
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. The May 2012 levy failed 51% no and 49% yes, basically 50/50.

Government Needs Support Up front the HNA&HS supports funding for a justice system, and, as necessary, that without new sources of revenue that we need to live within our means. It also believes government is a “good” necessary and not an “evil necessity” for public safety services the individual does not have the capacity for, or the will to provide.

Many believe that the 2013 “nay” vote to the levy 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.

From a public safety point of view, what works? What does not work? What backfires? Those are the good, the bad, and the ugly, respectively. The HNA&HS also wonders about potential sources of revenue other than the single property tax.

Lots Of Questions There are numerous questions about the JS&PSS issue not well understood. This is the issue the Hugo JS&PSS Committee is charged to address through research and sharing with its neighbors through web publication.

1. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (HNA&HS). July 9, 2013. *Justice System Exploratory Committee*. Hugo, OR.

Government Needs Support

Is Government Naturally Corrupt? We understand that political corruption is the use of power by government officials for illegitimate private gain. Misuse of government power for other purposes, such as repression of political opponents, general police brutality, or illegal acts by private persons or corporations not directly involved with the government is not considered political corruption. An illegal act by an officeholder constitutes political corruption only if the act is directly related to their official duties and is done under color of law or involves trading in influence.

Democracy involves competition. Competition always has corruption. We believe there are bad apples in every socio-economic aspect of our capitalistic system, and we believe most folks are good at heart and not corrupt, including those working for the government.

Role of Government Is government only for protecting life, liberty, and property? Many believe so and would eliminate government involvement in clean air and water, food safety, public education, public transportation, public housing, public health, Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. They don't believe in a public role in these areas.

Many believe the functions performed by a right-sized government are those things that are necessary to protect the life, liberty, and property of the people (from U.S. Declaration of Independence). Others believe the U.S. Constitution takes precedence under the General Welfare provision in its preamble.

Josephine County (JO CO) Justice System (JS)

The Public Interest Is there a “public interest” or do only individual human beings have interests? When people talk about “the public interest,” do they really mean that some members of the public want something, and they want it at the expense of others. If, for instance, you hear a politician say that his national defense space program would be “in the public interest,” he means that he and the backers of his plan want it, perhaps believe it is good for everyone.

The good, the bad, the missed opportunities? All folks, agencies, and governments make mistakes. Most learn from them.

The Best Government Is Open & Transparent 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. So do we trust government? In general, yes we do and we demand accountability. Do not fail to set boundaries and hold people accountable, or you could feel used and mistreated.

How To Craft A Measure/Levy Understood By Voters We believe that government should never craft a measure like Measure 17 - 49 with its unknowns.

Role Of Voters A yes or no vote to a proposed tax levy or not voting is a legitimate exercise of democracy.

2. Hugo Neighborhood Association. July 9, 2013. *All Voters & Votes Are Legitimate*. Hugo, 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.

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Justice System Exploratory Committee

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Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society

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

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Justice System & Public Safety Services Series

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men
are created equal, that they are endowed by their
Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among
these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.*

U.S. Declaration of Independence



*"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 24, 2013

**Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society**