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## 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. The Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee (HJSEC) believes an informed public will consider the question: **“Is JO CO providing an minimally adequate level of public safety services?”**

**JO CO Permanent Tax Rate. JO CO has the lowest permanent tax rate of \$0.59 per \$1,000 of assessed value of all the COs in OR.** However, the tax rate analysis does not include special taxing districts created to fund specific CO services such as enhanced law enforcement, libraries, rural fire protection, or actual costs for private fire protection when public services are not available. These “average” comparisons get tricky because it is almost always comparing apples and oranges to arrive at a comparison of permanent tax rates.

**Average Permanent OR CO Tax Rates<sup>3</sup>** The average permanent tax rate (PTR) among Oregon counties is \$2.81 per \$1,000 of assessed property value (AV). Josephine and Curry Counties have the lowest permanent tax rates and are the only counties with rates below \$1.00. Low permanent rates combined with limited taxable property can constrain a county’s ability to raise revenues. To illustrate, **Josephine County, with the lowest permanent tax rate of \$0.59 and 62% of its area in non-taxable federal lands, generated the least amount of local revenues at \$191 per capita in 2011.**

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## Tax Rates

**City of Grants Pass, OR** Between the permanent tax rate and supplemental public safety tax, city residents pay more than \$5.00 per \$1,000 of assessed value **for city services**, with the lion’s share of that money going to public safety. (*City Residents Pay Plenty, Then Have To ‘Rent’ Beds Also*. 08/07/13. Kevin Widdison. Editor’s Opinion, *TDC*).

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## City of Grants Pass, OR Tax Rates: 2012 - 2013

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

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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.

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## 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 -

Edited by Mike Walker, Member, Exploratory Committee

### HNA&HS Officers

Wayne McKy, Chair  
Lis Butowitsch, Treasurer  
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### Justice System Exploratory Committee

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

### HNA&HS

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

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# CITY OF GRANTS PASS, OR TAX RATES; 2012 - 2013

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Justice System & Public Safety Services Series



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***Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee***