, 2017

Contact: Morton County Public Information Officer (701) 426-1587

Morton County website: <http://www.co.morton.nd.us/>

### **Morton County's new courtroom construction underway**

Mandan, N.D. – Morton County is transforming the former Custer Health office space on the second floor of the courthouse into a new courtroom and related spaces thanks to a large grant provided by the North Dakota Supreme Court.

Construction began this week on the \$1 million project. The grant totaled \$705,000, leaving approximately \$300,000 to be funded through the Morton County 2018 budget. The renovation will include a courtroom, conference rooms, a witness and jury rooms, two judges' chambers along with restrooms, storage and large scale fire protection.

"We are very grateful for the generous funding we received from the state Supreme Court for this much-needed courtroom space," said County Commission Chairman Cody Schulz. "This space will allow us to accommodate our growing judicial needs, while enhancing safety for jurors, judges and all parties."

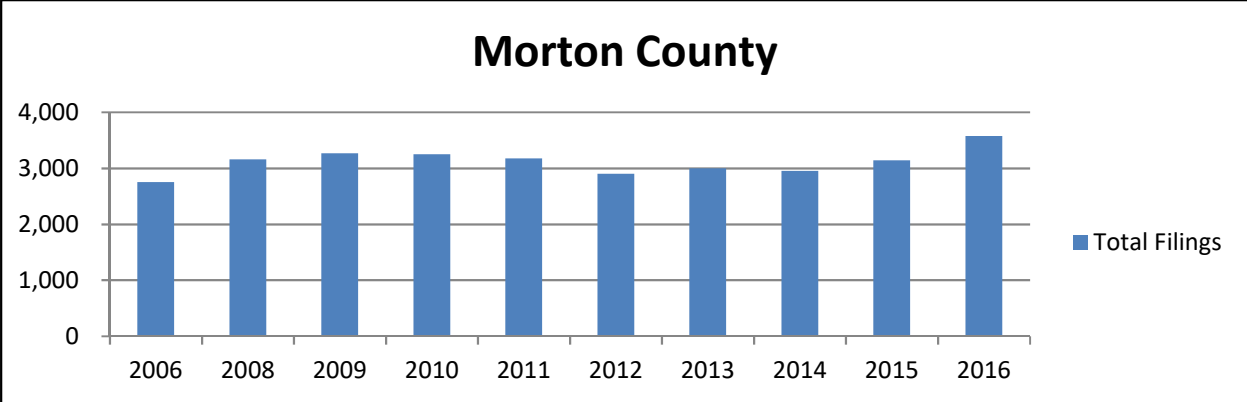
The additional courtroom is needed to accommodate the growing caseload within the county. Over the past 10 years, case filings have risen nearly 30 percent in Morton County. In 2016, 3,575 cases were filed compared to 3,140 in 2015. To date, 2017 statistics indicate a 4 percent increase in case filings over 2016.

Currently, the Morton County Courthouse has four courtrooms, with one juror room and two judges' chambers.

The project is scheduled to be completed in May.

Photos and floorplans can be found at this link:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0BzEKNLJqG3cwbIJVM3E3X2FrbkU>



###