
Josephine (JO) County (CO) Justice System (JS) & Public Safety Services (PSS)

JO CO Justice System & Public Safety Services

The 2012 expiration of federal funding for services resulted in two JO CO proposed levies as solutions. We believe an informed public will consider the question behind the JO CO Board of County Commissioners' (BCC) 2013 Measure 17 - 49 (Criminal Justice and Public Safety Three Year Local Option Tax): *"Is JO CO providing an adequate level of public safety services?"* We believe addressing the question involves several sub-questions, the answers of which will assist the public toward informed decision-making.

Information Statements by Government and Other Publications, Including News Articles Information about levies sometimes meets our information standards, sometimes not. We believe it is most helpful for the public that information statements on levies where the government wishes to tax should be written statements of fact, conclusions, and determinations based upon the evidence or facts at hand, presented relative to the applicable standards for the proposed levy proposed by county. The objective is to minimize opinions and sensationalism.

We Believe Information Statements Should

1. Identify the information issue.
2. Respond to specific issues raised by citizens.
3. Identify the relevant standards or authorities.
4. Identify the facts which were believed would be relied upon by the decision makers.
5. Explain how those facts lead to the conclusion that the standards are, or are not, satisfied.
6. State that the standards are met or not.

Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee

Analysis Method The Committee will use the following analysis methodology in researching and documenting information issues.

• **Information Issue** Why is the issue being analyzed and/or documented by the Committee?

1. How does the issue relate to the question: "Is JO CO providing an adequate level of public safety services?"
2. Was the issue raised by the public?²

• **Known Facts** What are the known facts? The power of future information abstracts documented in brochures is that they spur the question of whether there are better facts and the information can be updated. Sometimes research projects will focus solely on a description of the facts or standards.

• **Standards** Are there standards or authorities? Sometimes there are scientific standards by which a levy proposal can be analyzed, sometimes not. Standards could be the law, official county polls, or professional opinions by recognized authorities or experts.

• **Analysis** The goal is objective analysis and documents, not whether the proposed legislation was right or wrong, or in some overt way to try to influence a yes or no vote from the public.

• **Conclusion/Recommendation** The analysis conclusions would usually be a set of recommendations to the elected officials.

Analysis & Documentation Method

More Information On Analysis Method An information issue generally consists of a sentence or short paragraph that briefly:

1. Identifies the information statement, and the aspect of the proposed levy that is understood or not understood, and
2. Cites one or more arguments on which the Josephine County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) is urged to conclude that the proposal is satisfactory or erroneous and the information problems warrants a change in the proposed levy.

The information statement is typically followed by supporting arguments that include discussion of the standard of review, any applicable law and the facts in the record that have some bearing on the proposed levy, the applicable standards and/or authorities, and the primary references and sources of information.

"A man should look for what is, and not for what he thinks should be." - Albert Einstein.

Want more information? Contact a member of the *Exploratory Committee*.

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1. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (HNA&HS). July 9, 2013. *Justice System Exploratory Committee*. Hugo, OR.
 2. Hugo Neighborhood Association. July 9, 2013. *All Voters & Votes Are Legitimate*. Hugo, OR.



ANALYSIS METHOD

Brochure AM1
Justice System & Public Safety Services Series

Exploratory Committee's Mission

Mission An independent Justice System and Public Safety Services Exploratory Committee (*Exploratory Committee*) to investigate the JO CO Justice System & Public Safety Services (JS&PSS) issue was formed under the leadership of the Hugo Neighborhood Association and Historical Society (HNA&HS).

Big picture ideas for the exploratory effort include the following.

1. Identifying the JS&PSS issue.
2. Identifying the JS&PSS sub-issues for research and analysis.
3. Identifying a range in level of services
4. Identifying a range of costs for services.
5. Identifying revenues for services.

The ultimate goal is an adequate justice system and public safety services. Is it possible to have a higher level of service for a lower cost? The purpose of the *Exploratory Committee* is to gather information adequate enough to understand the JS&PSS issues. This includes educational outreach efforts.

The *Exploratory Committee's* purpose is limited to investigating and researching the JS&PSS issues. It will not make evaluations of right or wrong, nor make recommendations on how to vote.

The contents of this brochure are expressions of the opinions and beliefs of those that contribute based on their thoughts and experiences. Hopefully, their efforts will assist the public toward informed decision-making.

- Donations Are Not Tax Deductible -

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**KEEP
CALM**

and

**GET
THE
FACTS**

"The case is never closed. Many experiments may prove me right, but it only takes one to prove me wrong." - Albert Einstein

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Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee