

APPENDIX A. ISSUES

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Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015

**All Voters Of “We The People” Are Legitimate
All Votes By “We The People” Are Legitimate
All Values By “We The People” Are Legitimate**



Hugo Justice System & Public Safety Services Exploratory Committee

**Mike Walker, Chair
Jon Whalen, Member**

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society

2015

APPENDIX A. ISSUES

Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015

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Justice System Exploratory Committee
Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society
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AUTHORITY

Hugo Justice System & Public Safety Services Exploratory Committee. Draft July 18, 2013. *Justice System & Public Safety Services Issue Scope Of Work* (Scope) Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. Hugo, OR.

Hugo Justice System & Public Safety Services Exploratory Committee. Draft 2015. *Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015*. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. Hugo, OR.

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PUBLIC INTEREST

As of July 7, 2015 this document was in the development phase represented three overlapping stages of the document development life cycle: 1. Requirement Analysis, 2. Designing, and 3. Developing Content. This document has been web published for the convenience of the authors in reviewing its requirements, designing, and content (Chpt V).

At this stage it's form is not final, nor is it edited for public review and comment. However, those interested members of the public may provide observations and comments on this document to the authors. Per their inclination, and if they are interested in becoming involved with the work of the Hugo JS&PSS Exploratory Committee, they may apply for committee membership with the authors (Chpt VI).

APPENDIX A. ISSUES

Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015

I. PURPOSE (updated September 9, 2015)

This appendix provides supporting material for the grant application as described in the draft document entitled *Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015*. The study design project is itself part of a program to research the Josephine County (JO CO), Oregon Justice System & Public Safety Services issue (JS&PSS Issue; 2013 *Justice System & Public Safety Services Issue Scope Of Work*).

- Hugo Justice System & Public Safety Services Exploratory Committee. Draft 2015. *Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015*. HNAHS. Hugo, OR.
- Hugo Justice System & Public Safety Services Exploratory Committee. Draft July 18, 2013. *Justice System & Public Safety Services Issue Scope Of Work*. HNAHS. Hugo, OR.

After the 4th levy failure in as many years, members of the Hugo JS&PSS Exploratory Committee asked the question, “What can we do to shed some light on the issues?” It decided to document “listening” which wouldn’t be scientific in the sense of random sampling and targeted populations; it was just listening to fellow citizens. This strategy fit with one of its core beliefs, *All citizens, voters, and votes are legitimate*. After the fact, the elections were also a pretty good match with the JS&PSS Committee’s opinion that the levies could go either way. The JO CO citizen’s actual voting patterns were not 50/50, but relatively close with a point spread from 2 - 14 (Table I-1.; Sec. II.B).

Table I-1. Josephine County, Oregon Levy¹ Votes						
Levy ²	Voters ³	Votes ⁴		Percentages ⁵		Points ⁶
		Yes	No	Yes	No	
2012	49,561	10,901	14,504	57	43	14
2013	50,944	12,883	13,448	51	49	2
2014	50,655	13,291	14,700	48	53	5
2015	51,143	11,868	13,956	54	46	8

Footnotes: 1. Justice system & public safety service levies, 2. Year of levy, 3. Registered voters in Josephine County, Oregon, 4. Number of registered voters voting yes or no, 5. Percentage of voters voting yes or no., and 6. Percentage point spread for voters voting yes or no. The source is Josephine County Clerk, Josephine County, Oregon. <http://www.co.josephine.or.us/Page.asp?NavID=754>.

Were the local JO CO levies really close? The Committee believes that it depends on the measuring standard. The phrase such as “an election mandate” is a political symbol. Its definition is not consistent, but determined by the time and content of the political debates with which they are associated.

Ten of the previous 21 U.S. presidential races were won by at least 10 percentage points, and five of them were decided by more than 20 points. Presidential elections are sometimes considered close if the point spread is less than 5 points, or conversely holding all the cards at 6 points or more. Is the final election result a mandate or "the will of the people" if the points won by were as small as 3 - 5 points, or just right? The Committee encourages the reader to decide. The following are a few numbers researched.

- 2 points: Tight (before vote).
- 3 points: Mandate (after vote).
- 4 points: Mandate (after vote).
- 5 points or more: Mandate (after vote).
- 5 points: Close when less than 5 percentage points (before vote).
- 6 points: Holds the cards with 6 points (before vote).

The above presidential elections standards are in conflict with the Committee's original idea that all four levy elections were relatively close, especially when averaged (i.e., 8 points). By these standards the mandate was the "no" vote in three of the four levies and the close vote only occurred in the 2013 levy election (i.e., 2 points).

The purpose of the proposed JS&PSS study grant, which results from Study Design, is to provide grass roots opportunities to JO CO citizens for active citizen involvement (CI), accessibility to information and education, and to better understand the JS&PSS issue, which is partially driven by the history of revenue sharing from the federal government. The first important step of Study Design is the identification of the citizen issues with the goal of ownership by them. Scoping is the method used to identify the problems/issues (i.e., it is akin to 40 CFR 1501.7 on scoping; Appendix B, Affected). Scoping can be a useful tool for discovering alternatives to a proposal, or significant impacts that may have been overlooked. Useful information might also result from early participation by all interested entities, especially the public.

Scoping consists of the range of actions, alternatives, and impacts to be considered in the JS&PSS Analysis of Public Situation (APS) and the JS&PSS Study. The scope of an individual study may depend on its relationships to other studies. To determine the scope of studies, the following 3 types of actions, 3 types of alternatives, and 3 types of impacts shall be considered. They include actions (other than unconnected single actions) which may be: 1. connected actions, 2. cumulative actions, and 3. similar actions. Alternatives, may include: 1. no action alternative, 2. other reasonable courses of actions, and 3. mitigation measures not in an alternative. Impacts, may be: (1) direct, (2) indirect, (3) cumulative.

What are the operational realities of scoping? First and foremost all written comments from the public on the scope the of problems/issues will be identified and considered in the Study Design (Chpt V; Appendix B3). What that means for the initiation of the project is to primarily rely on citizens who provided specific written insights about how to identify and manage problems, and formulate their own goals and solutions for the future (e.g., voting, writing letters to the editor (LTTE) and guest opinions in *The Grants Pass Daily Courier* (TGPDC), writing arguments in voters' pamphlets, etc.). This type of scoping is not the data-driven testability research of a formal method. It is of the informal variety (Appendix A3).

A formal opinion poll, sometimes simply referred to as a poll, is a survey of public opinion from a particular sample. The most common formal method, by far, for learning about public opinion is the random “sample” of a scientifically identified “population” of people to be surveyed.

Scoping relates to a core belief of the Exploratory Committee that all citizens, voters, and votes are legitimate, including all majority and minority values. This includes “every” separate individual public value expressed in a LTTE (Section III.D.2). Its 2015 JS&PSS Study Design project flows from this center. The results are a study to be researched and written from a neutral point of view, meaning representing fairly, proportionately, and, as far as possible, without bias, all public views that have been published by reliable sources on the safety topic.

Understanding the JS&PSS Issue and designing solutions are complicated tasks. The Committee’s rationale for this position is that there are substantial differences between Oregon counties in terms of their geographic and demographic characteristics, historic crime rates, local priorities, willingness to tolerate certain levels of crime, and past and present funding of various public safety services. For example, given these, and other, substantial differences, how would JO CO declare, or the Governor of Oregon proclaim, a public safety fiscal emergency for one or more counties where fiscal conditions compromise a county’s ability to provide a minimally adequate level of public safety services (2013 Oregon House Bill 3453)?

Locally the Committee believes that understanding how to determine whether JO CO is providing the “minimally adequate public safety services” base is a valuable and difficult task. For example, the Committee views the answer as a scientific hypothesis that can be tested versus an opinion which can not. The following are a few ways used to understand facts and opinions.

- 1a. A fact is anything that is done or happens; anything actually existent; any statement strictly true; truth; reality.
- 1b. An opinion is defined as indicating a belief, view, sentiment, or conception.

- 2a. A fact is a statement that can be proven true (or false) with some objective standard
- 2b. An opinion is a statement that a person believes to be true but it cannot be measured against an objective standard.

- 3a. Facts can be all or some of the following: can be proven, real for all people and places, can be duplicated, can be observed, historical, or 100 percent true.
- 3b. Opinions refer to a particular person’s (or group’s) feeling, thought, judgment, belief, estimate, and/or anything that is not 100 percent true and can’t be proven.

- 4a. News items that present the facts will carefully avoid appealing to emotion. Opinion pieces are trying to appeal to the emotion of the reader or viewer.
- 4b. Opinion pieces will try to evoke some kind of reaction (agreement, disagreement, move to action, etc.).

- 5a. An opinion piece often uses language that is much more demonstrative, flamboyant, and sometimes inflammatory; that is how it often hooks the emotion of the reader.
- 5b. News items that cover only the facts do not use this kind of language.
- 6a. Opinion pieces will often present only one side of an issue, with a small acknowledgement somewhere in the piece of the presence of another side of the issue.
- 6b. A news item that covers the facts will strive to present all of the facts as they are known.

Obviously whether it is fact or opinion is important to the Committee. In some ways it is the essence of the JS&PSS Study Design and proposed Study - credible facts, understood and acceptable to the majority citizens. The Committee elects to accept Daniel Patrick Moynihan when he used to say, "*You're entitled to your own opinion but you're not entitled to your own facts.*"

Another important issue is how to demonstrate trust and enhance communication between some of JO CO's neighbors and its government. The Study Design emphasizes the importance to citizens of knowing they are being heard, of being the decision-makers that decide their future. As active participants, neighbors at the grassroots level can gain ownership of Study Design information processes and become "stakeholder" decision-makers in the range of potential solutions they, as a group, identified.

The Committee believes that there are significant unique decision-maker differences between its proposed Study Design and the usual major information or impact study (see Arguments For Supporting Study Design). For example, the end result of the Study is information for informed public decision-making, not a decision by the government.

Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015

<http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/justicesystemexploratorycommittee.htm>

- Arguments For Supporting Study Design
- Interested In Becoming Involved?
- Publicly Identified Problems/Issues
- Publicly Identified Range of Alternative Solutions

The final Study product of the Study Design project is to compare the publicly identified range of alternative solutions for the JS&PSS Issue. The Study will be accomplished by documenting: 1. the publicly identified issues, range of JS&PSS 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.

II. JUSTICE SYSTEM & PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES ISSUE SCOPE OF WORK

Chapter II addresses the philosophies of the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (i.e., HNAHS, or Hugo Neighborhood) and the Hugo Justice System & Public Safety Services Exploratory Committee (JS&PLSS Committee). This is the foundation for their interest and work on the Justice System & Public Safety Services issue (JS&PSS Issue).

- Hugo Justice System & Public Safety Services Exploratory Committee. Draft July 18, 2013. *Justice System & Public Safety Services Issue Scope Of Work* (Scope) Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. Hugo, OR.

Web: *Justice System & Public Safety Services Issue Scope Of Work* (draft July 18, 2013)
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A. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society

- Protect Hugo's rural quality of life by promoting an informed citizenry in decision-making (Scope, p. 2).
- Non-political: will not be involved in politics in the sense of lobbying for the outcome of a public vote of the issues or officials to be elected (Scope, p. 2).
- Believes there is a high probability for another JS&PSS levy to be on a future ballot (Scope, p. 3).
- Believes another JS&PSS levy is reasonable as adequate public safety services (Tables II-1 & II-2) are needed, even though the form and the cost are issues (Scope, p. 3).
- 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 (Scope, p. 4)?
- HNA&HS's & HJSEC Core Beliefs.
 - All citizens, voters, & votes are legitimate (Scope, p. 7).
 - Sanctity of freedom of speech and the right to vote (Scope, pps. 3 & 7).
 - Regardless that freedom of speech does not require respect, promote ethics of respect during citizen dialogs of the JO CO JS&PSS Issue (Scope, p. 7).
 - No Personal Attacks.
 - Passionate Oral & Written Exchanges of Critical Testimony on Issues.
 - We All Listen and Share Other's Points of View.
 - Safe Environment For Others to Share Their Values and Provide Opinions.
 - All Voters Of "We The People" Are Legitimate (Scope, p. 7).
 - All Votes By "We The People" Are Legitimate (Scope, p. 7)

B. Hugo Justice System & Public Safety Services Exploratory Committee

- Big picture ideas include the following (Scope, p. 3).
 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 costs for services.
 5. Identifying revenues for services.
- The first job is to define a potential list of issues for analysis. The list will be refined and evolve (Scope, p. 3).

- Recognize that the issues will evolve (Scope, p. 8).
- Purpose is to gather information adequate enough to understand the JS&PSS issues. This includes educational outreach efforts (Scope, p. 4).
- Purpose is limited to investigating, researching, and evaluating the JS&PSS issues. It will not make evaluations of legislative proposals as to “right or wrong”, nor make recommendations on how to vote (Scope, p. 4).
- Objective is to evaluate the effectiveness of understanding what is being proposed (e.g., proposed levies, HB 3453, citizen recommendations, other alternatives, etc.) (Scope, pps. 4 - 5).
- Outside scope/mission is to recommend how the citizens should vote on any new ballot pertaining to the issue (Scope, p. 4).
- Independently research the JO CO JS&PSS issue and publicly provide its analysis through web page publications; mission limited to educating its members the best it can and sharing this information publicly (Scope, p. 3).
- Information researched and gathered will be made available to others for their own evaluation (Scope, p. 3).
- Consensus is expected as all minority views can be expressed in planning documents, just as the consensus and majority views in a web published paper or educational brochure (Scope, p. 4).
- A strength is an evolving more comprehensive coverage of the components of the JS&PSS issue. This comprehensiveness increases almost every time a member of the HJSEC talks to one of fellow citizens (Scope, p. 8).
- Comprehensive coverage of issues and other components of analysis web published.
- Comprehensiveness in published educational materials may sometimes appear in conflict with each other (i.e., a lack of a unified position), but it is in fact probably reflecting the different views of citizens (i.e., pros and cons research and web publishing is encouraged) which is part of the mission (Scope, p. 8).
- Adequate information is the goal. An adequate information assessment/analysis has several elements and a conclusion of adequacy (Scope, p. 6).
 - Information Is Understood Or Not
 - Supporting Arguments Are Made Or Not
 - Standard(s) of Review
 - Applicable Evidence/Facts
 - References and Sources of Information
 - Compliance With Adequacy Information Analysis Elements Or Not

III. PROBLEMS/ISSUES

A. Introduction

The JO CO JS&PSS Issue is partially driven by the history of revenue sharing from the federal government. The most significant historical revenue sharing method to JO CO was the 1937 O&C Act which established the timber management and revenue distribution scheme to the O&C counties. It lasted over 60 years until 2000 and the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS; P.L. 106-393), which was a temporary, optional program of payments based on historic, rather than current, revenues. The SRS, which decoupled timber harvests from county revenue, provided direct payment to counties from the federal government in lieu of taxes. The 2000 SRS Act originally expired in 2006, was renewed for one year in 2007, for four more years in 2008, and one more year in 2012, though each renewal was at reduced spending levels.

The 2012 expiration of federal SRS payments to JO CO, used mostly for public safety services, resulted in four tax levies as solutions. They all failed. However, there is a high probability for another levy to be on a future ballot. This is reasonable, as public safety services are needed, even though the form and the cost are issues.

1. May 15, 2012 JO CO-wide Primary Election Measure 17 - 43, Criminal Justice System Operations Four Year Local Option Tax (i.e., \$1.99 per \$1,000 of assessed value), failed 57 - 43 percent, Voter Turnout - Total 52.59%; 25,405 votes for Measure 17 - 43/ 49,561 registered voters = 51%.
2. May 21, 2013 JO CO-wide Special Election Measure 17 - 49, Criminal Justice and Public Safety Three Year Local Option Tax (i.e., \$1.48 per \$1,000 of assessed value), failed 51 - 49 percent, Voter Turnout - Total 51.97%; 26,331 votes for Measure 17 - 49/ 50,944 registered voters = 52%.
3. May 20, 2014 JO CO-wide Primary Election Measure 17 - 59, Criminal Justice and Public Safety Three Year Local Option Tax (i.e., \$1.19 per \$1,000 of assessed value), failed 53 - 48 percent, Voter Turnout - Total 56.51%; 27,991 votes for Measure 17 - 59/ 50,655 registered voters = 55%.
4. May 19, 2015 JO CO-wide Special Election Measure 17-66, For Patrol, Jail, Shelter of Abused Youth; Five Year Levy (i.e., \$1.40 per \$1,000 of assessed value), failed 54 - 46 Percent, Voter Turnout - Total 50.65%; 25,824 votes for Measure 17 - 59/ 51,143 registered voters = 51%.

After the 4th levy failure in as many years, the JSEC JS&PSS Committee asked the question, “What can we do to shed some light on the issues?” They believed that the first important step was the identification of the preliminary issues for why the levies failed. The reasons for the levy failures are complex and unknown as facts. However, it is believed the following issues played some significant part, and that the identification of citizen issues is the most important step in developing a successful study design.

B. Preliminary June 14, 2015 JS&PSS Issues (Voters & Non-Voters)

The identification of the preliminary issues for why the levies failed has merit in its own right as a standalone summary of the problem as viewed by the majority of JO CO citizens. This list was initially developed by the JS&PSS Exploratory Committee. It would be as supplemented by the Exploratory Committee with information from a non-random set of informal interviews of JO CO citizens, and articles from The Grants Pass Daily Courier (e.g., citizen guest opinions and letters to editor, reporter articles, etc.). The final list that follows was developed by the JS&PSS Committee.

This preliminary list of issues, not listed in order of importance, will probably change considerably prior to the date of actually submitting an application for a study grant. The test of reality is to first provide a preliminary June 2015 list, a second supplemented list, and a final list at the time of grant application.

1. Costs of JS&PSS would increase back to the 2000 level Prior to SRS (i.e., pro levy supporters want the old status quo).
2. Rural Patrol Presence Has Not Changed From 2000 - 2015.
3. Mistrust in Government Growing.
4. Cumulative Assessments Coordinated By JO CO Assessor Office Unaffordable to Many.
5. Citizens Can Provide Their Own Protection.
6. Citizens Feel Their Voices Are Not Being Heard.
7. Lack of Transparency.
8. Opportunities Had Not Occurred To Inform Voters in a Comprehensive Non-Special Interest Fashion.
9. No JS&PSS Business Plan From JO CO Government.

C. Research

The goal of the Exploratory Committee at this stage is to continue researching toward the most accurate inclusive list of citizen issues for why the four levies failed.

1. Informal Citizen Interviews/Straw Poll This section addresses the informal interviews of JO CO citizens by members of the JS&PSS Committee. The following general interview script was used (i.e., during the introduction of the interview the citizen(s) were informed of the following).

- **HUGO NEIGHBORHOOD MEMBER INTERVIEWER** introduces himself as a member of the JS&PSS Exploratory Committee, HNA&HS; a committee established in 2013.
- **PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUE** Define the JS&PSS Issue; reference interviewee to JS&PSS Exploratory Committee's web page at <http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/justicesystemexploratorycommittee.htm>.
- **ASK FOR HELP** Interviewee asked for help in anonymously identifying why the JS&PSS levies failed.
- **PURPOSE** was to help the JS&PSS Committee understand the reasons for the levy failures for a report it would web publish.
- **ANONYMOUS WEB PUBLISHED SURVEY** Interviewee was told that information not wanted was how they voted, or why they voted the way they did; it would be an anonymous interview part of a larger effort to research problems/issues.
- **QUESTION** *“What is your opinion of the reasons why the majority of the registered JO CO voters that voted, voted no on the four levies?”*
- **SURVEY OPINION'S** rationale provided by the interviewee for the levy failures can be for multiple reasons (i.e., interviewee's own opinion, opinions of others, media reports including television, newspapers, etc.). By definition opinion are not necessarily facts. The opinions are why the interviewee believes the levies failed.
- **CONTACT METHOD** Interviews can be by any contact method, but are usually over the telephone and sometimes person-to-person.

The interviews averaged 5 - 30 minutes, and could be in person, by telephone, email, letter, etc. It is anticipated that most interviews would be in person or over the telephone as this would be the least inconvenience to the citizen being interviewed. If the interviewee asks to put their ideas down in writing, they should be encouraged to pursue this opportunity (i.e., need written information via email or pdf document for copying into the text of this section of Appendix A).

Interviewers keep their own contact information and do not share this with other members of the JS&PSS Committee. Citizens comments are anonymous which violates the rule of transparency. However, the “Preliminary August 15, 2015 JS&PSS Issues” will be authored by the JS&PSS Committee alone (Sec. III.D).

In the Appendix A document, the citizen interviews are identified by interviewer (e.g. Mike Walker = MW, Jon Whalen = JW, etc.), a chronological sequence letter (i.e., A, B, C, etc.; identifying the number of interviews), and the date (e.g., 061515 = June 15, 2015, 061815 = June 18, 2015, etc.) of the interview. Examples of interview identification follow.

1. MWA061515: 1st interview conducted by Mike Walker on June 15, 2015.
2. JWA061815: 1st interview conducted by Jon Whalen on June 18, 2015.

The interviews that follow occurred from June 15 through July 18, 2015. The interim goal is for each JS&PSS Committee Interviewer to interview approximately 30 citizens.

Informal Citizen Interviews

JWA061115

- Josephine County (JO CO) had wasted the county “safety net fund” and should have been ready for the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRC&CSD Act) to cease and planning for it.

JWB061115

- SRC&CSD Act payments should be reinstated as long as the Feds will not let private industry manage and harvest timber lands. This amounts to looting.

MWA061515

- My business was doing O.K., now not as well, and I don’t make many donations.
- I lived in CA during the riots; I felt safer there than I do here.
- I will protect my property and family myself with my gun.
- My dogs will alert me.
- What are they going to do with the revenues from the levies?
- I don’t trust our elected officials.
- All the costs of living are important, not just one or two variables (i.e., cumulative costs).
- Why telephone? The sheriff will not get here in time.
- Calling 911 is a joke.
- I don’t need law enforcement, I have a security system and a private protection firm.

MWB061615

- People mistrust JO CO Commissioners as a group, usually because of a few.
- Jack Swift has credibility and influences citizens with his letters to editor (The Grants Pass Daily Courier, June 12, 2015, May 12, 2015, & April 10, 2015; see Sec. III.C.2.a)(2)).
- If the TGPDC endorses a position or candidate, it is the kiss of death (it endorsed the May 19, 2015 JO CO-wide Special Election Measure 17-66).
- Money thing for those with fixed incomes;
- Just \$1.40 per \$1,000 of assessed value, nothing about all the other cumulative taxes, fees, costs, etc.
- \$1.40 per \$1,000 on top of permanent tax rate of .59 cents per \$1,000 of property values.

MWC061815

- Four back to back levies for the same objective irritated citizens (i.e., don’t they know what “no” means?).
- Paying more will not make you safer.
- Rural patrol presence has not changed.
- Most people feel that the dollars being asked for will not be spent as informed; little faith in JO CO commissioners.
- Why should the county residents pay for a jail used overwhelmingly by the city (i.e., conclusion based on a continuous comprehensive reading of the “Police” section of TGPDC).
- Citizen sponsoring group never shared rural patrol objectives.

MWD061815

- Property owner interview said he did not follow the issue and did not vote.

MWE061815

- Property owners recognized there was a public safety problem, but they were used to paying almost no taxes and don't want to pay more.

MWF061915

- The focus of the four levies was too narrow – back on the back of the property owners as the only option.
- Property owners on a fixed income have difficulty or not being able to afford their total taxes, fees, etc. they owe each year.
- Distrust government – citizens don't want to pay because the government and/or sponsors of the levies are not being straight forward.

MWG062215

- Many citizens do not trust government; therefore, do not trust the proposed levies.
- Folks already feel they are paying too much. Property tax for county services is 82 cents per \$1,000 — 58 cents permanent tax, 15.8 cents for the voter-approved jail bond, and 8 cents for three years for an Animal Control levy. JO CO's overall average property tax rate from 2012-13 was \$9.48 per \$1,000. Also, many not in any public fire districts pay beyond permanent tax rate (PTR) to Rural/Metro Fire Department for fire protection at a rate of \$1.97 per \$1,000. This equals the equivalent PTR of a \$2.79 per \$1,000.
- It doesn't matter how much your home is worth (i.e., or how much equity you have) in your home; fixed incomes are the problem.
- A lot of people want less government.

MWH063015

- The vocal anti-everything in Grants Pass carried the day.
- Republican Party said "Vote No" and many listened.
- Older people can't pay higher taxes.

MWI063015

- A lot of elements were put on ballot, but what rural people wanted most was effective "Rural Patrol."
- Angered the voters to have four levies in a row.
- Manipulations of budget does not promote trust (e.g., sometime they borrow or move dollars from different budgets to sheriff, sometimes not; etc.).
- Each year more dollars are asked for.
- Last year the levy was too high.
- Give people "Rural Patrol" at \$1.19 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

MWJ070215

- Folks resist change, particularly in this day and age, especially the last 7 - 8 years locally, because they are a little more comfortable with things as they are.

MWK070215

- Don't like higher taxes.
- Voters don't have enough detail where dollars go; levies need to be a lot clearer.
- Younger voters are not as concerned about safety as older folks.
- Renters don't have to pay the property tax.
- More uninformed voters voted no.

MWL070215

- Comparison of the permanent rate rates (PTRs) O.K., but PTRs do not include all assessor listings (e.g., education: 3 Rivers School Dist, Rogue Comm College, S.O Ed. Serv. Dist; General Government; 4-H/Extension Service; excluded from limitation: county bond levy and 3 Rivers School District; special assessments OR Forestry Fire, TIMB; and special assessments OR Forestry Fire, SURC, etc.). The JO CO PTR does not include fire protection which is included in the PTR for the City of Grants Pass.
- OR's counties provide a wide range of public services, especially those higher population government units needing them (e.g., public health, mental health, community corrections, juvenile services, criminal prosecution, hospitals, nursing homes, airports, parks, libraries, land-use planning, building regulations, refuse disposal, elections, air-pollution control, veterans services, economic development, urban renewal, public housing, vector control, county fairs, museums, animal control, civil defense, senior services, etc.).
- When comparing taxes, it would be fair if they were also compared with other units of government with the same population and characteristics, including all costs listed on the county's real property tax statement that act as taxes, and services such as fire protection if you want to compare with the City of Grants Pass.

MWM070515

- Most of my neighbors have money where I live on my street; they voted no on the levy because they don't want to pay more taxes.

MWN070615

- I really don't know; many folks are active arguing against more government control; they don't trust government.
- Mostly I don't know the reasons for those active citizens that don't trust government and are against taxes.
- Except, many older people on fixed incomes are voting no to new taxes.

MWO070715

- Landowners are already taxed and can't afford more taxes.
- Fixed income people are in trouble already.
- Oregon has 2nd lowest wage earnings in U.S.; JO CO is double that.
- Rural Patrol presence has not changed before and after federal payments problems (i.e., old average \$12 million to something lower).
- The citizens have a history of government lying about their tax proposals.

MWP070715

- Lots of people too far in debt and a little bit more will break them.
- Large number of folks don't trust government.
- Many low income people.
- Some are afraid that more taxes might result in losing their home to back taxes.

MWQ071815

- Many citizens don't trust government.
- Government does not have a track record of baby steps to prove it can be trusted.
- Study of 400 people was not nearly enough for the approximately 50,000 registered voters. Survey should have been of about 4,000 folks.
- Last levy of \$1.40 per \$1,000 was too high; should have been about 65¢ per \$1,000.

MWR071815

- I just do not understand why levy failed.
- Some folks feel like they are paying too many taxes already.
- Many folks are on a fixed income and just don't believe that can pay more than the \$5.00 - \$8.00 per \$1,000 cumulative cost they are paying now (i.e., all JO CO Assessor Office assessments).
- Afraid they will not be able to pay their taxes and they will lose their homes.
- Mistrust of government. For example, they might see some shiny new expense government vehicle and misunderstand how it was paid for (i.e., Well they are spending money on that, and they are trying to tell use they are broke).

MWS071815

- Poor economy, a lot of people can't afford new taxes.
- Mistrust of government, especially feds.
- Selfishness: everyone thinks they should be taken care of and the costs of JS&PSS paid by others.
- We don't need a sheriff; I am locked and loaded.
- It is stupid to pay of rural patrols, as they will not get there in time to prevent a crime.

JWC072015

- Lots of people that have been here a long time voted no because they had no service before and after significant reductions in O&C revenues.
- Large number of retirement folks on a fixed income.
- The levies were overpriced; 50¢ per \$1,000 of assessed property value might have passed.
- I do not want to spend another \$5,000 - \$6,000.
- Folks don't want another additional tax that will never go away.
- Won't change response time of rural patrol no matter whether the levies pass or fail.
- Government spends money foolishly on so many other projects that sometimes leaves a bad taste when the amounts are so huge. Even some of these non-safety project monies would help our safety issue.

JWD072515

- Lack of public trust in using money for what it was collected for.

JWE072515

- County resident doesn't get any better public safety services for paying more taxes.

JFF072515

- No response benefit (i.e., better police response) to 911 emergency telephone calls (i.e., not guaranteed).
- Older folks can't really afford this levy if they live in country because of other costs already being paid, like fire insurance.

JFG072515

- I trust the JO CO Board of County Commissioners to waste the money on bad ideas rather than use money for public safety services.

JFH072515

- Don't trust the BCC to use monies for stated purpose.
- No basic changes in the last four levies.
- Officials, Commissioners, in conflict with passing ordinances.

- Needs to be some better oversight (i.e., control) of where money goes.

MWT090215

- Background. The U.S. has a civilization culture where most people are enslaved; we have a class system of the have's and have not's. If average folks had the fruits of their labor they would be more willing to support funding public services. The wealthy are not participating in anyway versus the super majority of average folks that don't have a lot of money.
- 1. It is unfair that property owners are the ones paying for almost all public services.
- 2. Public services should be funded with a progressive income tax (i.e., the more you make or the wealthier you are, the more you should be responsible to fund public services versus the poorer you are).
- 3. Many folks experience is that they are not receiving public safety services now, including the decade before 2012 and the sharp federal payments drop, and don't expect public safety services in the future (i.e., system was broken when JO CO Sheriff's Office was flush, why support a broken system?)

MWU091615

- Distrust the JO CO Board of County Commissioners (BCC) because in the past, when the county was rolling in O&C funds, the monies were used and abused - not used correctly, and this is still a problem.
- The BCC's level of communication and transparency fails my standards of and informed public, versus the normal closed doors approach of probably not representing the wishes of the people.

MWV09??15

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MWW09??15

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2. Measures Representing Public Opinion (draft created September 9, 2015) For the last four years the authors of the *Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015* had been reading letters-to-the-editor (LTTE) on the JS&PSS Issue in The Grants Pass Daily Courier (TGPDC). Their opinion is that LTTE in the TGPDC, not only represents public opinion on the safety issue, they are public opinion on the issue, including several other public opinion mechanisms.

a) Public Opinion Research Methods The LTTE and guest opinions in the TGPDC are identified as providing the most credible public opinion “reason” sources. The following are the Study Design’s methods used to research public opinion for the JS&PSS Issue.

- Registered JO CO Voters Voting
- LTTE in the TGPDC
- Guest Opinions in the TGPDC
- News Articles in the TGPDC
- Special Interest Groups’ Written Positions
- Public Written Communications (i.e., informal public comments on the evolving Study Design and formal public comments on the Analysis of the Public Situation)
- Arguments in the JO CO Voters’ Pamphlets.
- Informal Telephone Straw Poll Interviews

What Is Public Opinion? Public opinion is recognized for its power, but it is ever changing, hard to measure, harder to predict, and nearly impossible to control. Public opinion is the aggregate of individual attitudes or beliefs about certain issues or officials, and it is the foundation of any democracy (Gateways).

- Geer, John; Schiller, Wendy; Segal, Jeffrey; and Herrera, Richard. January 1, 2015. *Gateways to Democracy: An Introduction to American Government*, (Gateways) 3rd Edition. Chapter 6, Public Opinion. Cengage Learning.

b) Public Opinion: Informal & Formal

The formal academic study of public opinion is relatively new but the practical study of public opinion is not new at all. Governments have paid attention to public opinion as long as there have been governments.

The methods of learning public opinion fall into two general classes: informal and formal methods. The informal are very important but they do not involve any formal explicit research methodologies involving random sampling and target populations. Formal methods involve definite research designs and formal research methodologies.

Most of the public opinion coverage uses formal research methods, especially survey research. However, the 2015 Study Design focuses on how opinions held by members of the public get translated into public policy - primarily through the “informal” methods versus the formal random poll. How do governmental decision makers view public opinion? In the real world of politics, the correct understanding of public opinion is crucial, and governmental leaders try to find out about people’s opinions in a variety of ways, both informal and formal.

c) **LTTE** Initially, the Study Design authors were a bit uneasy because in general they thought there was a preference for formal survey designs to determine public opinion. This was because of the public's probable greater acceptance of "scientific" findings, and funders' preference for proposals that reflect "rigid," "scientific" procedures. However, research readily found scientific controversies on the issue. Dupre and Mackey found that there were a number of advantages in utilizing LTTE as a data source (Appendix A3).

- Dupre, Michael E. and Mackey, David A. 2001. *Crime In The Public Mind: Letters To The Editor As A Measure of Crime Saliency*. Michael E. Dupre, Saint Anselm College; David A. Mackey, Framingham State College *Journal of Criminal Justice and Popular Culture*, 8(1) (2001) 1-24.

Dupre and Mackey found that over the past decade newspapers have experienced a significant increase in the number of LTTE they receive, providing a good source of information about citizen concerns. Unlike most survey questionnaires, which provide data from specific responses via fixed-alternative or closed-ended items, content analysis of LTTE provide data from subjects who have utilized an open-ended format to volunteer their concerns. LTTE can provide first hand insights into one's attitudes and perceptions regarding the **saliency of crime** as a central concern of their immediate environment. **Since the task of writing a letter involves an expenditure of time and effort, a letter-to-the-editor should reflect a reader's strong concern about a particular matter. Most citizens have an opinion about crime and justice, and LTTE provide insights regarding the prioritizing of community issues, as well as the identification and articulation of specific crime concerns among letter writers.**

Dupre and Mackey had not overlooked the concerns raised when LTTE had been used as data sources. They found that early studies focused on several areas of concern: the demographic representativeness of letter writers; the representativeness of letters as a barometer of public opinion; and the motivational components of letter writing.

- Letter writers were overwhelmingly older, primarily male, above average in formal education, native white American, and white-collar.
- Letter writers had more children, were more likely home owners, did not listen to television or radio, were well-read and more likely belonged to the Republican party.
- As a barometer of public opinion LTTE were tied to propaganda effects, with newspaper stories, editorials, and other letters most frequently conveying the stimulus to write a LTTE.
- Political attitudes and interests of published LTTE were more a reflection of newspaper editors' gatekeeping than sentiments found in the community, or with the majority of letters writers.
- Certain topics were more likely to get published than others - letters dealing with local, controversial issues had a better chance of being published.
- The safety valve function has been cited as the primary motivation for writing letters to the editor. Most letters were negative, "agin" something or somebody
- The letter column gave the irate, the antagonist, the displeased a chance to speak out and be heard.
- LTTE are of a contentious nature, which do not represent reasoned, logical approaches to problems.

In response to these criticisms Dupre and Mackey observed that an explanation for these concerns may lie with the narrowness of the studies, which focused on politically orientated letters. Moreover, assessments of information validity have been based upon the degree of writers' conformity to mainstream political ideologies. They also found that mindfulness of a self-section process in writing LTTE and the demographic bias of letter writers has not

discouraged use of letters as a data source. Finally, Dupre and Mackey found that more recent studies have challenged earlier contentions that letter writers are emotionally and politically extreme, and that LTTE are an unreliable measure of public opinion.

- One more recent study concluded that letter writers were not a politically distinct group compared to the larger population.
- Another study found letter opinions in major American dailies regarding the Equal Rights Amendment were very similar to that found in public opinion polls.
- In two studies of LTTE regarding opinions on establishing a Martin Luther King Holiday, that LTTE were not just the province of crackpots, providing them with a safety valve for blowing off steam, but under certain conditions were also a vehicle that provided an accurate gauge of public thinking on controversial issues.
- In another they noted that much of the evidence critical of letters as a reliable and valid thermometer of public opinion was dated, and most of these studies focused on the characteristics of letter writers rather than on the content of the letters they write.

Dupre and Mackey concluded that LTTE are not intended to be representative measures of public opinion; rather, they were measures representing public opinion. Accordingly, they recommended that more investigations of LTTE. Increased utilization of new technology such as e-mail and voice-mail, which allows opinions to be more easily submitted to editors, broadens the popularity of citizen communication with their dailies. The traditional safety valve function of letters to the editor should be revisited to determine if the role and function have changed over time.

The Study Design authors concluded that LTTE in the TGPDC represented credible public opinion (Appendix A3).

d) Content Analysis (CA) (Section III.D.2; Appendix A3-2)

Content analysis is a research tool used to determine the presence of certain words or concepts within texts or sets of texts. Researchers quantify and analyze the presence, meanings and relationships of such words and concepts, then make inferences about the messages within the texts, the writer(s), the audience, and even the culture and time of which these are a part. Texts can be defined broadly as books, book chapters, essays, interviews, discussions, newspaper headlines and articles, historical documents, speeches, conversations, advertising, theater, informal conversation, or really any occurrence of communicative language. Texts in a single study may also represent a variety of different types of occurrences, such as Palmquist's 1990 study of two composition classes, in which he analyzed student and teacher interviews, writing journals, classroom discussions and lectures, and out-of-class interaction sheets. To conduct a content analysis on any such text, the text is coded, or broken down, into manageable categories on a variety of levels--word, word sense, phrase, sentence, or theme--and then examined using one of content analysis' basic methods: **conceptual analysis** or **relational analysis** (*Content Analysis. Writing@CSU*).

- Carol Busch, Paul S. De Maret, Teresa Flynn, Rachel Kellu, Sheri Le, Brad Meyers, Matt Saunders, Robert White, and Mike Palmquist.. (1994 - 2012). *Content Analysis. Writing@CSU*. Colorado State University. Available at <http://writing.colostate.edu/guides/guide.cfm?guideid=61>.

Content analysis has been defined as a systematic, replicable technique for compressing many words of text into fewer content categories based on explicit rules of coding. A broad definition of content analysis is, "any technique for making inferences by objectively and systematically identifying specified characteristics of messages." (Stemler, Steve. 2001).

- Stemler, Steve. 2001. *An Overview of Content Analysis. Practical Assessment, Research & Evaluation*. <http://pareonline.net/getvn.asp?v=7&n=17>.

Content analysis is "a wide and heterogeneous set of manual or computer-assisted techniques for contextualized interpretations of documents produced by communication processes in the strict sense of that phrase (any kind of text, written, iconic, multimedia, etc.) or signification processes (traces and artifacts), having as ultimate goal the production of valid and trustworthy inferences." (Wikipedia).

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The goal is that Content Analysis, by different researchers, would be used in support of the proposed JS&PSS Study.

3. Media

The problems/issues list was initially developed by the JS&PSS Committee as supplemented by a non-random set of informal interviews of JO CO citizens, and articles from The Grants Pass Daily Courier (e.g., citizen guest opinions and letters to editor, reporter articles, etc.).

The information from guest opinions and letters to the editor may not be quotes.

a) The Grants Pass Daily Courier The Grants Pass Daily Courier is an independent daily newspaper published in Grants Pass, Oregon, United States. The Courier covers Grants Pass and the surrounding area and is delivered throughout Josephine County, as well as parts of Jackson and Douglas counties. It was established in 1885 and is owned by Courier Publishing Company. The Courier is an evening paper published every day except Monday and Saturday. Its circulation is approximately 16,000.

The first year it was published, the paper was known as the Grant's Pass Courier. From 1886 until 1919, it was named the Rogue River Courier. The name was changed again to Grants Pass Daily Courier to avoid confusion after the town of Woodville changed its name to Rogue River. The Courier is the second-oldest continuously published newspaper in Southern Oregon (after the Ashland Daily Tidings).

(1) Guest Opinions (From The Grants Pass Daily Courier)

(a) Guest Opinions Opposing Levies And/Or Sales Taxes (updated September 13, 2015)

September 13, 2015. Dave Thomason. *Should Grants Pass Implement A Sales Tax: Tax Would Burden Businesses* (Guest Opinion)

The proposed Grants Pass sales tax measure being put before city voters on the upcoming November ballot would cause more problems than it would solve for our community. I will start by saying that I am most certainly aware of the issues surrounding public safety that we face in our city and county. I have supported the failed levies that have been attempted the last four times.

I do not, however, support any kind of sales tax being implemented in the city of Grants Pass as an answer to solve our funding problems. While I do not purport to speak on behalf of all members of our local hospitality industry, I can with great confidence tell you that my feelings are mirrored by the vast majority of Grants Pass operators.

We have been absolutely battered and bruised by state and federal laws that have made it extremely difficult to continue operating in Oregon with any level of success. The restaurant industry already has a failure rate of approximately 80 percent within the first two years of operation. Already thin margins are being wiped out with the addition of legislation such as Obamacare, an upcoming Mandatory Sick Leave law and a major increase in the minimum wage that will come via either legislation during the next session or by a vote of the citizens which will result in either a \$13 or \$15 wage. Since we are a very labor intensive business we will no doubt feel the brunt of these changes. Also since approximately 70 percent of our guests choose to pay with a credit card we will also be responsible to pay the additional sales tax that includes our 3 percent processing fees to the credit card companies.

The implementation of a sales tax will only add to the burden of trying to operate profitably. I can assure you that when the playing field becomes unbalanced via a sales tax in the city there will be those who will make their decisions to spend their money elsewhere. There will be those who will choose to spend their money in the county and others who, while traveling up and down the freeway, will simply bypass Grants Pass. I have no doubt that knowledge of the fact that Grants Pass has a sales tax will spread throughout the state and another 30 miles up the road to Medford will be an easy choice to make. It will also be on the minds of people in the Medford area, where we have had significant success in becoming a destination location for many of them at our Taprock Northwest Grill restaurant. There are just too many other choices for us to be handicapped in such a way. It will also come in to play at our Event Center when major groups are trying to decide where they should schedule their next event.

I completely disagree with those who say that our locals will continue their normal spending habits since the amount of the tax is so minimal. I believe that you underestimate the amount of people in Oregon who, no matter what the tax is, are philosophically opposed to paying a sales tax. I personally know many people who have refused to dine in Ashland ever since they enacted their meals tax there several years ago. We also know that once a tax is enacted, it will never go away and will only go up.

A combination of a significant increase in the cost of doing business coupled with any downturn in revenue will spell disaster for our industry and other small businesses in Grants Pass. At a time when the local economy is still fragile, imposing a tax that would discourage consumer spending in Grants Pass is sending the wrong message. The public safety needs of the city can be met with economic growth, not with a tax that inhibits business and encourages our neighbors and visitors to go elsewhere to spend their hard-earned dollars.

Dave Thomason is the owner of Southern Oregon Elmer's, LLC; Taprock Franchise Systems, LLC; and Thomason Bean Co. (Human Bean). He is a past president of the Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association and the Grants Pass & Josephine County Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

May 1, 2015. Bill Hunker. *No on Levy: Too Many Questions Linger about Made-up Crisis, Proposal* (Guest Opinion)

Lack of trust in our elected officials is the greatest single factor affecting Josephine County. Trust is built on truth-telling, transparency and accountability. When these three elements of leadership are lacking, it generates gridlock between the citizens and their representatives. Since this is the 10th levy attempt for Public Safety in Josephine County, I think one can argue gridlock. In 2008 property tax levy proposals started at \$2.49, then dropped to \$1.99, then \$1.48, then \$1.19 and now, inexplicably, \$1.40 is being proffered. Ten levies, 15 years and still a one-trick pony; one might ponder Einstein's quote regarding insanity.

Perception versus facts. A popular pro-levy argument is that people "feel" unsafe. If they are repeatedly told/sold that they are unsafe, in time they will believe they are, even when the facts say otherwise. Are we "being sold?" On May 30, 2012, two weeks after the levy failed, the "crime crisis" campaign began. The sheriff instigated a propaganda campaign that culminated in the infamous picture of freed inmates skipping down the sidewalk in front of the jail. Later, on Aug. 18, 2012, the famous 911 call was made. But, not until the day after the failed levy attempt of May 21, 2013, was that call released to the media — eight months after the call happened. Picked up by the national press, that audio release put Josephine County on the national map as lawless. Do you think that was a coincidence? The sheriff has stated that it is a "myth" that the city of Grants Pass generates more crime than the county. The sheriff's statement is blatantly false. Please research the Oregon Uniform Crime Reports for yourself. The county pays 58 percent of the taxes and accounts for 20 percent of the crime. Grants Pass pays 41 percent of the taxes and accounts for 80 percent of the crime.

City residents note: This levy does not fund any city police services except to add jail beds and Juvenile Justice detention facilities. You are far better off paying the sewer tax of \$3.55 each month for 30 jail beds than \$1.40 per \$1,000 of assessed value on your house. In fact, even if you doubled the sewer tax to \$7.10 per month, then also fund Juvenile Justice, every resident in Grants Pass with a home worth more than \$70,000 will save significant money. And your house will not be put at risk. Transparency. Ideally, people make decisions based on facts. Facts to support Measure 17-66 are in short supply. Examples:

- 16 deputies: If six deputies currently cover 10 hours a day, 7 days a week, why does it take 22 deputies to cover 20 hours a day 7 days a week? How long do they train before they can patrol? Will new hires have contracts that pay back the county for the training dollars invested in them? Why no detectives?
- Patrol cars: New or used? How many? Over what period of time? What do they cost? What is their projected life.
- Four 911 Dispatchers: The sheriff says he is exploring contracting out the 911 services or combining services with the city. Is that for cost savings?
- Jail Capacity: 160 beds? What is the justification for needing more beds per capita than other cash-strapped counties?
- Reopen the Juvenile Justice Center: It's not closed. Why not accurately state that the Detention Center and Shelter are closed? And how much is Juvenile Justice getting?
- Citizen Oversight Committee: The committee has been chosen. Who are they? Who selected them? Were all the rural communities represented? Have the sheriff or the county commissioners agreed to their "authority" in writing? The oversight committee is a "feel good" and has no actual teeth.
- Economic Development: The argument is that we cannot attract new industry to our area until we first create a "safe" county. The opposite is true: Economic Development is the driving force that will reduce crime in this county. Currently, 30 percent are on food stamps, 35 percent on Medicaid, 7.4 percent unemployment plus those in poverty and on welfare. High school graduation rates are 64 percent. Hands down we are the most impoverished county in Oregon.
- Budget Process. The 10 percent skim. If we are truly on the cliff's edge, if the crime crisis is actually real, why wouldn't we allocate every single penny of the \$900,000 to alleviate this "terrible, howling, crisis of crime?" Because it is not a real crisis.

What happens to the 31 cents out of the 58 cents that has traditionally gone to the Sheriff each year? What happens to the \$4.6 million in Rural School funds? What happens to the timber receipts of 2.1 million? Lots of questions, no answers. Summary. I am not against taxes or a levy, but 17-66 is not that levy. \$1.40 is too much. Our current

economy cannot afford it. When the commissioners, the sheriff and citizens all come to the table ready to each contribute something to ensure public safety in our county, that levy will pass. That has not yet happened. Bill Hunker is a member of Josephine County Alert, which has organized to oppose Measure 17-66.

April 27, 2014. Jim Rafferty. *CON: Proposal Would Cost More But Doesn't Add Patrols, Reduce Crime* (Guest Opinion)

The proposed May 2014 jail and Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) five-year tax levy, sponsored by the PAC Citizens for Securing our Safety (CSOS), adds \$1.19 per \$1,000 of assessed value to property owners' current taxes (a 205 percent tax increase). Estimates are \$7.5 million, \$8.1 million, \$8.3 million, \$8.6 million and \$8.8 million in new taxes over the five-year levy, or \$41.3 million total.

If your property is assessed at \$200,000, you would pay an additional \$238 annually, plus the 3 percent yearly amount allowed for increases in assessed values, about \$6 with the proposed levy, for a total of about \$1,220 through 2019. Then add the current tax rate of 58 cents per \$1,000 assessed value (\$116) plus the 3 percent annual increase (about \$3 per year) during the same five year period (about \$580), for a grand total of more than \$1,830.

Commissioner Simon Hare said recently, and Commissioners Walker and Heck agree, that \$2 million in general fund money would be available from "unallocated carryover," if the jail levy passes in May, for road patrols and the District Attorney's Office. He also said, "Our projected carryover for 2014-15 is nothing." But, no mention is made of a guarantee for subsequent general fund monies for years 2015-19. If this carryover funding is not available, will the road patrol manpower revert to the 2013-14 level of one or two patrol deputies?

If the proposed five-year levy passes, who benefits the most? The city of Grants Pass, since they have patrol manpower to fill the jail and JJC. If the jail remains fully occupied by city inmates, where would county inmates be housed? Would the increased court, parole and staff be limited by the same levy funding levels, clogging up the justice system? If the current justice system is strained now, what will it be like in five years?

One wonders why the levy was not initiated by the commissioners, the people's representatives, as taxing is a government function. But private citizens under the cloak of CSOS propose to establish a quasi-taxing authority without express approval or permission of elected representatives. The power to tax, if not satisfied, has the potential consequence of property confiscation, a real economic loss of property owners' worth and rights, all for the incarceration process only. Collateral damage from property confiscation results in loss of tax base and increased county liabilities which degrade over time, resulting in increased taxes on the remaining property owners.

Yet, no part of the proposed levy provides for the enforcement process known as sheriff's road patrols. How is it that lawbreakers are to be discovered, let alone detained or transported to jail, if there is no stated levy funding for additional deputies? Without express budget funding defined in the levy, are taxpayers to rely on our commissioner's promises to "fix" the lack of funds by diverting suddenly-found "unallocated carryover" or other "funds" after it passes?

Josephine County commissioners must take responsibility for this debacle since they decided to bank past O&C/federal school funds instead of funding 10 patrol deputies. Their only funding solution was easy pickin's property tax instead of other alternatives, such as an in-county-only lottery, where 10 winners of \$10,000 could be awarded to stimulate lottery sales, reaping net proceeds of several million dollars dedicated only to sheriff's patrols, instead of state coffers.

Another alternate road patrol funding option in the place of the proposed 17-59 Measure might be the following: Assuming 10,000 voters want to pass the proposed levy. And, in lieu of the levy, they would voluntarily pay an additional yearly tax to cover the average \$8,312,344 yearly tax levy, each would share the proportional cost of \$831.23. If that is the case, the current proposed levy would be paid for by the 10,000 volunteer tax donators, and the \$2 million would then be available for sheriff's road patrols.

JJC and jail funding is covered by those who want it, 24/7 road patrols would be funded and no new property taxes would be needed for five years or more. Fifteen deputies for road patrol could then be provided 24/7. At a cost of

about \$100,000 per deputy per year, this would amount to \$1,500,000 of the \$2 million, leaving a difference of \$500,000 for the District Attorney and other needs, each year for 5 years.

The proposed levy has serious flaws: No dedicated, sustained funding for road patrols. No road patrols, no crime reduction. No crime reduction, no need for county taxpayers to pass the levy! Don't be surprised if a new levy for sheriff's patrol funding is next if the jail and JJC levy passes.

Vote NO on Measure 17-59. Don't vote for no rural road patrols and higher taxes. Jim Rafferty is a member of the citizens group We're for a Constitutional Government, which is campaigning against the public safety levy on the May 20 ballot. Its website address is www.w4acg.com

May 3, 2013. Jim Rafferty. *County Must Learn To Live Within Means* (Guest Opinion)

Once again, a property tax measure will be testing the endurance of Josephine County voters. This is the sixth time in 10 years that this issue has been presented to us. We voted "no" on it every time in the past and will have to vote "no" once again.

A simple majority will determine the fate of this measure, so please do not get discouraged or apathetic. Our "no" vote is vital to defeating this measure.

We believe there are numerous reasons to vote "no" on Measure 17.49. They include:

- The ballot summary says funding for services may include the listed services, but it may not. The commissioners have said they won't promise to spend a single penny on any of the listed services.
- The chief financial officer stated in February that in the next budget, law enforcement will receive about \$347,000 more than what it started this year with. And with no levy, we'll maintain about the same status as we have right now.
- The internal services fund will siphon off 10 percent of this levy money to benefit other departments. For example, it will help pay the \$75,391 salaries of the commissioners plus over 30 percent more in benefits.
- The Josephine County commissioners have a credibility problem. They have not made every effort to provide funds to the sheriff and the justice system to fulfill their number one priority of keeping the county safe. Instead, \$600,000, the bulk of which could have gone for public safety, was diverted to purchase a single piece of software for the Assessor's Office, and it costs \$60,000 per year to keep it working. Also, the local district attorney is paid by the state of Oregon, but Josephine County gives him an additional \$1,763 each month.
- The long-term obligations of the county include \$12.9 million for the Public Employees Retirement System and \$2.9 million for compensated absences. Rather than address this huge fiscal problem, the county kicked it down the road by refinancing.
- The commissioners unanimously voted to spend up to \$6,000 of general fund dollars on their mail-out regarding this criminal justice levy.

There are also plenty of questions.

- Why haven't the commissioners cut their own salaries, which is close to three times more than our Home Rule Charter allows?
- Why do they pay the chief financial officer \$99,618 in salary and benefits each year? If the commissioners did the job themselves, the money could pay for a deputy.
- Money from timber sales on Josephine County's property could be going to the sheriff and the justice system, but will it?

- Why is it so difficult for the citizens to obtain financial accountability from the county? A transparent, line-item accounting system showing what funds came in and how they were spent would prove to citizens that our tax money was spent wisely.

With the economic crisis, high unemployment numbers, an aging population and struggling businesses, it's unwise to impose additional tax burdens on the citizenry of Josephine County.

Our properties are already excessively regulated and taxed to the point that one could rightly ask the question, who really owns the property? Adding another financial burden on property owners is not the answer to the county's chronic overspending.

The commissioners need to remember that there is no free lunch. They will have to make do with the local taxes we give them. It is not the fault of property owners that the federal government is reneging on its obligation to us. The commissioners need to stand up for the citizenry and demand the feds pay what is due to us or let us back into the forests. Rough and Ready should not have closed among such incredible timber resources in Josephine County.

We urge you to cast your ballot on May 21 and to vote "no" on all tax measures.

"To change the crippling influence of runaway bureaucracy is our foremost problem; and upon its solution depends the survival of the American way of life. The sheer bulk and range of government today, top-heavy, loose-jointed and running amuck with arbitrary powers, has become a suffocating restraint upon our whole economy." — From Lawrence Sullivan's book "The Dead Hand of Bureaucracy."

We're for A Constitutional Government, known as W4ACG, was founded by Jim Rafferty, 471-4941; Bill Hill 761-3954; and Kurt Ramme 474-2906. We can be reached through our email or the website. Part of our mission statement states, "We will only support those measures that do not deprive us of our basic inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Jim Rafferty is a Grants Pass businessman.

(b) Guest Opinions Supporting Levies And/Or Sales Taxes By definition this section is not part of the purpose. However, the two opposing guest opinions included (Sec. III.C.2.(1)(a)) had supporting guest opinions that same day, and in the interest of fairness and balance they are included.

September 13, 2015. Dan DeYoung. *Should Grants Pass Implement A Sales Tax: Low Rate Would Fund Public Safety* (Guest Opinion)

The City of Grants Pass Department of Public Safety relies partly on Josephine County's Criminal Justice System. As our public safety chief says, we can have a cop on every corner but it won't do any good unless the rest of the system is available — the adult jail, juvenile justice, and prosecution services.

The Criminal Justice Sales Tax on the ballot for Grants Pass voters this November would restore funding to the justice services the city relies on, retain our current level of services in city police and city fire services, while lowering property taxes and fees for Grants Pass residents and businesses.

Sound too good to be true? It's not. Rather than tie all fees for public safety to property taxes and utility fees, the very low 2 percent sales tax spreads the tax burden among everyone that uses the system rather than just those who happen to live or own property within the city limits of Grants Pass.

While the rate is a low 2 percent, this will provide enough revenue to eliminate the city's \$1.79 per \$1,000 of assessed value Public Safety Property Tax Levy and still maintain city police and fire services. It will also provide sufficient revenue to eliminate the city's jail services utility fee. A home with an assessed value of \$155,000 will save about \$311 per year from this tax and fee reduction. If your assessed value is \$250,000, your household would see a tax and fee reduction of about \$482 per year. Do the math on how many taxable items you would have to purchase to even come close to these amounts and you'll find this is a big tax-and-fee reduction for Grants Pass residents and businesses.

We all agree we can't go much longer with a crippled criminal justice system and the Grants Pass City Council decided to give Grants Pass voters an option to restore these justice services while lowering property taxes and fees. A sales tax is the only equitable way we can, at the City level, share the burden with all users of the system. If approved, this measure would result in a significant tax and utility fee reduction for all property owners in Grants Pass, both businesses and residents, because it shares the burden for services we all share.

Perhaps even better, this measure has unique provisions you don't normally see in a sales tax program. These unique provisions help make this local sales tax program more accountable and fair to both businesses and consumers:

- The 2 percent rate cannot be raised without another vote of the people.
- There is no tax on many items like unprepared food, prescription medicine, fuel, and many others.
- The 2 percent tax is capped at the first \$1,000 of sale amount in each sale. Therefore, even if you buy a new car, the most the sales tax can ever be is \$20 per sale.
- There is a tax rebate to help businesses cover the cost of reporting. Smaller businesses will earn a higher percentage rebate on their tax collections from sales.

The rate is low enough to reduce the negative affect on local businesses — that's the last thing anyone wants. It's common in cities and counties across the country to have variable rates that differ by at least 2 to 3 percent in the sales tax rates of neighboring cities and counties. And in our case the tax per sale is capped so that it would never pay to go to Medford rather than shop locally. Think about the various times you planned a vacation or recreational trip — was a sales tax rate for the place you were going to visit part of your decision making process? Nope, this won't affect our thriving tourism industry either.

For those retail and food services businesses that do have to collect the low 2 percent tax, this won't affect sales and the property tax reduction, utility fee reduction, and sales tax rebate will more than cover the cost of collecting the tax from customers. Service businesses do not have to collect the tax and most businesses will find that this increases

their profitability as opposed to collecting taxes for safety services by property taxes and utility fees. Many local businesses will save thousands of dollars per year as a result.

The measure will keep city police and fire services, boost funding for adult jail services, it would reopen the Juvenile Justice shelter-and-detention building (closed since 2012), and would boost funding for criminal prosecution services. All while reducing property taxes and fees for city residents and businesses. Vote with your conscience, vote with your wallet, and vote yes for the criminal justice sales tax. It's the right thing to do to restore justice services and reduce taxes and fees for Grants Pass residents and businesses.

Dan DeYoung is the president of the Grants Pass City Council.

May 1, 2015. Scott Draper. *Yes on Levy: Citizen-driven Levy Creates Safety Funding with Oversight* (Guest Opinion)

Measure 17-66 is a grassroots effort, a measure placed on the ballot of the people, for the people, and by the people of Josephine County. Measure 17-66 offers a rare opportunity for the right combination of ingredients to come together at exactly the right time.

Measure 17-66 is clear, concise and complete, reflecting the strong values of our community. It is written to ensure, along with state law, that funds are spent efficiently and effectively on critically needed public safety services only. It includes a bridge to building trust between our community and our Sheriff's Office. Just as importantly, our new sheriff is the right leader at the right time — experienced, capable and deeply dedicated to Josephine County and the safety of its people. Perhaps most importantly, our community is uniting, fed up with being fed up, and we see that together we can create the community that we envision. Measure 17-66 is a powerful opportunity for each of us to make a simple yet meaningful stand for our own safety as well as the safety and security of our families, our neighbors and our community. Your "yes" vote restores our community.

Public Safety Measure 17-66 is smart, complete and is aligned with our values. The measure has been carefully and transparently created, aligning with the distinct values of our community, to ensure a complete, workable, and game-changing solution to our public safety crisis.

Measure 17-66 restores sheriff's patrols and emergency response, so that when you call 911 in an emergency, a deputy sheriff will respond. It also provides a presence of law enforcement across the county through patrols and resident deputies and other programs, creating a proactive approach to crime before it happens. Measure 17-66 increases jail capacity to 160 beds, taking advantage of facilities we have already paid for that now sit vacant, and providing real consequences for those who would commit crime. Abused and troubled children in our community presently have nowhere to go to escape dangerous living conditions. Measure 17-66 will re-open the Juvenile Justice Center to shelter and counsel youth who are in crisis. Sadly, this state-of-the-art community asset currently sits vacant.

Measure 17-66 provides for a Citizens' Oversight Committee comprised of local citizens from different geographic areas of the county and different perspectives, ensuring that our tax dollars are spent for cost-effective public safety only. Measure 17-66 places resources effectively and efficiently in the capable hands of a sheriff who will get the job done.

Public Safety Measure 17-66 saves money, property and lives. Our current lack of public safety is expensive. We pay individually through theft; rising insurance premiums; insurance deductibles; hiring of private security firms that can provide only a fraction of the services provided by a solid public safety program; substantial downward pressure on property values; lost individual, business and social opportunities; and in many other ways. In 2012, 80-year-old Josephine County resident June Rice was found dead next to her motorized wheelchair. She had wandered from an adult care facility in Murphy and, due to budget cuts, no one was available from the Sheriff's Office to search. We are better than this.

Over the past year, working alongside many dedicated local citizens and speaking with literally thousands of local residents, a very clear picture is emerging. We are a community that is uniting. People from all walks of life,

newcomers as well as natives, folks from all sides of the political spectrum, people of all ages are coming together to support the advantages of Measure 17-66. Many who have, for various reasons, voted against previous safety levies, are also coming together in support of Measure 17-66.

Sentiments such as these are being shared: "Finally, a public safety levy that provides all the pieces we need." "The Citizen's Oversight Committee is a great idea to ensure that the monies are spent wisely and for exactly what we need." "Sheriff Dave Daniel is already bringing the community together and his dedication and solid plan for our future needs and deserve our support." "We need to deal with the federal government, timber and other critical funding issues. A yes vote for Measure 17-66 allows us to do this from a position of strength."

Measure 17-66 is a grassroots effort, a measure placed on the ballot of the people, for the people, and by the people of Josephine County. A vote for Measure 17-66 allows us to live safely, securely and peacefully in one of the most beautiful areas in the country, all while enjoying a tax commitment well below the average county in Oregon. Your yes vote is smart, saves money, saves property and saves lives. Let your voice be heard. Vote yes on Measure 17-66.

Scott Draper is the general manager of Club Northwest and a founding member of Community United For Safety, which gathered the signatures to place Measure 17-66 on the ballot and is campaigning for the measure's passage.

April 27, 2014. Jay Meredith. *Pro: Citizen-Driven Tax Initiative Would Restore Safety During Funding Crunch* (Guest Opinion)

Securing Our Safety was formed during 2012's budget challenges (federal timber dollars going away) that shut down much of our county's criminal justice system. SOS, comprised of business owners, community leaders, parents, retirees and other residents, set out to explore ideas to address long-term county needs and the means to fund them.

The public safety situation facing the county is the most imminent public threat facing every resident. Even if you think you can protect yourself, your family and property 24/7/365, the fallout of our situation is affecting the safety of our roads, insurance rates, home values, quality of life, job market and more. As the situation worsens, we cannot afford to put our heads in the sand and wait for a magical solution.

SOS has learned, through exhaustive research and public input, that there is no single solution, and simply cutting expenses, as some suggest, is not a solution at all. Over the last 10 years, extreme cuts to county services and workforce have gutted the public safety system and threatened other services (such as the library) as funds are diverted from those services in an attempt to shore up public safety.

Our "citizen-voiced plan" started nearly two years ago with the input from citizens — collecting surveys and listening to input from Josephine County residents. Not only have we found out what you want out of our local public safety systems but we found out what funding solutions you desire. It was clear we all want to restore our criminal justice services to not only where they were a few years ago but better. A statistical survey amounts to about 400 to 500 people, but we collected close to 1,200 surveys of Josephine County residents quickly after our organization came together.

It has also become clear that an increase in local taxes, smaller than proposed in the past, must be part of a multi-pronged effort that will also include possible longer-term revenues generated by a lottery initiative, environmentally responsible mining and mineral development efforts, and timber harvesting on county-owned land. And we need to keep fighting on the timber equation on federal land as well. We are also working on drug and crime prevention programs that will make our county safer and the criminal justice system a more effective and efficient system.

At a simple level, we have a hole in our county's criminal justice system of at least \$12 million per year due to dwindling "federal payments." We have a revenue problem, plain and simple. SOS is very proud of what the draft of the citizen-voiced plan looks like today after much work and research. However, some of the solutions in the works will take time to implement (years in some cases). The citizen-voiced plan is an intentional mix of tax and non-tax solutions that will restore health to our county and our county's public safety system and based on all the solutions favored by your input.

The five-year levy we'll vote on next month is citizen driven, not a county government initiative, and at a cost of \$1.19 per \$1,000 assessed value, is more affordable than past proposals. It will provide about \$7.6 million in annual funding and is restricted for use in the county's criminal justice system — the system that serves the entire county whether you live in Grants Pass, Cave Junction, or in the unincorporated parts of Josephine County. Federal payments may or may not continue, but even if they do, the current level is only about \$4 million per year, and many think that won't continue. The levy will restore critical pieces of the public safety system — jail operations and re-opening of the Juvenile Justice Center. Funds currently used for limited jail services will be re-directed to increase sheriff's patrols.

Passage of the Jail/Juvenile Justice Center levy will provide a bridge to restoring our county's safety as we work to generate additional, sustainable revenues through those additional efforts outlined above. If the levy fails, even more devastating cuts are on the horizon.

We urge you to vote YES on the Jail/Juvenile Justice Center levy, Measure 17-59. If you are not yet registered to vote, you have until April 29 to register for the May 20 election. We also invite you to join our meetings and/or email list as we work together as a community to solve the challenges ahead and make Josephine County an even greater place to live. Please visit us at www.SecuringOurSafety.org.

Jay Meredith is president and board chairman for the nonprofit citizens group Securing Our Safety, which has been pursuing various options for public safety funding in Josephine County.

May 3, 2013. Pat Fahey. *Let's Control Our Destiny And Vote Yes* (Guest Opinion)

If you are a registered voter in Josephine County, you will soon receive your ballot for the upcoming May 21 election. Depending on where you live, you may have several different issues on your ballot, but what I wish to discuss today is 17.49, the Josephine County criminal justice and public safety levy. The levy is a three-year, \$1.48 per \$1,000 additional tax on the assessed valuation of property located in Josephine County. The proceeds of this levy are to be used only for criminal justice issues.

I often get asked, "What does that mean?" A quick look at the ballot summary shows:

- Increase inmate capacity at adult jail
- Increase in number of criminal cases prosecuted by district attorney
- Provide school security program and resources
- Provide support for Animal Protection field services
- Provide Juvenile Justice services and detention
- Increase sheriff's deputies' response and patrol
- Provide support for Sheriff's Office civil services (investigations, evidence, records and court security)

One might ask, "Why do we need this levy now, what has changed?" This question requires a little history lesson. In 1937, the federal government set aside 2.4 million acres of federal forest land for the economic benefit of 18 western Oregon counties, of which Josephine is one. For decades, the receipt of timber sales on these properties was the primary source of revenue for Josephine County. Often the sales were so good that Josephine County didn't collect its local property tax at all. That is one of the reasons that the Josephine County permanent tax rate is only 58 cents per \$1,000, the lowest rate for Oregon counties.

Since the 1980s, there has been increased pressure by the environmental community to restrict the harvest of timber, frequently using the Endangered Species Act as the basis for legal challenges. The pressure was so great and the resulting timber receipts dropped so low that the federal government stepped in with a series of safety net measures, providing declining funding for counties impacted by the loss of this revenue. In 2012, Josephine County received what appears to be the last of these payments.

So here we are in 2013 with no federal aid available to fund county government. This is a loss of \$12 million a year from what the county once received. This means the county must live with what it generates in taxes and fees. Since the criminal justice sector (district attorney, sheriff, jail) is by far the largest budget area, it must bear the largest burden of the cuts.

The cuts to criminal justice so far have been draconian. The Juvenile Justice center has closed. We have reduced the District Attorney's Office by three assistant district attorneys. The Sheriff's Office answers calls only from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. There used to be almost 200 jail beds available. Now, there are only 99, of which 30 are federally contracted, and most of the remainder are occupied by prisoners serving mandatory terms under Measure 11, the mandatory sentencing law.

The best indicator of how far the system has fallen was highlighted last week in two separate instances. One was the daylight mugging of an elderly lady in the Applebee's parking lot, and the other was how the system dealt with the armed criminal lurking near Redwood Elementary School. He was ticketed and released.

I have often heard comments such as "I have a gun and I can protect myself." That is good. Public safety begins at home. But we should remember that there are those who cannot protect themselves: children, the elderly and the infirm. And how do we protect our belongings when we are not at home? A gun is a useful tool for self-defense, but we also need a healthy criminal justice community to investigate crimes, prosecute those accused of crimes and incarcerate those found guilty.

The levy will economically affect all. It will cost money. To see the impact of the levy, a property owner may browse to <http://www.co.josephine.or.us/> and find out the additional tax for a specific piece of property.

The cost of the levy has led many in our community to voice their opposition. They have a valid point, and I appreciate their avoiding personal attacks that so often happen during the political process. I offer them my thanks.

This is truly a values decision. Is the cost of the levy worth the level of public safety it would provide, and if we don't pass the levy, will the governor step in and impose what he considers the minimal acceptable level of services and bill us later (House Bill 3453)?

Josephine County has come to a fork in the road. Business as usual is no longer possible. We choose to control our own destiny and pay our own way by voting yes. By voting no, we let the county limp toward the abyss and see what the governor will do.

I know what my course of action will be, and I urge my fellow citizens to join me in voting yes on 17.49.

Pat Fahey is a Grants Pass businessman who has been a spokesman for Securing Our Safety, a local citizens group trying to find ways to improve Josephine County's criminal justice system.

(2) Letters To The Editor The following approximately 60 letters-to-the-editor (i.e., April 10 - June 12, 2015) are not nearly the comprehensive set (i.e., June 12, 2015 - March 8, 2013) in the archives of the JS&PSS Committee, HNA&HS. They are examples to illustrate what citizens are writing and as a quality control check on the June 14, 2015 preliminary list of issues developed by the JS&PSS Committee (Sec.III.A.2).

The number of letters-to-the-editor (The Grants Pass Daily Courier - TGPDC) in the hard-copy archives of the JS&PSS Exploratory Committee follow. They represent a dedicated effort to read and collect the letters-to-the-editor, but are not considered comprehensive in the sense that they represent all letters-to-the-editor (LTTE) published in the TGPDC.

2013	144 LTTE
2014	170 LTTE
2015	85 LTTE (from January - April 8, 2015
2015	118 LTTE (from April 10 - June 12, 2015)
	2015 Total - 203 LTTE to date
Total	517 LTTE

The 60 TTTE highlights that follow are 12 % of the 517 TTTE. Instead of being limited to 12%, at a minimum, part of the draft APS, final APS, and final JS&PSS Study is to analyze all TTTE in the archives of the JS&PSS Exploratory Committee. The most comprehensive analyses goal would be to analyze all TTTE associated with the four levies from 2012 - 2015 (Sec III.A).

Early on the JS&PSS Committee took a crack at trying to summarize letters-to-the-editor in educational brochures. That effort did not last long. The list of educational brochures completed and web published follows.

- Br. IID.6.1.1 Citizens' Write. January - May 2013
- Br. IID.6.1.2 Citizens' Write. June 2013
- Br. IID.6.1.3 Citizens' Write. July 2013
- Br. IID.6.1.4 Citizens' Write. August 2013
- Br. IID.6.1.5 Citizens' Write. September 2013

Letters to the editor could be added or subtracted from this section, per decisions of the JS&PSS Committee.

(a) Citizen Reasons Opposing Levies (i.e., April 10 - June 12, 2015)

June 12, 2015. Jack Swift. *Flat Income Tax A Better Solution Than Sales Tax.*

We just went through an attempt to tax the poor with a property tax levy. This effort was funded by some of our real rich locals. Josephine County is something of a microcosm of the national situation. The rich have all the money and the rest of us live on Social Security and food stamps. In terms of cash in the bank. Josephine County ranks among the top five counties in Oregon. Since these folks are so eager for additional taxation, I would propose a flat income tax on the county residents upon all income not derived from Social Security or pensions. I wonder if these fat cats will be so eager to finance the cost of promoting the levy?

June 12, 2015. Robert Broadhead. *Leaders Should Work To Get Community Involved.*

Being proactive involves anticipating events and planning ahead. Alternatively, being reactive means you have ignored the forecast, got caught in the storm and expect the local to provide you shelter. JO CO commissioners have known for a long time the federal O&C lumber subsidy had a finite lifespan. Yet they took no action for dealing with the shortfall. . . So here we are, and the county and city administrators are still shooting from the hip, yet the solution is obvious. . . We need administrators who are community orientated and who are willing to get the residents involved to get this great city [county] back on track.

June 10, 2015. Chris Matthews. *Levy Supports Should Send in Money.*

I am very grateful my county property tax did not increase 220 percent.

June 9, 2015. Tom Criswell. *Insulting Local Pastors Was Way Out Of Line.*

Little skill is needed to understand all you need to understand about Bob Anderson and his recent letter (“Levy supports didn’t learn from past mistakes,” June 3).

June 9, 2015. Terry Lee Reid. *If You Want A Sales Tax, Move To California.*

Stop spending more money. A good idea would be to stay within your budget.

June 7, 2015. Bill Turrell. *Levy Failure Result Of Lack Of Trust In Commissioners.*

The levy didn’t pass and that is due to lack of trust in commissioners.

June 7, 2015. Gene Bradley. *City Officials Need To Stop Taxing, Spending.*

Read my words – do not want additional taxes and fees. However, elected officials want to continually shove down our throats, every chance they get, more taxes or fees. This is because our officials have no idea how to operate under a budget and believe their job is to spend more money for our good.

June 4, 2015. Lloyd Watson. *County Commissioners The Problem in JoCo.*

What is wrong with our justice system in Josephine County? Looks to me like we need to fire all commissioners and get someone to run the county.

June 4, 2015. Jean Ballew. *Penny Sales Tax A Good Idea For County To Explore.*

This would be a fair tax and the burden would be paid by everyone [versus property owners].

June 3, 2015. Bob Armstrong. *There Are Other Ways To Fund Public Safety.*

Everyone I know who voted no on the levy did so as they felt there should be other alternatives sought other than placing the entire burden on the homeowner. I assume that Mr. James feel there are no other alternatives to a property tax. None! Pretty narrow thinking. Gordon Langenbeck has it right, and I for one would be glad to attend a forum to discuss possible alternatives to a property tax (“City, County Should Have Real Input From Citizens, May 27). . . There are people who own homes who are on fixed incomes, and they could lose their homes as a result of the considerable taxes the levy would have created. Many people forget that folks who live in the county have to pay for their fire protection in addition to their property tax. I pay nearly \$600 per year and it goes up every year.

June 3, 2015. Bob Anderson. *Levy Supports Didn't Learn From Past Mistakes.*

What about repeatedly doing the same thing and continually getting worse results? The last three times the county safety levy has been on the ballot, the margin it lost by more than doubled: First by 2 percent, then 4 percent, now 8 percent. . . Foolish for . . . to think that taxpayers would trust the county commissioners with \$900,000 of the levy money for their use-it-on-anything slush fund. Before working to put the levy on the ballot, they should have insisted that all the money would go to safety. Get ride of the 10 percent skim. . . The Courier did its part contributing to the defeat, consistently finding ways to fill its front page stories with reasons to vote yes. Instead it should have been a watchdog and included criticism of the levy's structure and insufficient implementation guidelines.

May 31, 2015. John Fusco. *Public Safety Solution Ignored By Commissioners.*

Brought up a great idea to solve our public safety problems other than raise property taxes. . . At a recent budget committee meeting, Simon Hare said that he feels that our roads are more important than our safety issues. . . I do believe that this is the commissioners' way of punishing homeowners for voting down the levy.

May 28, 2015. Stan Firestone. *Levy Process Resulted In Voter's Disappointment.*

I was lied to by the gentlemen who got me to sign the petition. . . 10 percent would go to the JO CO commissioners to do with whatever they thought, and this information was never told to me and was not included in the measure as it was printed in the Voters' Pamphlet.

May 27, 2015. Berge N. Ebipane. *Commissioners Should Lose Tax Ability, Volunteer.*

Enough is enough. Four times rejected and commissioners don't get the message. What part of "no" don't they understand? Leave the homeowners alone and no more taxes.

May 27, 2015. Gordon Langenbeck. *City, County Should Have Real Input From Citizens.*

Time for both the county commissioners and the Grants Pass City Council to host a series of joint forums to get real input from concerned citizens, especially those that voted no on this levy and the past three. Please realize riding the property tax owners backs is dead on arrival. . . The respective financial officers for the county and city could cost each of the proposed solutions and present that information to the public. Please no more "scientific polling" but real input from folks that realize more money is needed but continue to vote no on a property tax only solution.

May 27, 2015. David Mcauley. *People Off Base With Expectations, Criticisms.*

If they cannot afford the extra tax there are other options, such as cutting other expenses.

May 27, 2015. Dennis D. James. *Vote On Levy Illustrated How This Area Defined.*

In reflection, what did the majority of voters seem to say about themselves on this issue. 1. We are too poor to pay for more sheriff's deputies and an adequate jail staff; 2. We will always be too poor for these priorities; 3. We are pessimistic about our economic future; 4. We think the federal government should pay for county government; 5. We think that unregulated mining and timber cutting is the answer to our poverty, so long as we don't have to live in the mess or look at it; 6. We don't trust any form of government that asks anything more of us. If you come to JO CO, you are entering a place where the voting majority feels under siege. . . A place where saying no to future responsibility is easier than saying yes to possibilities for growth. Where a gun is the answer to any question.

May 26, 2015. Gary Swanson. *Time To Go To Work To Find Public Safety Money.*

Our leaders need to consult with successful Oregon counties and learn how they allocate their tax dollars. No, not another \$150,000 feasibility study. . . . No more levies and no local sales tax because it would just drive shoppers away from us.

May 26, 2015. Virginia Kramer. *Levy's Failure Shows Need For Creative Ideas.*

To the 54 percent who voted no: If there way a way to support law enforcement at a more affordable level, that wasn't mandatory, would you? If \$1.40 is too high or five years is too long, would you be will to contribute less? . . . It's time to be creative and stop repeatedly trying the same failed methods. County administrators could come up with a way to give the citizens another option.

May 24, 2015. Gill W. Jacobson. *Referendum Should Ban Taxes On Family Home.*

The dislike of taxing a person's property is understandable. I equate the taxing of one's home as the same as blackmail. The fear of losing one's home to a tax lien is very real. . . . We need the citizens of this county to meet at public places and start a dialogue on how to raise money for county safety. The taxing of one's home is not the answer.

May 24, 2015. Don Ewald. *Time To Give Up On Tax Targeting Homeowners.*

Once again, what part of no more taxes do our so-called leaders and special interest groups not understand? . . . These smoke-screens aside, it's time a real answer for funding public safety services is explored by those who are supposed to be responsible for running our city and county. . . . We want more sheriff's deputies, we want more jail cells, we want a juvenile justice system – just not on the backs of homeowners.

May 19, 2015. Evelyn Myers. *Pastors Overstepped By Endorsing Safety Levy.*

“Can you trust the government? Ask an Indian?”

May 19, 2015. Harry Theakston. *World Could Be A Better Place By Following God.*

We have major leaders in this world who take authority in their own hands by not telling the truth so they can benefit themselves.

May 15, 2015. Sharon Lucero. *Repeat-Levy Opponent Objects To Selfish Label.*

I'm sick of hearing that if I don't support the levy, I am stingy, don't care about JO CO. I am selfish! My husband and I are both on Social Security. . . . Every year I have to take money from my retirement IRA for federal taxes, state taxes and property taxes. All of the distributions are taxable. My retirement IRA is used almost exclusively for taxes. . . . I have no problem paying a safety tax, but every resident should pay their fair share. Why does it always fall to property owners to pay for city and county programs?

May 15, 2015. John Pascale. *Don't Force Tax Increase On People Who Are Poor.*

I will not vote for a property tax increase to pay for city businesses leaders' public safety levy the majority of people in this county income is less than \$20,000 a year and most can't afford to pay more property taxes. Did you read the Daily Courier Sunday, May 10, about all the business people and their contributions. They're the ones who make hundreds of thousands a year and some of them millions a year and they want us to pay more property taxes!

May 15, 2015. Virginia DuBose. *Read Measures's Wording With Care Before Voting.*

I believe this means that the money collected under this measure may or may not do what has been “promised.” I believe many others feel as I do: We're tired of politicians' promises and tired of their using our money at their discretion. Our county taxes may be low, but they do not include fire protection – and it's not cheap.

May 15, 2015. Bill Walsh. *Not All Pastors Support Likely Ineffectual Levy.*

If the levy passes, they claim children could play without fear of violence – 10 years ago when public safety was fully funded there was violence against our children. How can they guarantee there will be absolutely no violence if the levy passes? If the levy passes they claim we seniors (elderly to them) will feel safe when someone is breaking into our home to do us harm, and an officer may get there in 7 to 10 minutes – that will be too late. I am a senior who lives in the county, and I will not feel any safer. How can they speak for me?

May 15, 2015. Douglas A. Dow. *Don't Be Brainwashed Pro-Levy Sheep-Zombie.*

To all God-fearing men and woman, I say God bless all of us, and vote your intuitional heart, don't be a sheep-zombie.

May 14, 2015. Ralph R. Orton. *Bible Supports Rebellion.*

Let's be clear, the levy request is just that: a request. We are being asked if we will authorize a tax on those who own property. My answer is “no.” It's about time we started talking about other alternatives. I would like to have that conversation.

May 14, 2015. Joe Peters. *Voter Lists Requirements For Supporting A Levy.*

Stop making Grants Pass residents pay twice for JO CO services.

May 14, 2015. Larry Cook. *Christians Must Disobey Corrupt Government.*

It never ceases to amaze me the lengths this county administration will go to try and sell us a bill of goods. . . Let's be clear . . . These taxes will not give us the protection we need.

May 13, 2015. Marianne Strehler. *Levy Not Best Way To Fund Necessary Services.*

As the election draws closer, the voices in favor of passing the public safety levy, Measure 17-66, get shriller and the attempts to scare voters into passing it get more intense and numerous. This has happened every time this levy comes up for a vote. It is unfortunate that those placing it on the ballot have not been more reasonable in their demands and, instead, belittle those who would argue for a much smaller property tax increase to fund the Sheriff's Office. The proposed increase of the Josephine County tax from 58 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value to \$1.98 amounts to a 240 percent increase, or a 23 percent increase in the total tax bill for some rural residents — an outrageous increase. What will the money — expected to be more than \$9 million to start and rising to over \$10.5 million over 5 years — buy us? Those of us living in the sprawling county will still have to buy our own fire service, which is expensive, and security systems. Additional sheriff's deputies could not even begin to adequately patrol those areas. I'm sure there is a way to fund the Sheriff's Office to operate at a reasonable level and provide the services absolutely necessary, but this levy is not it.

May 12, 2015. Lydia Hamilton. *City Should Buy Jail, Rent Beds To County.*

It's time to figure this mess out and more taxes is not the answer.

May 12, 2015. Jack Swift. *Sheriff Should Enforce Laws, Quit Campaigning.*

Since the election he has been nothing more than a paid professional campaigner for a new tax levy. . . a chance to put up a forum exhorting a new tax. . . I am getting tired of his doing it on our nickel.

May 10, 2015. Eva Waters. *Homeowners Foot Bill; Per Capita Income Low.*

There is no doubt that public safety needs to be financially supported. However, as a multiple property owner I am tired of being asked to foot the bill every time a financial need arises in this county. Much has been said about Josephine County having one of the lowest property tax rates in the state, but no mention of how Josephine County ranks among the 36 Oregon counties with per-capita income. It's 29th by the way, which may explain the past failures of proposed tax increases. The average per-capita income for Grants Pass was \$16,234. This information came from the 2010 census, but I'm pretty sure there hasn't been a dramatic change in our ranking or incomes the last five years. Is there a possibility of instituting a county-wide flat fee for every adult, 18 or older, residing in Josephine County? Then maybe those who are actually using the system will also be supporting it financially. Now that is something I would vote for.

May 10, 2015. Dick Moulders. *Double City's Utility Tax to Pay for More Jail Beds.*

After reading all that I could find out about the tax levy, Measure 17-66, I have concluded that more jail beds are needed. No argument there. Solution: Double the "service fee" on the city sewer bill, from \$3.74 x 13,000 households to \$7.48 x 13,000, which will bring in \$97,240 per month, well over \$1 million a year. Much cheaper than the tax levy. Most of the crime is committed in the city and the city has a substantial police force, just not enough jail beds. I have found that sheriff's patrols are mostly reactive, not proactive, meaning they come after the crime was committed. Why should all homeowners pay 240 percent on the county portion of their taxes? Not fair! . . . The scientific poll that was taken was a farce. Community United For Safety says a lot of things, but nothing of real importance.

May 10, 2015. Theodore Valk. *Proposal: Flat Property Tax plus Sales, Tourism*

Most of us realize the need for a strong public safety system. Homeowners are willing to pay a "fair and balanced" share, but not to foot the entire bill. To promote a more palatable funding source for public safety consider taxing methods that will "even the load" rather than relying on homeowners to shoulder the entire burden. . . . A multi-faceted approach to spread the burden will improve the chances of public approval. During promotion of a new

levy, be honest on how the money will be spent. If it's to go into the general fund in any way, forget it! This is public safety money and must be restricted to that use. Additionally, what happens to the money currently being allocated to public safety? After a levy passes, does this money get reallocated to other uses, therefore becoming a windfall for the county to use elsewhere? It's OK, but if so we need to know. Educate us honestly about byproduct benefits from a successful levy.

May 8, 2015. Anthony Mantle. *Levy Proposal Fails to Show Money Distribution.*

Now, regarding the proposed levy, some of the money generated by your property taxes will go to PERS, a benefit that both this newspaper and our state government have said is unsustainable. In the Oct. 1, 2012, edition of Sneak Preview, commissioner candidate Cheryl Walker said voters should be told where the levy funds would be used. She said, "The ballot measure would be written in plain language, enunciating exactly where every cent will go." This is not the case with the current levy. We have not been told by its proponents anything about the 10 percent for the Internal Services Fund, nor how much will go to PERS. The fact we have not been privy to the actual distribution of the levy money makes one feel apprehensive about the proponents' honesty and their tactics to get votes.

May 8, 2015. Charlotte J. Williard. *Per Capita Tax an Easy-as-pie Solution.*

The public outcry regarding taxes and levies is small-town America crying out for fairness. We're not seeing that happen, to the extent it touches our lives. Sharon Emsley wrote a good letter that jogged my memory regarding property taxes ("Property taxes an unfair burden on landowners," April 28). . . . "Pie-in-the-sky"? Maybe, but there has to be a better way. Have no idea if this is still true in Pennsylvania, but it is an idea to investigate. I hope.

May 8, 2015. Ron Smith. *County Leaders Should Protect Property Rights.*

Does "the common good" trump "private property rights"? Last July, I submitted two sample property rights resolutions to the board of county commissioners. After waiting long enough, a few weeks ago I reminded the commissioners the people still want to know where they stood.

May 7, 2015. Bud Fuller. *58 Cents You Pay Now Isn't Going to Go Away.*

Remember before you cast your vote: 1. That 58 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value tax you now pay is not going away. Instead, it has its own permanency and you will continue to pay it even if the \$1.40 per \$1,000 levy passes. The current 58 cents will be transferred to the county general fund (if the levy passes) and will be spent by the county commissioners for whatever appeals to them. 2. The \$1.40 per \$1,000 is for law enforcement and the commissioners will very happily take that 58 cents you now pay for law enforcement and spend it for their own purposes. 3. The true tax rate will be \$1.98 per \$1,000 with 58 cents of that being a windfall for the county commissioners. Do we need the levy for law enforcement? I think so. Do we need honesty and clarity from those who espouse one point of view or another? Even more.

May 7, 2015. Charlene Hauch. *Levy Should Have Been Structured with Two Rates.*

I am a city of Grants Pass resident. I am against the public safety levy in its current form. I have no problem paying a fair share of the courts, courthouse, jail and Juvenile Justice Center costs. I am fine with the current charge for the jail on the utility bill. What I have a problem with is paying for rural sheriff's patrols when we already pay a lot of taxes for city police and fire services. I also don't like that the group Community United For Safety appears to have formulated the levy and set the rate prior to any opportunity for public input. I learned about the group from a Daily Courier article on Dec. 17. When I went to their website that same day, there was no contact information for anything except to make donations. They think they can just set a higher rate than previous levies and convince us it will pass this time because they did a study and are wearing us down. I believe the levy should have been structured with two rates, one for city residents and a higher rate for county residents which would cover rural patrols.

May 7, 2015. Rob Martello. *Why Pay More than Others for Same Service?*

I'm in favor of paying my "fair share." That "fair share" should not be determined by one's wealth. We have worked hard, sacrificed and made good life choices. Why should we pay more than others for the same service? This Robin Hood economic model that is proposed to fund the levy would make Karl Marx proud.

May 6, 2015. Suzanne Runyon. *Pay for Public Safety or Suffer Consequences.*

Soon we will be voting on a levy to fund public safety. There have been numerous letters to the editor opposing this levy. The basic argument from the county resident is we can't afford this and "no new taxes." This is coming from the folks who pay the lowest public safety tax rate in the state of Oregon. . . Those opposing the levy in the city of Grants Pass argue that we are already paying a fair tax for public safety.

May 5, 2015. Bill Kangas. *Oppose Levy Because Of Internal Service Fund.*

The number one reason I'll vote against the safety levy is this simple fact: If the levy passes, \$900,000 of it will be diverted the the county's internal service fund – not law enforcement. Repeated another way: 10 percent of the safety money can go to almost anything the commissioners dream up. . . Also, this levy establishes an "oversight" committee composed of non-elected people accountable to no one – not even to the commissioners! Committee members don't need to have any financial background.

April 30, 2015. Kurt Ramme. *Levy, Religious Leaders' Stance Raise Questions.*

What is the truth about the tax levy? Problems with levy 17-66. Who is the oversight committee? What is a reasonable time that law enforcement will respond? How is a person to call 911 if the criminal has a gun pointed at them? . . . The survey taken is flawed. Only 402 people were surveyed out of about 50,000 registered voters. How can that be a good representation? If the juvenile center is reopened, will there be any talk about Christian values to these abused and homeless children, and where do they go later on? Why is it that the homeowners and businesses have to keep paying more taxes, while churches don't pay any property tax?

April 28, 2015. Ron Dez. *Voting in Support of Levy Amounts to Extortion.*

But today, many poor people of Josephine County are tired, they are more than poor and they are unable to breathe free because the county fat cats and all of their deep-pocketed buddies harass and threaten the poor with levy measures year after year. Then when we can't pay the new taxes which they impose on us, they then threaten us with property seizure.

April 28, 2015. Sharon Emsley. *Property Taxes an Unfair Burden on Landowners.*

Measure 17-66 for patrol, jail, juvenile shelter: While I'm not against the measure per se, I don't understand why only property owners are expected to bear the burden of funding it. Is this not a community issue? Shouldn't everyone be assessed as equally as possible to implement measures to increase public safety and services? A small county sales tax or tiered income tax dedicated solely to this purpose would be better choices and spread the costs more fairly among all who will benefit. . . . But this measure is particularly burdensome in that it proposes to more than double the taxes we now pay to fund county government. It will not end in five years, but more likely be increased. How are retirees and the unemployed supposed to keep up? It is unrealistic and will only result in more empty houses and storefronts.

April 26, 2015. Jim Cox. *Think about How to Vote on Safety Levy.*

Good day voters, are you ready for the new tax on your property? Yeah, me too. But I have a couple of questions that are not in the Voters' Pamphlet. Who will be in control of the money? Why is it planned to only show us the audit each year and not every month? I have also heard that if this measure doesn't pass, the state can force us to pay a \$2 per \$1,000 of assessed value. If this is true, and \$1.40 would cover the need, then what happens to the extra 60 cents?

April 22, 2015. James Rafferty. *Scare Tactics Used in Support of Safety Levy.*

Threat that HJR21 would force a \$2 per \$1,000 of assessed value tax on county property owners is inaccurate. It must be approved or rejected by the state electorate. Ware uses questionable tactics and inflammatory statements to scare voters into voting for the safety levy. Voter beware.

April 22, 2015. Bruce Pence. *Paying More Not the Fix for Those in Need.*

So, what's the answer. SOS and their followers say, "Tax them more!" Vote "no" on the levy and support the JO CO Food Bank.

April 21, 2015. Terry M. Mewhinney. *Nickel-and-dime Plan Could Secure Safety.*

How can we raise money to fund our deputies? The current proposal for the tax levy is embedded with funding for a myriad of public services. Lots of folk are not happy with this and as we know past levies have failed. I offer a proposal to fund some deputies that is not at taxpayer expense. . . . I'm not in favor of higher taxes but I sure would dedicate all my pocket change to fund additional deputies. We might be surprised at how this "loose change" could add up to real money if a lot of people got behind it.

April 16, 2015. Kenneth "Dusty" Rhodes. *Not All Money Is Going to Public Safety Levy.*

County commissioners said that 100 percent of all money collected would go directly to public safety. Now we find out that 10 percent of all money collected will go to the Internal Services Fund.

April 15, 2015. John Chambers. *City Residents Would Benefit More from Levy.*

Hats off to the Daily Courier for the April 10 headline, "Yes, jail bed utility fee expires June 30." I have been asking proponents of the levy where my \$1.40 would go and could not get a straight answer. "More patrols," I was told, but then, no, the response time would be no better than it is now. "More jail," I was told, but then your article told me what that is about. The "more jail" part would go to house city criminals. That makes sense. Well-funded city public safety doesn't have enough money to take care of their own criminals, so they want county folk to pay for it. If I were in the city, I might well vote for a scheme to get someone else to pay for it.

April 15, 2015. Drury Wood. *Services Not Keeping up with Growth in Our Area.*

New businesses moving in. New restaurants and home construction, real estate sales are up. . . . Why are those people moving here and why that huge new hospital addition? There are expert planners behind these medical and financial additions. They plan to serve the large number of old people retiring from California, bringing their pensions with them. Why? Because Josephine County taxes are a fraction of equivalent California property taxes, plus no sales tax.

April 14, 2015. Ed Stafsholt. *Accused Killer's Jail Time a Reason to Oppose Levy.*

I have in the past voted for public safety levies that have been defeated. I've been trying to decide how to vote this one, weighing the unequal way it is paid for (\$1.40 per \$1,000 of assessed value, meaning home owners of modest houses will pay so much less than owners of expensive houses) with the very real need for more police presence in the county. Then the article about accused murderer Gary Goins got my attention. The article implies the jail has had him in there for four years, awaiting trial. Four years? Huh-uh. Not getting any more of my money. I am not going to pay to feed and house people like that for that long.

April 14, 2015. Steve Ware. *Constitutional Group Sends Mixed Messages.*

It's time we, the residents of Josephine County, stepped up like adults and paid our way. If not, look for House Joint Resolution 21 requiring a minimum level of funding in every Oregon county of \$2.00 per assessed \$1,000 of property value to make that decision for you.

April 10, 2015. Jack Swift. *Funding More Police Won't Make County Safer.*

The presence of law enforcement does not promote safety. The city has a very large police department with response times in the three to four minute range. Yet for all that protection the city experiences 80 percent of the crime in the county. It is not that difficult to figure out what is going on. The typical homestead in the outback involves, "No Trespassing" signs, large obnoxious dogs, and an excellent likelihood that the owner has a gun. Considering these obstacles, it is unlikely a deputy reponding a half-hour after the event would have any consequence whatsoever.

April 10, 2015. Lynn Burke. *Taxpayers Sacrifice but County Never Does.*

Why is it the only ones that will be making financial sacrifices and adjustments with the proposed tax levy will be the taxpayer. We don't hear anything about the Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's Office, or the other county departments adjusting their salaries or inflated pension programs to fit the budget. . . . Now the commissioners might consider lowering the levy amount when the feds come through with funds. I trust our commissioners about as far as I can throw their chambers building. . . . This levy just wants us to pay more and more while the costs from the past don't change. What the tax levy really translates to is: If you give us your money, we will spend it.

(b) Citizen Reasons Supporting Levies The analysis of letters to the editor for citizen reasons opposing levies was addressed first, because if any of the four levies had passed, there would not be a JS&PSS Issue.

By definition this section, *Letters-to-the-Editor*, of citizen reasons supporting levies is not part of the purpose. However, the ultimate goal is to provide a section on citizen reasons supporting levies in the interest of fairness and balance toward the goal of comprehensive coverage of the JS&PSS Issue. The objective is to recruit several proponents of the last four levies to write this section using the same level of coverage and format as Sec. III.C.2.(1)(a).

This section was not started as of **June 23, 2015**.

(c) Additional Letters to the Editor The following are additional “example” letters to the editor added by the Hugo JS&PSS Exploratory Committee.

Additional volunteer will result in a more comprehensive analysis. For example, one job additional volunteers will address is the analysis of additional letters-to-the-editor resulting in a more comprehensive coverage, and therefore, better quality control.

This section was not started as of **June 23, 2015**.

(3) Opinions Editor The following opinions from the editor of The Grants Pass Daily Courier are not nearly the comprehensive set in the archives of the JS&PSS Committee, HNA&HS. They are examples to illustrate what the editor was writing and as a quality control check on the June 14, 2015 preliminary list of issues developed by the JS&PSS Committee (Sec.III.A.2).

July 1, 2015. Kevin Widdison. *Salem Sets Sights on County Public Safety Funding.* (Opinion)

Consider it a shot across the bow: House Joint Resolution 21 would amend the Oregon Constitution to require every county to have a county-government tax rate of at least \$2 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The proposal appears to be in reaction to the situation in Josephine, Curry and some other counties, in which resources are insufficient to properly fund public safety agencies.

The \$2 figure is not arbitrary. Had Josephine County approved a five-year public safety proposal in May, the \$1.40 rate combined with the county's permanent rate of about 58 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value would have meant the county's rate for the next five years would have been \$1.98. Furthermore, the statewide median — with half the counties above and half below — is \$2.58. Apparently, funding a county government in much of Oregon involves a tax rate in the range of \$2 to \$3.

Many of the counties with the lowest tax rates are so-called O&C counties, which have been able to supplement their revenue streams for decades — first with money from timber harvests on federal land seized decades ago from the insolvent Oregon & California railroad, and later with federal subsidies that were approved by Congress as timber harvests dwindled. These subsidies are now being phased out.

It is unlikely that HJR21 is going anywhere during the 2015 legislative session. It was introduced in early February, and for nearly five months sat dormant in the House Revenue Committee — until earlier this month when it was forwarded to the House Rules Committee. State Rep. Carl Wilson, R-Grants Pass, predicts the proposal is going nowhere this session, and he is almost certainly correct. Wilson told the Daily Courier, "I don't believe people in Portland, in Salem and in the (Willamette) Valley should make policy decisions for us."

But this doesn't mean the proposal won't return in the future, and it is not an urban vs. rural issue — at least not in the way that Wilson's comment would imply. If this proposal should eventually find its way to a statewide ballot, it would likely find considerable support in rural counties that already pay taxes at a level to adequately fund public safety services. Residents in neighboring Jackson County, for example, have watched as Oregon State Police resources have been shifted to Josephine County to make up for our lack of sheriff's patrols. Taxpayers there and in many other rural counties are not going to be eager to subsidize our county indefinitely. They pay their state taxes and want to receive OSP services at the same level as everyone else.

This is not intended as an endorsement for or against HJR21. It is, however, an acknowledgement that this bill, or something like it, is headed our way unless we take action on our own to adequately fund public safety.

May 21, 2015. Kevin Widdison. *Now It's Time to Play the Hand We Dealt.* (Opinion)

For the fourth time in three years, voters on Tuesday rejected a proposal to raise property taxes to fund public safety services in Josephine County.

Already, any number of theories for the latest defeat have surfaced: The proposed rate was too high, guarantees that the money would be spent for public safety were not ironclad, the 11th hour renewal of federal county payments led people to believe that a property tax increase is unnecessary. And others.

Whether any of these theories are correct matters little. For the next year, the Sheriff's Office and other sectors of the public safety system in our county will have to figure out how to make do with the meager resources that will be available. Through the county payments extension, we'll get about \$4.6 million for the next fiscal year. Josephine County's permanent tax rate of 58 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value will generate another \$3 million or so. This compares to the \$12 million we once received through federal county payments, less than a decade ago — money that came on top of revenue generated by the permanent tax rate.

Although previous levy proposals came to the ballot from the Josephine County Board of Commissioners, the most recent one came from the private group Community United For Safety, a distinction that turned out to matter little. But it's worth noting, because it's time for a time out. A respite. A break.

The federal county payments extension approved just last month was for two years — with about \$4.6 million available during the fiscal year that begins on July 1 and another \$4.3 million coming our way for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2016. Therefore, neither the commissioners nor any private group should bring a tax proposal to the ballot in November, or next May or anytime between now and the end of 2016.

Public safety services will just have to operate at the level these resources will allow. It remains to be seen whether the Oregon State Police will continue to expend additional resources here to make up for our lack of sheriff's deputies, or how long taxpayers in the rest of the state will tolerate the situation. Then, two years down the road we can decide whether what we have is good enough.

There's no guarantee, however, that Congress will approve another extension of county payments, even at their current paltry level. In fact, members of Congress have said for years that the program is being phased out and the day will come soon enough when this money will stop flowing altogether. When this happens, the entire premise of the public safety debate will likely change.

For now, however, we have little choice but to play the hand we've dealt ourselves.

May 3, 2015. Kevin Widdison. *Public Safety Levy Reasonable, Given Current Situation.* (Opinion)

Way back in ancient times — the 1980s, to be specific — Josephine County was in the enviable position of paying for all of its government services using timber money from harvests on federal land. There was plenty of money to go around, for law enforcement, libraries, parks and more.

Then along came the '90s, when harvests declined dramatically. As the harvests dwindled, so did revenue in Josephine and other timber counties.

The federal government, recognizing that its own environmental policies contributed to this situation, stepped in with subsidies to make up for lost revenue. At the time, there was probably a presumption the ship would eventually right itself and the subsidies would only be temporary.

Things didn't work out that way. As the years went by, harvests never rebounded to anywhere near the 1980s level, and the subsidies from Washington, D.C., just kept rolling in. It was a nice run while it lasted.

But then in 2008, legislation to renew the subsidy included language requiring that the payments get smaller with each successive year. This approach was intended to give timber-dependent counties time to develop new funding plans. Unfortunately, at the end of the four-year phase-out, we in Josephine County had done nothing except hope for another renewal of the subsidies. With each successive renewal, we've been told the federal money is nothing more than a "bridge" to get us to a future that does not include federal county payments. Sooner or later, Congress will make good on this promise.

Regardless of whether such a judgment is fair, many congressmen in other parts of the nation see county payments as a form of pork barrel spending, and they have little motive to support the program. The amount coming our way in the most recent renewal is one-third of what we once received. Eventually, it will disappear altogether.

The proposed five-year levy on the May 19 ballot is not, by itself, a long-term solution. But it's a good place to start, and here's why:

- The vast majority of counties in the U.S. fund law enforcement with property taxes. If there was another, better way, these other counties likely would have found it by now.

- The rate of \$1.40 per \$1,000 of assessed value is appropriately modest. The \$9 million generated by the levy is not the kind of money the Sheriff's Office grew accustomed to 15 or 20 years ago, but it will be enough to significantly improve public safety in our county. Once this amount is added to our permanent rate of 58 cents per \$1,000, the \$1.98 total rate will still be a bargain, considering the statewide median is \$2.57 for county government.

Other aspects of the levy, such as reopening the Juvenile Justice Center, are important, too. But the main argument is simple: We need to give our new sheriff, Dave Daniel, the tools he needs to do the job we elected him to do.

Vote yes on Measure 17-66. Editorial recommendations are decided by the Daily Courier editorial board — the president, publisher and editor — and thus aren't signed by an individual, as is the newspaper's usual policy.

March 26, 2015. Kevin Widdison. *An Opportunity to Restore Faith in Government.* (Opinion)

News of the likely two-year renewal of the federal county payments program is a mixed blessing. Receiving the money will allow the county's public safety system to limp along, more or less at its current level. But this level is inadequate, and renewal of the payments will incorrectly lead some voters to think our funding problems have been solved.

The two-year extension hasn't been approved yet, but it is attached to a bill that makes changes to the way doctors are reimbursed under Medicare — a bill that appears to have bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate. The amount coming our way, however, will be only \$4.6 million, much less than the \$12 million to \$15 million we once received through the program.

The extension does, however, offer an opportunity to address one of the central issues in Josephine County politics: trust in county government in general and in the Board of County Commissioners specifically. Opponents of tax measures often cite lack of trust as a reason for their opposition — they don't believe county officials would be good stewards of the money. The argument is a debate-ender because, once it's thrown on the table, what's left to say? You either do or don't trust the people we've elected.

However, the commissioners could use the county payments extension as an opportunity to prove they are trustworthy. All they need to do is pledge that, for as long as federal county payments continue, they will reduce the public safety levy by an amount equal to the federal payments — dollar for dollar. Since the levy as it is currently proposed would generate about \$9 million in its first year and the county payments renewal is for \$4.6 million in the next fiscal year, the county would collect only \$4.4 million next year, effectively cutting the proposed \$1.40 tax rate in half.

Although it would be nice to have both of these revenue sources — the combined \$13.6 million would be about what we were getting a decade ago — the opportunity to restore trust between the commissioners and their constituents is more important. Plus, the \$9 million figure would still be more than the public safety system has had to work with for the past several years.

If the commissioners were to do this, and follow through on the commitment, then the "we don't trust the government" slogan would be exposed as hollow. Or, if the commissioners didn't follow through on the promise, then the sentiment would be proven legitimate and the electorate could go in search of candidates who are trustworthy.

More than a decade ago, voters approved a countywide public safety levy that was never collected — not a dime — because federal funding was renewed. The commissioners proved trustworthy in that instance. It could happen again.

January 16, 2015. Kevin Widdison. *When It Comes To Public Safety, 'They' Is Us.* (Opinion)

During his State of the County address to the Grants Pass Rotary last week, Josephine County Commissioner Keith Heck made many salient points about the challenges our county faces in 2015.

By now, everyone knows county government — especially the Sheriff's Office — faces a so-called "fiscal cliff" on July 1, when the new fiscal year begins. Already-inadequate public services will be reduced even further. It won't be the end of the world, but it will cause further erosion in our quality of life, as even more suspected criminals go unjailed and unprosecuted. Response times to car crashes and other emergencies in rural areas will continue to be longer than they should be.

Although Heck touched on many aspects of this situation, one of the strongest points he made is that it's time to take care of ourselves.

For decades, residents of Josephine County were blessed with low taxes because county government services were funded by timber receipts from harvests on federal land. It was a great run while it lasted, and maybe sometime in the future, harvests will increase and further subsidize our Sheriff's Office and other services. But that day will certainly not arrive by July 1.

As receipts from harvests dwindled, the federal government stepped in to make up the difference. From the early 1990s through 2006, we received between \$12 million and \$15 million a year. But when Congress renewed county payments legislation in 2006, it sent a clear message that the payments would be phased out over a six-year period. This was intended to give counties, such as our own, time to develop new funding plans for public safety and other services. Congress even extended the funding to give us an extra year, but we still have done nothing to deal with the inevitable.

Many people point out the federal government has not lived up to its word when it comes to harvests on O&C land and its commitment to split revenue from those harvests with counties. These critics are correct, but being right isn't going to put sheriff's patrols on the roads or lock up suspected criminals. Also, in many other parts of the nation, county payments smack of pork barrel spending, which is why Congress phased out the program. We may disagree with this assessment, but the reality is the money isn't there anymore.

The county still receives federal money, from programs such as Payments In Lieu of Taxes and from actual, if meager, timber harvests. However, these federal sources are likely to bring in no more than \$2 million for the next fiscal year, and some of that money will probably have strings attached regarding how it can be spent.

The first of three scheduled meetings about a public safety tax levy proposal is set for Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Anne Basker Auditorium. If you oppose this proposal and have a better idea, present it to the county commissioners or bring it to the attention of those who are working on the levy proposal. But be specific. Explain how your idea would raise enough money to fund public safety.

But be careful about phrases such as, "They should do something." As Commissioner Heck pointed out during the State of the County speech, they is us.

December 17, 2014. Kevin Widdison. *County Heads Into Uncharted And Unfunded Territory* (Opinion)

The day we all suspected would arrive finally did, when Congress approved a \$1.1 trillion funding bill last week that did not include renewal of the so-called "county payments" program.

A detailed history lesson about how we got to this point simply isn't possible in this space, or even in a single edition of the newspaper. However, the short version: For decades our county government paid most of its bills with money from its share of timber harvest receipts on federal land. This arrangement worked well for many decades under the terms of the O&C Act of 1937.

Then, in the 1980s and 1990s, timber harvests declined significantly. Many blame the decline on environmentalists and their poster-species, the northern spotted owl. And while this version of events does have some validity, it's also true that the rate at which we were harvesting timber in the 1960s and 1970s was not sustainable in the long run.

For many years — from the 1990s until recently — Congress used federal taxpayer money to make up what had been lost to county coffers due to the decline in timber sales. However, with each subsequent renewal of county payments, we were warned that these subsidies would not continue forever and that we needed to find other sources of revenue. But each time one county payments authorization expired, we were no closer to a solution. So the payments were extended.

But not this time. So now, after numerous near misses, we are finally facing a fiscal year, which will begin on July 1, without the federal revenue stream we had come to take for granted. This means that with our 58 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value tax rate, combined with the trickle of money still coming in from actual timber harvests, the amount of money available for county government functions — especially the Sheriff's Office the jail — will be about one-fourth of what it was a decade ago and half of what it is in the current fiscal year.

Regardless of whether we agree, many in Congress see the county payments program as pork barrel spending. Here in Josephine County, our case is not bolstered by the fact that our tax rate for county government is about one-fourth the state median of \$2.57 per \$1,000.

We don't really want a federal handout. What we want is to be able to increase timber harvests on federal land located in the county. But bills in both the House and the Senate that would open the door for such harvests did not advance out of their respective chambers during the current session of Congress.

Even if one of these bills eventually emerges, we likely will never return to the harvest levels of the 1970s. Our best bet is federal legislation that will increase timber harvests, combined with modest tax increases in order to fund adequate public safety and other services for the citizens of this county.

October 31, 2014. Kevin Widdison. *Safety Survey A Solid First Step* (Opinion)

It is good news, indeed, that a scientific poll commissioned by a local citizens' group indicates local voters would agree to raise their own property taxes to support public safety services, as long as certain criteria are met.

According to the survey conducted by Strategy Research Institute, a polling firm based in Fullerton, Calif., 51 percent of those polled would vote in favor of a tax increase of \$1.40 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Another 12 percent said they would "probably" vote for it, under certain conditions.

Some of these conditions include rural patrols seven days a week for 16 hours or more per day. Another "certain condition" is increasing the population at the county jail to 160 inmates, which is still far below the 262-inmate capacity of the facility, but above the 130 or so inmates currently lodged there.

Still, the fact that a slim majority would support such a measure offers a glimmer of hope for a public safety system that is about to fall over a "fiscal cliff." When the new fiscal year begins on July 1, there will be no more "county payments" money from the federal government, and the county has already exhausted the money it set aside from previous installments of the federal subsidy. When Congress last approved a county payments bill, a phase-out timetable was included. Now, the program has been completely phased out barring another last-minute one-year infusion of federal cash.

Ever since the payments peaked at more than \$12 million in 2006, they have been gradually reduced year to year. The reason for this step-down in payments was to give counties time to identify new funding sources. Unfortunately, Josephine County did plenty of cost-cutting but nothing to replace the lost funding.

So now we are on the verge of going from an inadequate public safety system to virtually none at all, especially outside the city limits of Grants Pass, which maintains its own police force. But the city is part of Josephine County and relies on services ranging from the county jail to the District Attorney's Office in order for its public safety department to function properly.

Members of Community United for Safety, which commissioned the survey, and Securing Our Safety were told by a representative of the polling firm last week that public safety supporters need to do a better job of getting their

message out to voters. This is especially true because ballot measures almost always see their support erode during campaigns, as opponents get their message out. If a proposal has just 51 percent support now, it is likely doomed by election day.

Still, this survey data gives local public safety supporters a place to start. Maybe they can parlay it into something that can finally carry the day at the ballot box, after three consecutive defeats for public safety measures in 2012, 2013 and earlier this year. But the clock is ticking.

June 12, 2014. Kevin Widdison. *Who Will Cross The Great Philosophical Divide?* (Opinion)

Two events in the past week brought into focus the sharp contrast between the city of Grants Pass and the rest of Josephine County. In some ways, the situation is similar to how Southern Oregon relates to Portland — a combination of contempt and condescension can, at times, emanate from both sides of the divide.

The first event involved a Selma resident who showed up at a Grants Pass City Council meeting to take Councilor Dennis Webber to task for saying that rural residents who voted against the recent public safety tax proposal were voting for "anarchy." Mark Seligman, who was an unsuccessful candidate for county commissioner on the May 20 primary ballot, said those who voted against the proposal were not choosing anarchy. They simply could not afford the additional \$1.19 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Webber defended his comment by saying that, regardless of the motive, the outcome is still the same: The county is moving toward a state of anarchy because we lack adequate funding for public safety services.

The very next day, as if to further sharpen the contrast, the precinct breakdowns were released for the May 20 election. To nobody's surprise, the numbers showed that precincts in the city of Grants Pass overwhelmingly approved the public safety proposal, but that the rest of the county rejected the proposal even more overwhelmingly.

The proposal was a modest one. It would have increased jail capacity to the level it was at four or five years ago — certainly not to full capacity — and would have reopened the Juvenile Justice Center, which has been closed for the past two years. It would have allowed general fund money now used to operate the jail to be shifted to rural patrols, boosting patrols from the current level of two officers to as many as a dozen.

The most recent proposal also had a lower rate than two earlier failed attempts — one carried a rate of \$1.99 per \$1,000 and another had a rate of \$1.49 per \$1,000. Both were rejected. Furthermore, had it passed, the May 20 proposal would have raised our rate for county government to \$1.77 per \$1,000, which would still have been considerably less than the state median of \$2.57.

There is more to this split than simply a question of who can or can't afford a tax hike. It's not like everyone living in the city is affluent and everyone living in the country is poor. There seems to be a deep philosophical rift between rural residents and those living in Grants Pass.

Whether this philosophical divide can be bridged — and whether there's even support for trying to build such a bridge — remains open to debate. The question then becomes: Can Josephine County find a way to move forward in spite of this chasm?

(4) Reporter Coverage/Other The following small dozen sample of reporter articles from The Grants Pass Daily Courier (TGPDC) are not nearly the comprehensive set in the archives of the JS&PSS Committee, HNA&HS. They are examples to illustrate what reporters were covering as a quality control check on the June 14, 2015 preliminary list of issues developed by the JS&PSS Committee (Sec.III.A.2).

The number of reporter and other articles (e.g., reporter articles, guest opinions, opinions of editor, etc. of The Grants Pass Daily Courier - TGPDC) in the hard-copy archives of the JS&PSS Exploratory Committee follow. They represent a dedicated effort to read and collect this news coverage, but are not considered comprehensive in the sense that they represent all articles published in the TGPDC.

2012	8 articles (May 2012)
2013	205 articles
2014	195 articles
2015	<u>80</u> articles (from January - July 15, 2015)
Total	488 Reporter and Other Articles

The dozen reporter and other articles highlights from TGPDC that follow are 3 % of the 488 articles. Instead of being limited to 3%, at a minimum, part of the draft APS, final APS, and final JS&PSS Study is to analyze all reporter and other articles in the archives of the JS&PSS Exploratory Committee. The most comprehensive analyses goal would be to analyze all TGPDC articles associated with the four levies from 2012 - 2015 (Sec III.A).

Early on the JS&PSS Committee took a crack at trying to summarize articles from the TGPDC in educational brochures. That effort did not last long. The list of educational brochures completed and web published follows.

- Br. IIID.6.2.1 Coverage by The Grants Pass Daily Courier: Jan - May 2013
- Br. IIID.6.2.2 Coverage by The Grants Pass Daily Courier: June 2013
- Br. IIID.6.2.3 Coverage by The Grants Pass Daily Courier: July 2013
- Br. IIID.6.2.4 Coverage by The Grants Pass Daily Courier: August 2013
- Br. IIID.6.2.5 Coverage by The Grants Pass Daily Courier: September 2013
- Br. IIID.6.3 Coverage by The Oregonian: February - July 2013
- Br. IIID.6.4 Coverage by California Newspapers
- Br. IIID.6.5 Coverage by Other Media

Articles from the TGPDC could be added or subtracted from this section, per decisions of the JS&PSS Committee.

June 28, 2015. Jim Moore. *House Bill Would Hike County's Property Tax Rate* (Front Page)

A potentially historic bill in the Oregon House would dramatically improve the financial landscape for Josephine County and a dozen other cash-strapped Oregon counties. The bill, House Joint Resolution 21, if approved by Oregon voters would amend the state Constitution by setting a minimum permanent property tax rate in all 36 counties of \$2 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

There is no catch, but in point of fact the law would apply only to the 13 counties in the state with permanent rates of less than \$2. That includes Josephine County, where voters repeatedly have refused to raise what is the state's lowest permanent rate of 58 cents.

How unique is the proposed legislation? "This is a new concept in and of itself," said Gil Riddell, policy director with the Association of Oregon Counties. "This would force a change constitutionally."

May 20, 2015. Jim Moore. *Levy Fails....Again* (Front Page)

Josephine County voters said no to a public safety levy Tuesday for the fourth time since 2012. This time, the margin was 54 to 46 percent.

The proposed five-year levy of \$1.40 per \$1,000 of assessed property value would have raised about \$9 million a year to restore patrols, add capacity to the county jail and reopen the detention unit and shelter at the shuttered Juvenile Justice Center.

The language and tax rate were the result of a survey commissioned by a local organization called Community United for Safety, which gathered signatures to place the measure on the ballot.

Scott Draper, a spokesman for the group, in a prepared statement, said that the organization respects the vote of the people and he thanked those who supported the group's effort.

"We most importantly want to thank all those who voted, whether in favor or against," Draper said. "It is the exercising of this right to be heard that makes our country and our county great."

A group called We're for a Constitutional Government actively campaigned against the levy.

"I'm glad the people of the county could see through the smoke and mirrors of the other side," said Jim Rafferty, a founder of We're for a Constitutional Government.

Various local groups have campaigned on behalf of three other public safety levies since 2012, when federal subsidies were so meager the county had to make widespread layoffs at the Sheriff's Office, the Juvenile Justice Center and the District Attorney's Office.

Tuesday's defeat was by the widest margin since 2012 when a proposed \$1.99 per \$1,000 levy failed 57 to 43 percent.

One consequence was a reduced capacity at the Josephine County Jail. Subsequently, Grants Pass officials for the past two years have carved out about \$1 million each year to lease jail beds from the county in an effort to curtail crime in the city.

The city may be forced to repeat that.

"We're going to go to work on solving our jail bed issue," Grants Pass Mayor Darin Fowler said, in the aftermath of the vote. "We want to make sure the county is amicable to renting more beds"

Fowler said city officials will also look into creating its own municipal court and will hire more police officers to "make sure city streets are safe."

Fowler also lamented the recently announced two-year extension of the federal county payment program. The first year will bring the county \$4.6 million and the second will be \$4.3 million. At one time the county received more than \$12 million annually in county payments, which were designed to replace declining revenue from timber sales on federal land.

“We thought, as a city, that this had a chance to pass countywide until the federal government came through with their county payments,” Fowler said. “We thought that undermined our efforts.”

The levy would have boosted county government’s woeful financial situation, but its failure won’t affect how county officials proceed with budget talks, which are underway, because no money from the levy was included in their projections.

“We will continue with what we have to do,” Commission Chairman Keith Heck said. “The people have spoken.”

0-for-4 This is the fourth time since 2012 that Josephine County voters have rejected a public safety levy proposal:

- 2012, \$1.99 per \$1,000 of assessed value: 57 to 43 percent
- 2013, \$1.48 per \$1,000 of assessed value: 51 to 49 percent
- 2014, \$1.19 per \$1,000 of assessed value: 52 to 48 percent
- 2015, \$1.40 per \$1,000 of assessed value: 54 to 46 percent

May 17, 2015. Jeff Duewel. RCC Students Explore Levy-related Sociology Concepts.

The 35 students in Henry Wisniewski's introductory sociology class at Rogue Community College got their hands dirty with crime data, interviews, surveys and research this term. They wrestled with two topics on everyone's minds — taxes and crime, in light of Tuesday's election.

They talked to police Chief Bill Landis, Sheriff Dave Daniel, and Assessor Connie Roach, among others. They sifted through statistics on crime and drugs, and asked people questions.

"I like to have students do stuff that's hands on," said Wisniewski, in his fifth year as an instructor at RCC. "It's important to challenge students — get them to look at what's happening in society." What did they find?

They learned that Josephine County is among the poorest counties in the state, and it has a drug problem. Their own surveys told them most people felt safe, and that most surveyed didn't think crime would decline if taxes went up.

"I don't feel like a lot of people are informed. We're just told we need taxes to be safe," said student Kristina Shone, who surveyed about 60 fellow students in two classes.

Many voters have already decided whether another \$1.40 per \$1,000 in assessed property value would improve public safety, with two days left to vote. The tax would be added to the 58 cents per \$1,000 now collected for county government services, the lowest such permanent rate for county government in the state.

The money would add sheriff's patrols, increase capacity at the jail, and reopen the juvenile detention unit and shelter at the Juvenile Justice Center.

Some in the class took issue with the presentation of 58 cents per \$1,000 as the lowest permanent rate in the state. When you add taxes for fire districts, school districts, city services and 4-H/Extension services, the overall property tax rate is certainly higher, and varies significantly, depending on where you live.

The actual property tax for county services alone is currently 82 cents per \$1,000 — 58 cents permanent, 15.8 cents for the voter-approved jail bond from more than a decade ago, and 8 cents for three years for an Animal Control levy, approved just last year.

Josephine County's overall average property tax rate of \$9.48 per \$1,000 in assessed value — based on the Oregon Department of Revenue's latest data from 2012-13 — is actually the second-lowest in the state. Curry County's is the lowest at \$8.68.

But average rates hardly tell the whole story — tax rates vary widely within the county. Grants Pass residents pay \$6.32 per \$1,000 for city services and \$4.52 per \$1,000 for School District 7 services, out of their total of \$12.58 per \$1,000, or \$2,516 for a house assessed at \$200,000.

Those in the county — outside of Cave Junction and not in any public fire district, have the lowest rate at \$6.01 per \$1,000, or \$1,202 on a \$200,000-assessed property. Many of them do pay a private company, Rural/Metro Fire Department, for fire protection.

Students found crime statistics even more difficult to decipher.

Student Ben Musser found some good apples-to-apples statistics, when comparing Josephine County to Benton County (county seat, Corvallis). He found virtually the same number of crimes (7,378 to 7,471, respectively) for almost the same number of people (82,775 to 86,785, respectively), in the most recent state statistics.

He also found that crimes against people are gradually declining nationwide. But property crimes in Josephine County were 85 percent higher than the national average. That turned Musser from a no to a yes vote on the public safety ballot.

He was the exception. Randy Humphrey said, based on information gathered by the class, that he went from "on the fence" to a no vote. Josh Sharpe, who owns property in the county, said he was originally for the levy and now is against it, based on a "lack of a comprehensive plan for the future." In other class findings:

- The students, curious about potentially frivolous spending, found that a SWAT vehicle used by the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety was essentially donated from a grant.
- Sharpe's research indicated that 22.6 percent of Josephine County households made less than \$15,000 a year, and that the poverty level here is 21.9 percent, compared to 16 percent for the entire state.
- Damon Howard was told by two insurance agents that rates haven't gone up for renters or property owners because of lack of public safety, and the agents don't believe they will.
- A handful of senior citizens were surveyed, and they opposed the levy by a 2 to 1 margin. One described living in the middle of nowhere and said it didn't matter if there were deputies or not.

"Why should I pay more taxes for them to continue to ignore us," was the response.

Another wrote "It's such a small increase, I can't believe it hasn't already passed. Are people so greedy they would prefer break-ins and junkies becoming the norm?"

Wisniewski said the goal was to exercise everyone's brains. "We're not going to change people's minds anyway," he said.

April 29, 2015. Melissa Mcrobbie. *Voters to Determine Safety Levy Fate* (Front Page)

Josephine County residents will decide the fate of another proposed public safety levy — the fourth since 2012 — in a few weeks.

Supporters are hoping that this time is the charm, while opponents argue there's no need for a new tax and that they don't trust the government to spend the money appropriately.

Measure 17-66 calls for a five-year property tax of \$1.40 per \$1,000 of assessed value to add patrol deputies, boost jail capacity and reopen the Juvenile Justice Center, which was closed amid budget cuts in 2012.

The county's current property tax rate of 58 cents per \$1,000 is the lowest in Oregon, which averages about \$2.50 per county.

- **NUTS AND BOLTS.** If the measure passes, the county would collect an estimated \$9.1 million the first year, an amount that is projected to increase slightly over the next four years as assessed property values rise.

The tax would appear on property owners' bills in November. The money would be kept in a special fund separate from the general fund. Money going in and out of that fund would be monitored by the county, and the money would have to be spent on the programs mentioned in the levy — sheriff's patrols, dispatch, jail capacity and juvenile justice.

At \$1.40 per \$1,000 of assessed value, a property owner with a home assessed at \$150,000 would see a tax increase by \$210. Because of property tax limits approved by voters in the 1990s, assessed values are around 20 percent lower than market values, but each property is unique. Both the assessed value and the market value appear on tax bills sent to property owners each year. Property taxes are also assessed on business and commercial properties.

- **PATROLS AND DISPATCH.** The measure states that the tax would provide funding for 16 sheriff's patrol deputies and four dispatchers.

County Finance Director Arthur O'Hare clarified that although the tax would go toward the programs named in Measure 17-66, it is not up to the levy's sponsor — a citizens' group known as Community United For Safety — how many deputies or dispatchers would be hired.

The money would be allocated to the Sheriff's Office by the Board of County Commissioners, and Sheriff Dave Daniel would decide how to spend it. Daniel said he is on board with the numbers recommended by levy sponsors. "I'm going to do everything I can to fulfill every promise that's made in that money measure," Daniel said.

The 16 deputies would be in addition to the patrol deputies Daniel currently has. Right now, he has six. That's enough for patrol coverage of about 10 hours a day, seven days a week. The rest of the time, Oregon State Police troopers try to fill the gap.

Once the new deputies and dispatchers are hired and trained, Daniel said he would expect to have patrol coverage 20 hours a day, seven days a week. He said he would still consider making dispatch changes down the line, such as consolidating dispatch services with Grants Pass.

- **JAIL BEDS.** The measure also states that the levy would allow Daniel to increase jail capacity to 160 beds, up from the current 130. Daniel said that is, indeed, the case, and that he would need to hire nine corrections deputies in order to do that.

Grants Pass Police Chief Bill Landis said that if the levy passes, he expects the city will no longer have to rent extra jail beds from the county. Right now, the city charges residents a utility fee to rent 28 jail beds at an annual cost of nearly \$1 million. That fee is set to expire in June.

Daniel said 160 beds and 16 patrol deputies would allow him to fulfill his goal of bringing everyone who is arrested to jail to be fingerprinted and photographed. He said that would help build a database of offenders, and would be an inconvenience for suspects, even if they're released right away.

"It's an increased workload, but the Sheriff's Office feels very adamant that that's very important," Daniel said. "That's the job we're supposed to do."

- **JUVENILE JUSTICE.** The 16-bed shelter and 14-bed detention unit at the Juvenile Justice Center in downtown Grants Pass have sat vacant for three years.

Juvenile Justice Director Jim Goodwin said the levy's passage would give him enough money to hire 18 to 20 staff members and reopen both facilities, which share a building at Fourth and F streets. The capacity would be slightly reduced, in part because of new federal regulations. The shelter would likely house 12 to 16 youths, he said.

"On the detention side, I know that we would be able to serve at least 11 overnight kids at any given time," Goodwin said.

Right now, Josephine County rents three beds in Jackson County and an "as-needed" bed in Douglas County to house serious juvenile offenders. There is no youth shelter. The Juvenile Justice department still has some functions now, including shepherding juvenile crime cases through the court system and supervising former offenders.

- **TIMELINE.** Daniel and Goodwin both noted that the hiring and training process for making all of these changes would be time consuming. Goodwin said he could have at least the detention center up and running within six months. Daniel said it could take one to two years to get all of the new deputies trained and certified.

Goodwin pointed out that the positions he'd be hiring for require a college degree and related experience. Daniel said it can be difficult to attract and retain employees in Josephine County because of the unstable budget situation.

- **THE "10 PERCENT."** Some levy opponents claim county commissioners would "skim" 10 percent of the levy money collected from residents. They are talking about the county's Internal Services Fund, in which the county charges each department up to 10 percent of that department's budget for across-the-board services such as communications, information technology, legal counsel and human resources.

"Basically all we're doing is just allocating central administrative costs to the departments," O'Hare said. He said the practice is standard among governments, and even some businesses.

- **OTHER QUESTIONS.** Bill Hunker of the group Josephine County Alert, which opposes the levy, wonders what will happen to any tax money that isn't used the first or second year. He noted that if the sheriff is still in the process of hiring and training deputies, he will need less money in the beginning.

O'Hare said any money left over during any of the five years of the levy will be carried over to subsequent years. If there is still money leftover in the special fund after that, it will be kept in the fund for a sixth year — and it must still be spent on the program areas outlined in the text of Measure 17-66.

- **OVERSIGHT.** In addition to county government monitoring how the levy money is spent, Measure 17-66 states that a special citizens' oversight committee would be formed to act as a watchdog. Hunker isn't convinced that the committee will have any teeth. "I have not heard anything where the oversight committee has any authority," he said.

However, Scott Draper of the levy support group Community United For Safety believes the oversight is as strong as it can be under state law.

"Oregon law requires that funds must be spent as specified in the measure," Draper said. "The Citizen's Oversight Committee provides an additional measure of transparency."

- **DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.** The district attorney's office stands to benefit from the levy's passage, too, although it would not receive any levy money directly.

"I would hope and expect that the passage of the levy would free up money to be allocated to the district attorney's office," District Attorney Ryan Mulkins said in an email.

January 21, 2015. Melissa Mcrobbie. *Local Forum Focus: Public Safety.*

Dozens of people turned out at the Anne Basker Auditorium in Grants Pass on Tuesday evening to hear a panel of public safety leaders and others discuss Josephine County's law enforcement crisis and a May ballot measure that proponents hope will bring some relief.

"We need the criminal justice system to step in when deterrence is not enough ... There have to be consequences," said Julie Thomas, co-founder of the private security company Concierge Home & Business Watch. Concierge has been filling some of the gaps in police coverage in the cash-strapped county, where budget cuts in 2012 forced the layoffs of two-thirds of the sheriff's staff, the closure of the Juvenile Justice Center and cutbacks in the District Attorney's Office.

Thomas was speaking on a panel organized by the citizens' group Community United For Safety, or CUFS. The event was the first of three public forums planned around the county to discuss a public safety levy the group hopes to place on the May ballot.

The measure calls for a five-year property tax of \$1.40 per \$1,000 of assessed value, or \$210 annually for a \$150,000 property. The money would pay for more sheriff's deputies, increased capacity at the jail, and the reopening of the Juvenile Justice Center.

Josephine County voters have shot down three straight property tax proposals to fund public safety since 2012. Organizers of the current campaign arrived at the \$1.40 figure — more than the \$1.19 sought last May — after having a professional poll done to determine what residents are willing to pay, and for which services.

This time around, the proposal also calls for the formation of a citizens' oversight committee and an annual audit to ensure that funds collected are being spent properly. By addressing a persistent distrust of government on the part of some county residents, and by tailoring the measure to what people want most — especially more patrols — proponents are hoping this time will be the charm.

Thomas said that since Concierge was founded in 2009, the law enforcement "gap" in the county has grown into a "gaping hole." Last year, she said, Concierge handled 2,000 calls for service. "The bad guys know that there's no teeth. There's no teeth with us, there's no teeth if police show up," she said. As a result, she said, things are more dangerous for her employees because it's easier to find themselves in perilous situations with little or no backup. "They need the police to back them up because right now they're backing each other up," Thomas said.

Oregon State Police have also been picking up the slack in rural areas of the county where there are no sheriff's patrols after hours. Because of a one-time infusion of reserve money approved by county commissioners over the summer, there are now six patrol deputies and seven-day-a-week coverage by the Sheriff's Office — but still no overnight coverage.

In several cases in recent months, OSP troopers have arrested people only to have them turned away at the understaffed county jail. The jail is operated by the Sheriff's Office, which decides whom to book and release based on available bed space and a list of priority crimes.

New Sheriff Dave Daniel, the Grants Pass police officer who defeated two-term Sheriff Gil Gilbertson in November, says he doesn't want to release any criminals. "I want everybody that's arrested to go to jail," he said. He also wants to have resident deputies in various areas of the county and have the Sheriff's Office contract out for dispatch services. Daniel, who has been in office a little over two weeks, is still looking for ways to achieve these goals, and has been meeting with his counterparts in other law enforcement agencies. He isn't counting on the county getting much more in federal payments. "I really don't think the federal government is going to do anything for us anymore," Daniel said. It can be politically tricky in Josephine County — home to the lowest permanent tax rate in the state — for an elected official to openly support a levy proposal. Daniel spoke in general terms about his department's need for more funding. "I can do my job without your help, but I need your help to do my job right," he said.

Juvenile Justice Director Jim Goodwin's department also stands to benefit if the levy is approved. The Juvenile Justice Center contains a 16-bed shelter and a 14-bed detention facility that are both sitting empty because the department can't afford to staff them. Criminal suspects under 18 are lodged at Jackson County's detention center, where Josephine County rents three beds. Youths who need a shelter bed because of an unstable home situation, including abusive situations, have nowhere to go, Goodwin added.

Rural/Metro Fire District Chief Austin Prince said it should also be noted that a thin police presence also affects firefighters and medical responders, whose safety is compromised when there aren't enough police to respond quickly to crimes or crashes that involve injuries.

Also on the panel was Club Northwest owner Scott Draper, who is one of the people spearheading the levy campaign. He decided to get involved after customers began canceling their memberships because they were moving away. During "exit interviews," the customers mentioned the lack of public safety services as a factor in their decision to leave. "It has affected my business already," he said.

After each panelist spoke, moderator Jay Meredith, who works as finance director for the city of Grants Pass, read some questions written by audience members on index cards. One question was for Grants Pass Public Safety Director Bill Landis: If the ballot measure passes, will the city continue to charge residents a utility fee to fund its contract to rent jail beds from the county?

Landis said he doesn't want to speak for the City Council, but that the answer would likely be "no." "The sheriff has said he would be able to lodge those same offenders, and therefore the utility tax would not be necessary," Landis said.

Another audience member wanted to know how the oversight committee for the levy would work, and who would be on it. Draper said there is a group of people working to create bylaws for the committee and a selection process. The committee will include 10 to 15 people from all walks of life, who will represent various geographical areas of the county, he said.

Despite strong feelings throughout the county about any new tax proposal, the forum went smoothly with little interruption, although there were a couple of grumbles in the crowd about the question-and-answer format, which didn't allow speakers to directly address the panelists. Prior to the meeting, an opponent of the levy, Pam Hackett, was cited by police for trespassing after she brought a "No New Taxes" sign into the auditorium after being warned against it.

January 9, 2015. Ruth Longoria Kingsland. *Citizens Launch Safety Levy Drive.*

The private citizens group Community United for Safety kicked off a signature-gathering drive on Thursday, aiming at 2,800 signatures by the end of the month to get a public safety levy request on the May ballot.

As proposed, the five-year levy would cost taxpayers \$1.40 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. A home with an assessed value of \$158,625, the median assessed value in the county, would see its property tax increase by \$222 a year, or \$18.50 a month. Because of voter-approved property tax limits approved nearly 20 years ago, assessed values are generally about 17 percent lower than market values countywide, although each property is unique.

Signature gatherers plan to brave the cold with tables set up in the parking lot at the corner of Seventh and J streets from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day between now and the end of the month.

The group — created last year and led by Scott Draper, general manager of Club Northwest — three months ago hired a research firm from California to poll local residents in search of what it would take to get a levy approved by voters.

The county has seen drastic cuts in law enforcement, as well as closure of the Juvenile Justice Center, as federal timber subsidies have declined from more than \$12 million in 2008 to \$4.8 million this year. Unless Congress acts quickly, there will be no subsidy money available when the new fiscal year begins on July 1.

The research firm contracted by Community United for Safety conducted telephone interviews with residents from across the county. The polling indicated 53 percent of residents would support a levy, depending on how much it was for and what services it would provide. CUFS then tailored its proposal based on the research results.

The deadline to submit a minimum of 2,038 valid signatures to place the measure on the May ballot is Feb. 18, according to County Clerk Art Harvey. But, he added, the community group appears to be erring on the side of caution, giving itself extra time to make sure there are enough valid signatures.

Public safety levy requests have failed in May elections during each of the past three years. Representatives of the citizens group attribute past failures to measures created by county officials who didn't take into consideration what residents want and how to assure accountability. "This is the first time for this kind of levy," said Cliff Thomason, a local real estate agent, who is among the volunteers at the signature gathering booth at the Seventh and J streets location.

"This measure is community and business leader driven and put forth by citizens. I am confident this will provide what the people want in law enforcement," he said.

If it makes it to the ballot, and is approved by voters, the 2015 Josephine County Public Safety Measure would:

- Provide funding for 16 sheriff's deputies, including patrol vehicles, and four dispatchers.
- Increase jail capacity to 160 beds to keep those accused of violent crimes in jail as they await trial.
- Re-open the Juvenile Justice Center.
- Create a better economic climate by improving public safety throughout the county.

Additionally, to ensure accountability, a Citizens' Oversight Committee would be created, and an annual independent audit performed, with findings made public, according to Thomason.

Grants Pass resident Richard Barak, 71, couldn't help but stop to sign a petition as he drove up Seventh Street Thursday morning. Barak said he'd heard the group was working on a proposed levy and it was important for him to add his name to the petition.

After recently moving from the Sacramento area, Barak, a retired credit manager, was astonished to find public safety wasn't a "given" as he'd come to expect in other places he as lived.

"It seems very odd to me that the federal government's first job is protecting its citizens from dangers foreign and domestic and yet the local government and community would see the safety of its citizens as an option," he said. "It's incomprehensible."

November 9, 2014. Jeff Duewel. *Has County Payments Well Finally Dried Up?* (Front Page)

The last "county payment" check, for \$4.8 million and made out to Josephine County, was deposited in April, seven months after Congress approved an extension for the expired federal subsidy.

The program has helped keep the county in business for two decades. "That's the only reason we had the \$5 million carryover this year," said Arthur O'Hare, county finance director, speaking of the fiscal year that began July 1.

Local officials say the fiscal cliff is finally coming — July 1, 2015, to be exact — and deep, across-the-board cuts will occur, such as nearly half of the budgets of the Sheriff's Office, District Attorney's Office and Juvenile Justice, which have already been slashed in recent years.

They are gloomy about the chance of getting another extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act, approved in 2000. The act was a continuation of "safety net" payments Congress began paying to western Oregon counties — O&C counties — in 1993 to make up for flagging timber receipts. The safety net program and Secure Rural Schools act are often referred to collectively as "county payments."

From 2000 through 2010 the county averaged more than \$10 million a year, sometimes approaching \$15 million, most of which went to law enforcement. But the payments have been gradually trimmed and now may go away, while Congress debates bills that might result in increased timber harvests.

"Currently, I have no reason to expect we'll have any funding," O'Hare said. "If we were going to get it this year, it would have been authorized a couple of months ago." "Usually by now you'd know if it was attached to a bill. We haven't seen that," added Cheryl Walker, a Josephine County commissioner. "I wouldn't say it's impossible, but ... we won't have it in time for our next fiscal year." Josephine County will be making its budgets in the first quarter of 2015, and will need to know. Sen. Ron Wyden, who wrote the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act in 2000, continues to pledge to fight for it every year. Keith Chu, spokesman for Wyden in Washington D.C., said Wyden has helped extend "county payments" every year since the legislation expired.

The last extension in Sept. 2013 was attached to the Responsible Helium Administration and Stewardship Act. "At this point he's focused on getting it done this year," Chu said. "He is looking at any path forward he can find to keep this program going. Clearly it's a vital safety net for Oregon timber counties. "In the past you've seen it attached to must-pass legislation, things like funding bills that keep the government operating. There will be a couple of those that are likely to move this year." But the 113th Congress has little time left to get it done. Chu said Congress will be in session another four or five weeks.

"Now that the election is over Congress is going back into a lame duck session, and it will be a truncated lame duck session," said Eric Schmidt, spokesperson for the Association of Oregon Counties. "A lot of business needs to be taken care of. We will find out if this Congress will have the political will or wherewithal to get it done. "We've been told that Sen. Wyden is going to attach it to any piece of legislation that might be moving through. We'll have to see if he can pull it off."

County payments to Josephine County* (* year authorized)

Year - Amount

2008: - \$12.6 million

2009: - \$11.3 million

2010: - \$10.2 million

2011: - \$5.7 million

2012: - \$4.7 million

2013: - \$4.8 million

2014: - \$0 (so far)

October 26, 2014. Shaun Hall. *Poll Offers Insight To Failed Public Safety Levies* (Front Page)

On the heels of a poll that suggested Josephine County voters would approve a public safety levy if it was constructed and promoted properly — and if it included beefed up patrols — organizers said signature gathering would begin soon on a new measure.

A poll commissioned by two citizen groups earlier this month found that the failed jail levy in May — the third May in a row — was doomed in part because voters distrusted government and because proponents failed to pour enough money into a campaign to pass the measure.

The poll results, which were unveiled Thursday at Taprock Northwest Grill in downtown Grants Pass, found however that voters supported a reworked measure that calls for a tax rate of \$1.40 per \$1,000 of assessed value — higher, actually, than last May's failed proposal of \$1.19 per \$1,000.

The latest proposal calls for the money to be spent differently. Specifically, it calls for increased funding of rural sheriff's patrols, plus additional funding for jail and juvenile programs, whereas last May's proposal didn't call for direct funding of patrols.

At 58 cents, Josephine County currently has the lowest property tax rate in the state, far below the average of more than \$2 per \$1,000.

The poll results brought hope to members of the group Security Our Safety, which has joined with another civic group called Community United for Safety in an attempt to rescue the county's decimated public safety system.

Rural sheriff's patrols have been cut to 40 hours a week, the county's juvenile shelter/detention center has closed and the number of inmates at the 260-bed-plus county jail has dropped from about 150 to 130, even with the help of a \$1 million infusion of money from the city of Grants Pass to rent up to 30 beds.

County public safety programs have been cut in the wake of reduced federal subsidies tied to cuts in timber harvests off of federal lands in the county. Catastrophic cuts are predicted by July 1 if Congress does not pass new timber legislation.

“We are at a tipping point,” said Scott Draper, spokesman for Community United for Safety. “It's very clear we're not going to get help from the federal government any more. We need to unite as a community and make sure this is a safe community.”

Draper's group paid \$25,000 for the poll, conducted by Strategy Research Institute, the same firm that helped pass a Lane County measure last year to fund jail and juvenile programs. The Josephine County poll, conducted Oct. 8 to 15, surveyed 402 registered voters.

It found that 51 percent definitely favored the \$1.40 amount, with an additional 12 percent saying they “probably” would vote for it — under certain conditions.

“Your electorate wants it,” said Gary Manross of SRI, the polling firm. Manross delivered the survey results Thursday to about 50 people at Taprock Northwest Grill. He cautioned that voter approval is conditional. “You have to let them know how the money’s going to be spent,” he said. “If you get it wrong, you lose. You’ve got to get the message out. It’s got to be hard hitting.”

The tax money would be spent to increase rural patrols to 16 hours seven days a week and to reopen the Josephine County Juvenile Justice Center. Also, it would pay to house 160 jail inmates.

Key to success would be a formal oversight committee that would monitor spending over the five-year term of the tax measure. Polling found a lack of trust in government.

“That’s why your last ballot measure failed,” Manross said. “They didn’t want to trust government.” A lack of funding to spread past messages hurt, too. “You didn’t have enough funding to get the message out,” Manross said.

In recent years, voters have turned down various tax measures:

- In May 2014, a measure to up taxes \$1.19 per \$1,000 of assessed value failed 48 to 52 percent. It would have filled the jail to its 262-bed capacity and reopened the Juvenile Justice Center, but provided no direct funding for rural patrols.
- In May 2013, a more broad-based measure that included funding for rural patrols and prosecutors, as well as jail and juvenile programs, would have upped taxes \$1.48 per \$1,000 of assessed value, but it failed 49 to 51 percent.
- In May 2012, another broad-based measure at \$1.99 per \$1,000 of assessed value failed 43 to 57 percent.

Draper said he expected signature gatherers to be out before Christmas, in order to get the latest proposal before voters in May.

“This is a very, very important issue,” he said. “It’s an opportunity for us to come together.”

October 14, 2014. Melissa McRobbie. *Public Safety Leaders Continue Their Planning as County Nears 'Fiscal Cliff'*

County leaders are preparing for the worst come July 1, 2015 — a date they are referring to as a fiscal "doomsday" because that's when the county is set to lose millions in federal funding for public safety services.

At a meeting of the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council on Thursday, Sheriff Gil Gilbertson said Commissioner Keith Heck, the Board of Commissioners' public safety liaison, had asked him to come up with figures for bare-minimum jail operations. The sheriff said the fewest staff members he could have to run the jail is 12. "If we fall below 12 people in the jail, we need to close the jail," he said. That number would allow a maximum of 50 jail beds to be in use at a time. The 262-bed jail opened in 2000 after voters approved a bond measure to build it but shot down a companion levy that would have funded jail operations for the first three years. The jail has never operated at capacity.

Gilbertson said that with 12 jail employees, two would be "on the floor" at any given time directly supervising inmates, and one would be in the control room overseeing operations. The 50-inmate figure assumes there is no city jail-bed contract. The sheriff said other problems would come with shrinking the jail's capacity. For example, he said, Aramark, the contractor that provides food service at the jail, doesn't serve facilities with fewer than 60 beds. "We'd have to buy frozen foods, hire someone to cook," he said.

Public safety department heads — Gilbertson, District Attorney Stephen Campbell and Juvenile Justice Director Jim Goodwin — were asked to come up with budget scenarios for the coming fiscal year in which their budgets would be slashed by 43 percent. The budget for next fiscal year has not been determined, and the exercise was meant to give leaders a general idea of the challenges they could face if no new revenue stream is found.

Josephine County's public safety services have been funded for decades by federal subsidies tied to timber harvests on federally owned local lands. As timber harvests were drastically scaled back beginning about two decades ago, those payments gradually dried up. Congress has extended federal payments to timber counties on a year-by-year basis; in the most recent payment, the county received about \$4.8 million for the current fiscal year. At some point, the payments will stop, and county leaders say that time could be now.

Congress is continuing to consider competing bills that would increase timber harvests in Western Oregon — a House bill championed by Reps. Peter DeFazio and Greg Walden and a Senate bill by Sen. Ron Wyden. In addition to sustained timber revenue, the former would also bring millions in one-time additional federal payments to Josephine County, according to Walden's office.

Commander Vicki Smith said providing 50 beds would cost \$1.8 million annually. That doesn't include money for patrols or dispatch, and the sheriff has said that if the feared cuts materialize, there will be neither. Gilbertson said that if Josephine County inmates had to be housed in the Jackson County jail, the county would still need to pay for intake and transport. "We're not sure that a contract with Jackson County would be in our best interest, either," he said. Grants Pass Interim Police Chief Bill Landis floated the idea of a regional cooperation between counties in which resources and bed space would be pooled. Jackson County's jail is overcrowded, and Josephine County Jail has extra beds, he pointed out.

Goodwin, who is also a Grants Pass city councilor, said the city wants to be at the table for further discussions about the jail's future. "As a city, we don't want to rush in and save the county. That's not our job," Goodwin said. He added, though, that the city needs to be safe, and that entails having a place to put those who get arrested. Grants Pass is currently renting 28 jail beds from the county at an annual cost of nearly \$1 million. Campbell said at the last LPSCC meeting that with potential cuts of more than 40 percent, his staff would be reduced to three prosecutors and some support employees. Goodwin said Juvenile Justice would begin ignoring misdemeanors and violations and rent just one bed from Jackson County for juvenile offenders, down from the current three.

May 21, 2014. Melissa McRobbie. *Voters Reject Levy For Jail, Juveniles* (Front Page)

For the third time in two years, Josephine County voters have rejected a property tax that would have bolstered the county's cash-strapped public safety agencies.

Measure 17-59 proposed a tax of \$1.19 per \$1,000 of assessed value to expand the capacity at the county jail and reopen the Juvenile Justice Center, which was shut down in 2012 after the federal "county payments" program ended. Its passage would also have freed up about \$2 million in general fund money, most of which was expected to go to the Sheriff's Office for rural patrols. The measure failed by a margin of 1,381 votes, garnering 48 percent support. That is a larger margin of failure than last time around, in 2013, when voters rejected a levy of \$1.48 per \$1,000 of assessed value to fund public safety. That measure came up short by only about 500 votes.

Jim Goodwin, the county's director of juvenile justice, said the numbers caught him off guard. "We went backwards from the last time," he said. "That was a real shocker to me." As a result of the levy's failure, his department will continue its current level of operations. The 16-bed shelter will stay closed, and the county will have no place to house runaways or youths seeking refuge from unstable households. The 14-bed detention center will also remain shuttered and Josephine County will continue to rent three beds in Jackson County for juvenile offenders considered "the worst of the worst," Goodwin said. "We're committed to trying to serve each kid at some level," he said. "We just can't serve them all at the level we'd like to without those facilities."

At the adult jail, without the levy money, about 70 beds are expected to be available to house local offenders — down from 100 now, a number that includes beds set aside for the city of Grants Pass, which has a contract of up to \$1 million with the county to rent up to 30 jail beds. The contract expires at the end of June and isn't expected to be renewed.

Measure 17-59 went before voters after the group Citizens Securing Our Safety gathered enough signatures to put it on the ballot. Grants Pass Finance Director Jay Meredith volunteers for that group during his spare time, and said Wednesday morning that the group will continue to seek other ways to fund Josephine County public safety services.

He said of the levy, "Clearly, it would have been one of the most significant bridges that helps us get to a long-term series of sustainable solutions, and so it's disappointing that that bridge won't be there to help us get back on our feet sooner rather than later. "Our community is still in crisis," he added.

Sheriff's candidate Dave Daniel, who was the top vote-getter in that race Tuesday night and is headed to a November runoff with incumbent Sheriff Gil Gilbertson, said he has never been a fan of a property tax mechanism to pay for public safety services, although he reluctantly supported Measure 17-59 during the election and is disappointed by its failure. "Everybody needs to take a breath and regroup and start over," he said. Daniel said he believes Josephine County residents want adequate public safety services and that the challenge is finding out what level of services they desire and how much they want to pay for them. "I know people care, it's just a matter of us figuring out the best way for people to be able to express that concern," Daniel said. "I don't think the levy system was a way that people felt comfortable with."

Sheriff Gil Gilbertson, who is running for a third term, was in a meeting this morning with others in his department to discuss how to move forward without the levy money. His department has put forth a request to the county Budget Committee for \$655,000 in public works money to go toward his patrol budget — a transfer that is allowed under a state law that enables some counties to use federal forest reserve money for rural patrols even though it is earmarked for roads. The committee will consider the request later this week. The money would add four patrol deputies and two support employees, Gilbertson said.

The third candidate for sheriff, Deputy Ed Vincent, is now out of the race but will still be working at the jail, where he will witness the repercussions of the levy's failure firsthand. "I guess we're going to see," he said. "It'll be interesting to watch."

Commissioner Simon Hare said he thinks some public comments made by Gilbertson recently played a role in the levy's defeat. Gilbertson alleged that Hare spearheaded a plan in 2012 to move money away from the sheriff's patrol budget in order to convince voters to support a public safety levy that was on the ballot that year. Hare continues to deny the claim and has questioned the timing of the sheriff's accusation about something that allegedly occurred two years ago. "He should have kept his mouth shut," Hare said.

Jim Rafferty, of the political action committee We're for a Constitutional Government, had submitted a ballot argument against Measure 17-59. He called the levy's defeat "a victory for the property owners. "We want to thank the voters for coming out and we want to thank the voters for paying attention to the voters' pamphlet," he said. Rafferty said the government in Josephine County needs a fundamental change in order to function sufficiently. "Hopefully, it continues not to work until we get the county to the point of living within their means and within their budget," he said.

May 18, 2014. Melissa McRobbie. *Jail Levy Numbers Explained* (Front Page)

Come Election Day on Tuesday, all eyes in Josephine County's overworked, understaffed law enforcement community will be on Measure 17-59, the proposed five-year levy that would expand the capacity of the county jail and reopen the shuttered Juvenile Justice Center.

Opinions on the levy are deeply divided, with supporters saying it's the best available option for resuscitating public safety services and opponents adamant that taxing residents is not the answer. Some members of the public have expressed skepticism or confusion about exactly where the money would go and how much other funding would be freed up for sheriff's patrols. The Daily Courier has attempted to answer those questions by interviewing key stakeholders in order to paint a clearer picture of the funding breakdown.

Josephine County, which has the lowest permanent tax rate in the state at 58 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value, has long relied on federal timber subsidies to stay afloat. When that federal funding stream dried up in 2012, there was

no revenue source to replace it, and county public safety departments were gutted. The district attorney let go of four of his nine prosecutors, nearly two-thirds of the sheriff's 98 staff members were laid off and dozens of inmates were released from jail.

In addition, the Juvenile Justice Center's shelter and detention center was shuttered, leaving the county without a place to house juvenile offenders or help youths seeking refuge from unstable households.

Two public safety levies have been put before voters since 2012, and both have failed. The first, at \$1.99 per \$1,000 of assessed, was rejected decisively. The second, at \$1.48 per \$1,000, failed more narrowly, with 49 percent of voters supporting the initiative.

Measure 17-59 asks for \$1.19 per \$1,000 of assessed value for a period of five years. The owner of a property worth \$200,000, for example, would pay \$238 per year. The measure would raise an estimated \$7.6 million in its first year, increasing to \$8.9 million in its final year.

Where the Levy Money Would Go The ballot language specifies the money would be used only to increase jail bed capacity and pay for youth counseling, detention and shelter services. The ballot does not contain a breakdown of exactly how much would go to the jail versus juvenile justice, and county officials say that is because the details would have to be decided on and approved by the Board of Commissioners and the Budget Committee after the election.

However, Juvenile Justice Director Jim Goodwin said his understanding is that his department would get about 16 percent of the revenue raised through the levy, which would give him somewhere around \$1.2 million the first year and \$1.4 million by the levy's fifth year. That would be enough to hire about 20 full- and part-time employees to staff the 14-bed detention center and the 16-bed shelter, including 24-hour security staff, a cook, a counselor and a teacher, Goodwin said. He said his department is expected to have a roughly \$1.1 million budget in addition to the levy money to continue its existing functions. "I don't believe I could use any of those levy dollars to supplement the operations that we now do," Goodwin said. Josephine County currently rents three beds in Jackson County to house its juvenile offenders. That three-bed limit can result in tough decisions, as in a recent instance in which there were two teens in custody for violent crimes and two others being held for drug crimes, Goodwin told the county Budget Committee during his budget presentation on Thursday. One had to be released. "That kind of thing keeps you up at night," he said.

The adult jail, under the levy funding formula Goodwin described, would receive between \$6.4 million and \$7.5 million annually for the five years the levy would be in effect.

Sheriff's jail Cmdr. Vicki Smith said the expectation is that the passage of the levy would allow the jail to use 232 of its 262 beds. That number would include beds rented by the U.S. Marshals Service, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and parole and probation. The city of Grants Pass currently has a contract of up to \$1 million with the county for the use of as many as 30 jail beds, but that contract is set to expire at the end of June, and the city isn't expected to renew it.

If the levy fails, Smith said, there will be 70 local beds available to house inmates from both the county and Grants Pass, down from 100 now with the city contract. Another 30 beds will be available to the contract agencies named above. That would mean that 62 percent of the jail would be empty. Smith said another result would be burnout among a demoralized staff that has been toiling away day and night to keep up with an impossible workload. "We can't keep going at this rate," she said.

Rural Patrols While Measure 17-59 money would be strictly for the jail and Juvenile Justice, the measure's passage would free up about \$2 million in general fund money that would be split by the Sheriff's Office and the District Attorney's Office. Several people interviewed for this story, including county Commissioner Keith Heck, said the lion's share of that funding would go to the Sheriff's Office for patrols.

Sheriff Gil Gilbertson has said the ballpark cost of one patrol deputy, counting benefits, is about \$100,000 a year. An influx of well over \$1 million could theoretically mean the hiring of more than 10 patrol deputies, although the sheriff has noted that any new deputies would also require additional support staff. There are currently only two patrol deputies, who work Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

District Attorney Stephen Campbell said it would be premature to project what he would do if the levy passed. All public safety departments are calculating their budgets for the 2014-15 fiscal year with the assumption of no levy; if the levy passes, each will have to rework their spending plan. "We haven't been asked to do a supplemental budget at this point because it really isn't timely," Campbell said. "We really need to know if the levy is going to pass." He noted, however, that having more patrol deputies on the road would increase his office's caseload. "I certainly will be making the point that it has to be considered that if a bunch of deputies are added in the Sheriff's Office, there may be a need in the prosecutor's office to meet that new work," including hiring a new deputy district attorney and a support person, Campbell said.

Separately, the Sheriff's Office is requesting \$655,000 in funding from the Public Works Department, as allowed under a state law enacted in 2012 that enables certain counties to use federal forest reserve money earmarked for roads for the purpose of rural patrols.

Wendy Jones, an administrative assistant in the Sheriff's Office, told the budget committee that the money would allow her agency to put four more deputies on the road and add two employees for dispatching and record services.

April 27, 2014. Shaun Hall. *Weighing In On Safety Measure* (Front Page)

The vandalized sign in front of the Josephine County Jail says it all. The brass letters stolen a few weeks ago seem symbolic of the parts of the public safety system that have disappeared in recent years. "The criminal justice system — the foundation of public safety — has been decimated by a severe reduction in funding," county commissioners said in a joint letter earlier this year.

In an effort to shore the system, a citizen-driven measure, 17-59, is on the May 20 primary ballot that would offset dwindling federal funding to the county, which has the lowest permanent county tax rate in the state. Passage of the five-year levy would bring in about \$8 million a year for jail and juvenile department operations.

It took years of funding cuts to get to this point, but the foundation cracked in July 2012 when 61 of the 98 employees of the Sheriff's Office were laid off after voters rejected the first of two straight public safety levies for law enforcement. Records clerks, dispatchers, detectives, corrections officers and patrol deputies — gone. The number of inmates held at the jail plummeted. The county's 26-bed juvenile detention center and shelter closed.

The county now rents three beds for juvenile offenders in Medford. Meanwhile, almost all the deputies who remain with the Sheriff's Office work in the county jail. Currently there are only two regular patrol deputies, and they work weekdays. There are no deputies on patrol at night or on weekends. The Oregon State Police have been trying to fill in, but for how long is anyone's guess.

The proposed levy is designed to offset cuts in federal compensation to Josephine and other so-called O&C counties. The counties had split timber receipts from federal land since the 1930s, and most have struggled to overcome the effects of precipitous declines in logging in the 1990s.

Federal "safety net" funding to Josephine County previously amounted to more than \$12 million a year, but the last federal outlay was for less than \$5 million, and was divided to be spent over two years, ending next year. The federal payments have helped offset the loss of income the county once received from timber harvested on federal land in the county. Harvests have been reduced due to environmental concerns, although efforts to increase the

harvests continue. If the federal safety net payments have not come to an end, "the end is in sight," Congressman Greg Walden said Thursday in Grants Pass.

A FINE MESS How to clean up the mess — at least part of it — is the purpose of Measure 17-59, the county's third public safety levy proposal in three years.

The first one was for \$1.99 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Voters in 2012 rejected it by a margin of 57 to 43 percent. Last year's proposal of \$1.48 per \$1,000 was more narrowly rejected 51 to 49 percent.

Now they are being asked to pay \$1.19 per \$1,000 of assessed property value — up from 58 cents per \$1,000, the lowest rate in the state. That amounts to \$119 a year per \$100,000 of assessed value. The measure mandates that the money be used for jail and juvenile services.

Sheriff Gil Gilbertson, a supporter of the levy, predicts that, if the measure passes, the jail will house about 210 inmates. If it fails, he was uncertain how many inmates would be held. "We may wind up going back to 60 beds," he said. "That's not scare tactics. It's out-and-out reality."

Ironically that's fewer beds than the old county jail had before it was replaced in 2000. That facility, built in 1976, was capped for years at 64 beds by a federal court order, leading to a revolving-door justice system often referred to at the time as "catch and release."

The new jail was built to house up to 268 inmates at a time. But whereas the old jail was plagued by overcrowding, the new jail has never had that problem. That's because in the same election in 1998 in which they approved a bond of nearly \$14 million to build it, voters narrowly rejected a levy to operate it. The result is that the jail has never operated at close to capacity. Jail numbers currently are as high as they are — up to 130 inmates — only because the city of Grants Pass last summer agreed to pay as much as \$1 million to rent up to 30 beds daily. City councilors say that won't happen again. The rental agreement is due to end June 30.

Supporters of the proposed levy say county general fund money that is now funding the jail will be freed up for other purposes, including beefed-up rural patrols. Gilbertson could not say for certain how many patrol deputies might be put back on the road. "The only thing I can say this early in the game is that my top priority will be to fill as many patrol positions as possible, and as quickly as I can," he said.

County Commissioner Keith Heck also was uncertain about what patrols might look like if the measure passes. "I can say with great confidence that there will be three contract deputies continuing," Heck said, referring to contracts that pay for a marine deputy, a forest deputy and a deputy in the city of Cave Junction. "As to how many other duties will be conducted and by how many deputies, that is the sole responsibility of our sheriff." Commissioners provide the money, but the sheriff decides how to spend it, Heck said.

The proposed tax measure does not specify exactly how much money would go to the jail and how much to juvenile programs. Heck predicted that the money would be split along historic lines. "The specifics have not yet been decided," he said. "I would assume that the past percentages of money received would be a fairly accurate representation of future spending."

Levy supporter Pat Fahey, co-owner of Southern Oregon Sanitation and head of a committee seeking passage of the measure, said the requested levy amount of \$1.19 was arrived at in consultation with Rosemary Padgett, the county's chief finance officer, and others. "The question we had to all of them is: What would it take to fund the jail at full capacity and the Juvenile Justice Center at full capacity?" he said. "You'd like to give the commissioners a little bit of latitude how they split that between the two entities," Fahey continued. "At some point in time you have to trust your elected officials."

TRUST ISSUES But trust in county commissioners is just what some opponents of the measure lack. Former commission candidate and lumber retailer James Rafferty paid \$800 to have his arguments against the measure included in the Voters' Pamphlet. Rafferty generally questioned county spending priorities, said commissioners are overpaid (\$75,000 annually), wondered if they were out of touch with citizens and questioned if they try to coerce

taxpayers into passing tax measures. "Why can't the Josephine County Government operate within their budget?" he asked. "Why can't we have adequate county wide Sheriff road patrols?"

Noting the county has a high unemployment rate (9.7 percent in March, compared with 6.9 percent statewide) and that voters have turned down levy requests seven times in 11 years, Rafferty claimed that only the city of Grants Pass will benefit if the measure passes "because no Sheriff road patrols are funded." Rafferty also claimed in an interview that commissioners could spend levy proceeds "on whatever they want," including trips to Hawaii.

In a summary statement in the Voters' Pamphlet, county Legal Counsel Steve Rich said the Board of Commissioners is bound to spend proceeds on jail or juvenile programs. "To spend that otherwise would make them personally liable," he said.

Another opponent of tax measures past and present is former Sheriff Dave Daniel, who lobbied in the late 1990s against a measure to fund ongoing jail operations. (The former sheriff, now a Klamath Falls resident, is not related to Dave R. Daniel, a Grants Pass police officer who is currently a candidate for sheriff.) "The word levy is a four-letter word," Daniel said last week in a telephone interview. "It's still too much. You've got to come up with different ways, i.e. cutting trees down. You gotta work with our federal people and you've got to put your foot down." Daniel said he doesn't regret lobbying against an operating levy in 1998, when voters approved the nearly \$14 million bond measure to build the current jail. "At the time, they hadn't even started construction," he said. "They were asking people to pay for a jail that's not open. People did right by voting the operating levy down. Subsequently, people didn't want to support levies. "I totally agree with them. I'm living on a fixed income. I can totally understand."

Josephine County Jail

- Built: 2000
- Address: 1901 N.E. F St. (behind Walmart)
- Beds: up to 268
- Inmates held as of Friday: 123
- Maximum number of inmates ever held: Around 200
- Current inmate capacity, due to budget cuts: 130 inmates
- Number of employees: 30
- Budget this year: \$4.3 million
- Commander: Capt. Vicki Smith

- Friday's inmate count: 10 federal inmates, 24 held on a contract with the city of Grants Pass, and 22 probation violators held on contract with various agencies.

Sources: Josephine County Sheriff's Office, Josephine County Finance Department, Sheriff's Capt. Vicki Smith and Grants Pass city councilors.

b) Other Media

4. Voters' Pamphlet

Additional volunteer will result in a more comprehensive analysis. For example, one job additional volunteers will address is the analysis of the four voters' pamphlets for arguments against levies. This will result in a more comprehensive coverage, and therefore, better quality control.

This section was not started as of **June 23, 2015**.

a) Arguments Against (Individuals paid for articles to be printed in the Voters Pamphlet)

May 15, 2012 JO CO-wide Primary Election Measure 17 - 43, Criminal Justice System Operations Four Year Local Option Tax (i.e., \$1.99 per \$1,000 of assessed value).

May 21, 2013 JO CO-wide Special Election Measure 17 - 49, Criminal Justice and Public Safety Three Year Local Option Tax (i.e., \$1.48 per \$1,000 of assessed value).

May 20, 2014 JO CO-wide Primary Election Measure 17 - 59, Criminal Justice and Public Safety Three Year Local Option Tax (i.e., \$1.19 per \$1,000 of assessed value).

May 19, 2015 JO CO-wide Special Election Measure 17-66, For Patrol, Jail, Shelter of Abused Youth; Five Year Levy (i.e., \$1.40 per \$1,000 of assessed value).

b) Arguments In Favor (Individuals paid for articles to be printed in the Voters Pamphlet)

May 15, 2012 JO CO-wide Primary Election Measure 17 - 43, Criminal Justice System Operations Four Year Local Option Tax (i.e., \$1.99 per \$1,000 of assessed value).

May 21, 2013 JO CO-wide Special Election Measure 17 - 49, Criminal Justice and Public Safety Three Year Local Option Tax (i.e., \$1.48 per \$1,000 of assessed value).

May 20, 2014 JO CO-wide Primary Election Measure 17 - 59, Criminal Justice and Public Safety Three Year Local Option Tax (i.e., \$1.19 per \$1,000 of assessed value).

May 19, 2015 JO CO-wide Special Election Measure 17-66, For Patrol, Jail, Shelter of Abused Youth; Five Year Levy (i.e., \$1.40 per \$1,000 of assessed value).

D. Summary Preliminary July 15, 2015 JS&PSS Issues

The Hugo JS&PSS Exploratory Committee believes the identification of the preliminary issues for why the levies failed has merit in its own right as a standalone summary of the problem as viewed by the majority of JO CO citizens (i.e., you can't find solutions that last if you don't know the specific problem(s)). The issues identified by the committee were supplemented primarily with information from a non-random set of informal interviews of JO CO citizens, and articles from The Grants Pass Daily Courier (e.g., citizen guest opinions and letters to editor, reporter articles, etc.).

This list of preliminary issues, not listed in order of importance, will probably change further prior to the date of actually submitting an application for a study grant. They are categorized by two ideas identified by the public.

1. Consider a range of public safety funding and service level alternatives, both dollars and staff, and range of type of taxpayer, and
2. Public involvement consultation and criteria issues that should be considered in the design of alternatives.

As food for thought, not quite fitting the two ideas is one citizen's overall impression.

In reflection, what did the majority of voters seem to say about themselves on this issue [after failure of 4th levy]? 1. We are too poor to pay for more sheriff's deputies and an adequate jail staff; 2. We will always be too poor for these priorities; 3. We are pessimistic about our economic future; 4. We think the federal government should pay for county government; 5. We think that unregulated mining and timber cutting is the answer to our poverty, so long as we don't have to live in the mess or look at it; 6. We don't trust any form of government that asks anything more of us. If you come to JO CO, you are entering a place where the voting majority feels under siege. . . A place where saying no to future responsibility is easier than saying yes to possibilities for growth. Where a gun is the answer to any question.

Another citizen's thoughts on considering a range taxpayer type funding alternatives follows.

Josephine County commissioners only funding solution was the easy pickin's property tax instead of other alternatives, such as an in-county-only lottery.

Everyone I know who voted no on the levy did so as they felt there should be other alternatives sought other than placing the entire burden on the homeowner. Pretty narrow thinking. I for one would be glad to attend a forum to discuss possible alternatives to a property tax. There are people who own homes who are on fixed incomes, and they could lose their homes as a result of the considerable taxes the levy would have created. Many people forget that folks who live in the county have to pay for their fire protection in addition to their property tax. I pay nearly \$600 per year and it goes up every year.

Time for both the county commissioners and the Grants Pass City Council to host a series of joint forums to get real input from concerned citizens, especially those that voted no on the past four levies. Please realize riding the property tax owners backs is dead on arrival. Estimate the cost each of the proposed solutions and present that information to the public. Need real input from folks that realize more money is needed but continue to vote no on a property tax only solution.

Many citizens asked for a range of public safety funding and service level alternatives, both dollars and staff, and range of type of taxpayer. Some asked for a consideration of a mix of taxpayer types funding safety program.

The four main topics identified by the public were transformed into two ranges of alternatives and a set of public involvement consultation criteria.

- **Ideas**

- Idea 1. Consider a range of public safety funding and service level alternatives, both dollars and staff, and range of type of taxpayer, and

- Idea 2. Public involvement consultation and criteria issues that should be considered in the design of alternatives.

- **Alternatives**

- 1a. Range of Public Safety Funding and Service Level Alternatives

- 1b. Range of Alternative Types of Taxpayers Funding Public Safety Program

- **Citizen Involvement**

- Public Involvement Consultation and Criteria Considered In Design of Alternatives (Sec IV.D.2)

- **Major Sources Of Revenue?**

Property tax for county services is 82 cents per \$1,000 — 58 cents permanent, 15.8 cents for the voter-approved jail bond, and 8 cents for three years for an Animal Control levy.

1. Permanent tax rate of 58 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value: \$3 million or so.
2. Percent of receipts from federal timber sales (2 + 3 = approximately \$2 million).
3. Payments In Lieu of Taxes (2 + 3 = approximately \$2 million).
4. SRS payments: federal county payments extension with about \$4.6 million available during the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2015 and another \$4.3 million for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2016. Historically they averaged about 12 million (Table I-1).

The following summary research is just beginning and represents a very draft brainstorming effort as of **July 18, 2015** view toward a August 15, 2015 goal of the identification of issues.

1a. Range of Public Safety Funding and Service Level Alternatives (Alts) includes rough dollar estimates from an enhanced alternative greater than the maximum annual average federal SRS payments to an alternative with zero SRS payments. Only the approximate funding levels will be identified (i.e., see HNA&HS's educational brochures for all categories of the JS&PSS Issue; web page <http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/justicesystemexploratorycommittee.htm>).

1. Adult Jail Beds
2. Juvenile Justice Center
3. District Attorney's Office
4. Court Services
5. Rural Patrol Deputies
6. Criminal Investigations & Related Sheriff's Office Support Services (1 or 2 services?)
7. Animal Protection
8. Cost Per \$1,000 Assessed Property Value

- Alt Costs of JS&PSS Increase Significantly Above Old Status Quo 2000 level Prior to SRS Alternative** (more than \$15 million?)
- Alt Costs of JS&PSS May 15, 2012 Levy Measure 17 - 43 Alternative** (costs of JS&PSS \$1.99 per \$1,000 assessed value: \$14 million alternative?)
- Alt Old Status Quo 2000 level Prior to SRS Alternative** (costs of JS&PSS would increase back to the approximately \$12 million?)
- Alt May 21, 2013 Levy Measure 17 - 49 Alternative** (costs of JS&PSS \$1.48 per \$1,000 Assessed Value: \$10 Million Alternative?)
- Alt 2015 House Joint Resolution 21 Alternative** (2015 Session of Oregon Legislature, House Joint Resolution 21, minimum \$2.00 per \$1,000)
- Alt May 19, 2015 Levy Measure 17-66 Alternative** (costs of JS&PSS \$1.40 per \$1,000 Assessed Value: Approximately \$9 million - \$10.5 Million Alternative?)
- Alt May 20, 2014 Levy Measure 17 - 59 Alternative** (costs of of JS&PSS \$1.19 per \$1,000 Assessed Value: \$8.3 Million Alternative)
- Alt No Action Alternative - Live Within Your Budget Alternative** (approximately \$7.6 million?)
- Alt Citizens Can Provide Their Own Protection At Current Funding Alternative** (no SRS Federal payments: approximately 3 million dollars?)
- Alt Unknown Timber Program Future Alternative** (approximately 5 - ? million dollars?)
- Alt Minimally Adequate Level of Public Safety Services Alternative** (apply Oregon House Bill 3453 criteria)
- Alt JO CO Declare Bankruptcy Alternative** (future law like OR HB 2924 (2013) - declare bankruptcy)
- Alt State Implements Oregon House Bill (HB) 3453 Alternative**
- Alt Sales Tax Alternative**
- Alt O&C Revenues: Wyden Bill Alternative**
- Alt O&C Revenues: County Take Back O&C Lands Alternative** (as lands used to be in private ownership paying taxes)
- Alt O&C Revenues: Tax Equivalent Alternative** (Federal government pay JO CO the equivalent of what private rural commercial timber companies presently pay, on a per-acre basis)
- Alt Usage Share Alternative** (city and county special taxing districts pay their usage share)

Alt Combinations of Alternatives (other combinations of alternatives)

1b. Range of Alternative Types of Taxpayers Funding Public Safety Program

- Alt** Property Taxes Alternative
- Alt** Sales Tax Alternative
- Alt** Flat Taxes Alternative
- Alt** Volunteer Payments Alternative
- Alt** In-County-Only Lottery Alternative
- Alt** Mix Of Types of Taxpayers Alternative
- Alt** Permanent Tax District(s) Alternative
- Alt** O&C Revenues: Wyden Bill Alternative
- Alt** O&C Revenues: County Take Back O&C Lands Alternative (as lands used to be in private ownership paying taxes)
- Alt** O&C Revenues: Tax Equivalent Alternative (Federal government pay JO CO the equivalent of what private rural commercial timber companies presently pay, on a per-acre basis)

*** Figuring Costs of Alternatives***

Alt Costs of JS&PSS Increase Significantly Above Old Status Quo 2000 level Prior to SRS: More Than \$15 Million Alternative?

1. 58 cents per \$1,000: \$3 million or so.
2. Percent of receipts from federal timber sales (2 + 3 = approximately \$2 million).
3. Payments In Lieu of Taxes (2 + 3 = approximately \$2 million).

The county still receives federal money, from programs such as Payments In Lieu of Taxes and from actual, if meager, timber harvests. However, these federal sources are likely to bring in no more than \$2 million for the next fiscal year, and some of that money will probably have strings attached regarding how it can be spent.

4. SRS payments: federal county payments extension with about \$4.6 million available during the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2015 and another \$4.3 million for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2016. Historically they averaged about 12 million

• **Costs of JS&PSS May 15, 2012 Levy Measure 17 - 43, \$1.99 per \$1,000 Assessed Value: \$14 Million Alternative?**

1. 58 cents per \$1,000: \$3 million or so.
2. Percent of receipts from federal timber sales (2 + 3 = approximately \$2 million).
3. Payments In Lieu of Taxes (2 + 3 = approximately \$2 million).
4. SRS payments: federal county payments extension with about \$4.6 million available during the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2015 and another \$4.3 million for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2016. Historically they averaged about 12 million

- **Costs of JS&PSS would increase back to the Old Status Quo 2000 level Prior to SRS: Approximately \$12 Million Alternative?**

It was clear we all want to restore our criminal justice services to not only where they were a few years ago but better. At a simple level, we have a hole in our county's criminal justice system of at least \$12 million per year due to dwindling "federal payments." We have a revenue problem, plain and simple.

1. 58 cents per \$1,000: \$3 million or so.
2. Percent of receipts from federal timber sales (2 + 3 = approximately \$2 million).
3. Payments In Lieu of Taxes (2 + 3 = approximately \$2 million).
4. SRS payments: federal county payments extension with about \$4.6 million available during the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2015 and another \$4.3 million for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2016. Historically they averaged about 12 million

- **Costs of JS&PSS May 21, 2013 Levy Measure 17 - 49, \$1.48 per \$1,000 Assessed Value: \$10 Million Alternative?**

1. 58 cents per \$1,000: \$3 million or so.
2. Percent of receipts from federal timber sales (2 + 3 = approximately \$2 million).
3. Payments In Lieu of Taxes (2 + 3 = approximately \$2 million).
4. SRS payments: federal county payments extension with about \$4.6 million available during the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2015 and another \$4.3 million for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2016. Historically they averaged about 12 million

- **2015 Session of Oregon Legislature, House Joint Resolution 21**

Proposing amendment to Oregon Constitution relating to the property tax rates of counties. Proposes amendment to Oregon Constitution that provides that rate of ad valorem property taxes imposed by county for any property tax year may not be less than \$2.00 per thousand dollars of assessed value and excepts \$2.00 per thousand dollars minimum from compression under Ballot Measure 5 (1990).

- **Costs of JS&PSS May 19, 2015 Levy Measure 17-66, \$1.40 per \$1,000 Assessed Value: Approximately \$9 million - \$10.5 Million Alternative?**

1. 58 cents per \$1,000: \$3 million or so.
2. Percent of receipts from federal timber sales (2 + 3 = approximately \$2 million).
3. Payments In Lieu of Taxes (2 + 3 = approximately \$2 million).
4. SRS payments: federal county payments extension with about \$4.6 million available during the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2015 and another \$4.3 million for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2016. Historically they averaged about 12 million

- The rate of \$1.40 per \$1,000 of assessed value is appropriately modest. The \$9 million generated by the levy is not the kind of money the Sheriff's Office grew accustomed to 15 or 20 years ago, but it will be enough to significantly improve public safety in our county. Once this amount is added to our permanent rate of 58 cents per \$1,000, the \$1.98 total rate will still be a bargain, considering the statewide median is \$2.57 for county government (Widdison, Kevin, Opinions Editor. May 3, 2015. *Public Safety Levy Reasonable, Given Current Situation*. TGPDC. Grants Pass, OR).

- **Costs of JS&PSS May 20, 2014 Levy Measure 17 - 59, \$1.19 per \$1,000 Assessed Value: \$8.3 Million Alternative**

1. 58 cents per \$1,000: \$3 million or so.
2. Percent of receipts from federal timber sales (2 + 3 = approximately \$2 million).
3. Payments In Lieu of Taxes (2 + 3 = approximately \$2 million).
4. SRS payments: federal county payments extension with about \$4.6 million available during the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2015 and another \$4.3 million for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2016. Historically they averaged about 12 million

- **No Action Alternative - Live Within Your Budget Alternative: Approximately \$7.6 Million?**

1. 58 cents per \$1,000: \$3 million or so.
2. Percent of receipts from federal timber sales (2 + 3 = approximately \$2 million).
3. Payments In Lieu of Taxes (2 + 3 = approximately \$2 million).
4. SRS payments: federal county payments extension with about \$4.6 million available during the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2015 and another \$4.3 million for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2016. Historically they averaged about 12 million

This alternative includes failure of 2015 levy, SRS payments of about \$4.6 million for the next fiscal year, permanent tax rate of 58 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value will generate another \$3 million or so, and percent of receipts from federal timber sales.

News of the likely two-year renewal of the federal county payments program is a mixed blessing. Receiving the money will allow the county's public safety system to limp along, more or less at its current level. But this level is inadequate, and renewal of the payments will incorrectly lead some voters to think our funding problems have been solved.

The two-year extension hasn't been approved yet, but it is attached to a bill that makes changes to the way doctors are reimbursed under Medicare — a bill that appears to have bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate. The amount coming our way, however, will be only \$4.6 million, much less than the \$12 million to \$15 million we once received through the program.

I am very grateful my county property tax did not increase 220 percent. Stop spending more money. A good idea would be to stay within your budget.

Read my words – do not want additional taxes and fees. However, elected officials want ot continually shove down our throats, every chance they get, more taxes or fees. This is because our officials have no idea how to operate under a budget and believe their job is to spend more money for our good.

If they cannot afford the extra tax there are other options, such as cutting other expenses.

Regardless of whether we agree, many in Congress see the county payments program as pork barrel spending. Here in Josephine County, our case is not bolstered by the fact that our tax rate for county government is about one-fourth the state median of \$2.57 per \$1,000.

- **Citizens Can Provide Their Own Protection At Current Funding Alternative: No SRS Federal Payments: Approximately 3 Million Dollars?**

1. 58 cents per \$1,000: \$3 million or so.
2. Percent of receipts from federal timber sales (2 + 3 = approximately \$2 million).
3. Payments In Lieu of Taxes (2 + 3 = approximately \$2 million).
4. SRS payments: Zero (0).

Many citizens have already paid for security systems, pay security companies annually, gates, barbed wire fenced property, large dogs, belong to a community watch, guns, etc.

The county still receives federal money, from programs such as Payments In Lieu of Taxes and from actual, if meager, timber harvests. However, these federal sources are likely to bring in no more than \$2 million for the next fiscal year, and some of that money will probably have strings attached regarding how it can be spent.

- **Unknown Timber Program Future : Approximately 5 - ? Million Dollars?**

1. 58 cents per \$1,000: \$3 million or so.
- 2.1 Percent of receipts from federal timber sales (2.1 + 3 = approximately \$2 million).
- 2b. Unknown receipts from federal timber sales

We don't really want a federal handout. What we want is to be able to increase timber harvests on federal land located in the county. But bills in both the House and the Senate that would open the door for such harvests did not advance out of their respective chambers during the current session of Congress.

Even if one of these bills eventually emerges, we likely will never return to the harvest levels of the 1970s. Our best bet is federal legislation that will increase timber harvests, combined with modest tax increases in order to fund adequate public safety and other services for the citizens of this county.

3. Payments In Lieu of Taxes (2.1 + 3 = approximately \$2 million).
4. SRS payments: Zero (0).

2013 alternatives that the JS&PSS Committee does not have the estimated costs include the following.

- **Alt 4** Minimally Adequate level of public safety services Alternative (Oregon House Bill 3453 criteria)
- **Alt 6** JO CO Declare Bankruptcy Alternative
- **Alt 7** State Implements Oregon House Bill (HB) 3453 Alternative

1b. Range of Alternative Types of Taxpayers Funding Public Safety Program

- Property Taxes.

The vast majority of counties in the U.S. fund law enforcement with property taxes. If there was another, better way, these other counties likely would have found it by now.

- Sales Tax
- Flat Taxes. Flat income tax on the county residents or flat income tax on all income not derived from Social Security or pensions.
- Volunteer Payments
- In-County-Only Lottery
- Mix Of Types of Taxpayers Paying Taxes
- Permanent Tax District(s)
- U.S. Tax Payers: Wyden O & C Bill
- New Combinations of Revenues

2. Public Involvement Consultation and Criteria Considered In Design of Alternatives (updated August 20, 2015)

a) Public Involvement Consultation and Criteria (PIC&C) The 11 PIC&C Issues are based on 60 TTTE (i.e., 12 % of the 517 TTTE in archives; Sec III.C.3.(2)). There are 76 highlights (i.e., reasons) that are the **explicit concept categories** of the JO CO's "Justice System & Public Safety Services, including the **implicit concept analysis**. For example, implicit concepts are the broadening of the explicit concept category to include synonyms such as "crime," "jail capacity," "rural patrol," "juvenile shelter," "mistrust in government," "cumulative taxes to pay for PSS," "property owner taxes," etc. The 11 PIC&C Issues that follow are not in any order of priority or importance.

PIC&C # 1	Public Safety Should Be Paid By Public.
PIC&C # 2	Mistrust in Government Growing: Honesty, Transparency and Accountability.
PIC&C # 3	Citizens Feel Their Voices Are Not Being Heard. What Part Of "No" Don't They Understand?
PIC&C # 4	Rural Patrol Presence Has Not Changed From 2000 - 2015; I Don't Feel More Unsafe Or More Safe.
PIC&C # 5	Not Fair That Only Property Owners Pay.
PIC&C # 6	Opportunities Had Not Occurred To Inform Voters in a Comprehensive Non-Special Interest Fashion: Planning & Business Plan.
PIC&C # 7	Cumulative Assessments Coordinated By JO CO Assessor Office Unaffordable to Many.
PIC&C # 8	Promote Economic Development & Education.
PIC&C # 9	Permanent 58 Cents Per 1,000 JO CO Tax & Current Taxes, Fees, Etc. As Identified By JO CO Assessor's Office.
PIC&C # 10	Income & Opportunities Inequality Affects Ability To Pay Taxes, Fees, Etc.
PIC&C # 11	City and County Residents Should Pay Their Usage Share.

The reader is referred to Chapter IV for a reasons' (i.e., in CA reasons = certain words or concepts) summary of the above 11 PIC&C issues (i.e., in CA issues = relationships among concepts). **Conceptual analysis** can be thought of as establishing the existence and/or frequency of concepts most often represented by words or phrases in a text (i.e., counted once or as many times as they appear). **Relational analysis** goes one step further by examining the relationships among concepts in a text, and then determine what different meanings emerge as a result of these groupings.

Table III.C.2-1 is a summary of the 11 PIC&C issues with the number of letters-to-the-editor (LTTE = reasons = certain words or concepts) supporting individual PIC&C issues (relationships among concepts). The lowest number of LTTE supporting a PIC&C was 3 (4%); the highest was 16 (21%). The range from 4 percent to 21 percent was significant.

The 17 percent range is just fine as the LTTE content analysis results are not a popularity contest, or majority versus minority number of votes. **This application of CA is concerned first with the existence of concepts (i.e., all values/reasons), and secondarily with the frequency of concepts (i.e., counted once and as many times as concept appears). The approach comes from core policies that all values are equally important.**

All Values By “We The People” Are Legitimate

This means that an extremely significant issue is for the Study Design *to demonstrate trust and enhance communication between the authors, neighbors, and JO CO government*. The Study Design approach primarily relies on citizens to provide insight about how to identify and manage problems, and formulate their own goals and solutions for the future (i.e., voting, **writing LTTE** and guest opinions in *The Grants Pass Daily Courier*, writing arguments in voters’ pamphlets, etc.). It aspires to emphasize the importance to citizens of knowing they are being heard, of being the decision-makers that decide their future. As active participants, neighbors at the grassroots level can gain ownership of Study Design information processes and become "stakeholder" decision-makers in the range of potential solutions they, as a group, identified.

In this case a rough exploratory CA analysis of 60 LTTE found 76 JS&PSS reasons (i.e., concepts) resulting in 11 manageable categories (i.e., PIC&Cs = relationships among concepts; Table III.C.2-1).

Table III.C.2-1. Number of LTTE Supporting Individual PIC&C			
PIC&C¹	Nos. (#) of LTTE²	% of LTTE³	Comments⁴
PIC&C # 1	4	.053	
PIC&C # 2	16	.211	highest frequency
PIC&C # 3	7	.092	
PIC&C # 4	7	.092	
PIC&C # 5	6	.079	
PIC&C # 6	16	.211	highest frequency
PIC&C # 7	3	.040	lowest frequency
PIC&C # 8	3	.040	lowest frequency
PIC&C # 9	4	.053	
PIC&C # 10	5	.066	
PIC&C # 11	5	.066	
Total	76 (100%)	(100.3%)	
Footnotes			
1. Public Involvement Consultation and Criteria (PIC&C)			
2. Number (#) of Letters-to-the-Editor (LTTE) reasons/concepts supporting the PIC&C.			
3. Percentage of Number (#) of Letters-to-the-Editor (LTTE) supporting the PIC&C.			
4. Comments: lowest and highest frequency of recorded reasons (concepts) for manageable categories (problems/issues = PIC7Cs).			

Rough and exploratory means relatively quickly without a specific CA coding methodology and on a trial basis. The authors would not be surprised that future CA researchers of the same data base would offer “different details” for the list of concepts to be coded and the relationship analysis descriptions of the problems/issues (i.e., PIC&Cs). They would also not be surprised that even though the “details” were different, in a future CA, that the reader would easily recognize the similarities in any new PIC&Cs.

Content analysis is a research tool used to determine the presence of certain words or concepts within texts or sets of texts. In this case the concepts being researched in Study Design are all publically identified JS&PSS issues and alternative solutions in written LTTE.

Researchers quantify and analyze the presence, meanings and relationships of such words and concepts, then make inferences about the messages within the texts, the writer(s), the audience, and even the culture and time of which these are a part (Section III.C.2; Appendix A3. Measures Representing Public Opinion). Texts can be defined broadly as books, book chapters, essays, interviews, discussions, newspaper headlines and articles (e.g., LTTE, guest opinions, etc.), historical documents, speeches, conversations, advertising, theater, informal conversation, or really any occurrence of communicative language. **To conduct a content analysis on any such text, the text is coded, or broken down, into manageable categories on a variety of levels – word, word sense, phrase, sentence, or theme – and then examined using one of content analysis' basic methods: conceptual analysis or relational analysis.**

Conceptual analysis can be thought of as establishing the existence and frequency of concepts most often represented by words or phrases in a text. For instance, say you have a hunch that your favorite poet often writes about hunger. With conceptual analysis you can determine how many times words such as hunger, hungry, famished, or starving appear in a volume of poems. In contrast, **relational analysis** goes one step further by examining the relationships among concepts in a text. Returning to the hunger example, with relational analysis, you could identify what other words or phrases hunger or famished appear next to and then determine what different meanings emerge as a result of these groupings (Appendix A3; *Content Analysis. Writing@CSU*).

b) Public Involvement Consultation and Criteria & Examples Of Specific Public Comments

(1) PIC&C #1. Public Safety Should Be Paid By Public

- LTTE 1. There is no doubt that public safety needs to be financially supported.
- LTTE 2. Most of us realize the need for a strong public safety system. Homeowners are willing to pay a "fair and balanced" share, but not to foot the entire bill.
- LTTE 3. Measure 17-66 for patrol, jail, juvenile shelter: While I'm not against the measure per se, I don't understand why only property owners are expected to bear the burden of funding it.
- LTTE 4. Josephine County is something of a microcosm of the national situation. The rich have all the money and the rest of us live on Social Security and food stamps. In terms of cash in the bank, Josephine County ranks among the top five counties in Oregon. I would propose a flat income tax on the county residents upon all income not derived from Social Security or pensions.

Number of LTTE Reason/Concept Comments: 4

Thoughts (very draft)

Property Taxes The safety and security of our community is our utmost concern. Maintaining a safe and secure environment takes a community effort and is a shared responsibility. The best protection against crime is an aware, informed, alert community along with a law-enforcement presence.

What's the only major tax common to all 50 states in the U. S.? The oldest tax levied in the U. S.? The second worst tax consistently in opinion polls of Americans? The tax people understand the least, hate the most, and yet will continue to pay despite these characteristics? Despite the complexity of the property tax, and the fact that it's "the tax people love to hate," it remains the mainstay for most local governments in the United States. The last two decades, however, have seen a slight decline in degree of reliance upon the tax by cities and counties nationwide.

There is no doubt that JO CO is a great place to work, live, and play, including its citizens committed to meeting their public safety needs. The JS&PSS user citizens would need to pay for their services; it's the only way to financially survive. **The critical questions are what JS&PSS services and how much?**

Safety's mission is to provide a safe and secure environment for entire community. This encompasses all. Public Safety is everyone's responsibility; we ask everyone to get involved. The decision as to whether or not we need to replace our public safety program lies with the voters. This important decision will impact, not only those of us in today but, future generations.

Taxing Unrealized Capital Gains. The property tax is levied on property values, or wealth in a sense, and not on income or consumption like the income tax or the sales tax. Thus, those who are cash poor, like many retirees and elderly, may own property which has considerable value but lack the income necessary to pay property taxes. Other taxes, like the income tax, defer taxing capital gains until such time as the taxpayer actually realizes income from a gain. The property tax doesn't defer taxing such gains. Thus, someone who bought a home in an area that appreciates in value a great deal will have to pay taxes on the growth in value, even though their income may not have grown accordingly.

The Case For the Property Tax (Tyer, Charlie B. "The Property Tax: Why It Persists," The South Carolina Policy Forum Magazine, Vol. 4, no. 2 (Spring 1993): 12-21).

One might rightfully ask, given the resentments against the property tax, why does it persist? There are a number of reasons why. Chief among them are the fact that it provides a stable source of revenue for local governments; nonresident property owners are taxed; it is often used to finance property related services and to construct publicly owned infrastructure; it is difficult to evade; and, it has enabled local governments to maintain some autonomy from state and federal control.

Stable Source of Revenue For all its disadvantages, the property tax does have one advantage over rival revenue sources, such as the income tax and sales tax. It does not fluctuate as quickly with local and national economic ups and downs. When the economy is up, that may be a disadvantage. But, when it is down, one doesn't find sudden, unexpected drops in property tax revenues of significant proportions. Thus, it is relatively stable. And, in most cases predictable as well.

Reaches Nonresident Property Owners Property owners who benefit from local services, but who live in other locales may often avoid sales and income taxes. But, they don't avoid the real property tax. Particularly property that is income producing needs to share its portion of the tax responsibility for financing government. By reaching nonresident owners, the property tax helps distribute the tax burden to all who should pay something.

Finances Property Related Services Local government services like police and fire protection, construction and maintenance of streets, curbs, sidewalks, and stormwater drainage systems benefit most all in a community. Good services and solid infrastructure in a local government will, other things being equal, result in higher property values than in other communities with lower quality services and inadequate infrastructure.

Difficult to Evade Failure to pay property taxes may result in a lien on the property, and ultimately in a tax sale to recoup the delinquent taxes. Compared to other taxes, collection rates for the property tax are relatively high, ranging often from 92 to 98 percent collection ratios. Although admittedly legally complex, property taxes are harder to evade than other taxes. Observe, for instance the controversy over mail order sales tax collections by state governments. Or, trying to collect income generated in another state. The property tax is much harder to evade and avoid.

Promotes Local Autonomy Finally, the property tax provides more than security and stability for many local governments, it also can provide a measure of independence. Local governments are subject to a variety of state and federal forms of oversight. As political subdivisions of the state they are circumscribed by constitutional and statutory requirements and constraints, such as forms of government they may use, revenue raising options, and general powers and duties.

In short, local governments are often dependent upon higher levels of government. Often, this translates into financial dependency. Yet, local governments are the closest to the people, and in the eyes of many the most accountable to the people. The property tax allows many local governments to be responsive to their citizens and deliver the services they need and desire. Why? Because for many governments, it is the only tax local officials have effective control over. In the words of one observer, "without a steady, strong flow of revenue, local governments cannot govern." The property tax is an important source of local revenue controlled at the local level.

Range of Alternative Types of Taxpayers Funding Public Safety Program (Section III.D.1b)

The public has identified a range of alternative types of taxpayer funding, including property taxes.

Alt	Property Taxes Alternative
Alt	Sales Tax Alternative
Alt	Flat Taxes Alternative
Alt	Volunteer Payments Alternative
Alt	In-County-Only Lottery Alternative
Alt	Mix Of Types of Taxpayers Alternative
Alt	Permanent Tax District(s) Alternative
Alt	O&C Revenues: Wyden Bill Alternative
Alt	O&C Revenues: County Take Back O&C Lands Alternative (as lands used to be in private ownership paying taxes)
Alt	O&C Revenues: Tax Equivalent Alternative (Federal government pay JO CO the equivalent of what private rural commercial timber companies presently pay, on a per-acre basis)

Potential Affected Conditions (Appendix B1)

The potential affected conditions are the factors that probably will sustain impacts from one or more alternatives. It is a good beginning point in determining which potential affected conditions to consider in the JS&PSS study design to the Analysis of the Public Situation (APS). The list of potential affected environment conditions are almost certainly not complete. That is the purpose of first, the analysis of public situation (APS), and last the JS&PSS Study.

For those affected conditions that will potentially sustain impacts from a passed or failed public safety levy, collecting accurate and adequate data on their present status (e.g., location, nature, condition, scope, size, etc.) is critical in determining impacts, and must be available before helpful analysis can begin. A geographic information system or other mapping system not only can be the basis of excellent analyses, but can help decide how best to develop alternatives. In other words, quality data will help in making understood quality decisions.

As communities continue to grow, local officials and community members are constantly challenged by the need to balance fiscal, social, economic, and environmental goals. One aspect of this challenge is deciding how much and what types of new development the community can accommodate without compromising the day-to-day quality of life for residents. Socio-economic impact assessment is designed to assist communities in making decisions that promote long-term sustain-ability, including economic prosperity, a healthy community, and social well-being. In combination the following category assessments are one way to describe the conditions of the human participants.

- fiscal impact assessments focus on revenue values.
- social impact assessments focus on social and cultural values.
- political impact assessments focus on controversies over public questions values.
- economic impact assessments focus on market and non-market values.
- environmental impact assessments focus on ecosystem change values.

Assessing socio-economic impacts requires both quantitative and qualitative measurements of the impact of a proposed development. For example, a proposed development may increase employment in the community and create demand for more affordable housing. Both effects are easily quantifiable. Also of importance, however, are the perceptions of community members about whether the proposed development is consistent with a commitment to preserving the rural character of the community. Assessing community perceptions about development requires the use of methods capable of revealing often complex and unpredictable community values.

Josephine County, Oregon is an economically and socially depressed community with unusually high unemployment and low high school graduation rates. The county's greatest need is to create a long-term solution to chronic economic and social issues impacting the county (see Problem & Challenge by Josephine County Foundation - PIC&C # 10 Income & Opportunities Inequity).

Josephine County is something of a microcosm of the national situation. The socio-economic income and opportunities inequalities are significant. In terms of cash in the bank Josephine County ranks among the top five counties in Oregon. I would propose a flat income tax on the county residents upon all income not derived from Social Security or pensions.

Locally what we think of as cash in the bank is wealth. There is distinction between wealth and income. Income is what people earn from work, but also from dividends, interest, and any rents or royalties that are paid to them on properties they own. Wealth includes the values of homes, automobiles, personal valuables, businesses, savings, and investments.

PIC&C #1 Summary. Public Safety Should Be Paid By Public

An issue, identified by public opinion, is that the public should pay of public safety services it receives. The critical questions are what JS&PSS services and how much?

Understanding the JS&PSS Issue and designing a solution are complicated tasks as there are substantial differences between Oregon counties in terms of their geographic and demographic characteristics, priorities, historic crime rates, willingness to tolerate certain levels of crime, ability to fund services, and past and present funding of various public safety services.

JS&PSS Issue Decisions Are Answers To Question For The Public, The Decision-Makers (Chpt. XV, Study Design)

- Hugo Justice System & Public Safety Services Exploratory Committee. Draft 2015. *Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015*. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. Hugo, OR.

All of us are committed to public safety. None of us want to accept cuts to the system that has been in place while crime in Oregon has dropped to historically low levels. Can we accept the reality of fewer resources and plan for the future? If we plan wisely and face reality, JO CO has a good chance to continue to enjoy reasonably safe communities.

"It's not denial. I'm just selective about the reality I accept." This quote from Bill Watterson, creator of the "Calvin and Hobbes" comic strip, resonates with the human capacity for denial about a reality we do not want to face. A potential significant reduction in funds to provide for JS&PSS is a reality we, the decision-makers, probably would rather not accept. We would rather selectively focus on the fact that Oregonians are safer today, less likely to be a victim of violent crime or property crime, than they have been since the 60s. We would rather hope we can find funds for public safety and can make cuts elsewhere.

How can the public decision-makers have a reasonable JS&PSS program for JO CO while subtracting millions of dollars from the public safety budget? Whether spending money is a good or bad idea becomes moot: it looks like a financial responsibility to plan for reductions or find new revenue sources. To fail to plan for a range of public safety funding and service level alternatives for the JS&PSS program will be claimed by some as a form of denial.

The questions for the public decision-makers are what JS&PSS services and how much?

Question. How do the voters become informed when only four very similar alternatives (i.e., last four levies) have been offered without any planning analysis sharing all the publically identified issues and potential solutions?

Answer. A study to be researched and written from a neutral point of view, meaning representing fairly, proportionately, and, as far as possible, without bias, all public views that have been published by reliable sources on the safety topic.

- *You can't find solutions that last if you don't know the specific problems.*
- *Share consensus by breaking bread together over a common goal of being for something.*

Question. Why do we need a study?

Answer. The U.S. Congress had repeatedly sent messages that federal payments would be phased out, and this was intended to give counties *time to plan for the change*. The payments had been to eligible counties for 1. loss of property tax revenue, which resulted from an inability to impose taxes on federally owned forest lands, and 2. reduction in the amount of logging planned on federal forest lands.

The final Study product of the Study Design project can be considered part of this needed planning. It will document a comparison of the publicly identified range of alternative solutions for the JS&PSS Issue. 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.

The decision lies with the voters.

Reference PIC&C # 6. Opportunities Had Not Occurred To Inform Voters in a Comprehensive Non-Special Interest Fashion: Planning & Business Plan.

(2) PIC&C #2. Mistrust in Government Growing: Honesty, Transparency & Accountability

- LTTE 1. Lack of trust in our elected officials is the greatest single factor affecting Josephine County. Trust is built on truth-telling, transparency and accountability. "Can you trust the government? Ask an Indian?"
- LTTE 2. We have major leaders in this world who take authority in their own hands by not telling the truth so they can benefit themselves. This includes the U.S. Congress, and its failure to implement the 1937 O & C revenue sharing scheme.
- LTTE 3. Brought up a great idea to solve our public safety problems other than raise property taxes. . . At a recent budget committee meeting, a commissioner said that he feels that our roads are more important than our safety issues. . . I do believe that this is the commissioner's way of punishing homeowners for voting down the levy.
- LTTE 4. Spin Perception versus facts.
- LTTE 5. Now, regarding the proposed levy, some of the money generated by your property taxes will go to PERS, a benefit that both this newspaper and our state government have said is unsustainable. In the Oct. 1, 2012, edition of Sneak Preview, a commissioner candidate said voters should be told where the levy funds would be used. She said, "The ballot measure would be written in plain language, enunciating exactly where every cent will go." This is not the case with the current levy. We have not been told by its proponents anything about the 10 percent for the Internal Services Fund, nor how much will go to PERS. The fact we have not been privy to the actual distribution of the levy money makes one feel apprehensive about the proponents' honesty and their tactics to get votes.
- LTTE 6. General fund money would be available from "unallocated carryover; use of transportation monies
- LTTE 7. Transparency. Ideally, people make decisions based on facts. Facts to support levies are in short supply.
- LTTE 8. I believe this means that the money collected under this measure may or may not do what has been "promised." I believe many others feel as I do: We're tired of politicians' promises and tired of their using our money at their discretion. Our county taxes may be low, but they do not include fire protection – and it's not cheap.
- LTTE 9. To promote a more palatable funding source for public safety consider taxing methods that will "even the load" rather than relying on homeowners to shoulder the entire burden. . . . A multi-faceted approach to spread the burden will improve the chances of public approval. During promotion of a new levy, be honest on how the money will be spent. If it's to go into the general fund in any way, forget it! This is public safety money and must be restricted to that use. Additionally, what happens to the money currently being allocated to public safety? After a levy passes, does this money get reallocated to other uses, therefore becoming a windfall for the county to use elsewhere? It's OK, but if so we need to know. Educate us honestly about byproduct benefits from a successful levy.
- LTTE 10. Do we need honesty and clarity from those who espouse one point of view or another? Even more.
- LTTE 11. The number one reason I'll vote against the safety levy is this simple fact: If the levy passes, \$900,000 of it will be diverted to the county's internal service fund – not law enforcement. Repeated another way: 10 percent of the safety money can go to almost anything the commissioners dream up. . . Also, this levy establishes an "oversight" committee composed of non-elected people accountable to no one – not even to the commissioners! Committee members don't need to have any financial background.
- LTTE 12. But today, many poor people of Josephine County are tired, they are more than poor and they are unable to breathe free because the county fat cats and all of their deep-pocketed buddies harass and threaten the poor with levy measures year after year. Then when we can't pay the new taxes which they impose on us, they then threaten us with property seizure.
- LTTE 13. Threat that HJR21 would force a \$2 per \$1,000 of assessed value tax on county property owners is inaccurate. It must be approved or rejected by the state electorate. Ware uses questionable tactics and inflammatory statements to scare voters into voting for the safety levy. Voter beware. County commissioners said that 100 percent of all money collected would go directly to public safety. Now we find out that 10 percent of all money collected will go to the Internal Services Fund.

- LTTE 14. I have in the past voted for public safety levies that have been defeated. I've been trying to decide how to vote this one, weighing the unequal way it is paid for (\$1.40 per \$1,000 of assessed value, meaning home owners of modest houses will pay so much less than owners of expensive houses) with the very real need for more police presence in the county. Then the article about accused murderer Gary Goins got my attention. The article implies the jail has had him in there for four years, awaiting trial. Four years? Huh-uh. Not getting any more of my money. I am not going to pay to feed and house people like that for that long.
- LTTE 15. Now the commissioners might consider lowering the levy amount when the feds come through with funds. I trust our commissioners about as far as I can throw their chambers building. . . . This levy just wants us to pay more and more while the costs from the past don't change. What the tax levy really translates to is: If you give us your money, we will spend it.
- LTTE 16. The extension does, however, offer an opportunity to address one of the central issues in Josephine County politics: trust in county government in general and in the Board of County Commissioners specifically. Opponents of tax measures often cite lack of trust as a reason for their opposition — they don't believe county officials would be good stewards of the money. The argument is a debate-ender because, once it's thrown on the table, what's left to say? You either do or don't trust the people we've elected. However, the commissioners could use the county payments extension as an opportunity to prove they are trustworthy. All they need to do is pledge that, for as long as federal county payments continue, they will reduce the public safety levy by an amount equal to the federal payments — dollar for dollar. Since the levy as it is currently proposed would generate about \$9 million in its first year and the county payments renewal is for \$4.6 million in the next fiscal year, the county would collect only \$4.4 million next year, effectively cutting the proposed \$1.40 tax rate in half.

Number of LTTE Reason/Concept Comments: 16.

Public Trust in Government: 1958-2014

- Pew Research Center. November 13, 2014. *Public Trust in Government: 1958-2014*. Downloaded September 22, 2015. <http://www.people-press.org/2014/11/13/public-trust-in-government/>.

Public trust in the government remains near historic lows, although somewhat higher than during the October 2013 government shutdown. In a survey conducted in February 2014, 24% said they trust the government in Washington always or most of the time.

Distrust, Discontent, Anger and Partisan Rancor, The People and Their Government

- Pew Research Center. April 18, 2010. *Distrust, Discontent, Anger and Partisan Rancor, The People and Their Government*. <http://www.people-press.org/2010/04/18/distrust-discontent-anger-and-partisan-rancor/>. Downloaded September 22, 2015.

Overview By almost every conceivable measure Americans are less positive and more critical of government these days. A new Pew Research Center survey finds a perfect storm of conditions associated with distrust of government – a dismal economy, an unhappy public, bitter partisan-based backlash, and epic discontent with Congress and elected officials.

Rather than an activist government to deal with the nation's top problems, the public now wants government reformed and growing numbers want its power curtailed. With the exception of greater regulation of major financial institutions, there is less of an appetite for government solutions to the nation's problems – including more government control over the economy.

Favorable ratings for both major parties, as well as for Congress, have reached record lows while opposition to congressional incumbents, already approaching an all-time high, continues to climb.

Just 22% say they can trust the government in Washington almost always or most of the time, among the lowest measures in half a century. About the same percentage (19%) says they are “basically content” with the federal government, which is largely unchanged from 2006 and 2007, but lower than a decade ago.

Opinions about elected officials are particularly poor. In a follow-up survey in early April, just 25% expressed a favorable opinion of Congress, which was virtually unchanged from March (26%), prior to passage of the health care reform bill. This is the lowest favorable rating for Congress in a quarter century of Pew Research Center surveys. Over the last year, favorable opinions of Congress have declined by half – from 50% to 25%.

As was the case in the 1997 study of attitudes about government, more people say the bigger problem with government is that it runs its programs inefficiently (50%) than that it has the wrong priorities (38%). But the percentage saying government has the wrong priorities has increased sharply since 1997 – from 29% to 38%.

Perhaps related to this trend, the survey also finds a rise in the percentage saying the federal government has a negative effect on their day-to-day lives. In October 1997, 50% said the federal government had a positive effect on their daily lives, compared with 31% who said its impact was negative. Currently, 38% see the federal government’s personal impact as positive while slightly more (43%) see it as negative.

Rising criticism about government’s personal impact is not limited to the federal government. Just 42% say their state government has a positive effect on their daily lives, down from 62% in October 1997. There is a similar pattern in opinions about the impact of local government – 51% now see the impact of their local government as positive, down from 64% in 1997.

Despite the attention captured by demonstrations and other expressions of anti-government sentiment, Americans’ feelings about the federal government run more toward frustration rather than anger. In the current survey, 56% say they are frustrated with the federal government, 21% say they are angry and 19% say they are basically content. Since October 1997, majorities have expressed frustration with the federal government, with a single notable exception; in November 2001, two months after the 9/11 attacks, just 34% said they were frustrated with the federal government.

And despite the frustration most Americans feel with government, a majority of the public (56%) says that if they had a child just getting out of school they would like to see him or her pursue a career in government; and 70% say the government is a good place to work, unchanged from October 1997.

However, along with the frustrated majority, which has remained fairly steady over the years, the survey also identifies a small but growing segment of the public that holds intense anti-government views. The proportion saying that they are angry with the federal government has doubled since 2000 and matches the high reached in October 2006 (20%).

Over this period, a larger minority of the public also has come to view the federal government as a major threat to their personal freedom – 30% feel this way, up from 18% in a 2003 ABC News/Washington Post survey. Intense anti-government sentiment is highly concentrated among certain groups.

New Poll Finds a Deep Distrust of Government

Zeleny, Jeff; Thee-Brenan, Megan. October 25, 2011. *New Poll Finds a Deep Distrust of Government*. The New York Times. http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/26/us/politics/poll-finds-anxiety-on-the-economy-fuels-volatility-in-the-2012-race.html?_r=0

With Election Day just over a year away, a deep sense of economic anxiety and doubt about the future hangs over the nation, according to the latest New York Times/CBS News poll, with Americans' distrust of government at its highest level ever. The combustible climate helps explain the volatility of the presidential race and has provided an opening for protest movements like Occupy Wall Street, to highlight grievances about banks, income inequality and a sense that the poor and middle class have been disenfranchised.

Almost half of the public thinks the sentiment at the root of the Occupy movement generally reflects the views of most Americans.

With nearly all Americans remaining fearful that the economy is stagnating or deteriorating further, two-thirds of the public said that wealth should be distributed more evenly in the country. Seven in 10 Americans think the policies of Congressional Republicans favor the rich. Two-thirds object to tax cuts for corporations and a similar number prefer increasing income taxes on millionaires. On Tuesday, the Congressional Budget Office released a new study concluding that income distribution had become much more uneven in the last three decades, a report that could figure prominently in the battle over how to revive the economy and rein in the federal debt.

The poll findings underscore a dissatisfaction and restlessness heading into the election season that has been highlighted through competing voices from the Occupy Wall Street and Tea Party movements, a broad anti-Washington sentiment and the crosscurrents inside both parties about the best way forward. Not only do 89 percent of Americans say they distrust government to do the right thing, but 74 percent say the country is on the wrong track and 84 percent disapprove of Congress — warnings for Democrats and Republicans alike.

But the president, whose disapproval rating is also 46 percent, also faces mixed signals from the public about his latest job-creation proposals. While the poll found substantial support for the plan's individual components, more than half of the public say he lacks a clear plan for creating jobs, despite his extensive travels around the country over the last six weeks selling his proposals.

With the nation's unemployment rate at 9.1 percent, income inequality remains a palpable issue for Americans. Nearly 9 in 10 Democrats, two-thirds of independents and just over one-third of all Republicans say that the distribution of wealth in the country should be more equitable, even as a majority of Republicans said they think it is fair.

Only about a quarter of the public said that lowering taxes on large corporations or repealing the entire national health care law was a good idea. But half of the public favors reducing or repealing regulations on businesses in the United States.

A remarkable sense of pessimism and skepticism was apparent in question after question in the survey, which found that Congressional approval has reached a new low at 9 percent. The disapproval toward Congress has risen 22 percentage points since the beginning of the year when Republicans took control of the House. "Probably the government in Washington could be trusted at one time but now it seems like it's all a game of who wins rather than what's best for the people."

Nearly all Americans agree that the nation's economic outlook is dark, with 49 percent saying the economy is at a standstill and 36 percent saying it is getting worse. But nearly three-quarters of the public lack confidence that Congress will be able to reach agreement on a plan to help create jobs.

In February, a CBS News poll found that 27 percent of the public said the views of the Tea Party movement reflected the sentiment of most Americans. In the current poll, 46 percent of the public said the same of the Occupy Wall Street movement.

Americans' Trust in Government Generally Down This Year

- Jones, Jeffrey M. September 26, 2013. *Americans' Trust in Government Generally Down This Year*. Gallup. <http://www.gallup.com/poll/164663/americans-trust-government-generally-down-year.aspx>

Trust in State and Local Governments Also Down

The 71% of Americans who express a great deal or fair amount of trust in local government and the 62% trusting in state government both show slight three-point dips from 2012. Americans are more trusting in local government than in all three branches of the federal government, and trust in state government exceeds trust in the executive and legislative branches of the federal government. Americans have historically been more trusting in state and local governments than in the executive and legislative branches, but not the judicial branch.

Trust in local government has largely been stable over the years, ranging from a low of 63% in 1972 to a high of 77% in 1998, averaging 70%.

Americans' trust in state government has shown more variation, falling as low as 51% in 2009 as states dealt with budget crises during the economic recession and reaching as high as 80% in 1998 during the economic boom. The current 62% level of trust is just below the historical average of 64%.

Republicans More Trusting in State, Local Governments

Americans' trust in federal government branches and state and local governments is responsive to external events, including which party occupies the White House. As such, there is currently a wide gulf in Democrats' (86%) and Republicans' (19%) trust in the executive branch of the federal government. Democrats currently express more trust in the judicial branch, while the parties are more similar in their generally low level of trust in the legislative branch.

A majority of both Republicans and Democrats say they trust their state and local governments, but Republicans express more trust in each.

Could distrust in government be a good thing?

- Carol Costello and Ronni Berke. October 30, 2009. *Could distrust in government be a good thing?* CNN. <http://am.blogs.cnn.com/2009/10/30/just-sayin-could-distrust-in-government-be-a-good-thing/>

The latest public opinion polls do not bode well for our elected representatives: in some instances, they are suffering record low approval ratings. In a Wall Street Journal/NBC poll this week, just 23-percent of Americans say they trust government to "do the right thing" all or most of the time. That's the lowest number since 1997. A September Gallup poll showed public trust in Congress at a record low 45-percent.

"When you have lower trust in government, you tend to get fewer foreign wars, you tend to get fewer expensive government programs, and you also tend to get fewer abuses of civil liberties, says Gene Healy of the conservative Cato Institute.

In other words, public distrust might be an informal but much needed way of exercising checks and balances.

What do you think? Could distrust in government actually be a good thing?

PIC&C #2 Summary. Mistrust in Government Growing

An issue, identified by public opinion, is mistrust of JO CO government, specifically the JO CO Board of County Commissioners. Is mistrust of local government a reflection of the national mood?

Could distrust in government be a good thing? For example, some believe that when you have lower trust in government, you tend to get fewer foreign wars, you tend to get fewer expensive government programs, and you also tend to get fewer abuses of civil liberties. In other words, public distrust might be an informal but much needed way of exercising checks and balances. What do you think? Could distrust in government actually be a good thing?

The Hugo JS&PSS Exploratory Committee has been trying to understand this issue since 2013. In 2015 it was actively reaching out to citizens to brainstorm ideas. For example, some of the Exploratory Committee's core beliefs are that all citizens, voters, and votes are legitimate. Our 2015 JS&PSS Study Design project flows from this center. The results are a study to be researched and written from a neutral point of view, meaning representing fairly, proportionately, and, as far as possible, without bias, all public views that have been published by reliable sources on the safety topic.

Another important issue is *how to demonstrate trust and enhance communication between some of our neighbors and JO CO government*. The Study Design approach primarily relies on citizens to provide insight about how to identify and manage problems, and formulate their own goals and solutions for the future (web page on voting, writing letters to the editor and guest opinions in *The Grants Pass Daily Courier*, writing arguments in voters' pamphlets, etc.). It aspires to emphasize the importance to citizens of knowing they are being heard, of being the decision-makers that decide their future. As active participants, neighbors at the grassroots level can gain ownership of Study Design information processes and become "stakeholder" decision-makers in the range of potential solutions they, as a group, identified.

(3) PIC&C #3. Citizens Feel Their Voices Are Not Being Heard. What Part Of “No” Don’t They Understand?

- LTTE 1. As the election draws closer, the voices in favor of passing the public safety levy, Measure 17-66, get shriller and the attempts to scare voters into passing it get more intense and numerous. This has happened every time this levy comes up for a vote. It is unfortunate that those placing it on the ballot have not been more reasonable in their demands and, instead, belittle those who would argue for a much smaller property tax increase to fund the Sheriff's Office.
- LTTE 2. What about repeatedly doing the same thing and continually getting worse results? The last three times the county safety levy has been on the ballot, the margin it lost by more than doubled: First by 2 percent, than 4 percent, now 8 percent. . . Foolish for . . . to think that taxpayers would trust the county commissioners with \$900,000 of the levy money for their use-it-on-anything slush fund.
- LTTE 3. The Courier did its part contributing to the defeat, consistently finding ways to fill its front page stories with reasons to vote yes. Instead it should have been a watchdog and included criticism of the levy's structure and insufficient implementation guidelines.
- LTTE 4. Enough is enough. Four times rejected and commissioners don't get the message. What part of "no" don't they understand? Leave the homeowners alone and no more taxes.
- LTTE 5. Once again, what part of no more taxes do our so-called leaders and special interest groups not understand? . . . These smoke-screens aside, it's time a real answer for funding public safety services is explored by those who are supposed to be responsible for running our city and county. . . We want more sheriff's deputies, we want more jail cells, we want a juvenile justice system – just not on the backs of homeowners.
- LTTE 6. It's time to figure this mess out and more taxes is not the answer.
- LTTE 7. Does "the common good" trump "private property rights"? Last July, I submitted two sample property rights resolutions to the board of county commissioners. After waiting long enough, a few weeks ago I reminded the commissioners the people still want to know where they stood.

Number of LTTE Reason/Concept Comments: 7.

Being Heard

- Hugo JS&PSS Exploratory Committee, HNAHS. June 15, 2015. *Being Heard*. Appendix A1 of *Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015*. Hugo, OR.
http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/JSPSS_AppxA1_Issues_061515.pdf

Being heard refers to the opportunity to engage in meaningful conversation, to make a difference through what one shares publically, especially what a citizen writes and takes ownership of in their own name (e.g., guest opinions, letters to the editor, comments to JO CO government and sheriff, comments in a formal participatory planning process, etc.), and to have a say in key decisions. For the purposes of the proposed Study design, the capacity to being heard and "have a say" is the opportunity to provide equal written input into important JS&PSS planning and assessment considerations, and have those ideas publically shared through accessible and transparent web publishing documents.

If diverse views held by citizens are in conflict and some views are excluded from an equal sharing, or other decision-making processes, or their voices are perceived to be overlooked and ignored, they are likely to become dissatisfied with that process. This could exacerbate public mistrust, undermine the legitimacy of any proposed solutions, and may well hamper implementation of majority potential solutions. Citizens feeling left out may challenge the

potential solution(s), or simply refuse to participate with any proposed solutions as they have no ownership. They may even oppose a proposed solution(s), acting as "spoilers."

The capacity to influence important decisions restores one's sense that one is capable of handling life's problems and important in finding solutions. Conflict resolution is fostered when those most affected by the problem have a voice in open and inclusive decision-making. JS&PSS information processes that are informed by diverse points of view may contribute to a more lasting and stable solution(s).

In summary, various methods of inclusive governance can give diverse members of the population a chance to be heard. Increasing meaningful public participation, particularly among those from marginalized groups or bystanders, is a powerful way to ensure that citizens have input into important planning process decisions. Genuine participation requires social inclusion (see Appendix A1, Being Heard, for more information)..

PIC&C #3 Summary. Citizens Feel Their Voices Are Not Being Heard. What Part Of “No” Don’t They Understand?

An issue, identified by public opinion, is *how to demonstrate trust and enhance communication between some of our neighbors and JO CO government*. Many citizens obviously do not feel like they have an opportunity to engage in meaningful conversation with the local government, to make a difference through what one shares publically. Many others feel their views are excluded from an equal sharing, or other decision-making processes, or their voices are overlooked and ignored.

The Study Design approach primarily relies on citizens to provide insight about how to identify and manage problems, and formulate their own goals and solutions for the future (web page on voting, writing letters to the editor and guest opinions in *The Grants Pass Daily Courier*, writing arguments in voters’ pamphlets, etc.). It aspires to emphasize the importance to citizens of knowing they are being heard, of being the decision-makers that decide their future. As active participants, neighbors at the grassroots level can gain ownership of Study Design information processes and become "stakeholder" decision-makers in the range of potential solutions they, as a group, identified.

(4) PIC&C #4. Rural Patrol Presence Has Not Changed From 2000 - 2015; I Don't Feel More Unsafe Or More Safe.

- LTTE 1. It never ceases to amaze me the lengths this county administration will go to try and sell us a bill of goods. . . Let's be clear . . . These taxes will not give us the protection we need.
- LTTE 2. If the levy passes, they claim children could play without fear of violence – 10 years ago when public safety was fully funded there was violence against our children. How can they guarantee there will be absolutely no violence if the levy passes? If the levy passes they claim we seniors (elderly to them) will feel safe when someone is breaking into our home to do us harm, and an officer may get there in 7 to 10 minutes – that will be too late. I am a senior who lives in the county, and I will not feel any safer. How can they speak for me?
- LTTE 3. Patrols do not arrive in time to prevent crime.
- LTTE 4. What will the money — expected to be more than \$9 million to start and rising to over \$10.5 million over 5 years — buy us? Those of us living in the sprawling county will still have to buy our own fire service, which is expensive, and security systems. Additional sheriff's deputies could not even begin to adequately patrol those areas.
- LTTE 5. I have found that sheriff's patrols are mostly reactive, not proactive, meaning they come after the crime was committed.
- LTTE 6. The presence of law enforcement does not promote safety. The city has a very large police department with response times in the three to four minute range. Yet for all that protection the city experiences 80 percent of the crime in the county.
- LTTE 7. It is not that difficult to figure out what is going on. The typical homestead in the outback involves, "No Trespassing" signs, large obnoxious dogs, and an excellent likelihood that the owner has a gun. Considering these obstacles, it is unlikely a deputy replying a half-hour after the event would have any consequence whatsoever.

Number of LTTE Reason/Concept Comments: 7.

Thoughts (very draft)

Preventing Crime: What Works, What Doesn't, What's Promising

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/works/>

- A Report to the United States Congress, July 1998. Prepared for the National Institute of Justice by Lawrence W. Sherman, Denise Gottfredson, Doris MacKenzie, John Eck, Peter Reuter, and Shawn Bushway in collaboration with members of the Graduate Program, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Maryland.

Chapter Eight, Policing for Crime Prevention, by Lawrence W. Sherman

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/works/chapter8.htm>

The more police we have, the less crime there will be. While citizens and public officials often espouse that view, social scientists often claim the opposite extreme: that police make only minimal contributions to crime prevention in the context of far more powerful social institutions, like the family and labor markets. The truth appears to lie in between. Whether additional police prevent crime may depend on how well they are focused on specific objectives, tasks, places, times and people. Most of all, it may depend upon putting police where serious crime is concentrated, at the times it is most likely to occur: policing focused on risk factors.

The connection of policing to risk factors is the most powerful conclusion reached from three decades of research. Hiring more police to provide rapid 911 responses, unfocused random patrol, and reactive arrests does not prevent serious crime. Community policing without a clear focus on crime risk factors generally shows no effect on crime. But directed patrols, proactive arrests and problem-solving at high-crime "hot spots" has shown substantial evidence of crime prevention. Police can prevent robbery, disorder, gun violence, drunk driving and domestic violence, but only by using certain methods under certain conditions.

National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice These conclusions are based largely on research supported by the National Institute of Justice, the research arm of the Office of Justice Programs in the U.S. Department of Justice. In recent years, increasing numbers of police executives have incorporated these findings into their crime prevention strategies. University of Wisconsin law professor Herman Goldstein's (1979) paradigm of "problem-oriented policing" directed research attention to the specific things police do, and how they can focus their resources to attack the proximate causes of public safety problems. The Justice Department's adoption of this perspective has yielded an increasingly complex but useful body of knowledge about how policing affects crime.

One of the most striking recent findings is the extent to which the police themselves create a risk factor for crime simply by using bad manners. Modest but consistent scientific evidence supports the hypothesis that the less respectful police are towards suspects and citizens generally, the less people will comply with the law. Changing police "style" may thus be as important as focusing police "substance." Making both the style and substance of police practices more "legitimate" in the eyes of the public, particularly high-risk juveniles, may be one of the most effective long-term police strategies for crime prevention.

There are eight major hypotheses about how the police can prevent crime (Figure 1). It then describes the varying strength of the scientific evidence on those hypotheses, in relation to the "rigor" of the scientific methods used to test them.

Eight Major Hypotheses About Policing and Crime (Other things being equal).

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Numbers of Police. | The more police a city employs, the less crime it will have. |
| 2. Rapid Response to 911. | The shorter the police travel time from assignment to arrival at a crime scene, the less crime there will be. |
| 3. Random Patrols. | The more random patrol a city receives, the more a perceived "omnipresence" of the police will deter crime in public places. |
| 4. Directed Patrols. | The more precisely patrol presence is concentrated at the "hot spots" and "hot times" of criminal activity, the less crime there will be in those places and times. |
| 5. Reactive Arrests. | The more arrests police make in response to reported or observed offenses of any kind, the less crime there will be. |
| 6. Proactive Arrests. | The higher the police-initiated arrest rate for high-risk offenders and offenses, the lower the rates of serious violent crime. |
| 7. Community Policing. | The more quantity and better quality of contacts between police and citizens, the less crime. |
| 8. Problem-Oriented Policing. | The more police can identify and minimize proximate causes of specific patterns of crime, the less crime there will be. |

% Effectiveness of the 8 hypotheses

The reader is referred to the source for more information, *Preventing Crime: What Works, What Doesn't, What's Promising* (<https://www.ncjrs.gov/works/>). A 19 page summary is at <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles/171676.PDF>.

Also reference PIC&C #8. Promote Economic Development & Education.

PIC&C #4 Summary. Rural Patrol Presence Has Not Changed; I Don't Feel More Unsafe Or More Safe.

An issue, identified by public opinion, is that many folks do not feel the JO CO Sheriff's rural patrol presence changes, even when the numbers of deputy sheriffs had significant changes in actual presence. They don't feel more unsafe or more safe.

The more police we have, the less crime there will be. While citizens and public officials often espouse that view, social scientists often claim the opposite extreme: that police make only minimal contributions to crime prevention in the context of far more powerful social institutions, like the family and labor markets. The JS&PSS Committee feels the truth appears to lie in between. Whether additional police prevent crime may depend on how well they are focused on specific objectives, tasks, places, times and people within the context of the family and community health and the job situation.

The body of knowledge about how policing affects crime is beyond the Committee's ability to come up with the facts for this increasingly complex issue. Some studies identify eight major hypotheses about how the police can prevent crime.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Numbers of Police. | The more police a city employs, the less crime it will have. |
| 2. Rapid Response to 911. | The shorter the police travel time from assignment to arrival at a crime scene, the less crime there will be. |
| 3. Random Patrols. | The more random patrol a city receives, the more a perceived "omnipresence" of the police will deter crime in public places. |
| 4. Directed Patrols. | The more precisely patrol presence is concentrated at the "hot spots" and "hot times" of criminal activity, the less crime there will be in those places and times. |
| 5. Reactive Arrests. | The more arrests police make in response to reported or observed offenses of any kind, the less crime there will be. |
| 6. Proactive Arrests. | The higher the police-initiated arrest rate for high-risk offenders and offenses, the lower the rates of serious violent crime. |
| 7. Community Policing. | The more quantity and better quality of contacts between police and citizens, the less crime. |
| 8. Problem-Oriented Policing. | The more police can identify and minimize proximate causes of specific patterns of crime, the less crime there will be. |

One interesting premise is findings that the extent to which the police themselves create a risk factor for crime simply by using bad manners. Modest but consistent scientific evidence supports the hypothesis that the less respectful police are towards suspects and citizens generally, the less people will comply with the law. Changing police "style" may thus be as important as focusing police "substance." Making both the style and substance of police practices more "legitimate" in the eyes of the public, particularly high-risk juveniles, may be one of the most effective long-term police strategies for crime prevention.

(5) PIC&C #5. Not Fair That Only Property Owners Pay

- LTTE 1. Property owners recognized there was a public safety problem, but they were used to paying almost no taxes and don't want to pay more.
- LTTE 2. A fair tax is when the burden is paid by everyone [versus property owners].
- LTTE 3. The dislike of taxing a person's property is understandable. I equate the taxing of one's home as the same as blackmail. The fear of losing one's home to a tax lien is very real. . . . We need the citizens of this county to meet at public places and start a dialogue on how to raise money for county safety. The taxing of one's home is not the answer.
- LTTE 4. I'm in favor of paying my "fair share." That "fair share" should not be determined by one's wealth. We have worked hard, sacrificed and made good life choices. Why should we pay more than others for the same service? This Robin Hood economic model that is proposed to fund the levy would make Karl Marx proud.
- LTTE 5. Measure 17-66 for patrol, jail, juvenile shelter: While I'm not against the measure per se, I don't understand why only property owners are expected to bear the burden of funding it. Is this not a community issue? Shouldn't everyone be assessed as equally as possible to implement measures to increase public safety and services?
- LTTE 6. Why is it the only ones that will be making financial sacrifices and adjustments with the proposed tax levy will be the taxpayer. We don't hear anything about the Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's Office, or the other county departments adjusting their salaries or inflated pension programs to fit the budget.

Number of LTTE Reason/Concept Comments: 6.

Thoughts (very draft)

High-income Americans pay most income taxes, but enough to be 'fair'?

- Desilver, Drew. March 24, 2015. *High-income Americans pay most income taxes, but enough to be 'fair'?* FactTank, News In Numbers.
<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/03/24/high-income-americans-pay-most-income-taxes-but-enough-to-be-fair/>

Americans don't much like the federal tax system, a recent Pew Research Center report finds. But it's not, as you might imagine, because they think they pay too much. Rather, they think people other than themselves don't pay their fair share.

Some six-in-ten Americans in the Pew Research survey said they were bothered a lot by the feeling that "some wealthy people" and "some corporations" don't pay their fair share. Only 27% cited their own tax bills as something that bothered them a lot, even though 40% thought they paid more than their fair share given what they get from the federal government.

The Risks of Relying on User Fees

Katherine Barrett & Richard Greene. April 2013. *The Risks of Relying on User Fees*. Governing magazine.
<http://www.governing.com/columns/smart-mgmt/col-risks-of-raising-non-tax-revenue.html>

In the past three years, states and cities have brought in billions of dollars in additional user fees. But there are pitfalls to this form of revenue boost.

Who should pay our public bills: users — or all of us?

Dave Helling. JUNE 12, 2014. *Who should pay our public bills: users — or all of us?* Government & Politics. <http://www.kansascity.com/news/government-politics/article535793/Dave-Helling-Who-should-pay-our-public-bills-users-%E2%80%94-or-all-of-us.html>

Opponents of a transportation sales tax in Missouri want only “users” to pay for road repairs. Determining who uses public services can be complicated — and crucial.

Missouri voters will hear a lot about “user fees” this summer. Opponents of a 3/4-cent transportation sales tax on the August ballot will say only people using roads and bridges should pay to fix them, not all taxpayers.

User fees have a certain appeal. Golfers should pay for a round at a municipal course, we believe. Swimmers should pay for the pool.

But user fees are complicated. Asking the bar owner to pay for liquor control seems to make sense, but he or she will simply add the cost to your tab. The owner’s user fee is your hidden tax.

Raise highway tolls or the gas tax and travelers will pay — but so will anyone who buys truck-delivered food or furniture. Merchants will simply pass their fees to you.

More broadly, user fees distort the debate over what is and isn’t a public benefit. Kansas Citians who never ride the bus, for example, pay a sales tax for mass transit.

Perhaps you believe those who use the bus should pay for it.

Few riders could afford the full cost, and the bus service would probably shut down. That affects everyone. Streets and sidewalks would be more crowded, pollution higher, labor less efficient.

Arguably, everyone benefits from the bus service, even those who never “use” it. That implies everyone should pay part of the cost.

Who “uses” a public park? Just the people who picnic there — or all of us living in a greener community? Is the public library just for book lovers — or a smarter, more prosperous city?

The dilemma is clearest when it comes to public schools. Thousands of Kansas Citians live in childless homes, but they pay taxes to support schools and benefit from a well-educated citizenry. Asking only “users” to pay for education would break that social contract.

Now let’s be clear: User fees are complicated in both directions. Asking non-users to pay for the bus seems OK, but general subsidies for a fixed-route streetcar is a tougher call. So are subsidies for stadiums and arenas.

Isn’t a healthy airport as important as the public library? If so, why should taxpayers support one and not the other?

By the way — since I pay for your books, shouldn’t you pay for my flight?

Informed Missouri voters will have to figure this out. Better roads and bridges are either a public good everyone should pay for or specific improvements meaningful only to drivers and tourists.

Decide which side you’re on and you’re on your way to understanding how to cast your ballot.

Who Pays?

- Institute on Taxation & Economic Policy. Third Edition November 2009. *Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All 50 States*. Washington, D.C. www.itepnet.org.

Around the nation, state lawmakers are facing budget shortfalls on a larger scale than at any time in recent memory. As elected officials evaluate tax-reform strategies for balancing state budgets, the question of who pays the most — and the least — of their income in state and local taxes is especially relevant.

This study assesses the fairness of each state's tax system, measuring the state and local taxes paid by different income groups in 2007 (including the impact of tax changes enacted through October of 2009) as shares of income for every state and the District of Columbia. The report provides valuable comparisons among the states, showing which states have done the best — and the worst — job of providing a modicum of fairness in their tax systems overall.

The study's main finding is that nearly every state and local tax system takes a much greater share of income from middle- and low-income families than from the wealthy. That is, when all state and local income, sales, excise and property taxes are added up, most state tax systems are regressive.

Fairness is, of course, in the eye of the beholder. Yet almost anyone would agree that the best-off families should pay at a tax rate at least equal to what low- and middle-income families pay. Virtually every state fails this basic test of tax fairness: as this study documents, only two states require their best-off citizens to pay as much of their incomes in taxes as their very poorest taxpayers must pay, and only one state taxes its wealthiest individuals at a higher effective rate than middle-income families have to pay.

Nationwide, effective state and local tax rates on non-elderly families follow a strikingly regressive pattern:

The average state and local tax rate on the best-off one percent of families is 6.4 percent before accounting for the tax savings from federal itemized deductions for state and local taxes. After accounting for this tax savings — an effect commonly referred to as the “federal offset” — the effective tax rate on the top one percent is a mere 5.2 percent.

The average tax rate on families in the middle 20 percent of the income spectrum is 9.7 percent before the federal offset and 9.4 percent after — almost twice the effective rate that the richest people pay.

The average tax rate on the poorest 20 percent of families is the highest of all. At 10.9 percent, it is more than double the effective rate on the very wealthy. This group generally derives no benefit from the federal offset.

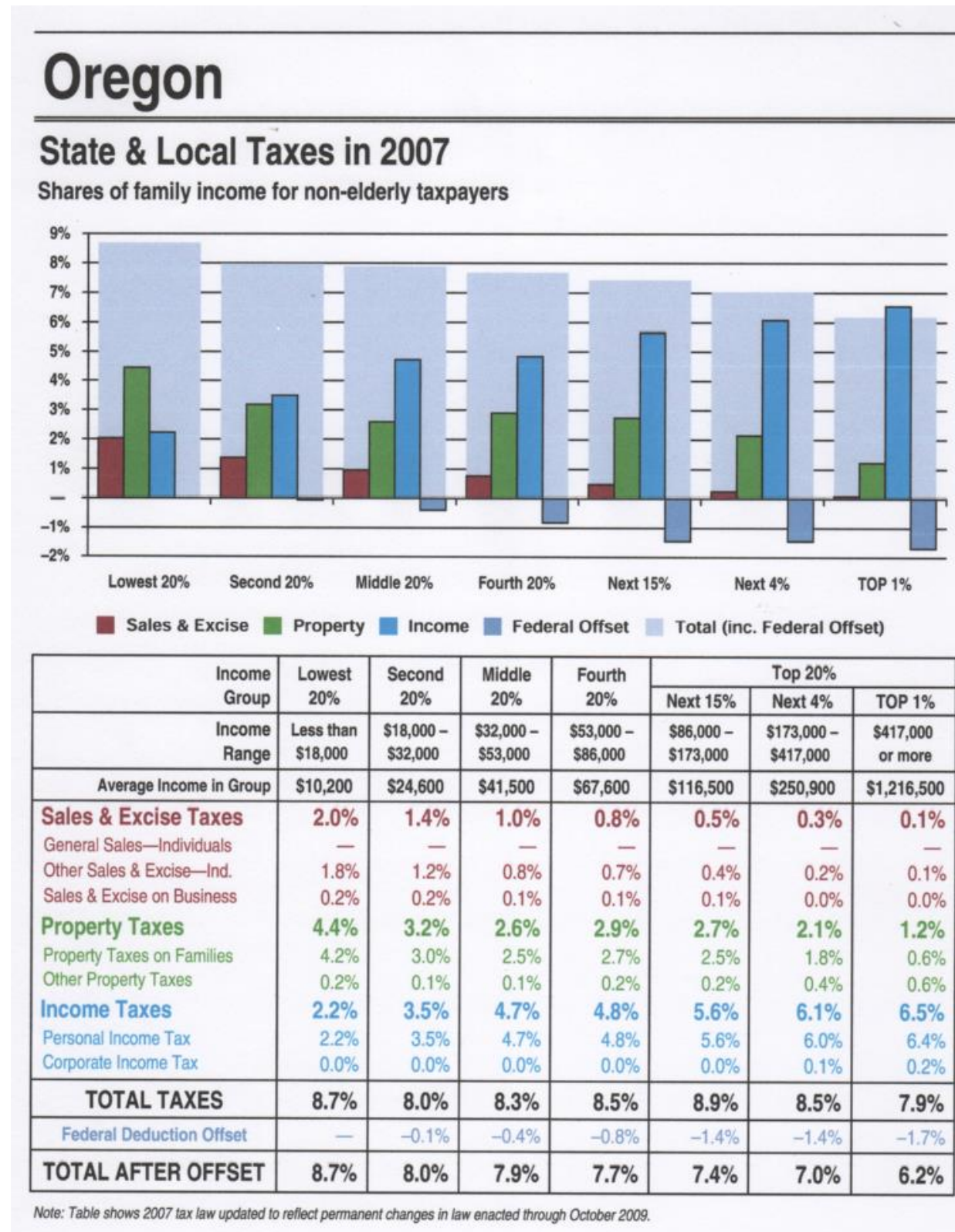
The Kind of Tax Matters State and local governments seeking to fund public services have historically relied on three broad types of taxes — personal income, property, and consumption (sales and excise) taxes. As can be seen by our analysis of the most and least regressive tax states, the fairness of state tax systems depends primarily on which of these three taxes a state relies on most heavily. Each of these taxes has a distinct distributional impact, as the table on this page illustrates:

State income taxes are typically progressive — that is, as incomes go up, effective tax rates go up. On average, poor families pay only a tenth of the effective income tax rate that the richest families pay, and middle-income families pay about half of the effective rate on the well-to-do. Of the three major taxes used by states, the personal income tax is the only one for which the effective tax rates typically rise with income levels.

Property taxes, including both taxes on individuals and business taxes, are usually somewhat regressive. On average, poor homeowners and renters pay more of their incomes in property taxes than do any other income group — and the wealthiest taxpayers pay the least.

Sales and excise taxes are very regressive. Poor families pay almost eight times more of their incomes in these taxes than the best-off families, and middle-income families pay more than four times the rate of the wealthy.

OREGON Table III-1. Oregon, State & Local Taxes in 2007, Shares of Family Income for Non-elderly Taxpayers



Oregon: State & Local Taxes: Features, Developments, and Comparisons

Progressive Features

- Income tax brackets, standard deduction, and “exemption” credit indexed to inflation
- No statewide sales tax

Regressive Features

- Offers a limited income tax deduction for federal income taxes paid
- Fails to provide a property tax “circuit breaker” credit for non-elderly taxpayers

Recent Developments

- Contingent upon voter approval, will create a new top personal income tax rate, further limit the deduction for federal income taxes paid, create a new top corporate income tax rate, and raise corporate minimum taxes
- Adopted a reduced “exemption” credit for upper-income taxpayers

States (5 states) Offering a Deduction for Federal Income Taxes Paid: Oregon, Montana, Missouri, Louisiana, and Alabama.

PIC&C #5 Summary. Not Fair That Only Property Owners Pay

An issue, identified by public opinion, is that property owners are the ones that mostly pay for services through taxes is true. And is it fair?

Fairness is, of course, in the eye of the beholder. Would anyone agree that all receiving justice system and public safety services (JS&PSS) should first determine what they are and then pay their fair share of taxes (i.e., sales and excise, property, and income taxes) to support the services? Would anyone agree that the best-off families should pay at a tax rate at least equal to what low - and middle-income families pay?

Fairness or being fair can refer to many ideas: justice, equity (law), social justice, distributive justice, procedural justice, interactional justice, and environmental justice, to name a few. For example, distributive justice concerns the nature of a socially just allocation of goods in a society. A society in which incidental inequalities in outcome do not arise would be considered a society guided by the principles of distributive justice. The concept includes the available quantities of goods, the process by which goods are to be distributed, and the resulting allocation of the goods to the members of the society.

Procedural justice is the idea of fairness in the processes that resolve disputes and allocate resources. One aspect of procedural justice is related to discussions of the administration of justice and legal proceedings. In the U.S. the sense of procedural justice is connected to due process, but the idea of procedural justice can also be applied to nonlegal contexts in which some process is employed to resolve conflict or divide benefits or burdens. Procedural justice concerns the fairness and the transparency of the processes by which decisions are made. Hearing all parties before a decision is made is one step which would be considered appropriate to be taken in order that a process may then be characterized as procedurally fair. Some theories of procedural justice hold that fair procedure leads to equitable outcomes, even if the requirements of distributive or restorative justice are not met.

The Committee does not know if it is fair that property owners are the ones that mostly pay for services through taxes. It knows Americans in general do not like taxes and think other folks don't pay their fair share.

A study, *Who Pays,?* by the Institute on Taxation & Economic Policy found that the Kind of tax matters. State and local governments seeking to fund public services have historically relied on three broad types of taxes — personal income, property, and consumption (sales and excise) taxes. The study's analysis that the most and least regressive tax states, and the fairness of state tax systems depended primarily on which of these three taxes a state relies on most heavily. Each of these taxes has a distinct distributional impact.

- State income taxes are typically progressive.
- Property taxes, including both taxes on individuals and business taxes, are usually somewhat regressive.
- Sales and excise taxes are very regressive.

The study, *Who Pays?* found that Nationwide, effective state and local tax rates on non-elderly families follow a strikingly regressive pattern:

- The average state and local tax rate on the best-off one percent of families is 6.4 percent before accounting for the tax savings from federal itemized deductions for state and local taxes. After accounting for this tax savings — an effect commonly referred to as the “federal offset” — the effective tax rate on the top one percent is a mere 5.2 percent.
- The average tax rate on families in the middle 20 percent of the income spectrum is 9.7 percent before the federal offset and 9.4 percent after — almost twice the effective rate that the richest people pay.
- The average tax rate on the poorest 20 percent of families is the highest of all. At 10.9 percent, it is more than double the effective rate on the very wealthy. This group generally derives no benefit from the federal offset.

For Oregon the study found the following about: State & Local Taxes - Features, Developments, and Comparisons.

Progressive Features

- Income tax brackets, standard deduction, and “exemption” credit indexed to inflation
- No statewide sales tax

Regressive Features

- Offers a limited income tax deduction for federal income taxes paid
- Fails to provide a property tax “circuit breaker” credit for non-elderly taxpayers

Recent Developments

- Contingent upon voter approval, will create a new top personal income tax rate, further limit the deduction for federal income taxes paid, create a new top corporate income tax rate, and raise corporate minimum taxes
- Adopted a reduced “exemption” credit for upper-income taxpayers

In summary, like some information in at “PIC&C #1. Public Safety Should Be Paid By Public,” the simplest answer might be the following from *The Case For the Property Tax*.

One might rightfully ask, given the resentments against the property tax, why does it persist? There are a number of reasons why. Chief among them are the fact that it provides a stable source of revenue for local governments; nonresident property owners are taxed; it is often used to finance property related services and to construct publicly owned infrastructure; it is difficult to evade; and, it has enabled local governments to maintain some autonomy from state and federal control.

(6) PIC&C #6. Opportunities Had Not Occurred To Inform Voters in a Comprehensive Non-Special Interest Fashion: Planning & Business Plan

- LTTE 1. For the next year, the Sheriff's Office and other sectors of the public safety system in our county will have to figure out how to make do with the meager resources that will be available.
- LTTE 2. Public safety services will just have to operate at the level these resources will allow. It remains to be seen whether the Oregon State Police will continue to expend additional resources here to make up for our lack of sheriff's deputies, or how long taxpayers in the rest of the state will tolerate the situation. Then, two years down the road we can decide whether what we have is good enough.
- LTTE 3. There's no guarantee, however, that Congress will approve another extension of county payments, even at their current paltry level. In fact, members of Congress have said for years that the program is being phased out and the day will come soon enough when this money will stop flowing altogether. When this happens, the entire premise of the public safety debate will likely change.
- LTTE 4. Everyone I know who voted no on the levy did so as they felt there should be other alternatives sought other than placing the entire burden on the homeowner. Pretty narrow thinking.
- LTTE 5. We are being asked if we will authorize a tax on those who own property. My answer is "no." It's about time we started talking about other alternatives. I would like to have that conversation.
- LTTE 6. I'm sure there is a way to fund the Sheriff's Office to operate at a reasonable level and provide the services absolutely necessary, but this levy is not it.
- LTTE 7. Is there a possibility of instituting a county-wide flat fee for every adult, 18 or older, residing in Josephine County? Then maybe those who are actually using the system will also be supporting it financially. Now that is something I would vote for.
- LTTE 8. I have found that sheriff's patrols are mostly reactive, not proactive, meaning they come after the crime was committed. Why should all homeowners pay 240 percent on the county portion of their taxes? Not fair! . . . The scientific poll that was taken was a farce. Community United For Safety says a lot of things, but nothing of real importance.
- LTTE 9. After reading all that I could find out about the tax levy, Measure 17-66, I have concluded that more jail beds are needed. No argument there. Solution: Double the "service fee" on the city sewer bill, from \$3.74 x 13,000 households to \$7.48 x 13,000, which will bring in \$97,240 per month, well over \$1 million a year. Much cheaper than the tax levy. Most of the crime is committed in the city and the city has a substantial police force, just not enough jail beds.
- LTTE 10. I also don't like that the group Community United For Safety appears to have formulated the levy and set the rate prior to any opportunity for public input. I learned about the group from a Daily Courier article on Dec. 17. When I went to their website that same day, there was no contact information for anything except to make donations. They think they can just set a higher rate than previous levies and convince us it will pass this time because they did a study and are wearing us down. I believe the levy should have been structured with two rates, one for city residents and a higher rate for county residents which would cover rural patrols.
- LTTE 11. What is the truth about the tax levy? Problems with levy 17-66. Who is the oversight committee? What is a reasonable time that law enforcement will respond? How is a person to call 911 if the criminal has a gun pointed at them? . . . The survey taken is flawed. Only 402 people were surveyed out of about 50,000 registered voters. How can that be a good representation? If the juvenile center is reopened, will there be any talk about Christian values to these abused and homeless children, and where do they go later on? Why is it that the homeowners and businesses have to keep paying more taxes, while churches don't pay any property tax?
- LTTE 12. A small county sales tax or tiered income tax dedicated solely to this purpose would be better choices and spread the costs more fairly among all who will benefit. . . . But this measure is particularly burdensome in that it proposes to more than double the taxes we now pay to fund county government. It will not end in five years, but more likely be increased.

- LTTE 13. But I have a couple of questions that are not in the Voters' Pamphlet. Who will be in control of the money? Why is it planned to only show us the audit each year and not every month? I have also heard that if this measure doesn't pass, the state can force us to pay a \$2 per \$1,000 of assessed value. If this is true, and \$1.40 would cover the need, then what happens to the extra 60 cents?
- LTTE 14. How can we raise money to fund our deputies? The current proposal for the tax levy is embedded with funding for a myriad of public services. Lots of folk are not happy with this and as we know past levies have failed. I offer a proposal to fund some deputies that is not at taxpayer expense. . . . I'm not in favor of higher taxes but I sure would dedicate all my pocket change to fund additional deputies. We might be surprised at how this "loose change" could add up to real money if a lot of people got behind it.
- LTTE 15. It's time we, the residents of Josephine County, stepped up like adults and paid our way. If not, look for House Joint Resolution 21 requiring a minimum level of funding in every Oregon county of \$2.00 per assessed \$1,000 of property value to make that decision for you.
- LTTE 16. Ever since the payments peaked at more than \$12 million in 2006, they have been gradually reduced year to year. The reason for this step-down in payments was to give counties time to identify new funding sources. Unfortunately, Josephine County did plenty of cost-cutting but nothing to replace the lost funding.

Number of LTTE Reason/Concept Comments: 16.

May 17, 2015. Jeff Duewel. RCC Students Explore Levy-related Sociology Concepts.

The 35 students in Henry Wisniewski's introductory sociology class at Rogue Community College got their hands dirty with crime data, interviews, surveys and research this term. They wrestled with two topics on everyone's minds — taxes and crime, in light of Tuesday's election.

They learned that Josephine County is among the poorest counties in the state, and it has a drug problem. Their own surveys told them most people felt safe, and that most surveyed didn't think crime would decline if taxes went up.

"I don't feel like a lot of people are informed. We're just told we need taxes to be safe," said student Kristina Shone, who surveyed about 60 fellow students in two classes.

Some in the class took issue with the presentation of 58 cents per \$1,000 as the lowest permanent rate in the state. When you add taxes for fire districts, school districts, city services and 4-H/Extension services, the overall property tax rate is certainly higher, and varies significantly, depending on where you live.

The actual property tax for county services alone is currently 82 cents per \$1,000 — 58 cents permanent, 15.8 cents for the voter-approved jail bond from more than a decade ago, and 8 cents for three years for an Animal Control levy, approved just last year.

Josephine County's overall average property tax rate of \$9.48 per \$1,000 in assessed value — based on the Oregon Department of Revenue's latest data from 2012-13 — is actually the second-lowest in the state. Curry County's is the lowest at \$8.68.

But average rates hardly tell the whole story — tax rates vary widely within the county. Grants Pass residents pay \$6.32 per \$1,000 for city services and \$4.52 per \$1,000 for School District 7 services, out of their total of \$12.58 per \$1,000, or \$2,516 for a house assessed at \$200,000.

Those in the county — outside of Cave Junction and not in any public fire district, have the lowest rate at \$6.01 per \$1,000, or \$1,202 on a \$200,000-assessed property. Many of them do pay a private company, Rural/Metro Fire Department, for fire protection.

Students found crime statistics even more difficult to decipher.

Student Ben Musser found some good apples-to-apples statistics, when comparing Josephine County to Benton County (county seat, Corvallis). He found virtually the same number of crimes (7,378 to 7,471, respectively) for almost the same number of people (82,775 to 86,785, respectively), in the most recent state statistics.

He also found that crimes against people are gradually declining nationwide. But property crimes in Josephine County were 85 percent higher than the national average. That turned Musser from a no to a yes vote on the public safety ballot.

He was the exception. Randy Humphrey said, based on information gathered by the class, that he went from "on the fence" to a no vote. Josh Sharpe, who owns property in the county, said he was originally for the levy and now is against it, based on a "lack of a comprehensive plan for the future." In other class findings:

- The students, curious about potentially frivolous spending, found that a SWAT vehicle used by the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety was essentially donated from a grant.
- Sharpe's research indicated that 22.6 percent of Josephine County households made less than \$15,000 a year, and that the poverty level here is 21.9 percent, compared to 16 percent for the entire state.
- Damon Howard was told by two insurance agents that rates haven't gone up for renters or property owners because of lack of public safety, and the agents don't believe they will.
- A handful of senior citizens were surveyed, and they opposed the levy by a 2 to 1 margin. One described living in the middle of nowhere and said it didn't matter if there were deputies or not.

"Why should I pay more taxes for them to continue to ignore us," was the response.

Another wrote "It's such a small increase, I can't believe it hasn't already passed. Are people so greedy they would prefer break-ins and junkies becoming the norm?"

Wisniewski said the goal was to exercise everyone's brains. "We're not going to change people's minds anyway," he said.

Public Safety Levy Reasonable, Given Current Situation

- Widdison, Kevin, Opinions Editor. May 3, 2015. *Public Safety Levy Reasonable, Given Current Situation*. The Grants Pass Daily Courier (TGPDC). Grants Pass, OR.

In the 1980s Josephine County was in the enviable position of paying for all of its government services using timber money from harvests on federal land. There was plenty of money to go around, for law enforcement, libraries, parks and more. Then along came the '90s, when harvests declined dramatically. As the harvests dwindled, so did revenue in Josephine and other timber counties. The federal government, recognizing that its own environmental policies contributed to this situation, stepped in with subsidies to make up for lost revenue (i.e., SRS, etc.). At the time, there was probably a presumption the ship would eventually right itself and the subsidies would only be temporary. Things didn't work out that way. As the years went by, harvests never rebounded to anywhere near the 1980s level, and the subsidies from Washington, D.C., just kept rolling in. It was a nice run while it lasted.

But then in 2008, legislation to renew the subsidy included language requiring that the payments get smaller with each successive year. This approach was intended to give timber-dependent counties time to develop new funding plans. Unfortunately, at the end of the four-year phase-out, we in Josephine County had done nothing except hope for another renewal of the subsidies. With each successive renewal, we've been told the federal money is nothing more than a "bridge" to get us to a future that does not include federal county payments. Sooner or later, Congress will make good on this promise.

Regardless of whether such a judgment is fair, many congressmen in other parts of the nation see county payments as a form of pork barrel spending, and they have little motive to support the program. The amount coming our way in the most recent renewal is one-third of what we once received. Eventually, it will disappear altogether.

Justice System Public Safety Services Funding History: 2000 - 2012

- Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee. July 9, 2013. *Justice System Public Safety Services Funding History: 2000 - 2012*. Funding From Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS; P.L. 106-393) Disappears. Brochure IID.2 Justice System & Public Safety Services Series. Hugo, OR.

In summary, the 2000 SRS Act originally expired in 2006, was renewed for one year in 2007, for four more years in 2008, and one more year in 2012, though each renewal was at reduced spending levels.

- **1916 O & C Lands And County Funding**
- **The 1937 O&C Act**
- **2000 Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS; P.L. 106-393)**
- **2008 SRS Reauthorized Through 2011** Many counties are compensated for the tax-exempt status of federal lands. Counties with national forest lands and with certain Bureau of Land Management lands have historically received a percentage of agency revenues, primarily from timber sales. However, timber sales have declined substantially—by more than 90% in some areas. The 2008 reauthorization had a four year ramp-down in funding to expire 2012.
- **2012** On July 6, 2012, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 was reauthorized for federal fiscal year (FY) 2012 as part of Public Law 112-141. This one-year reauthorization of the SRS Act made some significant changes to the previous reauthorization in Public Law 110-343.
- **JO CO JS&PSS Funding History: 2013 - 2015** (Appendix B2). In May 2015, the BLM made payment to 18 counties in western Oregon eligible under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act extension. The amount paid to the Oregon & California (O&C) counties was \$20,290,958.71. In February 2015, the BLM previously paid the O&C Counties \$18,000,344.15 for Fiscal Year 2014. The total amount paid to the O&C counties is \$38,291,302.

Comprehensive Planning can be referred to as a set of methods designed to prepare information in such a way that decisions can be made more rationally.

Planning uses a logical and analytical problem-solving process to help address the complexity and uncertainty inherent in the issues. A set of logical steps includes gathering and analyzing information, determining operational objectives, and developing alternative ways to achieve the objectives, planning allows a jurisdiction or regional response structure to work through complex situations. Planning helps a jurisdiction identify the resources at its disposal to perform critical tasks and achieve desired outcomes/target levels of performance. While using a planning process cannot guarantee success, no plan, or an inadequate plan, or insufficient planning are proven contributors to failure.

Since 2008 Congress had repeatedly sent messages, with the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act, that payments would be phased out, and this was intended to give counties *time to plan for the change*.

In the last four years of the JO CO JS&PSS Issue tax levies, there were lots of opinions, but, very few official facts covering the publically identified range of issues and potential solutions accepted as credible by a majority of voting citizens. There were no facts by an independent

researcher not part of government or, having responsibilities to a sponsor and/or funder. To its credit JO CO was efficient in tightening its belt, and conducting annual budget planning, but was deficient in preparing what was needed - a comprehensive planning analysis.

Facts Truth isn't always something as clear and unquestionable as desired. In many cases, such as in topics related to social sciences, there is no "truth" but simply opinions and assumptions. Which is the best political system? Was this or that government a good or bad one? There are very few "true" answers to such questions. There are facts, opinions, facts about opinions, opinions about opinions, and truthiness. In most topics there is more than truths and lies under the sun: there are half-truths, lack of context, words with double or unclear meaning, logical fallacies, cherry-picked pieces of information to lead the reader to a predetermined conclusion, inadvertent reuse of someone else's lies, even misunderstandings. A statement may fail to adequately convey the state of affairs regarding some topic, without that statement being an actual lie. In other cases, accuracy itself is under dispute: a certain question may indeed have a "true" answer, but lack of complete information leads to people supporting a variety of possible answers.

The use of truthiness stands out in today's socio-political debates. It used to be, everyone was entitled to their own opinion, but not their own facts. But that's not the case anymore. Facts matter not at all. Perception is everything. It's certainty. What is important? What you want to be true, or what is true? There are many nuances to truthiness, a few of which follow.

- Truthiness is a quality characterizing a "truth" that a person making an argument or assertion claims to know intuitively "from the gut" or because it "feels right" without regard to evidence, logic, intellectual examination, or facts.
- Truthiness refers to the quality of preferring concepts or facts one wishes or believes to be true, rather than concepts or facts known to be true.
- It has been defined as "something that is spoken as if true that one wants others to believe is true, that said often enough with enough voices orchestrated in behind it, might even sound true, but is not true."

What is important is that Study Design is not truthiness (i.e., truthiness means truthful, not facty). It is about credible facts. For the JS&PSS Issue purposes the argument is: 1. Who's got the truth? and, 2. Who's got the facts? Part of Study Design is to get the two of them back together again.

Study Design *Understanding the JS&PSS Issue and designing a solution are complicated tasks.* The Exploratory Committee's rationale for this position is that there are substantial differences between Oregon counties in terms of their geographic and demographic characteristics, historic crime rates, willingness to tolerate certain levels of crime, and past and present funding of various public safety services. For example, given these, and other, substantial differences, how would the JO CO BCC identify, or Governor of Oregon, proclaim a public safety fiscal emergency where fiscal conditions compromise a county's ability to provide a minimally adequate level of public safety services (2013 Oregon House Bill 3453)? Determining this base services level is a difficult task, and part of what the Study Design will do - explain the standards for one process to determine whether JO CO is providing the "minimally adequate public safety services."

The results are a study to be researched and written from a neutral point of view, meaning representing fairly, proportionately, and, as far as possible, without bias, all public views that have been published by reliable sources on the safety topic. *You can't find solutions that last if you don't know the specific problems.*

The final Study product of the Study Design project could be considered part of this planning need that Congress identified. It documents a comparison of the publicly identified range of alternative solutions for the JS&PSS Issue. The Study will be accomplished by documenting: 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.

PIC&C #6 Summary. Opportunities Had Not Occurred To Inform Voters in a Comprehensive Non-Special Interest Fashion: Planning & Business Plan

An issue, identified by public opinion, is that comprehensive planning had not occurred. The citizens of JO CO have another change to plan for their future. Is the next two years the last opportunity, or another bump in the road?

In April 2015, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act was reauthorized as a part of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-10). The new language in the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act extension locked-in the allocation elections made by counties for Fiscal Year 2013 for two fiscal years. The deadline to initiate a Title II or Title III project has been extended to September 30, 2017, and the deadline to obligate Title II or Title III funds has been extended to September 30, 2018.

An issue is that Congress had repeatedly sent messages that federal payments would be phased out, and this was intended to give counties *time to plan for the change*. Our aspiration is that the final Study product of the Study Design project be considered part of this needed planning. It will document a comparison of the publicly identified range of alternative solutions by researching: 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.

Understanding the JS&PSS Issue and designing a solution are complicated tasks. The Committee's rationale for this position is that there are substantial differences between Oregon counties in terms of their geographic and demographic characteristics, historic crime rates, local priorities, willingness to tolerate certain levels of crime, and past and present funding of various public safety services. Given these substantial differences, how would the Governor of Oregon proclaim a public safety fiscal emergency when fiscal conditions compromise JO CO's ability to provide a *minimally adequate level of public safety services* (2013 Oregon House Bill 3453)? We think the answer would be valuable for the public to understand.

Another important issue is *how to demonstrate trust and enhance communication between some of our neighbors and JO CO government*. The Study Design approach relies primarily on citizens to provide insight about how to identify and manage problems, and formulate their own goals and solutions for the future (Appendix B - Appendix A Issues, Section III.C.2a): web page address on public opinion research methods, including *LTTE* in *The Grants Pass Daily Courier*). It aspires to emphasize the importance to citizens of knowing they are being heard, of being the decision-makers that decide their future. As active participants, neighbors at the grassroots level can gain ownership of Study Design information processes and become "stakeholder" decision-makers in the range of potential solutions they, as a group, identified.

In conclusion, the Committee feels there are significant unique decision-maker differences between our proposed long-range planning Study Design and the usual major impact study. For example, the end result of the Study is information for informed public decision-making, not a decision by the government (Appendix C).

(7) PIC&C # 7. Cumulative Assessments Coordinated By JO CO Assessor Office Unaffordable to Many

- LTTE 1. Being proactive involves anticipating events and planning ahead. Alternatively, being reactive means you have ignored the forecast, got caught in the storm and expect the local to provide you shelter. JO CO commissioners have known for a long time the federal O&C lumber subsidy had a finite lifespan. Yet they took no action for dealing with the shortfall. . . So here we are, and the county and city administrators are still shooting from the hip, yet the solution is obvious. . . We need administrators who are community orientated and who are willing to get the residents involved to get this great city [county] back on track.
- LTTE 2. To the 54 percent who voted no: If there way a way to support law enforcement at a more affordable level, that wasn't mandatory, would you? If \$1.40 is too high or five years is too long, would you be will to contribute less? . . . It's time to be creative and stop repeatedly trying the same failed methods. County administrators could come up with a way to give the citizens another option.
- LTTE 3. How are retirees and the unemployed supposed to keep up? It is unrealistic and will only result in more empty houses and storefronts.

Number of LTTE Reason/Concept Comments: 3.

