
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 a solution. They both failed.

PUBLIC OPINION³ Public opinion is best expressed in our representative democracy through elections, held at regular intervals that give politicians or policies the chance "to succeed or fail within reasonable time constraints." This view reflects the intent of the framers of our Constitution and their mix of faith and skepticism in the whims of the public (see James Madison, The Federalist No. 10).

"Public Opinion' in this discussion may simply be taken to mean those opinions held by private persons which governments find it prudent to heed. Governments may be

compelled toward action or inaction by such opinion; in other instances they may ignore it, perhaps at their peril; they may attempt to alter it; or they may divert or pacify it."

Put another way, elected officials are self-interested. They will "heed" public opinion when they see the potential for reward or peril at the next election.

Those who wish to influence policy will want to appeal to the political instincts of elected officials and will thus make arguments on the basis of the same potential electoral reward or peril.

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.

Oregon House Bill (HB) 3453

POLITICAL REWARDS High satisfaction by voters is a good sign for re-election. Rightly or wrongly, when neighbors think things are going well in the county, they tend to reward the county commissioners.

The power of representatives is curtailed by the U.S. and Oregon constitutions, and the JO CO home charter, but the power of a sweeping reelection is usually considered a mandate to carry-out a politicians interests.

Oregonian June 6, 2013⁴ It's one of the first things we learn in civics class: Governments are instituted to secure the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Oregonian June 29, 2013⁵ Rural counties have seen budgets for essential services evaporate as timber harvests and federal payments intended to offset the loss of those jobs have faded. A civilized state cannot allow this neglect to continue.

Oregonian July 8, 2013⁶ House Bill 3453 contains both pain and promise for some of the state's most financially beleaguered counties.

The power of a sweeping reelection is usually considered a mandate for by politicians

Oregonian July 8, 2013⁷ House Bill 3453 is of potentially huge significance for rural counties without money for public safety services.

3. Blumenthal, Mark. July 27, 2009 Updated: May 29, 2013. *The Value Of Polling. Critics Who Warn That Polls Subvert Democracy Aren't Grasping What's Good About Them*. For National Journal.

4. Monaghan, Brendan, Guest Columnist. June 6, 2013. *Brendan Monaghan: Federal Timber Policy Sows Discomfort in Southern Oregon*. "Oregonian." Portland, OR

5. Oregonian Editorial Board. June 29, 2013. *Lawmakers Expect To Sine Die: Oregon Legislatures Today*. "Oregonian." Portland, OR

The Rewards & Perils Of Elected Officials

POLITICAL PERILS

Oregonian June 6, 2013⁴ Salem's plan is another hit: *House Bill 3453* would pick up half the tab for a minimum level of public services, an effective bailout of these local governments. The catch is that money from a higher, distant source -- federal or state -- is never free. There are always strings attached. **Salem seizes the right to raise local income taxes without a vote of the locals.** So,

Salem seizes the right to raise local income taxes without a vote of the locals.

residents in these counties would learn what people in Detroit already know: Home rule is not a God-given constitutional right, but a privilege extended by the plenary power of the state. In this sense, rural local governments are becoming an endangered species -- starved by their own citizens, poached by outsiders.

Oregonian July 10, 2013⁸ Curry County Board of Commissioners Chairman David Smith said he hopes the southwestern Oregon county won't have to seek emergency aid from the state through HB 3453. "I believe in our citizens and I believe they understand that because of the loss of federal forest receipts we have to help ourselves," Smith said. While the state would match money raised by the county under the legislation, **it also carries a political risk for commissioners who would be in the position of imposing taxes without voter OK.**

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

6. Mapes, Jeff. July 8, 2013. *County Rescue Bill Approved by Oregon Legislature*. "Oregonian." Portland, OR

7. Har Janie. July 8, 2013. *Lawmakers Expect To Sine Die: Oregon Legislatures Today*. "Oregonian." Portland, OR

8. Mapes, Jeff. July 10, 2013. *Curry County Looks To Property Taxpayers To End Immediate Financial Woes*. "Oregonian." Portland, 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.

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Justice System Exploratory Committee

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

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society

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

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