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

JO CO JS&PSS Issue The 2012 expiration of federal funding for services resulted in two JO CO proposed levies as a solution. They both failed. The Exploratory Committee asks the question: “Is JO CO providing an minimally adequate level of public safety services?”

Financial Condition Review In May 2012 the OR Secretary of State published an analysis entitled, “*Oregon’s Counties: 2012 Financial Condition Review.*”³ Part of the 2012 report was about how each of Oregon’s 36 counties had addressed their financial conditions as described by 10 fiscal indicators.

- Indicator 1. Local Support**
- Indicator 2. Timber Payment Dependence**
- Indicator 3. Debt Burden**
- Indicator 4. Liquidity**
- Indicator 5. Fund Balance**
- Indicator 6. Retirement Benefit Obligation**
- Indicator 7. Public Safety**
- Indicator 8. Personal Income**
- Indicator 9. Population Trends**
- Indicator 10. Unemployment**

The reader is referred to other educational brochures for summaries of the other 8 indicators.

1. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (HNA&HS). July 9, 2013. *Justice System Exploratory Committee*. Hugo, OR.

Fiscal Indicators: “Debt Burden” & Liquidity”

Indicator No. 3 Debt Burden The issuance of debt is one strategy a county can use to provide cash to fund expenditures. However, increasing debt service (principal and interest payments on outstanding debt) reduces expenditure flexibility by adding to a county’s obligations. It can be a major part of a county’s fixed costs, and its increase may indicate excessive debt and fiscal strain.

States recognized as having sound debt management practices typically use a range between five and eight percent of revenues.

A key indicator that can be used to evaluate a county’s debt burden is the percentage of debt service to revenues. States recognized as having sound debt management practices typically use a range between five and eight percent of revenues. The State of Oregon uses a target of five percent.

From 2008-2011, seven counties had an average debt service to governmental fund revenues percentage that exceeded five percent; however, all 36 counties were within the range recognized as sound debt management.

2. Hugo Neighborhood Association. July 9, 2013. *All Voters & Votes Are Legitimate*. Hugo, OR.

OR Secretary Of State’s 2012 Financial Condition Review For OR Counties

Indicator No. 4 Liquidity A good measure of a county’s short-term financial condition is its liquidity or cash position. Cash position determines a county’s ability to pay its short-term obligations by measuring the amount of cash on hand at the end of the year in relation to the amount of current liabilities. A ratio of less than one indicates the county’s cash position is not sufficient to meet its short-term obligations.

During 2008-2011, all but one county had an average cash position that was sufficient to meet their short-term liabilities. Over half of the counties showed a favorable cash position of at least 5:1, indicating the counties had a minimum of five dollars available to cover each dollar obligated

A ratio of less than one indicates the county’s cash position is not sufficient to meet its short-term obligations.

Want more information? Contact the *Exploratory Committee*.

3. Oregon Secretary of State. May 2012. *Oregon’s Counties: 2012 Financial Condition Review*. Secretary of State Audit Report Kate Brown, Secretary of State Gary Blackmer, Director, Audits Division.

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 -

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Justice System Exploratory Committee

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

HNA&HS

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REVIEW OF FISCAL INDICATORS 3 & 4

Brochure Br. III.H.4.3
Justice System & Public Safety Services Series

Indicator 3. Debt Burden Indicator 4. Liquidity

The 10 Fiscal Indicators Provide a General Assessment of the Financial Condition of Oregon's Counties

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| Indicator 1. | Local Support |
| Indicator 2. | Timber Payment Dependence |
| Indicator 3. | Debt Burden |
| Indicator 4. | Liquidity |
| Indicator 5. | Fund Balance |
| Indicator 6. | Retirement Benefit Obligation |
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*Hugo Justice System Exploratory
Committee*

OR COUNTIES: 2012