Thoughts (very draft)

Cumulative Taxes

May 17, 2015. Jeff Duewel. RCC Students Explore Levy-related Sociology Concepts.

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Josephine County's overall average property tax rate of \$9.48 per \$1,000 in assessed value — based on the Oregon Department of Revenue's latest data from 2012-13 — is actually the second-lowest in the state. Curry County's is the lowest at \$8.68.

But average rates hardly tell the whole story — tax rates vary widely within the county. Grants Pass residents pay \$6.32 per \$1,000 for city services and \$4.52 per \$1,000 for School District 7 services, out of their total of \$12.58 per \$1,000, or \$2,516 for a house assessed at \$200,000.

Those in the county — outside of Cave Junction and not in any public fire district, have the lowest rate at \$6.01 per \$1,000, or \$1,202 on a \$200,000-assessed property. Many of them do pay a private company, Rural/Metro Fire Department, for fire protection.

Significant Impact A significant impact is a change in the human conditions which if beyond a certain threshold become important. The components of a significant impact are its indicator, standard, and conclusion. Impacts, effects, and consequences are synonymous. Effects may be direct, indirect, or cumulative. Impact predictions are compared to identified standards (i.e., maximum/minimum level of effect) beyond which the impacts become significant).

Cumulative impact is the impact which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time. It includes direct and indirect impacts.

Cumulative taxes is a sum of money demanded by a government for its support or for specific facilities or services, levied upon incomes, property, sales, etc. The two basic kinds of taxes are excise taxes and property taxes. An excise tax is directly imposed by the law-making body of a government on merchandise, products, or certain types of transactions, including carrying on a profession or business, obtaining a license, or transferring property. It is a fixed and absolute charge that does not depend upon the taxpayer's financial status or the value that the taxed property has to the taxpayer (e.g., estate, sales corporate, gift, luxury, etc.) A property tax takes the taxpayer's wealth into account, as represented by the taxpayer's income or the property he or she owns. Income tax, for example, is a property tax that is assessed and levied upon the taxpayer's income; property taxes are imposed mainly on real property.

Comparison of the permanent rate rates (PTRs) O.K., but PTRs do not include all assessor listings (e.g., education: 3 Rivers School Dist, Rogue Comm College, S.O Ed. Serv. Dist; General Government; 4-H/Extension Service; excluded from limitation: county bond levy and 3 Rivers School District; special assessments OR Forestry Fire, TIMB; and special assessments OR Forestry Fire, SURC, etc.). The JO CO PTR does not include fire protection which is included in the PTR for the City of Grants Pass.

OR's counties provide a wide range of public services, especially those higher population government units needing them (e.g., public health, mental health, community corrections, juvenile services, criminal prosecution, hospitals, nursing homes, airports, parks, libraries, land-use planning, building regulations, refuse disposal, elections, air-pollution control, veterans services, economic development, urban renewal, public housing, vector control, county fairs, museums, animal control, civil defense, senior services, etc.).

When comparing taxes, it would be fair if they were also compared with other units of government with the same population and characteristics, including all costs listed on the county's real property tax statement that act as taxes, and services such as fire protection if you want to compare with the City of Grants Pass.

PIC&C # 7 Summary. Cumulative Assessments Coordinated By JO CO Assessor Office Unaffordable to Many

An issue, identified by public opinion, is that the total or cumulative cost for services to the citizens is one of the economic indicators important to address for the JS&PSS Issue. This approach is in conflict with the narrower approach of considering a narrower part of the economic issue, such as JO CO's permanent tax rate of 58 cents per thousand dollars of assessed value.

The cumulative impact is the impact which results from the incremental impact of the action or proposed new levy when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, or levies, regardless of what government representative or other citizen undertakeing such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time. It includes direct and indirect impacts.

Cumulative taxes is a sum of money demanded by a government for its support or for specific facilities or services, levied upon incomes, property, sales, etc. The two basic kinds of taxes are excise taxes and property taxes. An excise tax is directly imposed by the law-making body of a government on merchandise, products, or certain types of transactions, including carrying on a profession or business, obtaining a license, or transferring property. It is a fixed and absolute charge that does not depend upon the taxpayer's financial status or the value that the taxed property has to the taxpayer (e.g., estate, sales corporate, gift, luxury, etc.) A property tax takes the taxpayer's wealth into account, as represented by the taxpayer's income or the property he or she owns. Income tax, for example, is a property tax that is assessed and levied upon the taxpayer's income; property taxes are imposed mainly on real property.

Comparison of the permanent rate rates (PTRs) O.K. for a limited discussion of the JO CO JS&PSS Issue, but PTRs do not include all assessor listings (i.e., costs for services such as education: 3 Rivers School Dist, Rogue Comm College, S.O Ed. Serv. Dist; General Government; 4-H/Extension Service; excluded from limitation: county bond levy and 3 Rivers School District; special assessments OR Forestry Fire, TIMB; and special assessments OR Forestry Fire, SURC, etc.. The JO CO PTR does not include fire protection which is included in the PTR for the City of Grants Pass.

OR's counties provide a wide range of public services, especially those higher population government units needing them (e.g., public health, mental health, community corrections, juvenile services, criminal prosecution, hospitals, nursing homes, airports, parks, libraries, land-use planning, building regulations, refuse disposal, elections, air-pollution control, veterans services, economic development, urban renewal, public housing, vector control, county fairs, museums, animal control, civil defense, senior services, etc.).

When comparing taxes, it would be fair if they were also compared with other units of government with the same population and characteristics, including all costs listed on the county's real property tax statement that act as taxes, and services such as fire protection if you want to compare with the City of Grants Pass.

For example, JO CO's overall average property tax rate of \$9.48 per \$1,000 in assessed value — is the number important to citizens. However, many of them do pay a private company another \$1.99 per \$1,000. Rural/Metro Fire Department's costs for fire protection increases the equivalent average property tax rate of \$9.48 per \$1,000 in assessed value to \$11.47.

But average rates hardly tell the whole story — Those in the county — outside of Cave Junction and not in any public fire district, have the lowest rate at \$6.01 per \$1,000, or \$1,202 on a \$200,000-assessed property.

Tax rates vary widely within the county. Grants Pass residents pay \$6.32 per \$1,000 for city services and \$4.52 per \$1,000 for School District 7 services, out of their total of \$12.58 per \$1,000, or \$2,516 for a house assessed at \$200,000.

In summary, the meaningful number is the total costs and/or the average property tax rate for all services listed on the JO CO Assessor Office's annual statements, not a near meaningless 58 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value.

(8) PIC&C # 8. Promote Economic Development & Education

- LTTE 1. The argument is that we cannot attract new industry to our area until we first create a "safe" county. The opposite is true. Economic Development is the driving force that will reduce crime in this county.
- LTTE 2. It has also become clear that an increase in local taxes, smaller than proposed in the past, must be part of a multi-pronged effort that will also include possible longer-term revenues generated by a lottery initiative, environmentally responsible mining and mineral development efforts, and timber harvesting on county-owned land. And we need to keep fighting on the timber equation on federal land as well. We are also working on drug and crime prevention programs that will make our county safer and the criminal justice system a more effective and efficient system.
- LTTE 3. New businesses moving in. New restaurants and home construction, real estate sales are up. Why are those people moving here and why that huge new hospital addition? There are expert planners behind these medical and financial additions. They plan to serve the large number of old people retiring from California, bringing their pensions with them. Why? Because Josephine County taxes are a fraction of equivalent California property taxes, plus no sales tax.

Number of LTTE Reason/Concept Comments: 3.

Children of Today and Tomorrow Are Central to Sustainable Development

On the surface, it is a common-sense argument. Of course the children of today and tomorrow are central to sustainable development and the future of our planet and all its inhabitants. All too often in practice, however, the issues of children and young people are seen only as a "social" issue – while their health, safety, education and rights are also inextricably linked to ensuring economic growth and shared prosperity, a protected natural environment and more stable, safer societies. Overlooking their role is to the peril of us all, the communities in which we live and to the planet.

Children and young people are both shapers of and shaped by the world around them. When a child is not healthy, has compromised brain functionality due to chronic poor nutrition, does not receive a quality education, does not feel safe in his or her home, school or community, will that child be able to fulfil their potential and responsibilities as a parent, an employee or entrepreneur, a consumer, a citizen? In many cases, the answer is "no" and that denies the individual child his or her rights, but also deprives the entire human family of the intellectual, social and moral benefits that derive from the fulfilment of these rights.

Economic freedom has done more for the poor throughout the world than any taxpayer-funded government program ever could. The embrace of capitalism and the defeat of serfdom in pre-industrial Europe led to the most dramatic increases in wealth in the history of the world. The industrial revolution—when based on foundations of individual freedom, private property, limited government, and limited regulation—improved the lives of millions of people in the Western world. It not only led to the rise of the middle class, it spurred innovations in health care, education, and other so-called social goods. As a result of these freedoms, and the innovation and wealth that they fostered, the United States became the most prosperous country in the world. **Economic freedom and prosperity also go hand in hand with improved health and health care, lower infant-mortality rates, better education, cleaner water, and improved sanitation.** Today, economic freedom is vital to maintaining prosperity where it exists—and to lifting people out of poverty where it does not.

Notwithstanding the overwhelming evidence of success over the past two centuries, critics continue to insist that economic freedom has been a failure. A frequent charge is that governments that prioritize policies such as low tax rates, impartial rule of law, strong private property rights, and unfettered access to markets generally fail to provide citizens with **adequate health care, education, and clean environments.**

Conditions Within Our Homes/Conditions in the Neighborhoods

Just as **conditions within our homes** have important implications for our health, **conditions in the neighborhoods surrounding our homes also can have major health effects**. Social and economic features of neighborhoods have been linked with mortality, general health status, disability, birth outcomes, chronic conditions, health behaviors and other risk factors for chronic disease, as well as with mental health, injuries, violence and other important health indicators. Physical and social environments in neighborhoods can be overtly hazardous—for example, polluted or crime-infested. They also can severely limit the choices and resources available to individuals.

The link between rising incarceration and falling crime seems logical. Draconian penalties and a startling expansion in prison capacity were advertised as measures that would bring down crime. That's what happened, right? Not so fast. **There is wide agreement that we do not yet fully know what caused crime to drop**. Theories abound, from an aging population to growing police forces to reducing lead in the air. A jumble of data and theories makes it hard to sort out this big, if happy, mystery. And it has been especially difficult to pin down the role of growing incarceration.

The Many Causes Of American Decline In Crime

• Chettiar, Inimai m., director of the Justice Program at New York University Law School's Brennan Center. February 11, 2015. *The Many Causes Of American Decline In Crime*. The Atlantic. <http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/02/the-many-causes-of-americas-decline-in-crime/385364/>

So incarceration skyrocketed and crime was in free fall. But conflating simple correlation with causation in this case is a costly mistake. A report from the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law, called *What Caused the Crime Decline?* finds that increasing incarceration is not the answer. As Nobel laureate economist Joseph Stiglitz writes in the foreword, **“This prodigious rate of incarceration is not only inhumane, it is economic folly.”**

Our team of economic and criminal justice researchers spent the last 20 months testing fourteen popular theories for the crime decline. We delved deep into over 30 years of data collected from all 50 states and the 50 largest cities. The results are sharply etched: **We do not know with precision what caused the crime decline, but the growth in incarceration played only a minor role, and now has a negligible impact.**

It turns out that increased incarceration had a much more limited effect on crime than popularly thought. We find that this growth in incarceration was responsible for approximately 5 percent of the drop in crime in the 1990s. (This could vary from 0 to 10 percent.) **Since then, however, increases in incarceration have had essentially zero effect on crime. The positive returns are gone.** That means the colossal number of Americans cycling in and out of prisons and jails over the last 13 years was not responsible for any meaningful fraction of the drop in crime.

There is no question that some level of incarceration had some positive impact on bringing down crime. **There are many habitual offenders and people committing serious, violent crimes who may need to be kept out of society.** Criminologists call this the “incapacitation” effect: Removing someone from society prevents them from committing crimes.

But after a certain point, that positive impact ceases. The new people filling prisons do so without bringing down crime much. In other words, rising incarceration rates produce less of an effect on crime reduction. This is what economists call “diminishing returns.” It turns out that the criminal justice system offers a near perfect picture of this phenomenon.

But if it was not incarceration, then what did cause the crime decline? There is no shortage of candidates. Instead of a single, dominant cause, our research points to a vast web of factors, often complex, often interacting, and some unexpected. Of the theories we examined, we found the following factors had some effect on bringing down crime:

- Growth in Income (5 to 10 Percent),
- Changes in Alcohol Consumption (5 to 10 Percent),
- the Aging Population (0 to 5 Percent),
- Decreased Unemployment (0 to 3 Percent).
- Policing Also Played a Role, with Increased Numbers of Police in the 1990s Reducing Crime (0 to 10 Percent)
- Introduction of CompStat Having an Even Larger Effect (5 to 15 Percent).

But none is solely, or even largely, responsible for the crime drop. Unfortunately, we could not fully test a few theories, as the data did not exist at the detailed level we needed for our analysis. For those, we analyzed past research, finding that inflation and consumer confidence (individuals' belief about the strength of the economy) probably had some effect on crime. The legalization of abortion and unleading of gasoline may also have played some role.

In aggregate, the fourteen factors we identified can explain some of the drop in crime in the 1990s. But even adding all of them together fails to explain the majority of the decrease.

CompStat—or COMPSTAT—(short for COMPUTER STATISTICS) is a combination of management philosophy and organizational management tools for police departments named after the New York City Police Department's accountability process, and has since been implemented in many other departments. It's a dynamic approach to crime reduction, quality of life improvement, and personnel and resource management; whereby ranking police department executives identify spikes in crimes using comparative statistics, and address those spikes through the use of targeted enforcement. Originally, it was modeled after the "**broken windows**" theory, whereby minor crimes would be addressed in order to reduce major crimes. However, over time, its' use evolved into a system whereby productivity was measured and individuals held accountable for such spikes in crime. Commercial entities began producing turnkey packages (including computer systems, software, mobile devices, and other implements) assembled under the heading of CompStat. The Geographic Information Systems allows departments to map crime, or other types of data, to aid in identifying and solving problems in their assigned area.

What Caused the Crime Decline?

Oliver Roeder, Lauren-Brooke Eisen, Julia Bowling. February 12, 2015. *What Caused the Crime Decline?* Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law.
<https://www.brennancenter.org/publication/what-caused-crime-decline>

What Caused the Crime Decline? examines one of the nation's least understood recent phenomena – the dramatic decline in crime nationwide over the past two decades – and analyzes various theories for why it occurred, by reviewing more than 40 years of data from all 50 states and the 50 largest cities. **It concludes that over-harsh criminal justice policies, particularly increased incarceration, which rose even more dramatically over the same period, were not the main drivers of the crime decline. In fact, the report finds that increased incarceration has been declining in its effectiveness as a crime control tactic for more than 30 years. Its effect on crime rates since 1990 has been limited, and has been non-existent since 2000.**

More important were various social, economic, and environmental factors, such as **growth in income and an aging population**. The introduction of CompStat, a data-driven policing technique, also played a significant role in reducing crime in cities that introduced it.

The report concludes that considering the immense social, fiscal, and economic costs of mass incarceration, programs that improve economic opportunities, modernize policing practices, and expand treatment and rehabilitation programs, all could be a better public safety investment.

Foreword By Dr. Joseph E. Stiglitz, University Professor at Columbia University, former Chairman of the United States Council of Economic Advisers, and a 2001 recipient of the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences.

Our country has its share of challenges — **poverty, unemployment, inequality**. Economic analysis can help play a role in understanding and addressing these challenges.

One of the great problems we face today is mass incarceration, a tragedy which has been powerfully documented. With almost 1 in 100 American adults locked away behind bars, our incarceration rate is the world's highest — nine to ten times that of many European countries. This adds up to an overwhelming 2.3 million people in prison and jail today — nearly 40 percent of whom are African American. Yet lawmakers are slow to take action and public outrage is largely absent.

This prodigious rate of incarceration is not only inhumane, it is economic folly. How many people sit needlessly in prison when, in a more rational system, they could be contributing to our economy? And, once out of prison, how many people face a lifetime of depressed economic prospects? When 1 in 28 children has a parent in prison, the cycle of poverty and unequal opportunity continues a tragic waste of human potential for generations.

Americans spend \$260 billion every year on criminal justice. That is more than one-quarter of the national deficit.² A year in prison can cost more than a year at Harvard. This is not a hallmark of a well-performing economy and society.

This vast fiscal and social toll was created in the name of protecting lives and property. But what do we know about the public safety benefits, the ostensible justification for our prison-centered approach to crime?

Some advocates of this system of mass incarceration seem to contend that while the costs have been enormous, so have the benefits, the dramatic drop in crime. They would like to believe that this can be attributed in large measure to the explosion in incarceration. After all, when offenders go to prison, it would seem they are less likely to commit future crimes. **But this instinctive reaction does not comport with the scientific evidence.**

This report addresses a critical question: What caused the American crime decline? Was it incarceration? Was it policing? Or was it something else? This groundbreaking empirical analysis from the Brennan Center shows that, on examination, the easy answers do not explain incarceration's effect on crime. This report presents a rigorous and sophisticated empirical analysis performed on the most recent, comprehensive dataset to date.

The authors [Brennan Center for Justice] conclude that incarceration had relatively little to do with the crime decline. They find that the dramatic increases in incarceration have had a limited, diminishing effect on crime. And they have quantified those minimal benefits. At today's high incarceration rates, continuing to incarcerate more people has almost no effect on reducing crime.

These findings raise questions as to whether the toll — fiscal, economic, and societal — of mass incarceration is worthwhile in the face of these negligible crime control benefits. The report also demonstrates the value of interdisciplinary thinking. It melds law, economics, science, criminology, and public policy analysis to address the challenges facing our country.

The United States has limited resources. We must foster opportunity and work to bridge inequality, not fund policies that destroy human potential today and handicap the next generation. The toll of mass incarceration on our social and economic future is unsustainable.

When high levels of incarceration provide scant public safety benefit, it is pointless to continue using — wasting — resources in this way. Instead, the country should shift priorities away from policies proven to be ineffective and focus our energies on truly beneficial initiatives that both reduce crime and reduce mass incarceration. The evidence presented here tells us that these are compatible goals.

Current Controversy Over Crime Statistics in JO CO up or Down.

Anti-levy Forum Challenges Sheriff's Crime Statistics

- Shaun Hall. April 29, 2015. *Anti-levy Forum Challenges Sheriff's Crime Statistics*. The Grants Pass Daily Courier. Grants Pass, OR.

MERLIN — Josephine County doesn't have high crime, and crime rates are dropping, despite what Sheriff Dave Daniel says, anti-levy proponents said Tuesday during a lightly attended forum at North Valley High School. Forum organizers Bill Hunker and Joseph Rice took aim at remarks the sheriff made last week during a press conference in front of the county jail.

"Sheriff Daniel's Spin," is how the two men characterized the sheriff's remarks, saying the sheriff focused on the small picture and thus distorted reality. They said the sheriff focused on an increase in the number of major crime team call-outs in 2012 and 2013 and in the number of crimes reported at the Cave Junction substation in the first quarter of this year, compared with the same period last year.

Instead, the big picture shows reported crime in the county is down from the mid-1990s, they say, pointing to state reports through 2012. Instead of putting down the county by saying crime is up, leaders should be trumpeting the crime rate going down, Hunker and Rice contend. "We should say, 'Move to Josephine County, you can grow your business,'" Rice said, addressing an audience of about 10 people. "Locate to Josephine County. Help build our new county."

Coincidentally, state crime reports since 2012 have not been released by OSP.

Group Says Safety Tax Proposal Not Necessary

- Shaun Hall. March 26, 2015. *Group Says Safety Tax Proposal Not Necessary*. The Grants Pass Daily Courier. Grants Pass, OR.

Crime is down in Josephine County, so that's one reason we don't need a tax increase to pay for more sheriff's patrols and jail beds, an anti-tax group asserted on Wednesday.

Property crime rates in the county are nearly half of what they were in the mid-1990s, group leader Joseph Rice told about 50 people at the Anne Basker Auditorium in downtown Grants Pass. "We're safer now than we were 20 years ago," said Rice, a spokesperson for a new group billing itself as Josephine County Alert.

The numbers are derived from state reports, Rice said. The reports show total crimes in the county spiked to more than 10,100 in 1997 and dropped to about 7,400 in 2012, according to the most recent state reports.

Also up front was Bill Hunker, the chief petitioner behind last year's failed attempt to recall County Commissioner Cheryl Walker. "We don't have the crime problem we've been told," Hunker said.

Daniel Gets an Earful from Unhappy Group

- Shaun Hall. March 13, 2015. *Daniel Gets an Earful from Unhappy Group*. The Grants Pass Daily Courier. Grants Pass, OR.

Josephine County Sheriff Dave Daniel addresses about 125 people Thursday at a local meeting of Oath Keepers, an organization that focuses on constitutional rights. Daniel spoke of improvements to his department, but warned that budget cuts are looming.

Rice is county coordinator for Oath Keepers, billed as an organization of current and former military, law enforcement and firefighters dedicated to the U.S. Constitution and gun ownership rights. "Within this room, we have diversity," Rice said at the meeting's beginning. "We don't have to be rude about it."

Daniel stood firm in his support for proper funding, despite voter reluctance to raise Oregon's lowest-in-the-state county property tax rate. Another levy proposal is on the May ballot — the fourth in four years. "The county deserves a certain level of services," Daniel said. "I'm trying to get to something that's at least acceptable."

For the most part, people were civil, but there was verbal pushing and shoving. When Rice said statistics showed crime to be at a 20-year low, an audience member told Rice he was "drinking the Kool-Aid" if he believed that, and Daniel flat out said he didn't believe the statistics, to the moans and shouts of several people who said the numbers were official.

New Sheriff Changing Things Up

- Melissa McRobbie. January 22. 2015. *New Sheriff Changing Things Up*. The Grants Pass Daily Courier. Grants Pass, OR.

Visions and goals. Daniel said at a public safety forum in Grants Pass on Tuesday that he wants to book every criminal suspect arrested in the county, but that's not possible at this point. The jail has 262 beds, but can operate at a capacity of only 130 beds because of staffing constraints.

Jail staff determines whom to book based in part on a list of priority crimes developed by the Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's Office and other entities. Many suspects end up being cited and released because there isn't space for them at the jail. Daniel said he's instituting a new policy so that everyone brought there will be fingerprinted and have a mug shot taken — even those who end up being cited and released. That way, even if he can't yet incarcerate everyone he wants to, he'll at least be building a thorough database of local crime suspects, he said.

PIC&C #8 Summary. Promote Economic Development & Education

An issue, identified by public opinion, is that economic development is the driving force that will reduce crime in JO CO, not the argument that new industry will not come to our area until we first create a "safe" county. Is economic development and education the driving forces that will reduce crime? The JS&PSS Committee believes they certainly play a role; but they do not know with precision the answer.

A report from the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law, called *What Caused the Crime Decline?* found that increasing incarceration was not the answer. This report addressed a critical question: *What caused the American crime decline? Was it incarceration? Was it policing? Or was it something else?* The instinctive reaction that incarceration was the major reason did not comport with the empirical analysis which showed that the easy answers did not explain incarceration's effect on crime.

There was wide agreement that we do not yet fully know what caused crime to drop. Theories abound, from an aging population to growing police forces to reducing lead in the air. The analysis did not show with precision what caused the crime decline, but the growth in incarceration played only a minor role, and now has a negligible impact. However, there was no question that some level of incarceration had some positive impact on bringing down crime. There are many habitual offenders and people committing serious, violent crimes who may need to be kept out of society.

The growth in incarceration was responsible for approximately 5 percent of the drop in crime in the 1990s. There was evidence that 14 factors contributed to a safer environment, including , growth in income and decreased unemployment, but in the end even adding all of them together failed to explain the majority of the decrease - the continuing mystery. A few of the significant factors with percentage explanations follow.

- Growth in Income (5 to 10 Percent),
- Changes in Alcohol Consumption (5 to 10 Percent),
- The Aging Population (0 to 5 Percent),
- Decreased Unemployment (0 to 3 Percent).
- Policing Also Played a Role, with Increased Numbers of Police in the 1990s Reducing Crime (0 to 10 Percent)
- Introduction of CompStat Having an Even Larger Effect (5 to 15 Percent).
- inflation and consumer confidence (individuals' belief about the strength of the economy) probably had some effect on crime.
- The legalization of abortion and unleading of gasoline may also have played some role.

The report also demonstrated the value of interdisciplinary thinking. It melded law, economics, science, criminology, and public policy analysis to address the challenges.

More important were various social, economic, and environmental factors, such as **growth in income and an aging population**. The introduction of CompStat, a data-driven policing technique, also played a significant role in reducing crime in cities that introduced it.

Another view found that economic freedom and prosperity also go hand in hand with improved health and health care, lower infant-mortality rates, better education, cleaner water, and improved sanitation. Just as conditions within our homes have important implications for our health, conditions in the neighborhoods surrounding our homes also can have major health effects. Social and economic features of neighborhoods have been linked with mortality, general health status, disability, birth outcomes, chronic conditions, health behaviors and other risk factors for chronic disease, as well as with mental health, injuries, violence and other important health indicators.

As a footnote to the issues there is the current controversy over crime statistics in JO CO up or down. As background the jail staff determines whom to book based in part on a list of priority crimes developed by the Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's Office and other entities. Many suspects end up being cited and released because there isn't space for them at the jail. The sheriff instituted a new policy so that everyone brought there will be fingerprinted and have a mug shot taken — even those who end up being cited and released. That way thorough database of local crime suspects will be developed.

JO CO doesn't have high crime, and crime rates are dropping, despite what Sheriff Dave Daniel says, anti-levy proponents said during a forum at North Valley High School. "Sheriff Daniel's Spin," is how the sheriff's remarks were characterized, saying the sheriff focused on the small picture and thus distorted reality. They said the sheriff focused on an increase in the number of major crime team call-outs in 2012 and 2013 and in the number of crimes reported at the Cave Junction substation in the first quarter of this year, compared with the same period last year. Joseph Rice, a spokesperson for Josephine County Alert provided the follow over several meetings.

- The big picture shows reported crime in the county is down from the mid-1990s, pointing to state reports through 2012.
- Property crime rates in the county are nearly half of what they were in the mid-1990s,
- We're safer now than we were 20 years ago.
- The numbers are derived from state reports that show total crimes in the county spiked to more than 10,100 in 1997 and dropped to about 7,400 in 2012.
- Statistics showed crime to be at a 20-year low, an audience member told Rice he was "drinking the Kool-Aid" if he believed that, and Daniel flat out said he didn't believe the statistics, to the moans and shouts of several people who said the numbers were official.
- Coincidentally, state crime reports since 2012 have not been released by OSP.

Daniel stood firm in his support for proper funding, despite voter reluctance to raise Oregon's lowest-in-the-state county property tax rate. For levy proposals failed in four years. "The county deserves a certain level of services," Daniel said. "I'm trying to get to something that's at least acceptable."

(9) PIC&C #9. Permanent 58 Cents Per 1,000 JO CO Tax & Current Taxes, Fees, Etc. As Identified By JO CO Assessor's Office

- LTTE 1. Through the county payments extension, we'll get about \$4.6 million for the next fiscal year. Josephine County's permanent tax rate of 58 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value will generate another \$3 million or so. This compares to the \$12 million we once received through federal county payments, less than a decade ago — money that came on top of revenue generated by the permanent tax rate.
- LTTE 2. The proposed increase of the Josephine County tax from 58 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value to \$1.98 amounts to a 240 percent increase, or a 23 percent increase in the total tax bill for some rural residents — an outrageous increase.
- LTTE 3. As a multiple property owner I am tired of being asked to foot the bill every time a financial need arises in this county. Much has been said about Josephine County having one of the lowest property tax rates in the state, but no mention of how Josephine County ranks among the 36 Oregon counties with per-capita income.
- LTTE 4. Remember before you cast your vote: 1. That 58 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value tax you now pay is not going away. Instead, it has its own permanency and you will continue to pay it even if the \$1.40 per \$1,000 levy passes. The current 58 cents will be transferred to the county general fund (if the levy passes) and will be spent by the county commissioners for whatever appeals to them. 2. The \$1.40 per \$1,000 is for law enforcement and the commissioners will very happily take that 58 cents you now pay for law enforcement and spend it for their own purposes. 3. The true tax rate will be \$1.98 per \$1,000 with 58 cents of that being a windfall for the county commissioners. Do we need the levy for law enforcement? I think so.

Number of LTTE Reason/Concept Comments: 4.

May 17, 2015. Jeff Duewel. RCC Students Explore Levy-related Sociology Concepts. The 35 students in Henry Wisniewski's introductory sociology class at Rogue Community College got their hands dirty with crime data, interviews, surveys and research this term. They wrestled with two topics on everyone's minds — taxes and crime, in light of Tuesday's election.

- Some in the class took issue with the presentation of 58 cents per \$1,000 as the lowest permanent rate in the state. When you add taxes for fire districts, school districts, city services and 4-H/Extension services, the overall property tax rate is certainly higher, and varies significantly, depending on where you live.
- The actual property tax for county services alone is currently 82 cents per \$1,000 — 58 cents permanent, 15.8 cents for the voter-approved jail bond from more than a decade ago, and 8 cents for three years for an Animal Control levy, approved just last year.
- Josephine County's overall average property tax rate of \$9.48 per \$1,000 in assessed value — based on the Oregon Department of Revenue's latest data from 2012-13 — is actually the second-lowest in the state. Curry County's is the lowest at \$8.68.
- But average rates hardly tell the whole story — tax rates vary widely within the county. Grants Pass residents pay \$6.32 per \$1,000 for city services and \$4.52 per \$1,000 for School District 7 services, out of their total of \$12.58 per \$1,000, or \$2,516 for a house assessed at \$200,000.
- Those in the county — outside of Cave Junction and not in any public fire district, have the lowest rate at \$6.01 per \$1,000, or \$1,202 on a \$200,000-assessed property. Many of them do pay a private company, Rural/Metro Fire Department, for fire protection.

In *The Grants Pass Daily Courier* news articles there have been many comparisons of the permanent tax rates (PTRs) for the City of Grants Pass, and Josephine County, Oregon.

- Josephine County, Oregon PTR of \$0.59 per \$1,000 Assessed Value.
- City of Grants Pass, Oregon PTR of \$4.13 per \$1,000 Assessed Value.

City of Grants Pass, Oregon

- League of Oregon Cities. October 2013. *A Report on City Property Taxes*. City of Grants Pass, Oregon (pps. 10 - 12). http://www.orcities.org/portals/17/resources/Wheregoes_final.pdf.

Grants Pass, population 34,740, is located in Josephine County in southwestern Oregon. Grants Pass is the Josephine County seat and serves as the major commercial center for the county. The city provides law enforcement, fire protection, 9-1-1 dispatch, parks and recreation, water, wastewater, storm water and building inspection.

County financial troubles have increased the burden on public safety services in Grants Pass, services that the city was already struggling to afford. Police service calls have gone up 20 percent in just one year.

2013 City Property Taxes at a Glance¹¹

- \$466 City property tax per capita
- \$16,195,916 City property tax imposed
- \$9 Taxes lost to compression
- \$4.13 per \$1,000 AV (City permanent property tax rate (i.e., police, fire/rescue, dispatch/9-1-1 and records services))
- \$1.79 per \$1,000 (City voter-approved temporary tax rate)
- \$0.40 per \$1,000 AV (City bond rate)
- \$6.33 per \$1,000 AV (Total rate)

Property tax revenue makes up 67 percent of the Grants Pass general fund. All property tax revenues the city receives are dedicated to public safety and constitute 108 percent of property taxes in the general fund.¹² The city's general fund also provides parks and recreation and development services.

Increasing Public Safety Needs Difficult to Meet The citizens of Grants Pass realize that the property tax revenue the city receives from their permanent rate is not enough to support the level of public safety the community desires. For more than a decade, they have supported a voter-approved temporary tax for police and fire. In 2010, voters passed a three-year tax of \$1.79 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The city will be asking residents to renew this tax in November 2013. The tax provides an estimated \$4.5 million per year for public safety operations and is essential to providing quality services.

In 1984, the police department and the fire department combined services, so instead of traditional separate police and fire departments, the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety (DPS) provides police, fire/rescue, dispatch/9-1-1 and records services. This represents a significant annual cost savings, because the DPS does not operate two separate administrations to deliver police and fire services, and thus has fewer management positions.¹³

The city has implemented other creative budgeting solutions as well. However, these are not enough to cover public safety costs, and so the voter-approved temporary tax is vital to keeping the high quality of service the community expects.

Footnote 11. All property tax information on this page is from the Oregon Department of Revenue FY2012-13 Property Tax Report unless otherwise noted. For detailed information on compression and more on Oregon's property tax system, please see Appendix A.

Footnote 12. FY2013-14 Grants Pass Adopted Operating and Capital Budget.

Footnote 13. Grants Pass Department of Public Safety 2012 Annual Report.

Average PTR for Cities & Counties

Oregon's property tax is one of the most important sources of revenue for the public sector in Oregon, raising \$5.5 billion for local governments in fiscal year (FY) 2013-14. Only state personal income tax collections exceed property tax collections as a single source of state and local tax revenue. (Oregon Department of Revenue. March 2014. *Oregon Property Tax Statistics Fiscal Year 2013-14*. 150-303-405 (Rev. 3-14). Salem, OR).

Oregon's Permanent Tax Rates

- Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee. July 12, 2013. *Oregon's Permanent Tax Rates*. Brochure Br. III.D.10.1, Justice System & Public Safety Services Series. Hugo, OR.

Property Taxes Are One of the Most Important Sources of Locally Generated Revenues for a County

Property taxes are composed of three primary parts: 1) permanent rate and gap bond levies, 2) local option levies, and 3) bond levies. Most taxing districts can utilize any of these three types of taxes.

Measures 5, 47, and 50 The passage of Oregon statewide constitutional tax limitations in the 1990s, established permanent rates for each taxing district. A county's permanent tax rate is the maximum rate it can impose without approval by voters. Taxes from the permanent rates are discretionary and fund the general operating budgets of the taxing districts. They account for the single largest component of property taxes. The tax rate analysis does not include special taxing districts created to fund specific CO services such as enhanced law enforcement or libraries.

Constitutional Property Tax Limitations Measure 50 limited total property taxes for each unit of property by fixing valuations and limiting annual increases in total taxes to three percent per year, with certain exceptions. At the time Measure 50's limitations took effect, counties dominated by federal lands and shared federal forest receipts relied significantly less on property taxes than other counties. As a consequence, federal forest counties have relatively low tax rates, e.g., Josephine at \$0.59 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation; Curry \$0.60; Coos \$1.08; Douglas \$1.11, compared to the statewide average of \$2.81. Under Measure 50, these became their permanent property tax rates, subject to "local option" increases with the approval of their voters only for temporary periods of time.

Average Permanent OR CO Tax Rates The average permanent tax rate (PTR) among Oregon counties is \$2.81 per \$1,000 of assessed property value (AV). Josephine and Curry Counties have the lowest permanent tax rates and are the only counties with rates below \$1.00. Low permanent rates combined with limited taxable property can constrain a county's ability to raise revenues. To illustrate, Josephine County, with the lowest permanent tax rate of \$0.59 and 62% of its area in non-taxable federal lands, generated the least amount of local revenues at \$191 per capita in 2011.

Services of Permanent Tax Rates Today's counties provide a wide range of public services including: public health, mental health, community corrections, juvenile services, criminal prosecution, hospitals, nursing homes, airports, parks, libraries, land-use planning, building regulations, refuse disposal, elections, air-pollution control, veterans services, economic development, urban renewal, public housing, vector control, county fairs, museums, animal control, civil defense, and senior services. Basic services include law enforcement, courts and DAs, juvenile services, community corrections, public health, mental health and addiction treatment, roads, assessment and taxation, and elections.

Services of Special Taxing Districts Another option for ongoing increases in the county tax effort lies in the creation of special taxing districts for such services as sheriff's patrols, library services, emergency and agricultural extension services. A list of allowable purposes for such districts is contained in ORS 451.010. County service districts, which require voter approval, offer the advantage of a new permanent taxing rate for the services for which the districts are created.

Oregon City Size & Tax Rate

- Citizens For A Voice In Growth & Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. November 20, 2002. *Oregon City Size & Tax Rate*. Hugo, OR.

Deeply ingrained in our social consciousness is the belief that population growth is a fundamental sign of health. Even among those who question that premise, many believe that growth in Josephine County, Oregon is inevitable.

City	Population	Tax Rate ¹
Salem	136,924	19.13
Portland	529,121	18.96
Eugene	137,893	17.66
Gresham	90,205	16.57
Medford	63,154	14.27
Grants Pass	23,003	13.64

Footnote 1. 2000 Census as reported in the Oregonian on March 15, 2002; Oregon Property Tax Statistics Fiscal Year 1999 - 2000, Oregon Department of Revenue.

With growth we know we will need and have to pay for new roads, water lines, sewers, police and fire protection, schools, parks, and other infrastructure. What about taxes? Property taxes are placed on the tax roll in the form of a "tax rate" per \$1,000 of assessed value. Do taxes go down with growth and development? Are taxes healthy for existing residents?

Sixteen Oregon cities have a larger population than the City of Grants Pass. All 16 of them require higher property tax rates than Grants Pass. Our Oregon data suggest that any further increase in our local city populations will increase the chances for local tax increases. Are taxes healthy? Many believe that with education and citizen involvement programs, city management and legislative direction, taxes can be managed in ways that are understandable and acceptable.

Josephine County, or Net Tax Rate Adjusted

Colonial Valley, Hugo, Jumpoff Joe, North Valley & Merlin Rural neighborhoods outside of City of Grants Pass, Oregon are identified as communities at risk for wildfire in Josephine County, Oregon. They are not within a fire taxing district and are listed as "unprotected." Most neighbors do have fire services provided by private corporations that act as "fire departments." The Rural Metro Fire Department is the largest one.

JO CO Real Property Tax Statements do not have tax assessments for the following: Water, Sewer, and Fire Protection.

Josephine County OR Net Taxable Rate Adjusted This analysis will only address private fire protection in calculating an adjusted tax rate as a majority of landowners in the rural areas of JO CO have private fire protection services.

Mike Walker, Member of the HJSEC, has a subscription from the private fire department Rural/Metro for a maximum assessed value of \$239,126.00 at \$1.97 per \$1,000 of assessed value. This equals an equivalent annual tax of \$471.07.

- JO CO PTR of \$0.59 per \$1,000 AV
- Private Fire Subscription of \$1.97 per \$1,000

Walker Tax Rate Adjusted at \$2.56 per \$1,000 AV is very close to the average PTR among OR COs at \$2.81 per \$1,000 of AV.

PIC&C #9 Summary. Permanent 58 Cents Per 1,000 JO CO Tax & Current Taxes, Fees, Etc. As Identified By JO CO Assessor's Office

An issue, identified by public opinion, is JO CO's PTR of 58 cents per 1,000 of assessed value generates about \$3 million. On the surface the 2015 proposed increase of the 58 cents per \$1,000 to \$1.98 amounts to a 240 percent increase, or an increase of approximately 1/4 in the total tax bill for some rural residents

The Committee feels the local news articles comparing the PTRs for the City of Grants Pass, and JO CO are not helpful because it is like comparing apples and oranges with part of the oranges missing.

- Josephine County, Oregon PTR of \$0.59 per \$1,000 Assessed Value.
- City of Grants Pass, Oregon PTR of \$4.13 per \$1,000 Assessed Value.

For example, city services for comparable populations almost always have higher tax rates (i.e., they provide for many specialized urban services not available in the country). Also, the cost of fire protection is part of Grants Pass's PTR. When the Rural/Metro Fire Department's private fire subscription of \$1.97 per \$1,000 is added to the JO CO PTR of \$0.59 per \$1,000, the \$2.56 per \$1,000 AV is very close to the average PTR among OR COs at \$2.81 per \$1,000 of AV.

The Committee feels the total tax is what is really important to citizens, versus the PTR. JO CO's overall average property tax rate of \$9.48 per \$1,000 in assessed value. This issues overlaps with "PIC&C # 7. Cumulative Assessments Coordinated By JO CO Assessor Office Unaffordable to Many." Comparison of the permanent rate rates (PTRs) O.K. for a limited discussion of the JO CO JS&PSS Issue, but PTRs do not include all assessor listings (i.e., costs for services such as education: 3 Rivers School Dist, Rogue Comm College, S.O Ed. Serv. Dist; General Government; 4-H/Extension Service; excluded from limitation: county bond levy and 3 Rivers School District; special assessments OR Forestry Fire, TIMB; and special assessments OR Forestry Fire, SURC, etc. The JO CO PTR does not include fire protection which is included in the PTR for the City of Grants Pass.

When comparing taxes, it would be fair if they were also compared with other units of government with the same population and characteristics, including all costs listed on the JO CO's real property tax statement that act as taxes, and services such as fire protection if you want to compare with the City of Grants Pass. For example, JO CO's overall average property tax rate of \$9.48 per \$1,000 in assessed value — is the number important to citizens. However, many of them do pay a private company another \$1.99 per \$1,000. Rural/Metro Fire Department's costs for fire protection increases the equivalent average property tax rate of \$9.48 per \$1,000 in assessed value to \$11.47.

In summary, a comparison of city and county PTRs is like comparing apples and oranges as cities and counties provide different services. For the JS&PSS Issue, it is more appropriate to compare the total taxes for counties. The meaningful number is the total costs and/or the average property tax rate for all services listed on the JO CO Assessor Office's annual statements, not a near meaningless 58 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value.

(10) PIC&C # 10. Income & Opportunities Inequality Affects Ability To Pay Taxes, Fees, Etc.

- LTTE 1. Currently, 30 percent are on food stamps, 35 percent on Medicaid, 7.4 percent unemployment plus those in poverty and on welfare. High school graduation rates are 64 percent. Hands down we are the most impoverished county in Oregon.
- LTTE 2. Josephine County is something of a microcosm of the national situation. The rich have all the money and the rest of us live on Social Security and food stamps. In terms of cash in the bank. Josephine County ranks among the top five counties in Oregon.
- LTTE 3. I'm sick of hearing that if I don't support the levy, I am stingy, don't care about JO CO. I am selfish! My husband and I are both on Social Security. . . Every year I have to take money from my retirement IRA for federal taxes, state taxes and property taxes. All of the distributions are taxable. My retirement IRA is used almost exclusively for taxes. . . I have no problem paying a safety tax, but every resident should pay their fair share. Why does it always fall to property owners to pay for city and county programs?
- LTTE 4. I will not vote for a property tax increase to pay for city businesses leaders' public safety levy as the majority of people in this county income is less than \$20,000 a year and most can't afford to pay more property taxes. Did you read the Daily Courier Sunday, May 10, about all the business people and their contributions. They're the ones who make hundreds of thousands a year and some of them millions a year and they want us to pay more property taxes!
- LTTE 5. No mention of how Josephine County ranks among the 36 Oregon counties with per-capita income. It's 29th by the way, which may explain the past failures of proposed tax increases. The average per-capita income for Grants Pass was \$16,234. This information came from the 2010 census, but I'm pretty sure there hasn't been a dramatic change in our ranking or incomes the last five years.

Number of LTTE Reason/Concept Comments: 5.

May 17, 2015. Jeff Duewel. *RCC Students Explore Levy-related Sociology Concepts. The Grants Pass Daily Courier (TGPDC)*

The 35 students in Henry Wisniewski's introductory sociology class at Rogue Community College got their hands dirty with crime data, interviews, surveys and research this term. They wrestled with two topics on everyone's minds — taxes and crime, in light of Tuesday's election.

They learned that Josephine County is among the poorest counties in the state, and it has a drug problem. Their own surveys told them most people felt safe, and that most surveyed didn't think crime would decline if taxes went up.

Sharpe's research indicated that 22.6 percent of Josephine County households made less than \$15,000 a year, and that the poverty level here is 21.9 percent, compared to 16 percent for the entire state.

July 18, 2015. Jeff Duewel. *USA Today Says GP Has Huge Income Gap. TGPDC*

USA Today published a eyebrow-raising list online last weekend, showing Grants Pass as having the third-largest gap between the haves and the have-nots in the country. Actually, the numbers reflected the entire county, with over 83,000 people. That's known as a metropolitan statistical area.

But the gist is, a small number of people here control a large amount of the income, based on numbers crunched by 24/7 Wall St., a financial and statistical analysis operation that produces content for USA Today and other news sites. "This is one of those rankings I really don't want to be on," said community leader Pat Fahey, owner of Southern Oregon Sanitation. "We're not homogenous. We're two different factions."

A coefficient of 0 means everybody makes the same amount, while 1 means one person has all the income. The figure for Grants Pass is 0.518.

The USA Today report said nearly 30 percent of all income here goes to just 5 percent of area households, while the lowest-earning 20 percent of households take home just 3.2 percent of all income generated. Even though the cost of living is lower than the national level, 24.3 percent of the population still was on food stamps.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the *Gini coefficient* for the whole country had risen from 0.413 in 1947 to its highest-measured total of 0.477 by 2011.

It's alarming to many that the income gap and weakening of the middle class are so distinct in Grants Pass. State Rep. Carl Wilson, owner of KAJO-KLDR radio stations in town, said he was taken aback when he read the analysis. Specifically the 2.7 percent of the population listed as making \$200,000 or more.

Still it was sobering. "It's probably more accurate than not," Fahey said. "The story of the haves increasing over the have-nots is playing out in Josephine County," agreed Guy Tauer, regional economist for the state. "Thirty percent of the income goes to 5 percent of the people."

So how does Grants Pass get rid of the income gap? Wilson said jobs are the key. "Right now it looks like our best choice might be agriculture," he said. "It's going to be marijuana, hemp, grapes. Who knows, we may even get hops back here."

July 11, 2015. *Cities with the Widest Gap Between Rich, Poor.* Thomas C. Frohlich, Michael B. Sauter and Sam Stebbins, 24/7 Wall St. USA Today

The nation's wealthiest residents have controlled a disproportionately large share of all income for many decades. In 2001, however, that proportion became a majority share. **Since 2007, the shares of income controlled by the wealthiest and poorest 20% of households have steadily diverged. In other words, income inequality has been on the rise.**

Based on the Gini coefficient, a measure that captures the level of income distribution in a given area, 24/7 Wall St. **reviewed the 20 metropolitan areas with the most uneven income distribution, or the highest Gini coefficients. A Gini coefficient of 1 means all income belongs to a single individual, while a coefficient of 0 reflects a perfectly even distribution.** The Bridgeport- Stamford-Norwalk, Connecticut, metro area leads the nation with the worst income distribution.

According to Josh Bivens, an economist at the Economic Policy Institute, a low or high Gini coefficient can manifest in a variety of ways. The simplest explanation for high levels of income inequality in a given area is high concentrations of extremely high or low incomes. However, the Gini coefficient does not just take into account top and bottom earners. "It is about the whole distribution across the entire run of households or people in an economy," Bivens said.

With only a few exceptions, the metro areas with the widest gaps between rich and poor residents tend to have lower median household incomes. The majority of the 20 metro areas with the highest Gini coefficients have median household incomes more than \$10,000 below the national median of \$52,250. Average incomes, however, tell a different story. Because of the uneven income distribution, the average income is much higher in most of these metro areas.

In Bridgeport, Connecticut, which has the highest Gini coefficient of any metro area, the average household income of \$137,853 is more than \$55,000 higher than the median income, a greater difference than in any other metro area

Just as very high incomes push the Gini coefficient higher and contribute to high income inequality, so do extremely low incomes. In fact, the poverty rate in 16 of the 20 cities with the highest income inequality exceeds the national rate of 15.8%.

Comparing how much of an area's income is controlled by the wealthiest 20% and the poorest 20% of households is another way to look at income inequality. In Gainesville, Florida, the lowest-earning 20% of households bring in just 1.9% of the area's total annual income. The metro area's most affluent 20% of homes, meanwhile, earn 54% of Gainesville's total income. This means that one segment of the population earns roughly 29 times more than the same number of households in another.

Inequality in U.S. cities does not always take the same form. In Bridgeport and in Naples, Florida, the lowest-earning 20% of households account for a very small share of income. However, the extremely high incomes earned by the region's wealthiest citizens primarily accounts for the small share, rather than extreme poverty among the area's poorest residents. The wealthiest 5% of households in Bridgeport and Naples earn at least \$250,000 per year, which is roughly \$50,000 more than the minimum earned by the extremely wealthy across the country. Meanwhile, the poverty rates in these metro areas are well below the national figure.

In the other places with high income inequality, the high Gini coefficient is less the result of the presence of very wealthy households and more due to the presence of extreme poverty in the area. In high inequality cities such as Gainesville, Florida and Brownsville, Texas, the lower income limit of the top 5% of earners is well below the national figure. Poverty rates in those cities, on the other hand, are among the highest in the country. Brownsville has the second highest poverty rate in the country with 32.5% of residents living below the poverty line.

To identify the cities with the widest gap between the rich and the poor, 24/7 Wall St. reviewed Gini coefficients for each of the **381 metropolitan statistical areas (MSA)** from the 2013 U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS). The shares of aggregate household income controlled by each quintile as well as the wealthiest 5% of households, median home value, homeownership rates, median household income, mean household income, poverty rates, and the percentage of people receiving food stamps also come from the ACS. Cost of living, also known as Regional Price Parity (RPP), comes from the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and is as of 2012, the most recent period available. Annual unemployment rates are for 2014 from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

In the news article the USA than identified the 10 MSAs with the widest gaps between the rich and poor. The description of the Grants Pass MSA, one of the top 10, the MSA that had the third highest Gini coefficient (i.e., widest gap between rich and poor out of the US's total of 381 MSAs) follows.

#3. Grants Pass, Oregon MSA (i.e., boundaries of the Grants Pass MSA equal those of Josephine County - they are the same)

Gini coefficient: 0.518

Median household income: \$38,298

Poverty rate: 17.0%

Percent earning more than \$200,000: 2.7%

With only 83,306 residents, Grants Pass [MSA] has the smallest population of the 20 cities with the highest income inequality. Workforce mobility can help reduce income inequality. But without it, uneven income distribution is difficult to overcome, as finding higher-paying jobs is more difficult in a weak job market, particularly for lower-income residents. At just over 11%, Grants Pass [MSA] has the highest unemployment rate among the 20 cities with the highest income inequality. In Grants Pass [MSA], nearly 30% of all income goes to just 5% of area households, the highest such share in the nation. On the other end of the income spectrum, the lowest earning 20% of households take home just 3.2% of all income generated in the city. While the average cost of living was lower than the national price level, 24.3% of the city's population still received food stamp benefits, among the highest percentages and perhaps a further illustration of uneven income distribution.

September 18, 2015 Downloaded. Josephine County Foundation (JCF). *The Problem & Challenge*. <http://josephinecf.org/about-us/the-problem/>

Josephine County, Oregon is an economically and socially depressed community with unusually high unemployment and low high school graduation rates. The county’s greatest need is to create a long-term solution to chronic economic and social issues impacting the County. A sample of those issues are:

- Unemployment rate 30% higher than Oregon’s and 44% higher than the national level.
- Children living in poverty 59% higher than the Oregon state average.
- Student homelessness 89% higher than the Oregon state average.
- High school graduation rate 9% lower than the Oregon average and 14% lower than the National average.
- Population with a Bachelor’s Degree 43% lower than Oregon and the Nation.

A closer look at some of the startling data collected about Josephine County can be seen in the table below. The Solution? Read about it on our Solution page.

Josephine County Statistics: April 2011

Category:	U.S	OR	Josephine County vs.		
			JO CO	U.S	Oregon
2010 Unemployment Rate	9.6%	10.6%	13.8%	44%	30%
Children Living in Poverty	18%	17%	27%	50%	59%
High School Graduation Rate	70%	66%	60%	-14%	-9%
Population with Bachelor’s Degree	28%	28%	16%	-43%	-43%
Population 60 years or older	18.0%	18.5%	28.3%	57%	53%
Population under age 20	27.2%	25.8%	23.1%	-15%	-10%
Median House Price	\$221,900	\$244,000	\$163,750	-26%	-33%
Homeless Students (% of students) *		3.7%	4.7%		27%
Three Rivers School District			7.0%		89%

Source: Oregon Community Foundation; Southern Oregon Regional Profile, April 2011

* Oregon Department of Education

Health Outcomes - Oregon. 2015. *JoCo Still Among Unhealthiest Counties*

Figure “2015 Health Outcomes - Oregon” Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute
Oregon counties are ranked by a health outcomes score that includes smoking, obesity, teen birth rates, housing problems and violent crime. Lighter colors indicate healthier counties.

*

By Ruth Longoria Kingsland of The Grants Pass Daily Courier

http://www.thedailycourier.com/articles/2015/04/04/healthy_living/news01.txt

April 5, 2015

Josephine County — and much of Southern Oregon — has once again ranked near the bottom of the state for quality of health, according to the recently released 2015 County Health Rankings.

For at least the past five years, Josephine County has been among the least healthy counties in the state, in overall health and performance in specific categories, from unemployment, high school graduation rates and children in poverty to adult smoking, adult obesity, teen pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, violent crime and alcohol-impaired driving deaths.

Five of the eight unhealthiest counties on Oregon, meanwhile, are clustered in the economically hard-hit southwestern part of the state: Josephine (27), Coos (29), Curry (31), Douglas (32), and Klamath (34).

Oregon State Health Officer Katrina Hedberg said economic factors and health factors are closely tied. "I've found that the rural areas, particularly those that have been hit by the timber industry and are economically challenged, those are the ones with higher unemployment and many other high factors," she said.

One major difference between the two counties: Josephine County's violent crime rate of 210 incidents per 100,000 population is much lower than Jackson's, which has a rate of 298 per 100,000. Multnomah County had the highest violent crime rate in the state.

"If you look at health behavior, all of these things, social and economic, play a huge part in your overall health. How much schooling and education you have, and who your parents are," Hedberg said, adding, "The primary factor is that people age. We are all getting older and the risk for things like cancer are all there.

"But, what you can change is your behavior.

Community Health Assessment: 2013, Jackson County - Josephine County

- AllCare Health Plan; Jackson Care Connect; and Primary Health Josephine County. 2013. *Community Health Assessment: 2013, Jackson County - Josephine County*. Primary Consultant, Technical Writer, Vanessa A. Becker, President & Principal Consultant, V Consulting & Associates Inc. www.vconsults.com. Roseburg, OR

Community Health Assessment: 2013, Jackson County - Josephine County
http://www.allcarehealthplan.com/files/2913/9086/6011/jojackfinalassessment_12_11_13.pdf

Migration and Growth Josephine County has consistently lagged behind average state growth rates and has experienced a migration pattern in and out of the county similar to many other rural Oregon counties. Although the percentage growth has not dipped into the negative percentage, like Jackson County, the patterns of migration are important to note. Like many other rural counties, Josephine has experienced out migration of younger populations while seeing an influx of older populations at the same time. This migration pattern has kept the overall annual growth close to zero but presents changes in workforce, service needs and health care utilization patterns. Like many Southwestern Oregon counties, local population statistics began showing that younger families were leaving the area for more metropolitan counties to find jobs shortly after the economic downturn.

At the same time, the county continued to see a steady influx of seniors to the county, largely from out of state. Both the exodus of younger and often higher socioeconomic level populations and the influx of older demographic groups in the county ultimately influences the health status and burden for care on the community. The percentage of 60 and over is expected to continue to rise within the county, while percentages of younger ages continues to diminish.

Growth in Elderly Population According to 2012 census data, 23.6% of the county population is over 65 years old. That is nearly double the state average of 14.9% and still higher than Jackson County at 18.8%. Josephine County joins many other counties in Southern Oregon with distinctly higher average ages and higher percentages of elderly living in the county than more metropolitan counties. **The more isolated rural communities in Josephine County have higher percentages of residents over age 60 than Grants Pass, the county seat.**

Poverty Nearly one in three children in Josephine County live in poverty, creating significant challenges to their overall health and long-term development. 18.8% of the total county population lives in poverty (2007-2011), higher than the state average of 14.8%. Poverty has tremendous impact on individual and community outcomes and was consistently brought up in the community focus groups related to access to health care services, housing, access to healthy food and nutrition.

Homelessness Homelessness continues to be a challenge for many living in Josephine County. Causes of homelessness are varied, they include drug and alcohol abuse, high rents, domestic violence and unemployment.

Education High school graduation rates at the county level are similar to State averages, typically showing 87% of the population being a high school graduate or higher.

Employment Unemployment in Josephine County continues to be higher than state and national averages. Although the trend shows slight decreases in the seasonally adjusted unemployment rates from the Oregon Employment Department, they continue to hover around 11.2-11.3% annually, 4% higher than the national average and higher than Jackson, Curry and Douglas counties. Residents of Josephine County work predominantly in education services, health care, social assistance and retail. Unemployment and its effects on poverty and health continue to be felt by county residents.

Crime Crime continues to be top of mind for residents living in Josephine County. The Report of Oregon Offenses known to Law Enforcement lists Josephine County as 14th highest in the state for property crimes (out of 36), 14th for person crimes and 23rd for behavior crimes in 2010. Drug arrests for heroin and methamphetamine surpassed state averages beginning in 2012 and continue to be on an increasing trend line.

County Health Rankings The County Health Rankings is a collaborative project supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The rankings evaluate counties based on causes of death (mortality), types of illnesses (morbidity) and those factors that lead to poor health outcomes. The rankings provide a measurement tool to compare county-to-county, as well as comparison to state and national benchmarks. **Josephine County** was one of the worst in the state, raking 29th out of 33 Oregon counties (health outcomes category) a second year in a row. Mortality (death) was also ranked 29th out of 32, morbidity (disease) was ranked slightly better at 18th out of 32.

Addictions Josephine County residents have significant issues with addictions of alcohol, tobacco, other drugs and gambling. Arrests for drug offenses are mentioned in the People and Place section, but show higher averages arrests in Josephine County for all drug categories while also showing higher averages for heroin and methamphetamine.

The rise in opioid overdose deaths presents a challenge for both providers and the community. (Deaths from drugs such as codeine, oxycodone, morphine and methadone). The morbidity and mortality associated with inappropriate use of opiate drugs has a negative impact on the health of the community. Josephine County has one of the highest opioid death rates in the state and the number of yearly deaths due to opioids is on the rise.

Community Perceptions of Health

Focus Groups This report presents summary findings from five focus groups, conducted in Josephine County as part of the 2013 Community Health Assessment (CHA). The purpose of the CHA was to learn what people in the county believe are most important issues affecting their health and that of their families and communities. The purpose of the focus groups was to gather primary qualitative data on community perceptions and increase community engagement in setting priorities for individual and community health.

It is also important to note that there are limitations to the focus group data. The focus group data should not stand on its own but complement the health status and epidemiology data presented earlier in the Community Health Assessment. The focus groups were not intended to be a representative of all individuals in the entire county but rather, a process to gain specific insight into health concerns and solutions of specific populations. The populations chosen were driven by the CACs.

Prioritized Populations for Josephine County Focus Groups

CACC Priorities for 2013 CHA

- Rural/Unincorporated
- Seniors
- Uninsured/Underinsured
- Dental
- Addictions
- Chronic Pain
- Chronic Disease

Community Perceptions Focus group participants answered questions about their personal health and their community's health. Additionally, participants were asked to rank health problems, risk factors and conditions that influenced a healthy community. A majority of participants (76%) described their community as unhealthy. Counter to that, the majority (60%) of participants described themselves as healthy.

Participant Commentary The second portion of the groups consisted of open-ended dialog questions, asking participants to discuss individual and community health needs.

Focus group participants' responses are presented in seven categories. All comments below were transcribed verbatim. Comments are intentionally written out as they were spoken in the group.

1. Access to and quality of health services
2. Mental health and addictions
3. Lifestyle: exercise, obesity, nutrition and access to food
4. Dental and/or vision health
5. Poverty and the economy
6. Chronic disease and/or aging issues
7. Crime, domestic violence and child abuse

Community Engagement in Solutions

All focus groups ended with a question about solutions to the challenges, problems and needs identified in the prior questions. Specifically, the facilitator asked "what do you think we (as a community) can do to enhance the health of our community?" The focus was directed at what solutions participants wanted to be engaged in to address the problems discussed earlier.

All groups, regardless of demographic or location expressed a strong sense of concern about their community and how they could contribute to improving problems. Several solutions and positive comments were stated in every group, some of those comments are as follows:

Suggestions

- "We need to build opportunities for multi-generations to share skills like gardening, sewing, community gardens-would help to teach and provide food and skills."
- "Church and social groups—support them. We need to do these skills again and not rely on others to do them for us."
- "Change attitudes that we hold helping and doing something, improving something every day. This has to start young. Striving for self-sufficiency starts young."
- "[We need] community gardens—teach to grow and preserve."
- "[We should] educate children about importance of healthy food and exercise. change life styles. Could we do a community walk your child to school day? Like the nationalwalktoschool.org in October."
- "[We must] recognize that community health is a systems issue and that every cog in the wheel (law enforcement, school systems, health care, housing affordability) all impact the health of a community. People in this community just want to hunker down and ignore our problems, blame the government for their woes and not accept personal responsibility as citizens for positive change."

The Community Health Improvement Plan & Next Steps

Utilizing the CHA for Planning The Josephine County Community Health Assessment (CHA) draws attention to numerous opportunities for health improvement at the individual and community level. While the CHA identifies many critical health issues, it is not inclusive of every possible health-related issue. Instead, it was intended to provide a macro view of available community data and help to identify community trends. The CHA was successful in that purpose, as well as engaging new community members in prioritizing what health status issues were important, and where additional focus and data was needed.

The CHA was the first step in an ongoing process of community health assessment, planning and improvement. The natural progression of the community planning process is to prioritize health status issues and implement strategies to improve them. The prioritization process and document is titled the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

“Pick the top three health problems in my community?! How can I only pick three, they are all important!” –Focus Group Participant

**Top 3 Health Problems: Focus Groups
Josephine County 2013**

1. Mental Health Problems
2. Problems from Aging
3. Domestic violence and child abuse

**Top 3 Ingredients for A Healthy Community
Josephine County 2013**

1. Low Crime and safe communities
2. Access to health care
3. Good jobs and economy

**Top 3 Risk Factors/Behaviors Related to a
Healthy Community Josephine County 2013**

1. Drug Abuse
2. Alcohol abuse
3. Being overweight

Strategies for addressing health problems, behaviors related to health or ingredients for building a health community should be based on best practice/standards, potential community impact, cost and feasibility. Additionally, strategies for health improvement should be linked to indicators that are already being tracked in the community, to better enable the evaluation of progress and success of the chosen strategies. This will aid in reducing duplication of effort and provide a mechanism for more consistent and continuous measurement of progress. CCO metrics and local, state and national public health indicators are suggested possible indicators.

Identifying additional data needs and working with local, state and federal organizations to meet those needs will also need to be considered in the CHIP. County specific data on health status by race and ethnicity is an example of a continuing data need. Dental access and outcomes is another area of data needs, among many others. Having adequate data to understand problems in the community is imperative in planning appropriate strategies and solutions. Advocating for access to county level data that is helpful for CCO and CAC planning will need to be a continuing strategy in the CHIP.

Engagement of the CAC will continue to be instrumental in the process, as will listening to community member priorities and concerns. The work of improving the health of people in Josephine County will happen with collaborative and adaptable efforts as we move forward through health care transformation and integration.

Wealth

To make matter more complicated, there is distinction between wealth and income. Income is what people earn from work, but also from dividends, interest, and any rents or royalties that are paid to them on properties they own. In theory, those who own a great deal of wealth may or may not have high incomes, depending on the returns they receive from their wealth, but in reality those at the very top of the wealth distribution usually have the most income. But it's important to note that for the rich, most of that income does not come from "working": in 2008, only 19% of the income reported by the 13,480 individuals or families making over \$10 million came from wages and salaries (G.

William Domhoff, Professor. 2005, updated 2013. *Who Rules America?* Sociology Department, University of California at Santa Cruz; Norris, F. July 24, 2010. *Off the Charts: In '08 Downturn, Some Managed to Eke Out Millions*. New York Times, p. B-3).

Wealth inequality in the United States (also known as the wealth gap) refers to the unequal distribution of assets among residents. Wealth includes the values of homes, automobiles, personal valuables, businesses, savings, and investments. Wealth is usually not used for daily expenditures or factored into household budgets, but combined with income it comprises the family's total opportunity "to secure a desired stature and standard of living, or pass their class status along to one's children." Moreover, "wealth provides for both short-term and long-term financial security, bestows social prestige, and contributes to political power, and can be used to produce more wealth." Hence, wealth possesses a psychological element that awards people the feeling of agency, or the ability to act. The accumulation of wealth grants more options and eliminates restrictions about how one can live life. Dennis Gilbert asserts that the standard of living of the working and middle classes is dependent upon income and wages, while the rich tend to rely on wealth, distinguishing them from the vast majority of Americans (Wikipedia. Downloaded September 21, 2015. *Wealth inequality in the United States*).

PIC&C # 10 Summary. Income & Opportunities Inequality In Josephine County, Oregon

An issue, identified by public opinion, is that there are income and opportunity inequalities in Josephine County, Oregon that limit some citizens from participating in government. This issues addresses the income and opportunity inequality in JO CO as a factor affecting the ability to pay taxes. Community economic factors and health factors are closely tied.

The county is an economically and socially depressed community with unusually high unemployment and low high school graduation rates. The county's greatest need is to create a long-term solution to chronic economic and social issues impacting the county. A sample of those issues are:

- Unemployment rate 30% higher than Oregon's and 44% higher than the national level.
- Children living in poverty 59% higher than the Oregon state average.
- Student homelessness 89% higher than the Oregon state average.
- High school graduation rate 9% lower than the Oregon average and 14% lower than the National average.
- Population with a Bachelor's Degree 43% lower than Oregon and the Nation.

JO CO — and much of Southern Oregon — is ranked near the bottom of the state for quality of health (i.e., the 29th worst out of the state's 36 counties). Five of the eight unhealthiest counties in Oregon are clustered in the economically hard-hit southwestern part of the state: Josephine (27), Coos (29), Curry (31), Douglas (32), and Klamath (34).

For at least the past five years, the county has been among the least healthy counties in the state, in overall health and performance in specific categories, from unemployment, high school graduation rates and children in poverty to adult smoking, adult obesity, teen pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, violent crime and alcohol-impaired driving deaths.

The rural areas, particularly those that have been hit by the timber industry and are economically challenged, those are the ones with higher unemployment and many other high factors. One view of JO CO follows.

JO CO is something of a microcosm of the national situation. The nation's wealthiest residents have controlled a disproportionately large share of all income for many decades. In 2001, however, that proportion became a majority share. Since 2007, the shares of income controlled by the wealthiest and poorest 20% of households have steadily diverged. In other words, income inequality has been on the rise.

The Gini coefficient is a measure that captures the level of income distribution in a given area. The metropolitan areas with the most uneven income distribution have the highest Gini coefficients. A Gini coefficient of 1 means all income belongs to a single individual, while a coefficient of 0 reflects a perfectly even distribution.

With only a few exceptions, the metro areas with the widest gaps between rich and poor residents tend to have lower median household incomes. The majority of the 20 metro areas with the highest Gini coefficients have median household incomes more than \$10,000 below the national median of \$52,250.

There are 381 metropolitan statistical areas (MSA) in the US. The city/county MSAs with the widest gap between the rich and the poor have the highest Gini coefficients. Household income, including many other factors (e.g., median home value, homeownership rates, median household income, mean household income, poverty rates, percentage of people receiving food stamps, etc.) is used in computing the Gini.

The Grants Pass MSA (i.e., boundaries of the Grants Pass MSA equal those of Josephine County - they are the same) had the third highest Gini coefficient out of the total of 381 MSAs in the U.S.). It gap between the rich and poor was significantly impressive.

#3. Grants Pass, Oregon MSA/Gini coefficient: 0.518
Median household income: \$38,298/Poverty rate: 17.0%
Percent earning more than \$200,000: 2.7%

With only 83,306 residents, the Grants Pass MSA has the smallest population of the 20 MSAs with the highest income inequality. Workforce mobility can help reduce income inequality. But without it, uneven income distribution is difficult to overcome, as finding higher-paying jobs is more difficult in a weak job market, particularly for lower-income residents. At just over 11%, the Grants Pass MSA has the highest unemployment rate among the 20 MSAs with the highest income inequality. In the MSA nearly 30% of all income goes to just 5% of area households, the highest such share in the nation. On the other end of the income spectrum, the lowest earning 20% of households take home just 3.2% of all income generated in the MSA. While the average cost of living was lower than the national price level, 24.3% of the MSA's population still received food stamp benefits, among the highest percentages and perhaps a further illustration of uneven income distribution.

Even though it is not addressed here, to make matters more complicated, there is distinction between wealth and income. Income is what people earn from work, but also from dividends, interest, and any rents or royalties that are paid to them on properties they own. Wealth includes the values of homes, automobiles, personal valuables, businesses, savings, and investments.

(11) PIC&C # 11. City and County Residents Should Pay Their Usage Share

- LTTE 1. Please research the Oregon Uniform Crime Reports for yourself. The county pays 58 percent of the taxes and accounts for 20 percent of the crime. Grants Pass pays 41 percent of the taxes and accounts for 80 percent of the crime.
- LTTE 2. Most of the crime is committed in the city and the city has a substantial police force, just not enough jail beds.
- LTTE 3. I am a city of Grants Pass resident. I am against the public safety levy in its current form. I have no problem paying a fair share of the courts, courthouse, jail and Juvenile Justice Center costs. I am fine with the current charge for the jail on the utility bill. What I have a problem with is paying for rural sheriff's patrols when we already pay a lot of taxes for city police and fire services.
- LTTE 4. Soon we will be voting on a levy to fund public safety. There have been numerous letters to the editor opposing this levy. The basic argument from the county resident is we can't afford this and "no new taxes." This is coming from the folks who pay the lowest public safety tax rate in the state of Oregon. . . Those opposing the levy in the city of Grants Pass argue that we are already paying a fair tax for public safety.
- LTTE 5. Hats off to the Daily Courier for the April 10 headline, "Yes, jail bed utility fee expires June 30." I have been asking proponents of the levy where my \$1.40 would go and could not get a straight answer. "More patrols," I was told, but then, no, the response time would be no better than it is now. "More jail," I was told, but then your article told me what that is about. The "more jail" part would go to house city criminals. That makes sense. Well-funded city public safety doesn't have enough money to take care of their own criminals, so they want county folk to pay for it. If I were in the city, I might well vote for a scheme to get someone else to pay for it.

Number of LTTE Reason/Concept Comments: 5.

June 7, 2015. Chris Bristol. *City Voters Favored Failed Levy. The Grants Pass Daily Courier (TGPDC)*

Newly certified results from the May 19 special election are in, and once again they show a distinct difference of opinion between Grants Pass and county voters over taxes and public safety. With 100 percent of ballots counted, final results show voters rejected a proposed public safety levy 54 to 46 percent. That's the same margin of defeat the initial results showed on Election Night.

Josephine County Clerk Art Harvey said 25,903 ballots were counted. Turnout was just over 50 percent. Measure 17-66 would have imposed a five-year increase of \$1.40 per \$1,000 of assessed value on top of the county's current property tax rate of 58 cents. The property tax rate for county government is the lowest in the state, which averages about \$2.50 per county.

The defeat of the proposed levy was the fourth in a row in the county since 2012, the year dwindling federal subsidies for lost timber revenue forced budget cuts that decimated the Sheriff's Office. Voters in Curry and Klamath counties also rejected public safety levies.

A breakdown of the results show voters in Cave Junction rejected the levy by the same margin as voters in the county — 54 to 46 percent.

Almost the exact opposite was true in the city of Grants Pass, however, where voters favored the levy by a margin of 55 to 45 percent. Further analysis reveals that nine out of 11 precincts in the city voted in favor of the levy, while 31 out of 34 precincts in the county were opposed.

County voters outnumber city voters, however. In some areas of the county, opposition was heavy, with no votes outweighing yes votes by more than 2-1. In fact, three out of four voters in Selma said no to the levy. Voters in Williams and Wolf Creek also opposed the levy by similar margins. Two precincts in the city of Grants Pass sided with county voters. Those precincts, known as Riverside South and Robertson, are on the south side of town

centering on Fruitdale Drive and Cloverlawn. Meanwhile, three county precincts on the western edge of the city limits sided with city folk. Those precincts are known as River Road, Redwood and Dimmick.

Dan DeYoung, president of the Grants Pass City Council, noted that a majority of city voters supported the three previous levies as well. That continuing support explains why the City Council is now considering a sales tax of up to 3 percent to help pay for beds in the county jail, he said. The city is currently charging a fee on utilities to pay for up to 30 beds, but city officials don't like it as a long-term solution. "We're looking for something permanent, and a sales tax is the fairest way to spread the burden of taxation out," he said. The initial discussion of a sales tax includes a proposal that would cap the 3 percent on the first \$1,000. It would also replace the city's existing supplemental public safety levy.

As for any talk that county residents will shop elsewhere if the city imposes a sales tax, DeYoung said he's confident the 3 percent is too low to be worth the trouble. "The mathematics just don't support driving to Medford for 3 percent," he said.

June 2, 2015. Jim Moore. *City May Seek Sales Tax To Pay For Extra Jail Beds.* TGPDC

Looking for a permanent funding solution, the Grants Pass City Council is considering a local sales tax to continue paying for extra jail beds at the Josephine County Jail. The first step is to form a Criminal Justice Sales Tax Task Force. The council is required to approve and publish a ballot measure explanatory statement before a July 27 deadline in order to place the question on the November ballot.

The idea surfaced at Monday's workshop meeting of the City Council, and was in reaction to the latest defeat of a countywide public safety on May 19. It was the fourth countywide public safety levy to fail since May 2012.

On Monday, City Manager Aaron Cubic told the council that **the unofficial numbers for the May 19 election show that 55 percent of city voters approved of the levy, which means that all four public safety levies were supported by city residents.**

The results of the May 19 election won't be official until they are certified later this week.

June 8, 2014. Howard Huntington. *Precinct Breakdown Shows GP Favored Levy.* TGPDC

Perhaps predictably, a breakdown of voting by precinct in the May primary shows the tax for the Josephine County jail and juvenile services drew support in Grants Pass but was shunned elsewhere.

Measure 17-59, a five year-levy for the jail and county juvenile programs, failed countywide on a vote of 14,700 (53 percent) to 13,291. The election results were certified Friday by County Clerk Art Harvey.

On two other hot-button issues that passed in the primary — the GMO ban and a modest levy for animal control — there was very little difference between city voters and county voters.

City voters embraced the Animal Control levy a little more enthusiastically than county voters, 66 percent vs. 59 percent, but it would have passed regardless.

With respect to the jail levy, there was a very real divide. Fully 59 percent of voters in the 11 Grants Pass precincts said yes to the measure, while in the 35 precincts outside the city, 58 percent said no.

Grants Pass Mayor Darin Fowler said the split reveals what he called a "different value set for people that live in our county rurally, and the people that live inside the city."

"We have a requirement to enforce public safety to keep our tourism going, and to keep our elderly population safe that live inside the city limits and want that level of protection," he said. "Out in the county, some just don't want or

can't afford any more taxes. Some don't trust that their government is doing the right thing with their tax dollars. Some of them don't fully understand where all the tax dollars go."

Fowler said the community — like the rest of the country — seems split down the middle, with 40 percent firmly believing one thing, 40 percent convinced of another thing, and the two sides struggling to capture the 20 percent in the middle.

Cave Junction City Councilor Jim Polk said city voters seem to get more bang for their buck because the city has a 24/7 police force, whereas law enforcement in Cave Junction is limited to a single part-time sheriff's deputy due to budget cuts in 2012 that decimated sheriff patrols across the county.

At \$1.19 per \$1,000 of assessed value, the levy would have expanded the capacity of the 262-bed county jail, now operating at less than half capacity, and reopened the shuttered Juvenile Justice Center. Voters rejected higher levy proposals in 2012 and 2013 that would have restored rural patrol and detective services.

"When they (residents of Grants Pass) call 911, they're going to get an officer," Polk said. "When you get an officer to show up, it's a good thing to have a jail to keep the people in, and a DA to prosecute the crime.

"Out in the (Illinois Valley), if you dial 911 and you get told, 'I'm sorry, but there's no officer available,' why fund the jail? You're at the whim of, is there a state cop in the area?"

How the May vote on Measure 17-59 went in some precincts:

- Cave Junction: 226 yes, 257 no.
- Wolf Creek: 92 yes, 197 no.
- Redwood (near Grants Pass): 357 yes, 319 no.
- College (near Grants Pass): 391 yes, 408 no.
- Merlin: 193 yes, 323 no.
- Williams: 227 yes, 344 no.
- River Road (near Grants Pass): 75 yes, 64 no.
- Cloverlawn (near Grants Pass): 709 yes, 903 no.
- Highland (in Grants Pass): 1,218 yes, 691 no.
- Riverside (in Grants Pass): 371 yes, 291 no.

"The next question I have is, do you think maybe that's along economic lines?" Grants Pass City Councilor Jim Williams said of the mixed results in precincts near the city. "I don't know."

June 12, 2014. Kevin Widdison. *Who Will Cross The Great Philosophical Divide?* (Opinion). TGPDC

Two events in the past week brought into focus the sharp contrast between the city of Grants Pass and the rest of Josephine County. In some ways, the situation is similar to how Southern Oregon relates to Portland — a combination of contempt and condescension can, at times, emanate from both sides of the divide.

The first event involved a Selma resident who showed up at a Grants Pass City Council meeting to take Councilor Dennis Webber to task for saying that rural residents who voted against the recent public safety tax proposal were voting for "anarchy." Mark Seligman, who was an unsuccessful candidate for county commissioner on the May 20 primary ballot, said those who voted against the proposal were not choosing anarchy. They simply could not afford the additional \$1.19 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Webber defended his comment by saying that, regardless of the motive, the outcome is still the same: The county is moving toward a state of anarchy because we lack adequate funding for public safety services.

The very next day, as if to further sharpen the contrast, the precinct breakdowns were released for the May 20 election. To nobody's surprise, the numbers showed that precincts in the city of Grants Pass

overwhelmingly approved the public safety proposal, but that the rest of the county rejected the proposal even more overwhelmingly.

There is more to this split than simply a question of who can or can't afford a tax hike. It's not like everyone living in the city is affluent and everyone living in the country is poor. There seems to be a deep philosophical rift between rural residents and those living in Grants Pass.

Whether this philosophical divide can be bridged — and whether there's even support for trying to build such a bridge — remains open to debate. The question then becomes: Can Josephine County find a way to move forward in spite of this chasm?

Oregon Uniform Crime Reports

http://www.oregon.gov/osp/cjis/pages/annual_reports.aspx

An initial investigation found The Oregon Uniform Crime Reports at the web address provided. The analysis had not proceeded as of August 20, 2015 to provide any summaries or conclusions.

2013 Josephine County (pps. 128 - 130)

2013 Annual Oregon Uniform Crime Report – Section 8 – Agency Summary by County

2012 Josephine County (pps. 8-45 to 8-46)

Section 8 2012 Agency Summary and Detail Tables

This section provides a detailed report by crime category of the annual crime report information for each department within each county in Oregon, including Traffic Crime, Fish & Game Laws, and Marine Violations.

CRIME AGAINST PERSON	Offences	Arrests
2012 TOTAL	204	55
2011 TOTAL	307	128
CRIME AGAINST PROPERTY	Offences	Arrests

PIC&C # 11 Summary. City and County Residents Should Pay Their Usage Share

An issue, identified by public opinion, is that city and county residents should pay their usage share of the costs for JS&PSS. Part of this rationale was the opinion that the county pays 58 percent of the taxes and accounts for 20 percent of the crime. Grants Pass pays 41 percent of the taxes and accounts for 80 percent of the crime, and that most of the crime is committed in the city. The city has a substantial police force, just not enough jail beds.

There was also the issue of different services, not common (i.e., common were the courts, courthouse, jail and Juvenile Justice Center costs), especially the rural sheriff's patrols when city residences already pay taxes for city police services.

Many letter-to-the-editor, TGPDC's opinion of the editor, *Who Will Cross The Great Philosophical Divide?*, and actual votes from the past four levies support the differences between neighbors living in GP and rural JO CO. There is speculation about the differences - opinions about a philosophical rift and anarchy, rural sheriff's patrols, county folks more independent, etc., but primarily was the assumption that folks in the county are poorer than folks in the city, and can't afford a tax hike. Here is another outstanding example of not having the facts.

- *You can't find solutions that last if you don't know the specific problems.*

The only facts we have are the voting patterns of folks in the city and in the country. The numbers showed that precincts in the city of Grants Pass overwhelmingly approved the public safety proposal, but that the rest of the county rejected the proposal even more overwhelmingly.

The May 19, 2015 special election showed a distinct difference of opinion between Grants Pass and county voters over taxes and public safety - voters rejected the proposed public safety levy 54 to 46 percent. The defeat of the proposed levy was the fourth in a row in the county since 2012, the year dwindling federal subsidies for lost timber revenue forced budget cuts that decimated the Sheriff's Office.

A breakdown of the results show voters in Cave Junction rejected the levy by the same margin as voters in the county — 54 to 46 percent. Almost the exact opposite was true in the city of Grants Pass, however, where voters favored the levy by a margin of 55 to 45 percent. Further analysis reveals that nine out of 11 precincts in the city voted in favor of the levy, while 31 out of 34 precincts in the county were opposed (June 7, 2015 *City Voters Favored Failed Levy*. TGPDC).

Economic and Social Differences Between Family

We are a rural county of differences. Those differences don't make us weak; they make us special through our uniqueness. They're the source of our strength. We are still one, as no citizen is independent, entire of themselves; every person is a piece of the county solidarity. Even when respect for the other is thin . . . we always learn from our neighbors.

- *Share consensus by breaking bread together over a common goal of being for something.*

By brother knows no strangers, only neighbors a short distance from friends. Living and learning together is like brothers aggressively fighting at elk camp - you can only share this level of emotion when you know tomorrow there will be tolerance fostering strength, and diversity of family opinions facilitating solutions.

Honest differences of opinion, where we relish our diversity, but know the group were from - good citizens bringing us together as one community. Talk to your neighbor. It's probably not what they said, but how they said and looked it. Contact brings out the importance of taking into account people's interpretation and meanings about a difference of opinion.

E. Preliminary Grant Application JS&PSS Issues: Unknown Date

It is estimated that preliminary grant application JS&PSS Issues will be completed in six to 18 months.

IV. ISSUES SUMMARY

1. July 28, 2015 Not completed as of the first review and approval of this document (i.e., preliminary draft) by the authors on July 28, 2015.

2. August ??, 2015 Completed on August ??, 2015.

III. PROBLEMS/ISSUES

- A. Introduction
- B. Preliminary June 14, 2015 JS&PSS Issues
- C. Research
 - 1. Informal Citizen Interviews/Straw Poll
 - 2. Measures Representing Public Involvement
 - a) Public Opinion Research Methods
 - b) Public Opinion: Informal & Formal
 - d) Content Analysis
 - 3. Media
 - a) The Grants Pass Daily Courier
 - (1) Guest Opinions
 - (a) Guest Opinions Opposing Levies
 - (b) Guest Opinions Supporting Levies
 - (2) Letters To The Editor
 - (a) Citizen Reasons Opposing Levies
 - (b) Citizen Reasons Supporting Levies
 - (c) Additional Letter To The Editor
 - (3) Opinions Editor
 - (4) Reporter Coverage
 - b) Other Media
 - 4. Voters' Pamphlet
 - a) Arguments Against
 - b) Arguments In Favor
- D. Summary Of Preliminary July 15, 2015 JS&PSS Issues
 - 1a. Range of Public Safety Funding and Service Level Alternatives
 - 1b. Range of Alternative Types of Taxpayers Funding Public Safety Program
 - 2. Public Involvement Consultation and Criteria Considered In Design of Alternatives
 - a) Public Involvement Consultation and Criteria
 - b) Public Involvement Consultation and Criteria & Examples Of Specific Public Comments
- E. Preliminary Grant Application JS&PSS Issues: Unknown Date
- F. Summary

V. PUBLIC REVIEW

A. Public Review

As of July 7, 2015 this document was in the development phase represented three overlapping stages of the document development life cycle: 1. Requirement Analysis, 2. Designing, and 3. Developing Content. This document has been web published for the convenience of the authors in reviewing its requirements, designing, and content.

At this stage it's form is not final, nor is it edited for public review and comment. However, those interested members of the public may provide observations and comments on this document to the authors. Per their inclination, and if they are interested in becoming involved with the work of the Hugo JS&PSS Exploratory Committee, they may apply for committee membership with the authors (Chpt VI).

Citizens commenting on the adequacy of any proposed JS&PSS Study Design document, including appendices, and any other information except the APS, and the final JS&PSS Study must provide the following information rules (i.e., similar to The Grants Pass Daily Courier for letters-to-the-editor).

Rules of the JS&PSS Committee For "Comments"

The JS&PSS Committee encourages comments from readers. They must be signed, and a full address and phone number must be provided.

Street addresses will not be published, except on request. Phone numbers are for verification only and will not be printed. If you do not have a phone, you must hand-deliver your comments to one of the authors (Chpt XVII).

To avoid confusion over people with common or similar names writers must provide a full name or middle initial and indicate the name they are known by. On extremely rare occasions and on very sensitive topics, names of comment writers may be withheld.

There is no length on comments as they could be web published. One page or less comments need to be submitted via email. Comments longer than one page need to be submitted via email as a pdf attachment. If you do not have a computer, you must hand-deliver your comments to the Chair. Comments written long-hand are acceptable if legible (i.e., Chair must be able to read comments without assistance of writer).

Comments to the JS&PSS Committee should be addressed to its Chair, and cannot be copies. They cannot be returned (see Chpt XI of JS&PPS Study Design document for more information).

Mail comments to:

Mike Walker, Chair
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Or send e-mail via the Internet to hugo@jeffnet.org. Comments could be web published.

B. Document Development Life Cycle

For the authors' purpose the following "Document Development Life Cycle" (DDLC) is considered the life cycle of a documentation task. The information on the DDLC was adapted from Wikipedia to illustrate where the authors were in document development.

Document Development Life Cycle
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DDLC>
Downloaded July 8, 2015

There are six stages to the DDLC.

1. Requirement Analysis
2. Designing
3. Developing Content
4. Editing/Proof-Reading
5. Publishing Document
6. Maintenance

As of July 28, 2015 this document represented three overlapping stages of the DDLC.

1. Requirement Analysis
2. Designing
3. Developing Content

1. Requirement Analysis The "Requirement Analysis" is an important stage of the DDLC. In this stage the technical writer gathers the useful material for the project and understands and analyzes all the information of the project.

It is the first stage of DDLC in which a technical writer analyzes the document requirements, targeted audiences and documentation tools for use throughout. Intended towards the audience level of consumption the technical writer will decide the complexity and depth of the document. Use of language level will be decided at this stage.

The process involves a lot of effort. Information is collected from various sources connected with the project, mainly with the subject-matter expert(s) (SME). Any earlier versions of the document can also be reviewed for better understanding of the project. Technical writers also search related information from the JS&PSS Exploratory Committee's archives (i.e., both hard-copy and web published), and gather updated information.

Technical writers must list down all the queries and problems faced while studying or understanding the conceptual document. They may have to meet and/or contact members of the interested public a number of times to arrive at a comprehensive understanding of the project. At the end of this stage a technical writer must have resolved all the problems and queries in terms of documenting this understanding for a specific audience(s).

2. Designing At this stage some estimates are decided like approximate pages, format of the document, several representation styles, etc. Subject knowledge, good writing skills, sufficient information about the project will help the technical writer to make a quality document.

3. Developing Content At this stage content is developed as per the design prospective and in accordance with planning of the documents at previous stages. The use of graphical illustrations are recommended for a better understanding by the public.

4. Editing/Proof-Reading At this stage, the document is thoroughly read by the writers/authors, and also verified by a third party. It checks for all sorts of grammatical errors. This verification ensures that the document is ready for publishing, including web publishing.

5. Publishing Document The document is web published by parent authority of the document (i.e., HNA&HS). Generally technical documents are published either in digital format on internet or in hard-copies and distributed. Several publication options can be used as per the distribution document requirement.

6. Maintenance At this stage collection of further updates and modification can be accomplished.

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C. Review & Approval

- 1. July 28, 2015** The first review and approval of this document (i.e., preliminary draft) by the authors occurred July 28, 2015.
- 2. August ??, 2015** The second review and approval of this document (i.e., draft) by the authors occurred August ??, 2015.