
2013 Josephine County Measure 17 - 49 Tax

JO CO JS&PSS Tax Levies The 2012 expiration of federal funding in Josephine County (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.

According to *The Grants Pass Daily Courier*¹ the Grants Pass precincts would have passed the 2013 tax (Measure 17 - 49) 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.

The Preamble of the U.S. Constitution lists the reasons that the 13 original colonies (i.e., *We the*

People) separated from their mother country, and became an independent nation.

All Voters & Votes Are Legitimate

HNA&HS's Core Beliefs It believes in the sanctity of freedom of speech and the right to vote and that the 2013 "nay" vote was not necessarily a vote of whether citizens supported PSS, but more a view of government and a vote on the specific measure, including its unknowns.

Freedom Of Speech in the United States is protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and by many state constitutions and state and federal laws. The freedom is not absolute. However, criticism of government and advocacy of unpopular ideas that people may find distasteful or against public policy are almost always permitted.

1st - "Protects freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom of the press, as well as the right to assemble and petition the government."

All Voters Of "We The People" Are Legitimate The notion of freedom of speech is intimately linked to political debate and the concept of a democracy. The U.S. Constitution protects the rights of eligible voters to vote.

- "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State... on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude..." 15th Amendment
- "... on account of sex." 19th Amendment
- "... by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax." 24th Amendment
- "... on account of age." 26th Amendment

The Right Of Freedom Of Speech And To Vote Are Special

All Votes By "We The People": Ya, Nay, or Not, Are Legitimate Most democratic governments consider participating in national elections a right of citizenship. Some consider that participation at elections is also a citizen's civic responsibility. What about decisions made by democratically elected governments? Are they more legitimate when higher proportions of the population participate?

Elections make real the consent of the governed and provide legitimacy to our government. Registering to vote should be convenient and voting itself should be efficient and pleasant. Citizens should see their votes as both a right and a privilege and be proud they are citizens in a democracy.

However, voting is not an intrinsic obligation and the enforcement of a compulsory voting law would be an infringement of the citizens' freedom associated with democratic elections. Voting or not voting is a freedom associated with democracy.

All legitimate consent requires the ability to withhold consent; therefore, the legitimate consent of voters requires they be able to withhold their consent in an election to office.

In summary, a yes or no vote to a proposed tax levy or not voting is a legitimate exercise of democracy.

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 -

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

ALL VOTERS & VOTES ARE LEGITIMATE

Brochure IIC
Justice System & Public Safety Services Series



"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

The Preamble of the U.S. Constitution

July 9, 2013

**Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society**