
Historical Public Safety Services (PSS) In JO CO, Oregon

JO CO JS&PSS Tax Levies The 2012 expiration of federal funding in JO CO, used mostly for public safety services, resulted in JO CO proposing two tax levies as solutions. They both failed.

1. May 2012 JO CO-wide Measure 17 - 43, Criminal Justice System Operations Four Year Local Option Tax (i.e., \$1.99 per \$1,000 of assessed value), failed 57 - 43 percent.
2. May 2013 JO CO-wide Measure 17 - 49, Criminal Justice and Public Safety Three Year Local Option Tax (i.e., \$1.48 per \$1,000 of assessed value), failed 51 - 49 percent.

The Merlin Precinct had 58 percent against and Lucky Queen Precinct had 51 percent against Measure 17 - 49.

According to *The Grants Pass Daily Courier*¹ the Grants Pass precincts would have passed the 2013 tax 59 to 41 percent and the JO CO precincts would have turned down the tax 56 to 44 percent. Overall the voting citizens of JO CO were about half and half in supporting and opposing the measure. Two example of rural precincts in the Hugo region are *Merlin* and *Lucky Queen*. The Merlin Precinct had 58 percent against and Lucky Queen had 51 percent against (Merlin yes 209 / no 284; Lucky Queen yes 363 / no 383). Lucky Queen had the same percentages for and against as county-wide.

Many believe that the 2013 “nay” vote was not necessarily a vote of whether citizens supported the JS&PSS, but more a view of government and a vote on the specific measure, including its unknowns.

Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee

Justice System Exploratory Committee Established

On June 17, 2013 the officers of the HNA&HS passed on a 3 - 0 vote the establishment of the *Exploratory Committee*. The mission of the committee is to independently research the JO CO JS&PSS issue and publicly provide its analysis through web page publications. The HNA&HS believes in the sanctity of freedom of speech and the right to vote.

The Lucky Queen Precinct had the same percentages for and against Measure 17 - 49 as the county-wide results: 51 percent for and 49 percent against (yes 363 / no 383).

Objectives not proposed for the *Exploratory Committee* are for it to conclude there is a right or wrong answer, or to recommend how the citizens should vote on any new ballot pertaining to the issue: ya or na. Its proposed mission is limited to educating its members the best it can and sharing this information publicly.

The Exploratory Committee is NOT to conclude there is a right or wrong answer nor to recommend how citizens should vote.

The HNA&HS also believes there is a high probability for another levy to be on a future ballot. It believes this is reasonable as we need public safety services even though the form and the cost are a potential concern.

Josephine County (JO CO) Justice System (JS)

Exploratory Committee’s Structure The *Exploratory Committee* is a small informal nonprofit charitable and educational organization. Part of its purpose is to independently investigate the PSS issue. Independent does not mean ignoring the valuable information and perspectives that the public and consultant resources can provide.

The first job of the Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee is to define a potential list of analysis issues.

Members of the *Exploratory Committee* are responsible for its health and well being. A qualification of potential members is that they be advocates for the *Exploratory Committee’s* mission. Existing members have the authority to independently investigate, solicit, and champion new members to the *Exploratory Committee*.

Analysis Issues The first job of the *Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee* is to define a potential list of issues for research and analysis. This first list will be refined and evolve as the committee moves forward with its work.

Outreach Information gathered will be made available to others for their own evaluation.

Want more information? Contact the *Exploratory Committee*.

1. The Grants Pass Daily News. June 6, 2013. *City Backed, County Opposed Safety Levy*. Front Page. Grants Pass, OR.

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 -

Edited by HNA&HS

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Justice System Exploratory Committee

<http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/justicesystemexploratorycommittee.htm>

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HUGO JUSTICE SYSTEM EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE

Brochure IIA
Justice System & Public Safety Services Series



July 9, 2013

Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society