

## Minneapolis Democracy Center: A new chapter for civic engagement

1 message

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### Minneapolis Democracy Center: Building Updates

As 2025 draws to a close, we're excited to share the latest progress on the Minneapolis Democracy Center. This project is transforming the former 3rd Precinct building at Lake Street and Minnehaha Avenue into a vibrant hub for democracy, community partnership and civic participation.



#### Design updates: Shaping the future of civic space

LSE Architects is moving the Democracy Center from [schematic design](#) (shared with City Council September 2025) to design development. This phase turns ideas into plans and specifications that will help bring the vision to life.

This phase includes:

- Architectural plans, including design for interior spaces and exterior finishes
- Mechanical, plumbing and electrical systems
- Stormwater management, parking and landscaping
- Energy conservation

With design assistance from Xcel Energy, the team is also exploring sustainable energy solutions, including geothermal, district geothermal energy and solar power. **Construction documents are expected in spring 2026, with construction beginning in fall 2026.**

#### Site cleanup: Laying the groundwork

As of Dec. 1, all site cleanup and preparation related to the former 3rd Precinct building has been completed! This includes:

- Interior demolition and repair from damage during the civil unrest in 2020
- Replacement of exterior doors and windows
- Reconstruction of the entrance vestibule at Minnehaha and Lake

This milestone clears the way for the next phase of construction and brings the project closer to opening its doors to the community.

### **Community partner space**

The City has postponed the request for proposals for a tenant to lease the community partner space. Calling for proposals later in 2026 will allow prospective tenants to:

- Explore the space firsthand as construction progresses
- Understand how the community partner space can work alongside election services, supporting a broader range of tenant ideas.

We are grateful for the two applicants who applied during this round and have encouraged them to reapply. This decision is based on timing and evolving design context, not the quality of their submissions. We also appreciate the community feedback on their proposals; the feedback is summarized here ([link](#)).

### **Election & Voter Services**

The 2025 municipal election marked the highest municipal election turnout in the city in 50 years, with 55% of registered voters casting a ballot. This level of participation reflects strong civic engagement and the city's voters' commitment to having their voices heard.

Elections & Voter Services will continue to operate from [980 E. Hennepin Ave.](#), which includes its main office and Early Voter Center, for the 2026 gubernatorial election. We look forward to moving into the new Democracy Center space following construction.

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## **Next Steps**

Construction of the Minneapolis Democracy Center is expected to begin in fall 2026 and continue through 2027. The project will create a welcoming space for early voting, election staff offices and an 8,000-square-foot community partner space designed to bring residents together.

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## **Learn more**

The Minneapolis Democracy Center will be a cornerstone of civic engagement and community connection. To stay updated on progress and opportunities to get involved:

[Visit the Minneapolis Democracy Center webpage](#)

[Sign up for Minneapolis Democracy Center updates](#)

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