

Letter: \$25,000 in taxpayer dollars wasted on facility campaign

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In October 2013, Salem approved \$25,000 (taxpayer dollars) for a Portland political consultant's help on an \$80 million bond vote for city hall/possible library improvements and a new police facility. The result, so far, is a city website poll that started Jan. 21 that failed me four times.

Known politically as a "push" poll, it presents opinions, slanted questions and unsubstantiated information to "push" views other than seek unbiased responses. It gets people agreeing, makes political assertions and then asks further questions making the assertions more appealing.

This "push" poll asserts — in several places — political conclusions supporting a single proposed location for the police. Some questions imply, as fact, that all alternative police/court sites would be less efficient, not centrally located and eventually more expensive.

These are issues with much local professional and political disagreement, some from professionals who helped the county save tens of millions of dollars on the county facility redo — and would like similar thought for a city police/court facility.

Eugene's similar-sized new facility was tens of millions of dollars less than proposed here. Why buy a Cadillac? Why public money on consultants to help convince us we should? Is it appropriate to use taxpayer money to sell a future bond measure vote?

Bradd Swank