

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 19, 2013. *Kitzhaber Calls Special Session on PERS, School Funding*. Associated Press.

State Of Oregon Cost Reduction Approach

Cost Reductions⁶ Governor Kitzhaber believes that cost reductions are needed and possible in areas that need thoughtful deliberation by Oregon’s citizen legislators.

1. Cost of Health Care
2. Relentless Growth in the Department of Corrections (Prison Population)
3. PERS Retirement System
4. **Tax Expenditures**⁶

Finally, with regard to tax expenditures, I am prepared to work with you to pursue opportunities to boost revenue. It is easy to aggregate the billions of tax dollars now going out in credits, incentives and deductions. It is more difficult to find opportunities for significant revenue. However, I think a compelling case can be made to reconsider and reassess the policies of the past in light of current fiscal realities and the need to make a significant reinvestment in public education and in other crucial public services. I would include the Senior Medical Deduction; the level of state deductibility of federal Schedule A income; and the possibility of capping total deductions and credits as areas worth further discussion.”

“Again, this is yet another issue that can benefit from the thoughtful deliberation of citizen legislators.”

Kitzhaber Calls Special Session on PERS, School Funding: Sept 19, 2013⁷ 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.

Taxes With the announcement came the complicated terms of a package **raising \$200 million in new tax revenue** that legislative leaders and Kitzhaber have been hammering out in private this week.

Tax Expenditures

Proposed New Taxes The \$244 million in new taxes are controversial as well. The plan would limit the \$183 state personal exemption to individuals with taxable income below \$100,000 and couples with taxable income below \$200,000, raise cigarette taxes by 10 cents per pack and tax corporate income above \$1.5 million at 7.6 percent. It also would change eligibility for Oregon’s senior medical deduction, with a goal of limiting the benefit for higher-income seniors and increasing it for those with lower incomes.

At the same time, the package would create a reduced set of rates for businesses classified by the Internal Revenue Service as "S corporations," and provide reduced rates for export businesses. Those changes would cost the state \$44 million in this budget cycle, leaving \$200 million for state services.

The \$244 million in new taxes are controversial as well.

But the business tax cuts create a drag on revenues in the coming years. By the 2017-19 budget cycle, the package is expected to produce a net \$50 million in new revenue -- a quarter of the gain in the first budget.

Both policies are complicated, but it's the S corporation rate cut that is getting the most criticism.

"Businesses can get the tax cut even if they lay off people," said Chuck Sheketoff, executive director of the Oregon Center for Public Policy.

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

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

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

TAX EXPENDITURES

Brochure IIID.8.4.4.
Justice System & Public Safety Services Series



My Home In Order

Very Very Draft September 19, 2013

Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee