
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. Both levies failed. “*Is JO CO providing a minimally adequate level of public safety services?*”¹⁻² More importantly, what is this minimal level?

Accept fewer resources and plan for the future.

OCJC’s Summer 2010 Newsletter³ A 2.5 Billion dollar reduction in funds to provide for education, human services, and a statewide public system in OR is a reality I would rather not accept. I would rather selectively focus on the fact that Oregonians are safer today, less likely to be a victim of violent crime or property crime, than they have been since the 60s. I would rather hope we can “do nothing” and ask the legislature to make cuts elsewhere and not touch spending on public safety. All of us are committed to public safety. None of us want to make cuts to the system that has been in place while crime in OR has dropped to historically low levels, but I am glad Governor Kulongoski in 2009 asked his Reset Cabinet to accept the reality of fewer resources and plan for the future.

How to best use tax dollars to give us what we want most: the best public safety system our tax dollars can buy.

OCJC’s Winter 2011 Newsletter⁴ We need both short and long term recommendations for how to best use OR’s tax dollars to give Oregonians what they want the most: the best public safety system our tax dollars can buy.

1. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (HNA&HS). July 9, 2013. *Justice System Exploratory Committee*. Hugo, OR.

Letters To the Editor: The Grants Pass Daily Courier

Letters To The Editor, *The Daily Courier*

- *Politicians Ignore Will Of Voters; Privatize Justice.* 07/19/13. John Loeblein. The Declaration of Independence and the rights of the governed were to overthrow oppressive rule. It seem taxation with representation isn’t working out any better now since we have exchanged King George for King Kitzhaber. Can it be legal for the state to nullify the will of the people and to impose an unlawful tax by bullying and misleading the democratic system? What’s wrong with privatizing our law enforcement system? Does anyone believe an officer can’t write enough tickets in one day to pay for his wages or the court can’t impose sufficient penalties to carry its own weight?
- *Politicians Now Ignoring Desires Of The Majority* 07/04/13. Robert Buckner. In America, the majority of “We the people,” elect fellow citizens. They are then expected to represent the specific desires of those in that majority who successfully elected them. Local majority facts: We do not want fiscally irresponsibly priced bus stops or a library system subsidized with tax dollars. We do not want a criminal justice system that will serve and protect the community. “More money or no criminal justice system!” Really, that’s the only remedy our so-called leaders can come up with? Government needs to be made to listen to and respect the voice of we the people and find a way to do what needs to be done – without more money.
- *County Leaders Just Didn’t Think Proactively* 06/30/13. William Fyfe. No, dear CO commissioners, our current situation is not the fault of the people. It is the result of your short sightedness and lack of properly managing the funds that you had available to you. Now grow up, stop threatening us taxpayers and place the blame where it belongs and take responsibility for your actions, or rather inaction, and fix this mess you have gotten us into, for you are not going to get one extra cent from me until you can prove you will use it thriftily and wisely!

Best Public Safety Services Our Tax Dollars Can Buy

- *Voters Should Decide The Level Of Funding For The Jail* 06/13/13. Bart Van Syoc. I have a solution for the problem. The funding sources for the jail and sheriff’s patrol need to be separated. For the jail; Give the voters one “no” and four “yes” options for jail funding, 25, 50, 75 or 100 percent. Then the voters can choose what level they are willing to fund. The citizens should be given a detailed account for each, with itemized cost. Give the county residents the cost for each patrol officer needed per day, per shift and let them vote for the level of service they want.
- *GP Mayor Urging ‘Yes’ Vote For Safety’s Sake* Darin Fowler. 05/17/13. The main purpose of government is to ensure people’s safety. This levy is a temporary fix until all possibilities for funding public safety are fully explored. We need to decide what level of law enforcement we want and how to pay for it. This will take time.
- *New Property Taxes Won’t Fix The County’s Problems* 05/10/13. Jim Gower. How management failed to respond to changing conditions and new realities. JO CO must adapt to stay relevant. The CO commissioners should recognize the CO is evolving in a new direction. All the services provided by the CO should be evaluated for their impact on available revenues and funding allocated in a way that best serves the citizens of the CO, not underwrite the status quo. Despite what the proponents say, 17.49 is not about justice, but an attempt to maintain the status quo and put off solving the CO’s fiscal problems.

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

2. Hugo Neighborhood Association. July 9, 2013. *All Voters & Votes Are Legitimate*. Hugo, OR.

3. Oregon Criminal Justice Commission. Summer 2010. *Executive Director’s Column* – Craig Prins, in Summer 2010 OCJC Newsletter. Salem, OR.

4. Oregon Criminal Justice Commission. Winter 2011. *Executive Director’s Column* – Craig Prins, in Winter 2011 OCJC Newsletter. Salem, 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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JO CO BEST PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES OUR TAX DOLLARS CAN BUY

Brochure IIID.7.6.1
Justice System & Public Safety Services Series

Standards & Authorities

Letters To The Editor in The Daily Courier: 2013
Oregon Governor's Reset Council: 2009

Very Very Draft August 14, 2013

Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee