

**OFFICIAL
JOSEPHINE COUNTY
VOTERS' PAMPHLET**

**SPECIAL ELECTION
MAY 19, 2015**



Vote!



Art Harvey
Josephine County Clerk & Recorder

This voters' pamphlet is provided for assistance
in casting your vote by mail ballot.

MEASURE 17.66

BALLOT TITLE: For Patrol, Jail, Shelter of Abused Youth; Five Year Levy.

QUESTION: Shall County increase deputies, dispatchers, jail capacity, juvenile facilities; cost of \$1.40 per \$1,000 assessed value; five years beginning 2015/16? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

SUMMARY: Passage of this measure will, subject to required budgetary process and limitations:

- Provide funding for 16 Sheriff's deputies (including patrol cars) and four 911 dispatchers, to increase Sheriff's patrols and provide necessary emergency response.
- Increase Sheriff's patrols during times of heightened criminal activity;
- Allow Sheriff to enforce laws when individuals engage in illegal activities, which impacts residents in both the rural and urban sections of Josephine County;
- Provide funding to increase jail capacity to 160 beds, keeping those convicted of violent crimes in jail;
- Provide funding to re-open Juvenile Justice Center to shelter abused youth and counsel local youth in crisis;
- Create a better business and job environment by improving public safety in Josephine County.

To ensure accountability, a Citizens' Oversight Committee will be created; plus an annual independent audit, with findings made public.

This measure will generate revenue for five years beginning in 2015. The estimated tax raised by this levy is 2015/16-\$9,090,600; 2016/17-\$9,662,200; 2017/18-\$9,952,000, 2018/19-\$10,250,600, and 2019/20-\$10,558,100 for a total of \$49,513,500. For the median home in Josephine County, valued at \$158,625, annual property tax will increase by \$222.

After five years, this tax automatically sunsets, unless re-approved by Josephine County voters.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT:

The revenue from this measure would, it is estimated, allow the Sheriff's Office to add 16 patrol deputies and increase patrol activities in response to criminal activity. It would allow the addition of four 911 dispatchers and would allow the addition of jail staff to increase jail capacity to 160 beds so that persons convicted of violent crimes could be kept in jail. The measure would provide funding to re-open the Juvenile Shelter to provide counselling and shelter services for youth. The revenue from this measure would be subject to required budgetary processes and limitations.

The measure provides for a citizens' oversight committee and for an independent annual audit. The findings of the audit would be made public.

The measure calls for a levy rate of \$1.40 per thousand dollars of assessed value. The median home value in Josephine County is \$158,625.00. At that value, the approximate tax increase for a home valued at the median property value in Josephine County, with an assessed value of \$158,625.00, would be approximately \$222.00 per year.

The estimated revenue raised by this measure would be \$9,090,600.00 for tax year 2015-2016; \$9,662,200.00 for tax year 2016-2017; \$9,952,000.00 for tax year 2017-2018; \$10,250,600.00 for tax year 2018-2019; and \$10,558,100.00 for tax year 2019-2020. The total estimated revenue for all five years is \$49,513,500.00.

The levy would be in effect for five years beginning in 2015. At the end of that time it would automatically expire. It could be renewed if the voters approve the renewal.

The estimated tax cost for this measure is an estimate only, based on the best information available from the County Assessor at the time of the estimate.

Provided by Wally Hicks, Josephine County Legal Couns

MEASURE 17.66

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

We have the opportunity with measure 17-66 to restore safety funding for sheriff patrols and emergency response, jail capacity and our juvenile justice center. The phrase "public safety" may sound impersonal. The effects of our current lack of public safety are in reality VERY personal- it is OUR property that is being stolen, OUR families that have been hurt or are living in fear, OUR neighbors that are in jeopardy. Measure 17-66 is a grassroots effort, a measure placed on the ballot by and for the people of Josephine County.

Our current lack of public safety is expensive. We pay individually through theft, insurance premiums, insurance deductibles, hiring of private security firms, lower property values, lost opportunities, and in many other ways. Measure 17-66 is the cost-effective way to safety.

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.

Measure 17-66 will create a safe community which is needed to attract new businesses, support the growth of those that are already here, and bring more jobs. Measure 17-66 creates a vibrant community.

Measure 17-66 restores sheriff patrols and emergency response so that when you call 911 in an emergency, a deputy sheriff will respond. It will also provide a presence of law enforcement in the county through resident deputies and other programs, creating a proactive approach to crime before it even happens.

Measure 17-66 provides for a Citizens' Oversight Committee comprised of local citizens from throughout the county and from different walks of life, ensuring that our tax dollars are spent for cost-effective public safety only.

Your YES vote for measure 17-66 will prevent further loss of our community public safety and enhance our way of life. Please vote YES. 17-66 is safety and security. Measure 17-66 is a small investment for a huge return.

SCOTT DRAPER

(This information furnished by Scott Draper)

(This space purchased for \$400 in accordance with ORS 251.285)

Measure arguments are printed as submitted. The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Josephine County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

I am urging every resident to vote YES on Public Safety Measure 17-66. There are three reasons why these funds are absolutely critical in order for us to stand up together as a community to solve the public safety crisis we are facing.

First, they will enable me as your Sheriff to put 16 deputies on rural patrol throughout the county, providing a level of emergency response that our county residents need and deserve.

Second, the funds will restore the jail capacity required to ensure that every person arrested goes to jail. This will send a message throughout southern Oregon that if someone breaks the law in Josephine County there WILL be consequences – they WILL do jail time, not just be cited and released as many are now.

Third, the funds will restore the Juvenile Justice Center, enabling us to shelter abused youth in desperate need of our help as well as to take juveniles off the street who have committed violent crimes.

I am committed as your Sheriff to applying these funds as cost-efficiently as I possibly can, and to work cooperatively with the Citizens' Oversight Committee to provide transparency and build trust in my office among the people of Josephine County that I serve. Together, we can turn Josephine County around.

Please join me and vote YES on measure 17-66.

*(This information furnished by Dave Daniel,
Josephine County Sheriff)*

(This space purchased for \$400 in accordance with ORS 251.285)

Measure arguments are printed as submitted. The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Josephine County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

MEASURE 17.66

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

As front line health care providers here in Josephine County, our doctors, nurse practitioners, physician's assistants and mental health professionals often witness first-hand, the tragic results of inadequate law enforcement in Josephine County.

We understand the lasting human toll on our patients, friends, and families that the lack of crime prevention and enforcement takes in terms of injuries and death caused by drunk drivers, domestic violence, assault by strangers, and elder abuse.

We know well the challenge of recruiting needed health care professionals to this county due to the well-publicized levels of crime and lack of basic public safety services that exist in Josephine County.

The good news is that we have the opportunity, by passing Public Safety Measure 17-66, to turn the tide on rising crime, to provide adequate public safety services for our community, and to improve our local economy by attracting new businesses and jobs to this beautiful area we call home.

Please help make Josephine County a safer and healthier community by voting YES on Measure 17-66.

*(This information furnished by Doug Flow,
Mid Rogue Independent Physicians Association)*

(This space purchased for \$400 in accordance with ORS 251.285)

Measure arguments are printed as submitted. The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Josephine County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

For 91 years, the Grants Pass & Josephine County Chamber has been committed to meeting the needs of the local business community. We share a commitment to help businesses thrive and create jobs for our working families in the Grants Pass & Josephine County area. That commitment to the community is why the Chamber of Commerce encourages you to vote YES on Measure 17-66.

YES for Patrol, Jail, Shelter of Abused Youth because a safer Grants Pass and Josephine County are good for our local businesses and community.

Theft, burglary, assaults and property crimes impact all of us. Crime in Josephine County has escalated in the past three years and affects individuals, families, our businesses and their customers.

- Restoring the operation of the jail for persons accused or convicted of crimes is critical for Josephine County's justice system to function.
- An increase in Sheriff's patrols and emergency response will benefit homeowners and businesses against crime.
- Reopening the Juvenile Justice Center provides detention, secure treatment and shelter services for abused youth.
- A Citizens Oversight Committee will ensure the money from this measure is spent as promised.

We all know that Sheriff's patrols, jails and juvenile services are very important to creating a healthy local economy. National studies have identified public safety as the top quality-of-life factor cited by corporations in selecting locations for new business investment. In other words, a safe community attracts new business and good jobs.

This is a community challenge and we must step up as a community.

Join the Grants Pass Chamber of Commerce and vote **YES on Measure 17-66**. It will help keep our neighbors and businesses safe and contribute to creating a positive business climate.

**Grants Pass & Josephine County
Chamber Board of Directors
grantspasschamber.org**

*(This information furnished by Colene Martin,
Grants Pass & Josephine County Chamber of Commerce)*

(This space purchased for \$400 in accordance with ORS 251.285)

Measure arguments are printed as submitted. The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Josephine County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

MEASURE 17.66

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Our Juvenile Justice Center opened in 1998. It has been closed since 2012.

Our Center provided operational space for Family Court, Divorce Mediation, a Deputy District Attorney, the Juvenile Department, 16 beds for shelter evaluation of dependent and abused children (11 years+) and secure detention space for 14 juveniles accused of serious crimes. The funding for these programs came primarily from the State of Oregon and Josephine County.

In 2012, when county revenue from federal timber receipts fell to a trickle, the Center's programs had to be severely cut or eliminated altogether. Our programs offering 24-hour shelter care and secure detention were closed and no longer available to the children of Josephine County.

What does this mean for our citizens?

A seriously injured 13-year old claiming abuse by one of her parents may have to be released back to her family or into temporary foster care (if a family can be found at 2 a.m. in the morning) because there is no shelter facility to place her temporarily and safely while a complete investigation is done.

Yes on 17-66 will re-open this shelter.

When a juvenile is arrested for a felony crime and the few beds rented from neighboring counties are full (an all-too-often occurrence), that suspect will have to be released back into the community or another detainee will have to be released to free a bed, because there is no place to detain him while the investigation and court hearings are pending.

Yes on 17-66 will re-open these detention beds.

Juvenile shelter and detention facilities are necessary to protect children, to protect families, and to protect our community. Virtually every county in the State of Oregon offers these services.

The proposed Public Safety Measure will assure shelter and detention services will be available to our children here in Josephine County.

Terry Soeteber, Juvenile Director (retired)

Please join me. **Yes on 17-66**

(This information furnished by Terry Soeteber)

(This space purchased for \$400 in accordance with ORS 251.285)

Measure arguments are printed as submitted. The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Josephine County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

County and City Voters can restore funding for our Criminal Justice System with, "YES, for Measure 17-66".

Jail bed count will be raised to 160 beds, making room so that repeat offenders will be incarcerated and held as determined by law. This will help stop catch and release because of bed shortages.

This levy will RESTORE Sheriff patrols, so that when you call 911 in an emergency, a Deputy Sheriff will respond. A safe community is needed to attract new businesses and bring more good jobs to our community. Positive votes will support positive community results for all citizens.

Abused and troubled children presently have limited places to go to escape dangerous living conditions. Voters, your yes vote for Measure 17-66 will re-open the Juvenile Justice Center to shelter and counsel local youth who are in crisis. Children in our community need help.

Measure 17-66 Levy language gives us a Citizen's Grass Roots, Criminal Justice System Oversight Committee with annual audit authority. This is the first time that citizens can watch over levy funds that are legally segregated into an exclusively independent account, not available for other use by our commissioners. Levy funds are divided into specific amounts to be spent for costs related to deputies, jail beds and the youth and Justice Center, only.

You have the voting power to prevent loss of this opportunity with your Vote, "YES for Measure 17-66". Give your support to steady funding for our criminal justice system.

(This information furnished by Kurt Krauss, Krauss Craft, Inc.)

(This space purchased for \$400 in accordance with ORS 251.285)

Measure arguments are printed as submitted. The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Josephine County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

MEASURE 17.66

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

The safety and security of our community has been compromised by substantial loss of funding for our criminal justice system. It will be hit again in July when the next round of budget cuts goes into effect. Safety is a community-wide issue and requires a 'community-wide' response.

We have an opportunity to play a key role in this response by voting YES on Measure 17-66.

Imagine calling 911 in an emergency and hearing the dispatcher say they have no one to respond. It happens all the time in Josephine County. Criminals are walking free who have victimized our neighbors, family, and businesses, yet face no consequences for their actions. They know they will not be held accountable so have no incentive to stop offending.

Clearly, our criminal justice system is broken, and needs long-term, sustainable resources to be restored. Unfortunately, it may take years to identify those resources. In the interim, Measure 17-66 will provide funding for services that the community has deemed most critical; more deputies to increase sheriff patrols, more 911 dispatchers to improve emergency response, funding for needed jail capacity, the re-opening of the Juvenile Justice Center, and a Citizens' Oversight Committee to ensure that every dollar is spent according to the provisions of the Measure as required under Oregon Law.

By voting YES, we are providing support to our new leadership in the Sheriff's Office, the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety, and District Attorney's Office so they can better meet the needs of our community. These new leaders are professional, ethical, transparent and willing to work together and with our community to find creative ways to address our safety issues.

But they can't do it without our help!

Please join us in this effort and vote YES for Measure 17-66. As long-time residents of Josephine County, we have seen the positive impacts of coming together to fight for our community.

**Julie Thomas, co-owner
Concierge Home and Business Watch**

*(This information furnished by Julie Thomas,
Concierge Home and Business Watch)*

(This space purchased for \$400 in accordance with ORS 251.285)

Measure arguments are printed as submitted. The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Josephine County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

In the 1980's the battered women's movement knew that to be able to protect women from the violence happening in their homes a community-wide response was needed. This means adequate numbers of law enforcement officers, probation officers, batterer intervention providers, judges, deputy district attorneys, nurses and doctors, jail beds and staff, and advocacy services.

In Josephine County the community-wide response has eroded to a dangerous level with virtually no response to emergency calls for service. The Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance provides services to victims and survivors of sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, stalking and trafficking. Most survivors we talk with have given up calling law enforcement. Their reasons are many: their call may not be classified as urgent, there are no officers on duty, if an officer is available they are 40 minutes out, if their abuser is arrested he'll be out of jail and back home in a matter of hours.

Advocacy services provide an invaluable safety net for survivors, but they can't protect them from abusers in the long term. We aren't equipped with badges and guns, and, we don't recommend survivors carry gun: because they are often used against them or get them sent to jail for premeditated crimes. We do this work because we want a world where everyone is safe. We're not there yet and we need the rest of 'our' community to do their part.

This ballot measure is a step toward the goal of protecting the vulnerable in our county. It will cost the average homeowner \$222 a year. We're paying the costs now in many indirect ways. The correlation between domestic violence and child abuse, behavior problems in school, juvenile delinquency, teen pregnancy, alcohol and drug abuse, medical costs, low productivity and absenteeism is clear; each costs the individuals involved and the community they live in. We can decide to be proactive or we can decide to pay the costs indirectly.

*(This information furnished by Chris Mallette,
Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance)*

(This space purchased for \$400 in accordance with ORS 251.285)

Measure arguments are printed as submitted. The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Josephine County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of statements made in the argument.

MEASURE 17.66

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Every day in my medical practice, I see young mothers whose addiction to dangerous drugs is compromising the health of their unborn children. As an OB-GYN physician, I deliver many babies who are already addicted to the drugs their mothers are taking. These neonates likely will suffer withdrawal symptoms at birth. Intrauterine exposure to various drugs may compromise their chance of having a healthy childhood and a productive life.

This has become a serious public health issue in our county. I moved here in 2001 to join a local women's health practice. The number of pregnant women that use drugs during pregnancy has increased to a troubling percentage over the time that I have practiced medicine in Grants Pass. Chances are that the baby I deliver to a drug-addicted mother will face the painful process of drug withdrawal before even having had a chance to develop into a normal child.

I believe there is a direct link to the public safety crisis in Josephine County. As a doctor, I can't say that the lack-of law enforcement is responsible for the increase in drug use among pregnant women. However, common sense tells me that the trends are strongly related.

Josephine County is known far and wide as a safe haven for law-breakers and drug dealers. It is widely known that we lack even the most basic resources such as enough jail beds to lock up criminals rather than simply giving them a ticket and letting them go right back on the street. Many will continue selling drugs to young women.

Giving our children a good start in life is our best hope for a bright future. I will vote YES for Measure 17-66. As a doctor, a mother, and a resident of Josephine County, this is something positive I can do for my community.

Felicia Cohen, MD
Colonial Valley

(This information furnished by Felicia Cohen, MD)

(This space purchased for \$400 in accordance with ORS 251.285)

Measure arguments are printed as submitted. The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Josephine County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Voters, this is your first opportunity in twenty years to restore five year stable funding for 911-Sheriff Patrols with an additional 16 Deputies, a 160 bed Jail operation to keep convicted criminals incarcerated and re-open our Juvenile Justice Center to provide needed Shelter for abused and troubled children. Your YES vote for MEASURE 17-66 increases the benefits provided by each of these important public safety entities.

You see, your YES vote helps restore criminal justice funding that provides necessary services for a healthy civil society and works to stop rampant property crimes such as home burglary, vehicle damage & theft and violent personal injury caused by the dangerous catch-and-release of criminals. Deputies can process offenders to establish a data base that gives courts an incident history of repeat offenders, so that punishment is proportional to behavioral pattern.

A big plus is the restored additional 16 deputies for Sheriff Patrols. When you call 911 in an emergency, a Sheriff Deputy will respond.

You can vote, with confidence, knowing the Citizens Oversight Committee will be watching the special Levy Account to see that the Five Year Levy Funds are allocated and used exclusively for Sheriff Patrol deputies, dispatchers, increased jail capacity and juvenile youth facilities. All Levy Funds go directly into a designated, segregated account NOT to be comingled with other county funds. This is a legal requirement. Citizens Oversight Committee has annual audit authority.

The cost is \$1.40 per thousand assessed value. A \$200,000 home = \$280 annually = \$00.76 per day. Costs less than 1/3 of a cup of daily coffee. Vote: YES for MEASURE 17-66.

Voters, your YES VOTE for MEASURE 17-66 is your opportunity to prevent loss of your security.

(This information furnished by Jim Dittmer)

(This space purchased for \$400 in accordance with ORS 251.285)

Measure arguments are printed as submitted. The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Josephine County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

MEASURE 17.66

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

The Public Safety System in Josephine County is broken.

The loss of federal timber receipts has decimated the County's budget. By necessity, the Public Safety System – the largest portion of that budget – has been slashed to the bone.

For the past four years, our citizens have lived with the results of a underfunded public safety system: releases of prisoners from the jail, a sheriff's department with fewer deputies than needed to respond to any but the most dire 911 calls, and a shuttered Juvenile Justice Center unable to help abused and troubled youth.

County officials and citizen's groups have proposed ballot measures to correct this situation. All have failed.

So what is different about Public Safety Measure 17-66?

First, it has been put forward by a broadly-based, grassroots coalition of private citizens and community leaders, NOT affiliated with local government. The measure is on the ballot thanks to a petition drive involving over 80 volunteers.

Second, the language of the ballot measure reflects the wishes of a majority of county voters, indicated by a scientific survey of registered voters representing ALL areas of the county, urban and rural.

Third, the services that will be provided and the cost to citizens are precisely what voters said they want, and at the amount they said they are willing to pay.

Fourth, the funds generated by the measure HAVE to be spent for the specific purposes that are outlined in the ballot measure. Under Oregon law the funds can NOT be diverted by the county government to other priorities. This will be further ensured by an independent Citizen's Oversight Committee and an annual audit.

As one of the many volunteers who have been involved in this effort, I am proud to be affiliated with the many good people who have made a strong, honest effort to solve our public safety crisis.

This levy is a good start! Please join me in voting yes for Measure 17-66.

Pat Fahey

(This information furnished by Patrick Daniel Fahey)

(This space purchased for \$400 in accordance with ORS 251.285)

Measure arguments are printed as submitted. The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Josephine County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

**We are Republicans
We are Democrats**

**There is ONE thing we can agree on:
PUBLIC SAFETY
We are united in support of
Measure 17-66**

Republicans and Democrats in Josephine County voted **YES** and built our **JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER** which now sits empty.

**YES on Measure 17-66
use what we have built**

Republicans and Democrats in Josephine County voted - we have a **NEW SHERIFF.** He can't do it alone. He needs our help.

**YES on Measure 17-66
support your new Sheriff
put patrols back on the road**

Republicans and Democrats in Josephine County voted **YES** and our **ADULT JAIL** was built to keep criminals off our streets.

**YES on Measure 17-66
use what we have built**

Oregon Republican Party Platform:
"We support the highest prioritization for the funding of public safety"

Oregon Democrat Party Platform:
"We believe in protecting the vulnerable from neglect and abuse, especially children..."

**Robyn Lasky
Shaun C Curry
Chuck Rund
Jill Gleysteen
Ann Bauer
Mike Murphy
Bill Bailey
Tina Gotchall**

**Carol M Dickson
Hyla Lipson
Roy Lindsay
Barbara Bean
Kay Fontaine
Link Phillippi
Jennifer Krauss
Phillippi**

JOIN US

YES 17-66

(This information furnished by Robyn Lasky)

(This space purchased for \$400 in accordance with ORS 251.28)

Measure arguments are printed as submitted. The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Josephine County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

MEASURE 17.66

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

FROM: Pastors in the Josephine County Faith Community

As pastors, we are acutely aware of the profound impact that a well-functioning public safety system can have on the health and well-being of the families and individuals we serve. When things are working, children are able to play in their neighborhoods without fear of violence. Elderly people are secure in the knowledge that if their safety is threatened and they have to call 911, a law enforcement officer will respond in a reasonable amount of time.

With a well-functioning public safety system, predators that deal drugs or prey on our most vulnerable neighbors are taken off the streets. They are prosecuted according to the rules by which we all have agreed to live together in a safe, secure, and mutually supportive way.

As pastors, we have witnessed first-hand the devastating impacts that the gaps in our public safety system – especially in the rural areas of our county – are having every day on the lives of our most vulnerable citizens.

It is time that we come together as a community to deal with this crisis. We can do this by voting "Yes" on Public Safety Measure 17-66.

While not all human suffering can be prevented, the suffering caused by a lack of law enforcement IS preventable, and we all can play a part.

Please join with us in voting YES on Public Safety Measure 17-66.

Mark Goens	Denny Stahl	Wes Winn
Anthony Smith	Stewart Whittemore	Duane Stark
David B. Mathis	Jim Brumbach	Douglas Higuera
Charles A. Kostrna	Sean Sullivan	Kathi J. Brown
Roger Haberman	Dan Horst	Michael Bahn
Peter Love	David J. Johnsen	Dennis W. Webber
James Cunningham	James A. Downing	Fr. William Holtzinger
Bob Bonner		

(This information furnished by Mark Goens)

(This space purchased for \$400 in accordance with ORS 251.285)

Measure arguments are printed as submitted. The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Josephine County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

ARGUMENT AGAINST

THIS IS NOT OUR DEBT

- ▶ **The Feds took the O&C Railroad lands off the tax rolls**
- ▶ **The Feds made the lands immune to taxation**
- ▶ **The Feds made it a matter of law that they would use the lands to fund County government**
- ▶ **Use of the lands according to the law historically provided adequate funding for County government**
- ▶ **Use of the lands according to the law bolstered the local economy**
- ▶ **The law has not changed**
- ▶ **The Feds have defaulted on their legal obligation**
- ▶ **The Feds' default has created a public safety funding crisis**
- ▶ **The Feds' default has crippled the local economy**
- ▶ **The County has not sued the Feds to make them obey their law**
- ▶ **Measure 17-66 would relieve the Feds of their obligation**
- ▶ **Measure 17-66 would continue the harm to the local economy**
- ▶ **Measure 17-66 unfairly sends the Feds' bill to the citizens of Josephine County**

VOTE NO ON MEASURE 17-66

(This information furnished by Jack H. Swift, J.D.)

(This space purchased for \$400 in accordance with ORS 251.285)

Measure arguments are printed as submitted. The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Josephine County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

MEASURE 17.66

ARGUMENT AGAINST

The Poor, even renters, spend most of their housing dollars on interest to bankers and taxes to government. Did you ever wonder why The Rich spend more money promoting a levy than they would pay in taxes if it passed? They don't have all their money tied up in their real estate and they want police protection for their other valuables. They want The Poor to help pay for that police protection through a self-imposed levy. Don't fall for their tricks.

We wouldn't need a levy if policies were enacted...

unburdening taxpayers from nice but unnecessary programs by instituting a user fee structure for parks and libraries, as was done by turning the county swimming pool over to the YMCA.

adopting a justice of the peace court system to keep more of the money in the county that is generated by fines, as Douglas County does.

forcing back on the state unfunded mandates it placed on the county, like the district court, district attorney, building and safety, and animal control, then renting the buildings they currently use to those state agencies, generating an income stream for essential county services.

removing the county from competition with private enterprise in areas like road-building and vehicle maintenance, liquidating the massive assets accumulated while running these programs in the past to finance the contracts with private enterprise for years to come.

liquidating unnecessary assets held by the county to generate operating revenue, instead of giving away valuable, salable county property to private charities, as was attempted with the old hospital complex.

demanding 'in-lieu-of property tax' payments from the federal government for lands it unconstitutionally owns in our county.

securing federal lands in the county for the benefit of the county residents, instead of letting the federal government keep the private lands they took back as though it were still Oregon Territory.

Vote no on the levy. Say no to The Rich of our county.

*(This information furnished by Jack Alan Brown Jr.,
Constitution Party of Josephine County)*

(This space purchased for \$400 in accordance with ORS 251.285)

Measure arguments are printed as submitted. The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Josephine County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

ARGUMENT AGAINST

Josephine County Safety Levy Voters are at a crossroad.

You will pay more rent, or taxes, with 240% (year 1) to 270% (year 5) increase in levy taxes. Renters may be forced to move, and property owners may have to forfeit their homes. You must choose between what you want, what you need, and what to give up. 911 dispatch may say: "Beyond Available Services" - (No more funding for patrol time). You will question why Sheriff's road patrols are budgeted for only 16 hours per day. Will burglars and robbers read a book and drink latte's, or practice their trade for 8 hours? An unelected "Oversight Committee", not Commissioners will make & enforce by-laws. You will wonder why so-called "Oversight Committee" members are appointed not elected. The "Oversight Committee" will run a parallel quasi-government & control information. Lawbreakers get free legal, medical and dental services, but you must pay your own way. Citizens weren't consulted or allowed input when by-laws and leaders were first selected. Levy promoter's only polled 402 out of 50,550 registered voters, hardly a fair sample. Grants Pass taxpayers already have police, but will still have to pay for County road patrols. Business owners will need to increase prices, lay off workers or scale back operations. New Companies considering JoCo's 240% tax levy increases will probably reconsider. Why didn't Commissioners review and publicly discuss and approve the safety levy? Why were levy meeting audiences forced to use on 3x cards instead of verbal questions?

People of Josephine County - **BEWARE!!** We elected no representatives and will get a massive tax increase, but only part time road patrol!!

Vote NO on this Levy!! It is flawed!! Let's stay with a better levy. A bad levy is worse than no levy!!

Paid by Bill Waggoner, Chairman of the 9/12 Project

(This information furnished by Bill Waggoner, 9/12 Project)

(This space purchased for \$400 in accordance with ORS 251.285)

Measure arguments are printed as submitted. The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Josephine County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

MEASURE 17.66

ARGUMENT AGAINST

Ballot Title: For patrols, jail, shelter of abused youth, five year levy.

Misleading statement in ballot title, this should read: For patrols, jail, and Juvenile Justice and Detention Center, not for the sheltering of abused youth. As the title states, using the words abused youth is a subtle trick to encourage a yes vote.

Voters are entitled to know the factual distribution of tax collected. Ten percent of the levy funds are transferred to the Internal Service Fund before any funds go to their purpose. The statement: "Required Budgetary Process and Limitation" means the funds collected will go to the general fund and controlled by the Board of County Commissioners.

Will the Commissioners honor the purpose of the levy? There is plenty of evidence that the commissioners do not follow the will of the voters once the vote has passed. The proof is in the recorded minutes of the commissioners meetings.

Two wrongs don't make a right. In the past commissioners have failed to honor our Josephine County Charter. Our present commissioners have done nothing to correct these wrongs. I refer to the County Charter, Chapter 4, Section 14.5 and Chapter 6, Section 25. Look it up. Read it.

Why should we vote for a 240 percent increase in the part of our property taxes that fund Josephine County services? Fifty-eight cents to \$1.98 per \$1,000 of assessed property value?

Within two years, I predict, if the yes vote prevails, we'll see sheriff's patrols and the jail without enough funding. The fear tactics will return.

Vote Smart. Vote No

(This information furnished by W.A. Patrick)

(This space purchased for \$400 in accordance with ORS 251.285)

Measure arguments are printed as submitted. The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Josephine County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

ARGUMENT AGAINST

Vote No 17-66

Over 72% of Josephine Counties ~ 1,035,330 acres is Government Controlled, That amounts to 745,437.6 of Un-Taxable Acres, That Private Property Owners are expected to make-Up. The bulk of the Property Taxes is on just **69,677.7** privately owned Acres.

To keep trying to raise private property tax rates on **69,677.7 acres**, which makes up only ~ 6.73% of the total ~ 1,035,330 acres is, **Insanity!**

IF property tax is the only way to FUND Josephine County Government, then shouldn't the government controlled land be Taxed at the same Rate as Private, or given up so it could be taxed?

Vote No 17-66

The Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) funding problem is like a pyramid. The tax-payers are at very tip of the pyramid. The current tax paying government employees and elected officials, are near the top. The retired PERS recipients make up the base. As more and more government people retire the pyramid base gets wider and wider. In Josephine County the number of life time PERS recipients as of 2013 is 1,856 collecting a total of \$42,970,664.00 a year.

The property tax-payer is Expected, **NO is** Required to pay the cost of all retirees for life. Shouldn't our collective property taxes **just** fund Josephine County Government?

Vote No 17-66

Patrols were lowered from twelve funded hours a week to TEN hours a week, by Sheriff Daniels. While the Sheriff endorses this levy to have sixteen-hour patrols.

Josephine County Jail; is also funded by everybody's Utility Bill under the listing "jail svcs utility" which amounts to 9.7548% added to each utility customers statement in Grants Pass since August 2014. Over and above the 2013-14 budget amount of \$1,168,100.00.

The Juvenile Justice Program is budgeted through "Public Safety Fund" as per 2013-14 budget. Juvenile Detention is still active with a number of FTE's.

"We're for A Constitutional Government"

U R G E S

A "NO" Vote on Measure 17-66

www.w4acg.com

*(This information furnished by James Rafferty,
We're for a Constitutional Government)*

(This space purchased for \$400 in accordance with ORS 251.285)

Measure arguments are printed as submitted. The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Josephine County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

MEASURE 17.66

ARGUMENT AGAINST

Did you know-

Sheriff's road patrols will operate only 16 hours per day, giving lawbreakers 8 hours a day to burgle, rob and threaten your life?

That the proposed JoCo May 19, 2015 \$1.40/\$1000 assessed property value Public Safety Levy will raise the current tax level by 240%?

Adding the \$1.40 to the current \$.58 (\$1.98/\$1000), your \$200,000 property would cost you a total of \$396, or \$1,930 over 5 years!

With the added 3% yearly assessed value tax increase, you will have to add an additional 15% more taxes over the 5 year levy, for a grand total of \$2,103!

Levy taxes go into the general fund, that 10% is deducted for administrative costs, and about 22% more might go to PERS, leaving only 68% for actual operating funds?

About 50%, or 200 of 402 county registered voters polled (less than 1/2% of 50,550 total voters) "definitely favored" the levy - hardly a fair sample!

The quasi-political action committees Securing Our Safety and Community United for Safety, instead of our Commissioners, came up with this levy?

Our Commissioners could have proposed a flat tax of about \$225 per property instead of \$1.40/\$1000 to cover the \$9 million proposed property tax public safety levy?

An unelected Levy leadership group will select Oversight Committee persons from the public, bypassing your right to elect leaders!

No qualifications or experience for committee members are specified, setting up a "good-ol-boy", quasi-political machine, to spend your money!

Can you afford this **massive increase in taxes** in light of the accelerating cost of living, **and get only 16 hours Sheriff's road patrol, so bad guys can rob you 8 hours a day? Why must you do without so criminals can get "three hots-and-a cot", medical?**

VOTE NO on Measure 17.66
The property and life you save may be your own!

Paid by w4acg.com

*(This information furnished by James Rafferty,
We're for a Constitutional Government)*

(This space purchased for \$400 in accordance with ORS 251.285)

Measure arguments are printed as submitted. The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Josephine County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

ARGUMENT AGAINST

Again

"Vote NO"

Because, our current Board of County Commissioners, along with their predecessors, have collectively **failed** to implement **non-taxing** means of funding Josephine County government. It's their **JOB** to lead us out of this **Crisis**. Wasn't that the reason why they ran for office and why we voted for them?

By their non-action, they challenged a group of non elected citizens, to do their job for them. This group probably means well even though they are forcing thi 5-Year Hardship on their friends and neighbors, a well.

It's not up to the citizens to solve the government funding problem. It's really a government **SPENDING** and **PRIORITY** problem.

You would think, the Board of County Commissioners would realize by now that Taxing Districts and Proper Tax Levies with a duration longer than ONE year, ju haven't passed.

The Josephine County's Permanent property tax rate \$5.867 cents and all Local Option Tax Levy's per/\$100 of Assessed Property Value, goes directly into General Fund, which, by the way is controlled by K Heck, Cheryl Walker, Simon Hare.

If the Board of County Commissioners **wanted** to f the Sheriff Departments. **They Would!** But, since i haven't, and it appears they won't, they should, **resign for dereliction of duty.**

Did You Know? Josephine County has 1, individuals collecting "Public Employees Retirer System" Benefits totaling over \$42,500,00 annually, as of 2013. You think PERS might some be linked to **Measure 17-66?**

Our **legislative body** is working on "**House Resolution-21**" to punish Oregon Counties y Permanent Property Tax Rate is less than 3 per/\$1000 of Assessed Property Value, to be rais the \$2 minium rate.

Should both the **Levy** and **HJR-21** pass, the Josephine County tax rate would be; \$2.00 base \$.08 animal levy + \$1.40 levy for the duration levies. **That's \$3.48.**

Vote NO on Measure 17- 66

Information www.jocoalert.com or www.w4acc

(This information furnished by Mike Sturm)

(This space purchased for \$400 in accordance with ORS 251.285)

Measure arguments are printed as submitted. The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Josephine County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

Official Josephine County Vote

MEASURE 17.66

ARGUMENT AGAINST

Our county has been propogandized to believe that crime is rampant. It is not. People "feel unsafe" because they have been told over and over and over that they are unsafe by the people desiring the levy money. Crime in Josephine County is down. And not down just a little. In the county, property crimes are DOWN 46% from their high in 1997. And property crime in the City of Grants Pass is DOWN 49% from its high in 1995. Our violent crime level is very reasonable and well below the state median. And our behavioral crime ranking is #30 out of 36 counties, way below Jackson or Douglas counties. Google "Oregon Uniform Crime Statistics" and research these numbers for yourself, they do no support what we are being told.

What are we getting for \$1.40? Where is the budget? Where are the details? When will the Sheriff hire the 16 deputies? Will they all be hired the first year? If not, when will all 16 deputies be patrolling? How many cars is the Sheriff buying? How much will each cost? When will the 4 dispatchers be hired? Where is the data backing the justification for additional jail beds? How much money does the Juvenile Justice Center receive? Do any funds go to the District Attorney's office? Does any of the money go to Community Corrections?

If the levy passes, will the Commissioners continue to budget 31 cents for the Sheriff or will it be used for other things? Thirty-one cents, equals almost 1.5 million dollars a year; and this is in addition to the \$900,000 the Commissioners will take every year for the Internal Services Fund. Why are levy supporters hiding these details?

We will not support a levy that has no budget or details and is based on a manufactured crisis supported only by emotional anecdotal arguments. We need hard numbers based on real facts.

Bill Hunker, Georglyn K. Lamphier
Merlin

(This information furnished by William Hunker)

(This space purchased for \$400 in accordance with ORS 251.285)

Measure arguments are printed as submitted. The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Josephine County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

ARGUMENT AGAINST

JUST VOTE "NO"

This is the 8th time in 11 years that the "Tax-and-Spend" proponents are asking for more money. They still don't get it, so we'll have to vote "NO" once again in order to save our properties.

To find out exactly how much extra you will pay if this **countywide** levy passes:

Take the Assessed Value of your property and multiply by .0014. This is the levy tax amount. Now **ADD** this to what you already pay in property taxes!

**Assessed Value x .0014 = Levy Tax
Now ADD this to what you already pay**

This is a **HUGE** jump in property taxes that most of us cannot afford. And remember this levy is for 5 years with property assessments increasing 3% each year.

**Don't risk losing your home to give money to
Spendthrifts**

The Commissioners will skim off 10% of this money and they have a horrible track record of managing funds. They give multi-grade pay raises to employees, needlessly hire new personnel and spend exorbitant amounts of money on unnecessary out-of-County travel. By approving extravagant salaries, benefits and retirements, they have no intention of cutting back on spending. Yet we are always being asked for more money.

A wonderful way to help Public Safety is for those in favor of this tax to trot down to the County Treasurer's office and donate these additional funds. While paying their regular taxes, they could simply designate where they want this supplemental money to go. It could be for the Youth Shelter or to the Sheriff's budget for patrols or the jail. Public Safety would then have several millions of dollars extra in its coffers.

That way, no one already struggling financially would have to risk losing their home and property. It would also cease these seemingly endless attempts to force the majority of the electorate to increase their tax burden against their wishes.

**Save Our Properties
Vote "NO" on Measure 17.66**

(This information furnished by Sandi Cassanelli)

(This space purchased for \$400 in accordance with ORS 251.285)

Measure arguments are printed as submitted. The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Josephine County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

MEASURE 17.66

ARGUMENT AGAINST

It is unethical to ask Josephine County voters to approve a new property tax when the underlying financial problems facing county voters are the Public Employment Retirement System, and Public Employee Unions. These issues have not been addressed by county commissioners. Voters must stand firm against this new property tax and not allow commissioners to escape their responsibilities. Public employees have a vested interest in PERS therefore are biased against taking action against this monster. County commissars are public employees. Do they serve the system or the interests of Josephine County residents? Force public official to take action on PERS and Public Employee Unions. County Officials will take no action regarding PERS and Public Employee Unions unless voters turn this levy down. Vote no on measure 17- 66.

Here is an example of what public employees can cost the taxpayers. Public employees are like icebergs. There is much more out of sight than what what you see on the surface.

In Josephine County there are several hundred county employees, each potentially drawing hundreds of thousands of dollars, in future PERS retirement funds. The amounts become staggering and are unsustainable. Consider that when one public employee retires another is normally hired to replace him. Now, the taxpayer is paying for two public employees. Some times they are paying for three public employees for the same job. Two retired and one going to the job until he retires. Former Josephine County District Attorney, Stephen Campbell, 62, recently retired. The new DA, Ryan Mulkins, 36, was sworn in on March 2nd, 2015. Mr. Campbell will have a retirement income of \$80,000 to \$100,000 annually more or less, and the new district attorney is on the payroll also. County employees are very very expensive.

"It's unethical for one man to tax another man's home to pay for his social agenda."
John Taft

Vote no on measure 17 – 66

(This information furnished by John Taft)

(This space purchased for \$400 in accordance with ORS 251.285)

Measure arguments are printed as submitted. The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Josephine County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

ARGUMENT AGAINST

I am opposed to this tax levy because:

- It will not resolve crime problems, period.
- The people living in the city are already taxed enough for public safety, yet 80% of the crime in this county happens within the Grants Pass city limits
- Reasoning can tell you that with the tax levy the people living in the city continually vote for, with well staffed Police Department, with police on foot patrols, the crime still comprises 80% of total crime in the county; a few new Deputies are not going to resolve the County's crime statistics
- This \$1.40 tax levy per every \$1,000 of you assessed valuation will be added on top of the current .58 cents, for \$1.98 for every \$1,000 in assessed value of your property, in addition to all other existing taxes
- The FBI compiles crime statistics which show Josephine County is safer than Jackson County and one of the safest in Southern Oregon
- Lane County operates with 1 bed per 1,000 population in their jail, and this tax levy asks for almost 2 beds per 1,000 of population for our County, why? Lane County has a much higher violent crime rate
- The funding problem will not be solved, because the end of 5 years, they will bring it back to you for another "renewal" and it will probably be higher
- This funding problem will not be solved until you rise up and write your legislators, Senators, and your Commissioners, and tell them to get the 67% of land currently owned and managed by the Federal or State governments turned back over to this County. Once that is achieved, we can control our own destiny
- Other Western States, having found themselves in similar predicaments have done just that, that what our representatives should have been doing all along

Vivian Kirkpatrick-Pilger
Grants Pass

(This information furnished by Vivian Kirkpatrick-Pilger)

(This space purchased for \$400 in accordance with ORS 251.26)

Measure arguments are printed as submitted. The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Josephine County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.