

REAL SOLUTIONS, NOT A JAIL-ONLY TAX

- WE CAN'T AFFORD IT.
- IT WON'T WORK.
- IT WOULD PREVENT
THE REAL SOLUTIONS
WE NEED.



ROGUE ACTION CENTER

Testimony Preparation Sheet: Jackson County Commissioners Public Hearing

February 5th, 9:30am at the Jackson County Courthouse, 10 S. Oakdale, Medford

Who you are and Why you are here:

(Name, city, who you are representing – yourself, an organization, etc. State the issue you are focused on. Eg: I'm here because I can't afford an expensive jail-only tax, I want to see a plan that is cost effective and includes proven solutions.)

The Personal Story:

(A concrete example from your experience, from what you see in our community or from people your group serves. Don't tell someone else's story without permission though.)

Bridge to larger Goals:

(How does your ask benefit the larger community/meet established community goals/values? Remember that a majority of people across the belief spectrum in Jackson County already oppose the jail-only tax. We want to speak from shared values and not alienate anyone who is on our side.)

Specific Ask:

(Make it Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Timely.)

Tips for Speaking at a Council or Commission Meeting

How do I get to speak?

First, sign up to speak by placing your name on the signup sheet. Then, note the agenda item you want to address or leave the agenda item blank. They will call on you when it is your turn to speak.

When can I speak?

There is usually a “public comment” section of the agenda providing an opportunity for community members to speak to the council, commission, or committee on topics that are not a pending agenda item for that meeting. This item is usually first, but sometimes is last, on the agenda.

If the item you wish to speak about is on the agenda, you will have to wait until that item is being addressed.

In either case, your comments will generally be limited to two (2) or sometimes three (3) minutes.

It is always a good idea to bring bullet points or notes on what you want to say, and to practice your comments ahead of time to make sure they fit in the time limit. Most mayors or chairs will cut you off when you reach the end of your time.

What do I do?

When it is your turn to speak, the Mayor/Chair will acknowledge you by calling your name. At that time, you may come forward to address council or commission from the podium.

What do I say?

- First, state your name and address (or at least city) while speaking clearly for the record. Then, express your view, ask questions, or offer suggestions in a courteous and considerate manner. This is your opportunity to get your comments into the public record.
- When addressing the council or commission members, it is common to address them by their title as mayor, councilor, or commissioner.
- Remember to direct all remarks and questions to the council/commission and through the mayor or chair.
- Public comment is not a conversation and the council or commission will often not respond to you directly or answer your questions in the meeting.
- If you have more to say than can fit in the 2 or 3 minute time limit, or if your comments are very detailed, it is best to put those details in writing. You can email the council before the hearing (usually there is a planner assigned to the hearing that you should send written comments to and they will get it into the record) or bring written and testimony to hand to the recorder or note taker.