
Josephine (JO) County (CO) Justice System (JS) & Public Safety Services (PSS)

JO CO Justice System & Public Safety Services¹⁻⁴

The 2012 expiration of federal funding for services resulted in two JO CO proposed levies as a solution. The Exploratory Committee believes an informed public will consider the question behind the 2013 local tax Measure 17 - 49: “*Is JO CO providing an adequate level of public safety services?*”¹⁻²

"Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness"⁵ is a well-known phrase in the United States Declaration of Independence. The phrase gives examples of the various "unalienable rights" which the Declaration says all human beings have been given by their Creator and for the protection of which they institute governments.

The United States Declaration of Independence, which was primarily drafted by Thomas Jefferson, was adopted by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

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. From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

“Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness”

Jefferson's Source Scholars debate the extent to which any one of several sources influenced Jefferson who declared himself an Epicurean during his lifetime. This is a philosophical doctrine that teaches the pursuit of happiness and proposes autarchy, which translates as self-sufficiency or freedom. The greatest disagreement comes between those who suggest the phrase was drawn from John Locke and those who identify some other source.

Locke Hypotheses Locke argued in *Two Treatises of Government* that political society existed for the sake of protecting "property", which he defined as a person's "life, liberty, and estate". In *A Letter Concerning Toleration*, he wrote that the magistrate's power was limited to preserving a person's "civil interest", which he described as "life, liberty, health, and indolency of body; and the possession of outward things". He declared in his *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* that "the highest perfection of intellectual nature lies in a careful and constant pursuit of true and solid happiness".

According to those scholars who saw the root of Jefferson's thought in Locke's doctrine, Jefferson replaced "estate" with "the pursuit of happiness", although this does not mean that Jefferson meant the "pursuit of happiness" to refer primarily or exclusively to property. Under such an assumption, the Declaration of Independence would declare that government existed primarily for the reasons Locke gave, and some have extended that line of thinking to support a conception of limited government.

U.S. Declaration Of Independence

Virginia Declaration of Rights The Virginia Declaration of Rights, adopted on June 12, 1776 and written by George Mason, speaks of happiness in the context of recognizably Lockean rights.

That all men are by nature equally free and independent and have certain inherent rights, of which, when they enter into a state of society, they cannot, by any compact, deprive or divest their posterity; namely, the enjoyment of life and liberty, with the means of acquiring and possessing property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety. —Virginia Declaration of Rights

One Alternative Hypotheses Garry Wills has argued that Jefferson did not take the phrase from Locke and that it was indeed meant to be a standard by which governments should be judged. Wills suggests Adam Ferguson as a good guide to what Jefferson had in mind.

If, in reality, courage and a heart devoted to the good of mankind are the constituents of human felicity, the kindness which is done infers a happiness in the person from whom it proceeds, not in him on whom it is bestowed; and the greatest good which men possessed of fortitude and generosity can procure to their fellow creatures is a participation of this happy character. If this be the good of the individual, it is likewise that of mankind; and virtue no longer imposes a task by which we are obliged to bestow upon others that good from which we ourselves refrain; but supposes, in the highest degree, as possessed by ourselves, that state of felicity which we are required to promote in the world. —Adam Ferguson, An Essay on the History of Civil Society

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

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US DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Brochure IIIIE.1.3
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Standards & Authorities

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