

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.

Reforms⁶ Governor Kitzhaber felt that reforms requiring difficult choices are necessary 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’s tax expenditures.

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 (HJSEC), 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.
7. Olson, Andy, Oregon State Representative. July 1, 2013. *July 2013 News from State Representative Andy Olson On Legislative Update*. <http://www.corvallisoregon.gov/council/mail-archive/ward1/msg19661.html>
8. HJSEC, HNA&HS. September 18, 2013. *Relentless Growth In OR Dept. Of Corrections (Prisons)*. Brochure III.D.8.4.2. Hugo, OR.

State of Oregon Cost Reductions Approach

Cost Reductions⁶ Governor Kitzhaber 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

Corrections is the second area where cost reduction is both needed and possible. Along with the cost of health care, the relentless growth in the Department of Corrections is one of the major reasons we cannot adequately invest in education; or 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.

That is why Oregonians deserve the careful and objective consideration of the policy options forwarded by the Public Safety Commission to keep our communities safe while reducing the cost of corrections. There is an opportunity here to find alternative and effective ways to sanction non-violent offenders, invest in proven crime prevention and community corrections strategies instead of additional prison beds.

Relentless Growth In Dept. Of Corrections (Prisons)

I recognize that the politics around public safety reform are often difficult – the fear of being labeled “soft on crime” in the next election cycle. But I am asking you to find the courage and the honesty to recognize that if are unwilling act on this issue we will, by default, be choosing prisons over schools and condemning untold numbers of today’s students to a future in our system of corrections rather than in our system of postsecondary education. We can do better – and the need has never been greater for the thoughtful deliberation of citizen legislators.

House Bill 3194 The governor signed HB 3194 on July 25, 2013. State Representative Andy Olson provided the following.⁷

This measure is a result of two years of hard work by lawmakers and members of the Commission of Public Safety which was created by an executive order from the Governor. The final product of HB 3194 is a consensus policy package that controls corrections growth, saves taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars, and protects the public safety program we rely on in our communities.

Our prison population is projected to grow by 2,000 beds in the next ten years at the cost of \$600 million dollars. HB 3194 cuts this growth by 870 beds, flat-lining the prison population entirely for the next five years, and shaving \$326 million off of that ten year bill. This is an extraordinary achievement.

HB 3194 has received support for the Sheriffs Association, District Attorney's Association, and Oregon Chiefs of Police Association. The end result was a compromise that allows law enforcement officials to protect public safety, but which also takes a first step toward controlling the growth of the prison populations.

Want more information? Contact a member of the *Exploratory Committee*. For more information see references, especially footnote 8.

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

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Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society

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RELENTLESS GROWTH IN DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS (PRISONS)

Brochure IIID.8.4.2.1 (1 of 2)
Justice System & Public Safety Services Series



My Home In Order

Very Very Draft September 18, 2013

Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee