

Look closely at levels of public safety services

Letters To The Editor

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Oregon House Bill 3453 provides that the governor may proclaim a public safety fiscal emergency where fiscal conditions compromise a county's ability to provide a minimally adequate level of public safety services (MALPSS).

I write because of the Jan. 14 article titled "Board will not turn over public safety operations to the state without a vote." The article felt like a public opinion vote is more important than knowing if the county is providing a MALPSS. What are the specifics for how the county and/or state would conduct a legal MALPSS analysis? What are the required or mandated public safety services (PSS), and at what levels of service? What are the PSS' standards to conduct an analysis?

I ask these questions because I believe providing a MALPSS analysis to the voters would help answer the question "Is there a PSS problem?" — which is not about turning over services to the state. It is about the MALPSS as an educational analysis tool to assist understanding in a scientific documented way, versus relying on professional opinions. For example, how do the different public safety services elements work together as a system? Are those services adequate, or less than adequate? Without this information I will not understand what I am voting for in some future ballot, except yes or no. I definitely will not know whether there is a public safety services problem, or if so, by what standards.

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