

Which Safety Services Do We Really Need?
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Consider a question behind Measure 17-49, the public safety tax proposal: "What are we considering when we make or infer statements like Josephine County is not providing an adequate level of public services?" I ask as a member of a group called the Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee (www.hugoneighborhood.org/justicesystemexploratorycommittee.htm).

Are we even sure what services we legally refer to in a proposed levy? I believe adequately answering the question involves several other questions.

What specifically are the "public safety services?" Are they services provided by the county or are they limited to stated-required services provided by the county, or something in between? What are the standards for the level of public safety services proposed? I have never read about any standards of adequacy in the Courier. Citizens do have a surrogate, sort of, in the historical \$12 million funding often referenced for the historical services received. The standards could be a range of alternatives from the minimal adequate standard to provide the services to some maximum.

Where is the factual analysis that the services will meet or will not meet the standards?

Where is the estimate of the revenues needed to return to or maintain the range of standards for services? Again we only have some facts surrounding the historical \$12 million figure.

What is the full range of potential sources of revenue, not just limited to property taxes?

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