

While I am no expert, I do know how unsafe I feel on the street. I'm 70 years old and used to walking at night; now, at times, I don't feel safe during the day. I have read about what Portugal is doing, but unclear if it will help us. Suggestions include:

- 1. Increase resources for drug addiction but please, NO NEW TAXES
- 2. Make possession of lethal drugs like fentanyl, heroin, and meth a misdemeanor crime again
- 2. Give law enforcement tools to steer addicts toward mandatory treatment and away from jail; clearly, voluntary is not working.
- 3. Prioritize diversion programs that put drug users on the path to recovery
- 4. Increase penalties for drug dealing and public drug use
- 5. More police on the street
- 6. Set up procedures to contact family members of drug users and get them involved
- 7. Reduce graffiti

I am also on the Board of Belmont Business District and we have a tremendous problem with graffiti and robberies....

- 8. Help small business owners who've been robbed

Sincerely,

/s

Ann Lehman, she/her