

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT BALLOT MEASURE #2

This information was provided by volunteers and members of Housing First UV.

For more information, visit <http://housingfirstuv.org>.

Q: What is recovery housing for?

Recovery housing helps people in their recovery journey reintegrate into the community. Residents work together as a community to learn to become accountable, respectful adults, and find a new way of life.

Q: What's the difference between residential treatment and recovery housing?

Residential treatment provides short-term, 24-hour care for people with mental health or substance use disorders, and can provide on-site medical treatment and detoxing services.

Recovery housing is for people who are already sober and fully detoxed to learn to reintegrate into society as a productive member, through work and peer-support.

Q: What's the need for recovery housing in Lebanon?

Substance use is one of the top identified health needs in our community. In the Upper Valley, there are only two recovery residences, Jack's House and Willow Grove, both run by the Second Wind Foundation/Upper Valley Turning Point, and both located in White River Jct. The total number of beds is 11. We need many more beds than that to support our neighbors who are in their recovery journey.

Q: Why Lebanon, and not another community?

Substance use is a problem throughout the US, and the people who are affected by it are OUR neighbors, most of whom already live or work here. There are plenty of people who have gotten the right support during recovery, and they have become positive, contributing members to the community. Lebanon has a real opportunity to step up and encourage other towns to follow suit.

Q: What's the problem with unregulated recovery housing?

Uncertified recovery houses may have below standard living conditions, inadequate numbers of bathrooms, and/or overcrowding in bedrooms. Excessive trash and other maintenance issues are common. Moreover, uncertified recovery houses may not have behavioral expectations of residents and supports in place to further their recovery.

Q: Will this impact my property taxes?

Studies show that substance abuse treatment provides an overall benefit to society exceeding the expenditure. This continues as individuals remain in recovery, so the expectation is that properly-run recovery housing will save property taxpayers compared to the current opportunity for unregulated and unmaintained facilities to exist.

Q: Will this cause a rise in emergency services?

[Research](#) shows that every dollar spent on substance abuse treatment saves \$4 in healthcare costs and \$7 in law enforcement and other criminal justice costs. Thus, it is likely that this effort will reduce Lebanon's burden on first responders.

Q: Will this increase crime rates?

[Studies](#) show that recovery and supportive housing does not increase crime in the neighborhoods surrounding those communities.

Q: Will this proposed ballot measure be impacted by HB 432?

HB 432 is a bill introduced this legislative session that would impact the definition of recovery housing and specifies how a recovery house ought to be treated when interpreting zoning ordinances. If this bill were to become law, Lebanon would need to revisit our ballot measure to make it comply with HB 432. However, it may take many more months before the bill would be signed by the governor. In the meantime, Lebanon should be proactive about ensuring that recovery housing is safe, certified, and fulfilling its intended purpose.