

Hello and thank you for taking the time to read this. I have lived in several large cities in the last 10 years, Denver and Washington, DC and each is not without their share of problems and crisis. I have never been in a place that looks as hard hit by drugs and homelessness as Portland. I am not without compassion but it is painfully clear that a policy of enablement and coddling is not the way to combat these problems. If we accept that addiction is an illness, I am unsure of why we expect it to resolve without treatment. Those who are addicted are unable and incapable of making these choices on their own, as is reflected in the failure of the ticketing and warning system which has yielded zero to no traction. It is time to make those choices for these people, put their backs against the wall, and allow them to hit rock bottom where positive choices are made that ultimately only come from harsh consequences. It is hard to admit failure, but this policy has failed, no matter what those in the policy groups and think tanks are telling you.

I live in the city, and I am at its core often for dining and entertainment. We didn't move here until 2021 so I missed out on the supposed Utopia of the previous decade. This is not a city that I am proud to show off, and more often than not keep those that visit me away. The public is sick of this disaster as most of your polling has no doubt shown. I have no interest in living in a city where I have to step over needles and share streets with Fentanyl addicts, where we are openly debating the banning of leaf blowers as a priority issue. I know we like to think this city has not devolved into the caricature that FoxNews painted it to be during the protests, but just so that you and all your body are aware it very much has. The only thing that will save it is a radical change for the governing body. I implore you to repeal Measure 110 as soon as possible and empower our police and prosecutors with the tools to clean up our streets. This city and state taxes us to death with very little education or other services to show for it. The very least you could do is pretend to put in the effort and give us a return on our investment. It is time to start prioritizing the 99.9% of citizens who are intent on lifting Portland and the state of Oregon up and not continuing the cycle of poverty and addiction that plays out on our streets daily.--Brandon Muncy