



Grant County Justice Court
201 S. Humbolt, Ste 320
Canyon City, OR 97820
Judge Kathy Stinnett
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POSTPONE VOTE ON HB 4210

I have served as the Justice of the Peace in Grant County since January of 2013. My court hears civil matters such as small claims and all eviction actions in Grant County; misdemeanor and violation crimes; and all traffic violations cited within Grant County, including those for juveniles.

My role as a judge has always been to make very certain that every individual that encounters the judicial system via my court, has access to justice that is within their reach and is accommodating to their circumstances.

In one instance, I received a case in which a homeless defendant was in custody and was exhibiting signs of both mental health and substance abuse issues. I offered to conduct his arraignment at his jail cell with his attorney and the district attorney present. I will never forget what I saw as I crouched in front of the slot in his cell door; he was curled up in a blanket on a mat and was clearly struggling with the social contact. I was able to calmly talk with him in a manner that prevented any further distress.

Allowing individuals to the time to share their struggles and to receive words of support and understanding from someone in authority is an every week occurrence, and I often step down from the bench to shake hands with someone who has returned to share the tiniest of successes.

As recent as last week, I held my regularly scheduled 1st appearance traffic court outside on the grounds of our courthouse so that those appearing could visit me under an open air canopy or from their vehicles.

These are but a few instances of how I and my fellow Justices have endeavored to perform our duties and serve the citizens that count on us to be fair. I ask that you postpone taking any action on HB 4210 to allow myself and other stakeholders an opportunity to share our experience in providing a solution to the issues this bill seeks to find.

Thank you for your time,

Kathy Stinnett
Justice of the Peace



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