
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.

Crime³ State Rep. Wally Hicks talked about a rising tide of crime in JO CO in the wake of widespread layoffs in the criminal justice system nearly a year ago. The layoffs are the result of declining revenue from timber harvests on federal land, the loss of federal subsidies originally intended to replace the lost timber revenue, and voter defeat of a public safety tax in May 2012 — a tax that was meant to replace the federal subsidy.

90 Employees Laid Off⁴ In 2012 federal subsidies expired which had been in place for about 20 years and provided the county with millions of dollars annually. Worsening the situation, a serial tax meant to fill the gap failed. With no new source of revenue, more than 90 employees, most from the Sheriff's Office, were laid off.

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.

Crime Increases^{1 - 2}

Man Not Jailed⁵ The fact the man was not jailed, despite having a warrant out for his arrest in a drug-delivery case, is an example of what has happened to JO CO's criminal justice system in the wake of deep budget cuts that took effect last spring and summer, when nearly 90 deputies, prosecutors, Juvenile Department workers and support staff lost their jobs. The cuts have had widespread effects.

By the Numbers⁵

- 50: % > in reported burglaries last year GP, compared with 2011 (602 vs. 401).
- 31: % > in reported assaults last year in GP, compared with 2011 (470 vs. 359).
- 26: % > in reported thefts last year in GP, compared with 2011 (2,834 vs. 2,254).
- 45: % > in reported burglaries last year in rural JO CO, compared with 2011 (447 vs. 309).
- 99: # of inmates typically held at the 262-bed JO CO jail, down from 150 early last year.
- 860: # of cases prosecuted by the JO CO District Attorney's Office in a nine-month period beginning in July 2012, compared with 1,771 cases prosecuted during the same period of the previous year.

3. Cathey, Lindsay. April 30, 2013. *Chamber Honors Local Businesses, Group*. "The Grants Pass Daily Courier". Grants Pass, OR.

4. Stumbo, Stacy D. January 21, 2013. *Folks Desire Justice, Not All Want Tax*. "The Grants Pass Daily Courier". Grants Pass, OR.

Josephine County (JO CO) Justice System (JS)

By the Numbers (continued)

- 6: # of JO CO Sheriff's Office patrol deputies, including three contract deputies currently assigned to patrol Cave Junction, rivers and federal forests. Down from 28 the previous year.
- 1,003: # of incidents and investigations that typically would have been handled by the JO CO Sheriff's Office, but were instead handled by Oregon State Police, in the second half of last year.
- 10: # of juvenile cases referred since July to JO CO Juvenile Justice by the JO CO Sheriff's Office, compared with an estimated 200 juvenile cases referred in the previous year.
- 0: # of children housed in shelter at the JO CO Juvenile Justice Center since June 15, compared with 54 served the previous year. The shelter program closed last June.
- 86: # of children held at some time in detention since June 15 by JO CO Juvenile Justice, compared with 233 the previous year. JO CO's 14-bed detention facility closed last June, and the county now contracts to hold up to three children at a time in a Medford detention facility.

Want more information? Contact the *Exploratory Committee*.

5. Hall, Shaun. April 28, 2013. *Lack of Resources Hurts Public Safety*. "The Grants Pass Daily Courier". 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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Justice System Exploratory Committee

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

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society

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

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JUSTICE SYSTEM PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICE ISSUE

Brochure IIIA.1

Justice System & Public Safety Services Series



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Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee