
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: Jan. 14, 2013*⁶ Governor John A. Kitzhaber’s 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, 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. Cooper, Jonathan J. September 3, 2013. *Kitzhaber Weighs A Special Session For PERS*. For Associated Press in The Grants Pass Dailey Courier. Page 5A, Community News. Grants Pass, 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

PERS Retirement System⁶

Let me turn now to the need to reduce the cost drivers that are diverting resources from the classroom. I am well aware that my proposal to cap the cost of living adjustment for PERS retirees is controversial. At the same time, however, if we are serious about reinvesting in the classroom, we cannot ignore the fact that the crisis in school funding – as well as the crisis in funding things like child protective services and home health care – is not just a revenue problem: it has also become a cost problem.

In this next biennium, the cost of primary and secondary education is going to increase by more than \$1000 per student. Half of that \$1000 –\$500 per student – is accounted for by the increased cost of PERS alone; salary and other benefits account for another \$430 per student. In short, we are faced with a situation in which we are going to increase our per pupil expenditure by \$1000, and yet for this huge investment we will not see a reduction in average class size; we will not see the restoration of lost school days; and we will not be adding back programs like the arts or vocational studies.

8. Cooper, Jonathan J. September 17, 2013. *Kitzhaber, Key Lawmakers Meet ON Tax-Pension Deal*. For Associated Press in The Grants Pass Dailey Courier. Page 5A, Community News. Grants Pass, OR.

Oregon Public Employee Retirement System (PERS)

Let me be clear: this is not about the value of our teachers. It is not about the value of our public employees. It is also not about a major overhaul of a retirement system that continues to be one of the best funded in the nation. It is simply about trying to have a conversation that allows us to strike a balance between the cost of our retirement system and our ability to put dollars in the classroom today to ensure that our students are successful tomorrow. Like public safety, this issue, too, needs thoughtful deliberation by citizen legislators.

Kitzhaber Weighs A Special Session For PERS: Sept 2013⁷ Saying “It’s time to call the question,” Gov. John Kitzhaber told state lawmakers to prepare for a potential special session of the Legislature to deal with tax and pension questions. PERS was the single largest unresolved issue of the 2013 session.

Kitzhaber, Key Lawmakers Meet ON Tax-Pension Deal: Sept 2013⁸ Pension savings could come from some combination of lowering the annual inflation increase, lowering the interest rate used to calculate benefits for certain longtime workers and prohibiting the use of sick time and vacation days when calculating a worker’s final salary.

Kitzhaber Calls Special Session on PERS, School Funding: Sept 19, 2013⁹ Gov. says he’ll call Oregon lawmakers into special session to vote on measures affecting taxes, public-employee pensions and the regulation of genetically modified crops.

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

9. Cooper, Jonathan J. September 19, 2013. *Kitzhaber Calls Special Session on PERS, School Funding*. Associated Press.

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/>

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OREGON PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (PERS)

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Justice System & Public Safety Services Series



My Home In Order

Very Very Draft September 19, 2013

Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee