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

### JO CO Justice System & Public Safety Services<sup>1-2</sup>

The 2012 expiration of federal funding for services resulted in two JO CO proposed levies as a solution. The Exploratory Committee asks the question: : “**Is JO CO providing a minimally adequate level of public safety services?**”

**OGTF Findings Summary: 2009<sup>3</sup>** The following information applicable to the JS&PSS issue is from the Section 13 Summary of Findings, of the *Governor’s Task Force On Federal Forest Payments And County Services* 2009 document (see full report).<sup>3</sup> There are three educational brochures addressing this topic.

*Counties cannot grow their way out of these problems in the short term*

### OREGON GOVERNOR’S TASK FORCE 2009 SECTION 13 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The OGTF concludes that increased property tax revenues of 10 percent to 30 percent, which would require overall increases of two percent to five percent for local taxpayers, are more feasible as a short-term expectation, based on the success of property tax levies approved by county voters in recent years. Increases of this magnitude would recover between eight percent and 24 percent of the hard hit counties’ revenue shortfall.

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## OGTF’s Sec. 13 Summary of Findings

o **Assistance from state government and state taxpayers could come in many forms**, beginning with the following.

- increases in shared financing for shared services
- new or increased general revenue sharing

Both approaches are limited by the constraints of the state budget (which is facing a severe fiscal crisis in the midst of a global recession) and demands to address unmet needs (such as expanding health coverage to all children).

**We scoured the state budget to identify opportunities for shared financing, both for the federal forest counties and for counties generally.**

We came up with a total of 35 recommendations in the areas of law enforcement, criminal prosecution, public health, juvenile services etc.

o **Counties cannot grow their way out of these problems in the short term**, but the state can provide targeted economic assistance to sustain infrastructure and provide some funds to leverage development opportunities.

o We conclude that the best efforts of Oregon counties, state government and local and state taxpayers are not likely to recover more than 40 percent of the revenue shortfall that the hard hit counties will suffer from the loss of SRS payments.

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## OGTF On Federal Forest Payments (FFP) & CO Services

o There are promising proposals for assistance from the federal government. These include: increased shares of harvest receipts for federal forest counties and continuation of payments for forest management and services related to federal land, and federal resources that will benefit all counties. These proposals are important and should be pursued. But they are unlikely to make up more than 14 percent of the SRS revenue loss.

*The OGTF concludes that increased property tax revenues of 10 percent to 30 percent, which would require overall increases of two percent to five percent for local taxpayers, are more feasible as a short-term expectation, based on the success of property tax levies approved by county voters in recent years.*

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

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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. Oregon Governor’s Task Force. Final Report January 2009. *Governor’s Task Force On Federal Forest Payments And County Services*. Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski. 148 pages. Salem, 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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# OR GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE (OGTF) FINDINGS

## Impacts of No Action Alternative

Brochure III.H.6.1.2 (2 of 3)  
Justice System & Public Safety Services Series

**Very Draft August 14, 2013**

*Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee*