
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. The Exploratory Committee believes an informed public will consider the question behind the 2013 local tax Measure 17 - 49: "Is JO CO providing a minimally adequate level of public safety services?"¹⁻²

House Bill 3453³ Provides that the Governor of Oregon may proclaim public safety fiscal emergency for one or more counties **where fiscal conditions compromise county ability to provide minimally adequate level of public safety services.**

(<http://www.leg.state.or.us/13reg/measpdf/hb3400.dir/hb3453.intro.pdf>)

Define: 1. fiscal conditions, 2. compromise, 3. minimally adequate, and 4. public safety services.



HB 3453 provides that Oregon Governor may proclaim, in affected counties, public safety fiscal emergency, with unanimous agreement of President and Minority Leader of Senate and Speaker and Minority

Leader of House of Representatives. Allows for consolidation or merger of units of local government and for intergovernmental agreements for purpose of providing services. Allows for imposition of income tax assessment on residents of affected counties, with maximum rate to be specified in proclamation and with approval of county governing body. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

Justice System Exploratory Committee

HB 3453³ The bill allows financially troubled counties such as JO CO to impose other taxes or fees, which the state would match dollar-for-dollar.

JO CO's charter wouldn't allow an income tax, but the bill would allow more tax on 911 services or some other fees for services, said Cheryl Walker, county commissioner. Walker said she doesn't know what those potential fees for services might be, but commissioners will start discussing potential solutions this week. At present, every phone in the state is charged 75 cents a month for 911 services.

"The way it's written now, it has the potential to work for us, because legally it would work," Walker said.

"The original bill, based on the governor making the decisions, would not have worked at all. Whether in reality (the new bill) would work has yet to be determined. The state is now trying to provide a safety net for us to come up with a solution. "People may see this as an option, in which to make a decision. Do you want to vote for a district, do you want to vote for a levy, or do you prefer we go with the governor's plan?"

Josephine County has voted down public safety funding the last two years. Another vote could not occur until May 2014, Walker said. Walker said any new taxes or fees would be authorized for only 18 months.

Hicks' ideas of using of lottery money and/or allowing counties to keep 2 percent of property taxes as a handling fee of sorts to fund public safety were left out of the bill.

Oregon House Bill (HB) 3453

July 8, 2013⁴ Oregon lawmakers on Monday gave final approval to a bill that contains both pain and promise for some of the state's most financially beleaguered counties. The measure opens the door both to emergency aid from the state as well as higher local taxes, something that has been staunchly resisted in the two localities most in need of help: Josephine and Curry counties. Under House Bill 3453, Gov. John Kitzhaber could enter into agreements with local county commissioners to raise money for additional law enforcement services. Half of the money would come from state coffers and the other half would be in the form of higher local taxes.

Standards = Historical Costs/Services?

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

-
1. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (HNA&HS). July 9, 2013. *Justice System Exploratory Committee*. Hugo, OR.
 2. Hugo Neighborhood Association. July 9, 2013. *All Voters & Votes Are Legitimate*. Hugo, OR.
 3. Jeff Duetzel. 07/09/13. *State Gives JoCo Emergency Option*. TDC Front Page News. Grants Pass, OR.
 4. Mapes, Jeff. July 8, 2013. *County Rescue Bill Approved by Oregon Legislature*. "Oregonian." Portland, 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.

- Donations Are Not Tax Deductible -

Edited by Jon Whalen & Mike Walker, Members,
Exploratory Committee

HNA&HS Officers

Wayne McKy, Chair
Lis Butowitsch, Treasurer
Mike Walker, Education Chair



Exploratory Committee Members

Mike Walker, Chair
3388B Merlin Road # 195
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526
541-471-8271
Email: hugo@jeffnet.org

Wayne McKy, Member
Karen Rose, Web Master
Jon Whalen, Member

Justice System Exploratory Committee

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

HNA&HS

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

C:\Users\Mike\Documents\AAA Applications\Hugo_Neighborhood_Association\Community_Issues\JO CO Public Safety Services 2013\Brochures\8 Facts III E Standards\JS 6 BROCHURE_III E1_7_3_2 OR House Bill 3453_2 070913.wpd

OREGON HOUSE BILL 3453

Brochure III.E.1.7.3.2 (2 of 2)
Justice System & Public Safety Services Series

Standards & Authorities

Public Safety Fiscal Emergency
Minimally Adequate Level of Public Safety Services
Intergovernmental Agreement
Intergovernmental Agreement Entity
Designated Intergovernmental Agreement Officer



Very Very Draft July 9, 2013

Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee