

## **County doesn't allow enough time to see budget**

Letters To The Editor

Sandi Cassanelli

Friday, April 29, 2016

In Josephine County's notice published in the paper for the first public budget session on April 19th, it stated:

"A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after Monday, April 18th, at the Board of County Commissioners Office ... and will be available on the county website, under Finance Department, Budget Information."

However, the county did not post the budget on that Monday. In fact, it was posted only two hours before the first meeting on April 19th. Hardly enough time for the public and Budget Committee to read such a lengthy and detailed document.

According to ORS 294.426(6), the budget must be available at the first Budget Committee meeting, but I wanted to know what other counties did, so I asked them, "Approximately how many days did the public and budget committee have in order to preview the Fiscal Year 2016/17 budget before your first session?"

Guess what the results were for giving everyone time to read the budget?

55 days: Yamhill

27 days: Jackson

21 days: Umatilla

14 days: Wallowa, Clackamas

12 days: Lincoln

10 days: Klamath

9 days: Linn

8 days: Tillamook

7 days: Lane, Lake, Hood, Douglas

2 days: Columbia

0 days: Coos, Josephine

Most counties even gave extra time to their budget committees as well.

Seems Josephine County is, once again, at the bottom of the barrel. Is it any wonder why Josephine County citizens don't trust those in government?

SANDI CASSANELLI

Merlin