
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?”*¹⁻⁵

What do you do when you have what you want and it is the law, but you can not afford it?

*State of the State Address: 2013*⁶ Governor John A. Kitzhaber’s January 14, 2013 State of the State Address welcomed Oregon’s 77th Legislative Assembly with a reminder of its more than 150 years of rich history as a place of citizen legislators. He felt that this was the people’s institution, and it has represented well the hopes and dreams, the priorities, and yes, the prejudices, of Oregonians.

77th Oregon Legislative Assembly’s Potential

“You are farmers and ranchers and small business owners. You are educators and caregivers – doctors and dentists, teachers and librarians. You are parents and you are retirees, from law enforcement and fire fighting and the military, and your unique experiences and wisdom are critical to tackling the challenges we face in getting Oregonians back to work and strengthening our communities.”

Disagree Agreeably Kitzhaber noted that the Assembly has shown that it’s not only possible to disagree agreeably, it’s also possible to move beyond what divides us and build instead on what unites us.

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.

State Of Oregon Cost Reductions Approach

Constrained Budget Far too many Oregonians continue to struggle with unemployment, debt and the rising cost of health care which is the core of a budget that reflects the priorities of putting children, families and education first; investing in jobs and innovation; and reducing the cost of government. Even with constrained resources, we cannot wait.

Reforms Gov Kitzhaber felt that reforms in education and health care – and key investments in innovation – embody the change necessary to accelerate Oregon’s economic recovery and restore our shared prosperity.

“Our great challenge is to ensure that the next phase of Oregon’s economic “recovery” reaches all Oregonians and ends the income stagnation that continues to erode the middle class, exacerbates inequality, and for the first time threatens a generation of Oregonians with the prospect of a declining standard of living.”

Cost Reductions Governor Kitzhaber’s address identified difficult choices for reducing the cost of health care and corrections, reducing the cost drivers that are diverting resources from the classroom, and undertaking serious review of Oregon’ tax expenditures. He believes that cost reductions are needed and possible in areas that need thoughtful deliberation by our citizen legislators.

1. Cost of Health Care.
2. Relentless Growth in the Department of Corrections (Prison Population).
3. PERS Retirement System.
4. Tax Expenditures.

3. HNA&HS. July 9, 2013. *All Voters & Votes Are Legitimate*. Hugo, OR.
4. HNA&HS. July 24, 2013. *Government Needs Support*. Hugo, OR.

OR Health Care, Prison Populations, & PERS Retirement System

Cost Of Health Care is perhaps the fastest growing cost for individuals, families, businesses and state government. The new care model being developed by coordinated care organizations is projected to hold medical inflation in the Medicaid program. The long-term ability to reinvest in public education depends to a large extent on success in proving up this care model and then to extend it into the private market.

Prison Populations The relentless growth in the Oregon Department of Corrections is one of the major reasons for adequate investment in education, in community corrections, and other proven crime prevention measures at the local level.

“It cost \$10,000 a year to keep a child in school but \$30,000 a year to keep someone in prison. Our prison forecast predicts the need to build 2,300 new beds over the next decade at a cost of \$600 million – and that most of those beds will be occupied by non-violent offenders. And the fact is that this \$600 million – if spent on public education – would keep hundreds of people out of the criminal justice system in the first place.”

PERS Retirement System & Tax A proposal to cap the cost of living adjustment for PERS retirees is controversial, and the area of tax expenditures has opportunities to boost revenue.

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

5. Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee, HNA&HS. Draft August 20, 2013 *Justice System & Public Safety Services Issue Scope of Work*. Hugo, OR.
6. Governor John A. Kitzhaber, M.D. January 14, 2013. *State of the State 2013*. 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.

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Justice System Exploratory Committee

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

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society

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

OR HEALTH CARE, PRISON NUMBERS, PERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM, TAX EXPENDITURES

Governor John A. Kitzhaber's
2013 State of the State Address To
Oregon's 77th Legislative

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Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee