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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.

**Financial Condition Review** In May 2012 the Oregon Secretary of State published an analysis entitled, “*Oregon’s Counties: 2012 Financial Condition Review*.”<sup>3</sup> Part of that report was about how each of Oregon’s 36 counties had addressed their financial conditions as described by 10 fiscal indicators. The reader is referred to other educational brochures for summaries of the other 8 indicators.

**Indicator No. 9 Population Trends** Population change can directly affect governmental revenues. For example, some taxes are collected on a per capita basis, and many intergovernmental revenues and grants are distributed according to population. A decline in population would, at first glance, appear to relieve the pressure for expenditures, because the population requiring services is smaller. In practice though, a county faced with population decline is rarely able to make reductions in expenditures that are proportional to the population loss.

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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. 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.

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## Fiscal Indicators: “Population Trends” & Unemployment”

During the 60-year period from 1950 through 2010, most counties experienced an overall growth in population. Populations more than doubled during this period in 17 counties, while an additional six counties saw an increase of over 50% in their respective populations. Deschutes and Washington Counties experienced the largest shifts in population with increases of 135,921 (623%) and 468,441 (765%), respectively.

*A county faced with population decline is rarely able to make reductions in expenditures that are proportional to the population loss.*

A number of counties, however, experienced declines in total population during this period. Wheeler, Gilliam, Sherman and Grant Counties all experienced declines greater than 10%. Wheeler and Gilliam Counties were impacted the most with decreases of 1,872 (57%) and 946 (34%), respectively.

Certain age groups within a county’s population require more resources than others. A high percentage of citizens in these age groups may be an indication of future financial stress within the county. The percentage of individuals living in the county who are under 20 and over 64 is a measure of the county’s needs, as these population groups tend to require more services than the average working individual. In contrast, individuals between the ages of 20 and 50 generally require fewer services while at the same time contributing the most revenue.

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## Oregon’s Counties: 2012 Financial Condition Review

From 1950 to 2010, most counties saw an increase in the population of 20-50 year olds. Significant increases occurred in 13 counties where this population category more than doubled. However, in six counties this category declined about 20%. Wheeler, Gilliam, Grant and Sherman Counties experienced the greatest declines while Washington County saw the greatest gain within this age range.

*The percentage of individuals living in the county who are under 20 and over 64 is a measure of the county’s needs, as these population groups tend to require more services than the average working individual.*

**Indicator No. 10 Unemployment** A county’s unemployment rate is a key indicator of the health of its economy, as well as, the county’s long-term financial prospects. During 2011, average county unemployment rates ranged from a low of 6.4% to a high of 15.8%. The State of Oregon’s unemployment rate during this period was 9.6%. Unemployment in 22 counties met or exceeded the state rate.

*During 2011, average county unemployment rates ranged from a low of 6.4% to a high of 15.8%.*

**Want more information?** Contact the *Exploratory Committee*.

## 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>

### HNA&HS

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

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## OR COUNTIES: 2012 REVIEW OF FISCAL INDICATORS 9 & 10

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Justice System & Public Safety Services Series

### Indicator 9. Population Trends Indicator 10. Unemployment

### 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 |
| Indicator 7.  | Public Safety                 |
| Indicator 8.  | Personal Income               |
| Indicator 9.  | Population Trends             |
| Indicator 10. | Unemployment                  |

**Very Draft July 20, 2013**

*Hugo Justice System Exploratory  
Committee*