

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

JO CO Justice System & Public Safety Services¹⁻⁴

The 2012 expiration of federal funding for services resulted in two JO CO proposed levies as a solution. They both failed. **“Is JO CO providing a minimally adequate level of public safety services?”**

SECURING OUR SAFETY (SOS)⁵ Securing Our Safety (SOS) is a non-profit that formed in 2012. <http://securingoursafety.org/>

Mission⁵ *“A Citizen-Voiced Plan to provide for a secure, stable and sustainable Josephine County.”*

What standards will SOS use for determining the accomplishment of SOS’s mission?

- *To Provide A Citizen-Voiced Plan For JO CO*
- *To Provide For A Secure JO CO*
- *To Provide For A Stable JO CO*
- *To Provide For A Sustainable JO CO*

SOS’S MISSION STANDARD: **PROVIDE FOR A SECURE JOSEPHINE COUNTY**

It is assumed the word “secure” combined with the non-profit’s title, “Securing Our Safety” refers to safety as in law enforcement, and that “stable” and “sustainable” refer to law enforcement and/or public safety services, but “stable” and “sustainable” could refer to any county service.

1. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (HNA&HS). July 9, 2013. *Justice System Exploratory Committee*. Hugo, OR.
2. HNA&HS. July 24, 2013. *Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society’s Mission*. Hugo, OR.
3. HNA&HS. July 9, 2013. *All Voters & Votes Are Legitimate*. Hugo, OR.
4. HNA&HS. July 24, 2013. *Government Needs Support*. Hugo, OR.

SOS’s Mission Standard: To Provide A Secure JO CO

The 2013 Oregon House Bill 3453 is now law. Section 2(1) of HB 3453 provides: *“If the Governor determines that fiscal conditions exist, or are imminent in one or more counties that compromise the ability of the affected counties to provide a minimally adequate level of public safety services, the Governor may proclaim a public safety fiscally emergency.”* We assume that SOS’s “secure” could mean a minimally adequate level of public safety services. It could also mean some other higher level of public safety services, including law enforcement.

In summary, what does “secure” mean as used in SOS’s mission?

SOS Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) 2. How much do we need to fund the JO CO JS?⁶ <http://securingoursafety.org/qa/> ANSWER: Estimates used in last year’s vote called for **approximately \$12 million per year to maintain roughly the same level of services we had prior to the failed levy** (functioning jail, District Attorney, juvenile justice, county sheriff). If this were funded through a permanent property tax, the rate would be about \$1.99 across JO CO (rate is per \$1,000 assessed value (AV)).

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Securing Our Safety (SOS)

FAQ 11. Explain in more detail the current property tax system, why there is a problem, and how much would a solution to this crisis cost? ANSWER: The CO’s PTR is approximately 58 cents per \$1,000 of a property’s AV and everyone in the cities and CO pays this rate. **Of the 58 cents, in the current year approximately 32 cents goes to Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice Services (LE/CJS).** JO CO has the lowest tax rate in the whole state because federal funds used to provide the rest of the \$ to operate the CJS. **In GP , in addition to the CO’s tax rate GP residents pay more than \$6.00 per \$1,000 in AV, all of which goes to PSS (mostly police and fire services).** While GP has a consolidated management and facilities structure for police and fire, **slightly more than \$4 of the rate would be the estimated cost for LE while close to approximately \$2 would be the cost for fire services.**



SECURING OUR SAFETY

“A CITIZEN-VOICED PLAN TO PROVIDE FOR A SECURE, STABLE AND SUSTAINABLE JOSEPHINE COUNTY”



In summary, it is assumed that SOS’s mission standard to provide for a secure JO CO is to find funding for \$12,000,000 to maintain roughly the same level of public safety services JO CO had prior to the failed 2012 levy.

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

5. Securing Our Safety. Downloaded July 29, 2013. *Home Page of SOS*, <http://securingoursafety.org/>. Grants Pass, OR.
6. Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee. September 5, 2013. *SOS’s 11 Most Frequently Asked Questions*. Brochure III.K.3.2.8.1 (1 of 5). 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 cost 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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Justice System Exploratory Committee

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

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society

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

SOS'S MISSION STANDARD: TO PROVIDE A SECURE JO CO

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