

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

- Scott Draper. May 1, 2015. *How Should You Vote On Measure 17-66? Yes on Levy: Citizen-driven Levy Creates Safety Funding with Oversight* (Guest Opinion). [The Grants Pass Daily Courier](#). Grants Pass, OR.

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.