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

JO CO Justice System & Public Safety Services¹⁻²

The 2012 expiration of federal funding for services resulted in two JO CO proposed levies as a solution. We believe an informed public will consider the question behind the 2013 Measure 17 - 49, the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Three Year Local Option Tax: "Is JO CO providing an adequate level of public safety services?"

Alternative 6: Declare Bankruptcy: February 2013³ An unprecedented number of bills in the Oregon Legislature aim to lay the groundwork for financially distressed counties to declare a fiscal emergency and to allow the state to provide required services such as tax collection, elections and public safety. Other bills would allow counties to merge or to declare bankruptcy, which they're currently prohibited from filing. It died in committee, but Rep. Bruce Hanna rationale for HB 2924 was legitimate.

"I don't think it'd be responsible for the Legislature to not have a plan in the unfortunate case of insolvency," said Rep. Bruce Hanna, R-Roseburg. Hanna is sponsoring House Bill 2924, which would allow a county to file for bankruptcy. He acknowledged the bill is "controversial" but said bankruptcy is a necessary last resort. "If you had insolvency without the ability to get relief, you don't push the envelope to the edge as far as allowing a county to reorganize debt," said Hanna, who sits on a House task force for timber-dependent counties. "Bankruptcy would give them that. It's, to a degree, the last straw."³

Justice System Exploratory Committee

Oregon House Bill 2924
Sponsored by Representative Hanna

77th Oregon Legislative Assembly:
2013 Regular Session

Summary Authorizes local governments and special government bodies to file for relief under federal bankruptcy law, take actions necessary to carry out confirmed plans, and incur and pay expenses incident to bankruptcy proceedings and carrying out plans.

A Bill for an Act Relating to municipal bankruptcy; creating new provisions; repealing ORS 548.705, 548.710 and 548.715; and prescribing an effective date. Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section, "local public entity" means:

- (a) A local government as defined in ORS 174.116.
- (b) A special government body as defined in ORS 174.117.
- (2) A local public entity may:

- (a) File a petition and seek all relief that is available to a municipality under federal bankruptcy law;
- (b) Take any action necessary to carry out the plan confirmed by the court in the bankruptcy proceedings; and

(c) Incur and pay expenses incident to the bankruptcy proceedings and carrying out the plan.

SECTION 2. ORS 548.705, 548.710 and 548.715 are repealed.

SECTION 3. This 2013 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2013 regular session of the Seventy-seventh Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

Alternative 6: Declare Bankruptcy Legitimate

OR House Bill 2924 - Died In Committee on July 8, 2013 2013 Regular Session Current Location: In House Committee – Current Committee: Rules

Relating to municipal bankruptcy; prescribing an effective date. Authorizes local governments and special government bodies to file for relief under federal bankruptcy law, take actions necessary to carry out confirmed plans, and incur and pay expenses incident to bankruptcy proceedings and carrying out plans.

Feb 18 (H) First reading. Referred to Speaker's desk.

Feb 25 (H) Referred to Rules.

July 8 (H) In committee upon adjournment.

Alternative 6: Declare Bankruptcy Legitimate
HB 2924 or its modification could pass and become law by a future Oregon Legislature as it is law for many local governments across the U.S. (i.e., the City of Stockton, CA and Detroit, IL being some of the largest).

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

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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. Zheng, Yuxing. February 27, 2013. *Oregon Lawmakers Prepare for Worst-case Scenarios in Near-broke Timber Counties*. OregonLive/"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 cost 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 Mike Walker, Member, 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>

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ALTERNATIVE 6: DECLARE BANKRUPTCY

Brochure IIIF.6
Justice System & Public Safety Services Series



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Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee