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## 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. They both failed. “Is JO CO providing a minimally adequate level of public safety services?”

### WHAT IS ADVOCACY CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT?

**What is Advocacy?** The act or process of supporting a cause or proposal (Merriam Webster Dictionary). Effective advocates influence public policy, laws and budgets by using facts, their relationships, the media, and messaging to educate government officials and the public on the changes they want to bring.

**KEY COMPONENTS** The HJSEC believes engaging as many people as possible in fact-based advocacy is the best way to ensure budgets, laws, policies, services and practices meet the needs of the citizens. Suggestions for key components of a successful advocacy campaign follow.

**1. Know the Facts** To gain and maintain credibility, it is critical that you have the all of the facts on both sides of any issue.

**2. Use the Facts** Any position you take should be grounded in the facts.

**3. Have Clear and Concise Message** Government officials, the press and the general public do not have time for long-winded conversations or documents — you need to get to your point quickly and concisely.

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## Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee (HJSEC)

### 4. Nurture Relationships and Work

**Collaboratively** Advocacy is a joint venture - you need to find your allies and work with them.

**5. Engage the Public** Use the media, social media, petitions, letters, e-mails and other grassroots strategies to engage as many citizens as you can. Remember numbers speak loudly to elected officials!

**6. Make Your Voice Heard** Advocacy is not the place for being shy. Make sure you spread the word—through meetings with government officials, press conferences, letters, petitions, rallies, and phone calls. However, you are not effective if you engage in personal attacks. Make sure your listen to everyone’s point of view when you are advocating.

**7. Say Thank You** Remember that everyone is busy and their time is valuable. Keep your meetings short and always say thank you afterwards.

**ISSUE OF DEFINING THE TARGETED PROBLEM** in a clear and delimited way. Many advocacy strategies have difficulty in achieving their goals because the problem they seek to address:

- is not clearly defined or understood,
- is not perceived as a priority problem by a large number of people – especially by excluded groups whom the advocacy is intended to benefit, and
- is not narrowed down sufficiently to a *specific issue* with a workable strategy.

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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.

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## Citizen Advocacy Strategies

**ISSUE OF CAUSES AND IMPACT OF PROBLEMS** Analyzing and selecting priority issues involves “... looking at the causes and impact of problems as well as analyzing solutions.

**MAKING CHANGE HAPPEN INDEPENDENT OF GOVERNMENT** In response to the JO CO JS&PSS issue individual citizens and new groups are advocating their concerns independent of government assistance.

- Media Coverage, Including Letters To The Editor
- Lobby Government & Fellow Citizens Through Physical Gatherings: Public Hearings,
- Internet: Source of Political Information & Sphere for Public Expression



So far the citizens have not engaged in Civic Disorder (e.g., illegal parades; sit-ins and other forms of obstructions; riots; sabotage; and other forms of crime, etc.).

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

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3. HNA&HS. July 9, 2013. *All Voters & Votes Are Legitimate*. Hugo, OR.  
4. HNA&HS. July 24, 2013. *Government Needs Support*. Hugo, OR.

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## 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

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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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# CITIZEN ADVOCACY STRATEGIES

Brochure III.D.12  
Justice System & Public Safety Services Series



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***Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee***