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

JO CO Justice System & Public Safety Services¹⁻⁴

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?”

Chapter 7. Anticipated Impacts on JO CO and Possible Responses: After 2009⁵

Ch. 7.a. Impacts on Financial & Political Implications from Loss of FFP: After 2009

Participants of businesses, institutions and residents 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.

“There is a group that is angry and frustrated by [the closure of the libraries]. There have been letters to the editor written by people who have visited the community ... when they first stop it’s at the library, because a lot of times the library is the location where a lot of activities are happening in the community.” – Josephine County business/institution

“Each time they’ve done a levy it’s like a boy crying wolf. People have really come to resent that because in one way it comes off – it’s not a warning – it’s a threat. ‘If you don’t vote the money, this is going to happen to you’ ... we haven’t had a discussion about what the real services are, how much does it really cost for a guy in a car who’s trained and has tools respond to you ...” – Josephine County business/institution

Justice System Exploratory Committee

“When people keep seeing a tax it becomes a mental way of doing things. You don’t expect anything good to happen because you keep seeing they’re ‘taking this away, they’re taking that away’; it becomes more of a negative attitude spiral within the community. And that adds into it. If you have a community you take pride in, you start making sure the shopping carts are picked up, you call animal control because you know the officers will respond. If you don’t expect anything from the county government you quit looking for the county government to supply services for you.” – Josephine County business/institution

We haven’t had a discussion about what the real services are, how much does it really cost?

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.

“... ‘Oh, you can’t have someone running the county that isn’t elected’ ... [The county manager issue] is just a phony ‘wedge’ issue that has just kept deferring and putting off being able to really address economic and budget issues.” – Josephine County business/institution

Lack Of Confidence And Trust In Government

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.

“They’re not going to get funds if they don’t build trust ... I don’t think people are against paying taxes when they can understand it.” – Josephine County resident

Each time they’ve done a levy it’s like a boy crying wolf. People have really come to resent that because in one way it comes off – it’s not a warning – it’s a threat. If you don’t vote the money, this is going to happen to you.

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

They’re not going to get funds if they don’t build trust ... I don’t think people are against paying taxes when they can understand it.

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.
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.

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.

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LACK OF CONFIDENCE AND TRUST IN GOVERNMENT FROM LOSS OF FFP

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Justice System & Public Safety Services Series

OSU'S Rural Studies Program & JS&PPS Documents



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Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee