

## 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?”**<sup>1-6</sup>

**Average Permanent OR CO Tax Rates**<sup>7</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.

### \*\*\*\*\* Sources??

- . In 1885, the county seat was relocated to Kerby, where the county's first jail was built.
- . The 262-bed Jail was built in 2000
- . OR Public Defense Services Commission (PDSC)
- . List of Josephine County, Oregon Ballot Measures?
- . Records at the Josephine County Courthouse, Clerk's Vault: Certification of Tax Roll [includes levies], 1984-present
- . Oregon Tax Statistic, Oregon Dept of Revenue
- . Federal Court Order to stop overcrowding the JO CO jail by U.S. Magistrate Michael Hogan

## Tax Levies??

### 2014<sup>8</sup>

May 2014 JO CO-wide Measure ?? - ??, ?? Tax?? (i.e., \$?? per \$1,000 of assessed value), .

### 2013<sup>9</sup>

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.

### 2012<sup>10</sup>

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.

### 2007<sup>11</sup>

May 2007 JO CO-wide Measure 17 - 19, **Criminal Justice System Operations Four Year Local Option Tax** (i.e., \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value), failed 62 - 37 percent.

### 2004<sup>12</sup>

November 2, 2004 JoCo Criminal Justice System levy failed 61 - 39 percent.

*Once again, a property tax measure will be testing the endurance of Josephine County voters. This is the sixth time in 10 years that this issue has been presented to us. We voted "no" on it every time in the past and will have to vote "no" once again.*<sup>13</sup>

## JO CO Tax Levies Over The Years

- . Oregon Criminal Justice Commission
- . county's Criminal Justice System because the State Jail Inspector said our County Jail has too few staff members to house more than 170 inmates.

**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.
  3. HNA&HS. July 9, 2013. *All Voters & Votes Are Legitimate*. Hugo, OR.
  4. HNA&HS. July 24, 2013. *Government Needs Support*. Hugo, OR.
  5. Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee, HNA&HS. Hugo, OR. <http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/ruralfireprotectiondistrictexploratorycommittee.htm>
  6. Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee, HNA&HS. June 14 - September 16, 2013. *Justice System & Public Safety Services Issue Scope Of Work*. For the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. Hugo, OR.
  7. Oregon Secretary of State. May 2012. *Oregon's Counties: 2012 Financial Condition Review*. Secretary of State Audit Report Kate Brown, Secretary of State Gary Blackmer, Director, Audits Division. Brochure III.H.4.2, Justice System & Public Safety Services Series. Salem, OR.
  - 8.
  9. The Grants Pass Daily News. June 6, 2013. *City Backed, County Opposed Safety Levy*. Front Page. Grants Pass, OR.
  - 10.
  11. Conrad, Chris. May 17, 2007. *JoCo Sheriff Hands out Pink Slips: County Makes Plans to Release Inmates after Levy's Lopsided Defeat*. Mail Tribune. Medford, OR.
  - 12.
  13. *County Must Learn To Live Within Its Means*. Jim Fafferty. 05/03/13. Guest Opinion. TDC. Grants Pas s , 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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# JOSEPHINE COUNTY, TAX LEVIES OVER THE YEARS

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*Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee*