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

### JO CO Justice System & Public Safety Services<sup>1-4</sup>

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?”

### ANTICIPATED IMPACTS ON COMMUNITY AND POSSIBLE RESPONSES

#### Chapter 7. Anticipated Impacts on JO CO and Possible Responses: After 2009<sup>5</sup>

**Ch. 7.a. Impacts on Financial & Political  
Implications from Loss of FFP: After 2009** The reductions in staff levels and support for programs and services, in general, impact well-being in a number of ways, yet, also have financial and political implications.

The reductions in staff levels and support for programs and services, in general, impact well-being in a number of ways, yet, also have financial and political implications. Among these are impacts to affiliate programs, impacts on private/non-profit organizations or volunteers; impacts on emotions of residents; impacts on quality of service, impacts on county employee morale, and impacts on economic development and recruitment opportunities.

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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.  
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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## Justice System Exploratory Committee

The reduction of support for programs and services has had a financial impact as well as an impact on well-being of affiliate programs. The reduction in funding to a number of programs has also resulted in an increased demand and reliance for private/non-profit organization or volunteer assistance, shifting the financial responsibility of providing these services onto others within the community, which may not be proportionally shared by county residents.

Participants of both groups also noted that the actions taken by county government in past years have resulted in heightened feelings of frustration, resentment, anger, and apathy which affect individual and community well-being.

These emotions, in part, have led to behaviors and actions that have political consequences which, ultimately, translate into financial impacts and impacts on well-being. Some of these emotions stem from differences in political ideologies; however, there is also a perception that county management lacks professional managerial and administrative skills necessary to run a functional government. Some participants view the actions of management as divisive to the community and perceive a resistance to change, which has prevented productive discussion about comprehensive, long-term solutions.

This results in a lack of confidence and trust in government, which is mirrored in the lack of support for local bond levies or tax districts which perpetuates financial instability and results in less responsive government.

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## Anticipated Impacts On Financial & Political Implications: After 2009

Within county government, employee morale has suffered resulting in emotional stress on remaining and new employees who struggle to cope with the loss of resources and the additional demands placed on them, and who feel the vulnerability of their positions. Well-being is negatively impacted.

The consequence of this – in combination with higher wages and stable situation offered in neighboring cities and counties – is the loss of experienced county employees.

The loss of seasoned employees, in turn, results in a loss of institutional knowledge and human capital (also known as “brain drain”). This translates into decreased quantity and quality of service and feeds into the cycle of declining employee morale. The loss of efficiency and effectiveness from the combined influence of all these factors ultimately has financial impacts on the functioning of county government and its ability to serve the people.

Finally, the current situation in general impacts economic development.

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

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5. Gaid, Dawn Marie, October 2009. *Changing Federal County Payments and Rural Oregon Counties: Analysis of Policy Impacts and Responses from Loss of Secure Rural School Funding in Selected Oregon Counties*. RSP 09-04. (134 pages). OSU's Rural Studies Program. Working Paper Series.

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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>

### HNA&HS

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

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### Rural Studies Working Paper Series

<http://ruralstudies.oregonstate.edu/history-rural-studies-program>

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# IMPACTS ON FINANCIAL & POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS FROM LOSS OF FFP: AFTER 2009

Brochure Br. III.H.5.6.2  
Justice System & Public Safety Services Series

### OSU'S Rural Studies Program & JS&PPS Documents



**Very Draft July 31, 2013**

*Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee*