I have lived in Portland for 10 years and it's been disheartening to see such a decline in a once wonderful city. I am even considering leaving Portland should things continue as they are.

In regards to drugs, specifically, I have had to fear for my safety being in public. I rarely go downtown anymore and certainly not at night. I've been screamed at, followed, and harassed by people clearly on drugs and passing this ballot only made things worse! More people are coming to this city given the minimal repercussions. How have we become a society where law abiding citizens are the ones who pay the consequences?

I understand it's a complicated situation and jail is not the answer. People need more help and support to be able to "kick the habit" and I urge you to:

- Make possession of lethal drugs like fentanyl, heroin, and meth a misdemeanor crime again. After a certain number of offenses, they should be sent to mandatory rehab.
- Give law enforcement tools to steer addicts toward mandatory treatment and away from jail.
- Prioritize diversion programs that put drug users on the path to recovery and a clean criminal record.
- Increase penalties for drug dealing and public drug use.
- Take legislative action in February people are dying each day under Measure 110.

Jominee Hosek

*Sent from mobile, please excuse any typos