
What is Josephine County's (JO CO's) JS&PSS Problem/Issue?

After four failed public safety levies and one sales tax, in as many years, the public could be excused if it feels exhausted. What do the citizens really think about public safety?

The Committee was established by the HNA&HS in 2013 to research public safety. The Committee asked the question, “*What can we do to shed some light on the public safety problem/issue?*” In 2015, two of its members, Mike Walker and Jon Whalen, decided to document “listening” which wouldn't be scientific in the sense of random sample public opinion surveys, and targeted populations; it was just listening to fellow citizens.

What is the JO CO's JS&PSS Problem/Issue? Or, is there a problem, and, either way, judged by what standards and criteria? A scientific study of the standards used to determine whether JO CO is providing a *minimally adequate level of public safety services* (MALPSS) would help answer the “*Is there a problem.*” question.

Benefit To Public Of Knowing MALPSS The simple potential to provide a framework of understanding is significant in realizing where JO CO's public safety program is in the scheme of things. Are we above an emergency level of PSS, or below? Are the JO CO's PSS adequate, or less than adequate? And, just as important, what is the science and/or facts supporting the professional opinions of adequacy?

1. Hugo JS&PSS Exploratory Committee. Draft 2015. *Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015*. HNAHS. Hugo, OR.

2. Hugo JS&PSS Exploratory Committee. Draft July 18, 2013. *Justice System & Public Safety Services Issue Scope Of Work*. HNAHS. Hugo, OR.

Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015 (*Study Design*)

Why support or sponsor a socio-economic impact “Study” that purports to represent the citizens of JO CO, Oregon in their efforts to address the county's public safety problem/issue? The Committee has three summary responses.



Officers: HNA&HS

Jon, Liz, Wayne, Special Guest Janet, Rene, & Mike

Response 1: In a nut shell *Study Design* proposes an impact *Study*, which will be based on formal vetted inventories and an impact methodology model which promotes informed decision-making through a unique decision process, where the citizens identify the problems and potential solutions, and are the decision-makers. A key concept is *how to demonstrate trust and enhance communication between neighbors with different values, and JO CO government*. The approach primarily relies on citizens to provide insight about how to identify problems, and formulate their own goals and solutions for the future (e.g., voting, writing letters to the editor and guest opinions in *The Grants Pass Daily Courier*, writing arguments in voters' pamphlets, etc.).

Justice System & Public Safety Services (JS&PSS)

Response 2: Vetted *Study* Baseline Facts/ Inventories Understanding is made more difficult with all those noisy facts when truth isn't always something as clear and unquestionable as desired. It is believed that a step in the right direction is for different publics, that don't trust each other to share vetted, or checked, information. This is one of the purposes – for citizens to speak a common language, to solve problems, not to spend valuable time and energy discussing potential conflicting facts. For that purpose, a web page of “*listening*” to baseline information, vetted facts, and disputed facts, has been started for consideration in *Study*: letters-to-the-editor (over 800); guest opinions (10 and adding), media articles (over 650), voters pamphlets (5), and studies & information (24 - e.g., declining federal payments to counties, demographic & population, health, reports of criminal offenses and arrests, budget, MALPSS, fiscal indicators, local crime information, poverty, etc.).

Response 3: Key Outcomes Of *Study Design/Study* It is difficult when JO CO citizens are polarized over the public safety problem/issue and have not yet found a consensus definition of either the public safety problem, or the solution; and its compelling that a significant number of city and county citizens fear for their family's and community's safety because of a decreased number of jail beds, lack of 911 call responses, JO CO rural patrol, etc. How will *Study Design* change the way people live? The goal is all about the idea of slow long-range incremental changes, and the confidence that there will be an increase in the number of informed and trusting citizens believing in their future starting to show between 2016 - 2026 (i.e., *More People* know they are being listened to, are better informed, trust the vetted baseline facts/inventories, have a consensus, etc.).

Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee

The following core values of the Committee, and developing and implementing *Study Design* follow.

- All Citizens, Voters, Votes, & Values Are Legitimate, Pro & Con.
- Fair Representation of All Values.
- Neutral Point of View.
- Public Is Decision Maker.



Since 2000, and the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) and Community Self-Determination Act, Congress had repeatedly sent messages that federal payments would be phased out, and

this was intended to give O & C counties *time to plan for the change* in funding their own public services, especially PSS. The Committee's aspiration is that the final *Study* product of the *Study Design* project be considered part of this needed planning. The *Study* components include the following: 1. the publicly identified issues, range of alternative solutions, and affected conditions; and 2. analyzing the impacts of each alternative evaluated by condition indicators and standards, through a combination of citizen input and professional expert investigations.

Based on the last four levies and one proposed city tax funding attempts, the following PSS are generally considered the major components of JO CO's historic public safety program: 1. adult jail beds, 2. juvenile justice center, 3. district attorney's office, 4. rural patrol deputies, 5. criminal investigations and related sheriff's office support services, and 6. animal protection.

Edited by the Co-Authors of *Study Design*
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Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015

Public Outreach 9.1
Justice System & Public Safety Services Series



"Championing An Informed Public"

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**Hugo JS&PSS Exploratory Committee
Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society**