



[SullivanForCincinnati.com](http://SullivanForCincinnati.com)

### **Cincinnati's Opioid Epidemic is a Public Health Crisis**

- Opioid addiction is unlike anything that has preceded it. Law enforcement, first responders, social workers and all local health care providers are on the front line.
- Opioid addiction has a huge impact on every public system – from child welfare and health care to our workforce, law enforcement and criminal justice. We cannot ignore this problem, which is getting worse, not better.
- We need to work upstream with drug prevention education- now more than ever. 75% of opiate addicts started with alcohol and marijuana, so education of young people and parents is vital to delaying the age of first use.
- As a member of Cincinnati City Council, Sullivan will bring years of experience and expertise to City Hall.



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## SULLIVAN'S PLAN:

Prevention/Education	Treatment	Law Enforcement	Recovery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase awareness for prescription drug “take-back” in partnership with local law enforcement – Saturday, October 28 is National Take Back Day.</li> <li>• Advocate for permanent drop boxes in Cincinnati retail pharmacies with pharmacist education with customers.</li> <li>• Connect anti-drug coalition initiatives to neighborhood community councils to implement grassroots drug prevention strategies.</li> <li>• Advocate for comprehensive prevention education that starts in preschool and continues K-12.</li> <li>• Advocate for keeping Recreation Centers open in the evenings and on weekends as necessary drug and crime prevention.</li> <li>• Serve as the City Council partner with PreventionFIRST, CPD, the Hamilton County Heroin Coalition and others.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to improve collaboration with the Cincinnati Health Department to increase access to Narcan, medically-assisted treatment and needle exchange.</li> <li>• Educate the community on the disease of addiction -- prevention first/works, treatment works/is effective, recovery/ is possible. Substance abuse is a chronic, but treatable brain disease.</li> <li>• Advocate for treatment in lieu of incarceration for all drug use disorders, and medication-assisted treatment as one of the most successful strategies for treating persons with an opioid use disorder. (Medications in combination with counseling and behavioral therapy.)</li> <li>• Work with hospital systems to ensure that withdrawal management protocols are in place to provide a warm handoff between overdose ED visits and acute care detox, treatment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate to decriminalize all drug use and drug possession.</li> <li>• Collaborate with policy makers and law enforcement to force involuntary acute care detox and treatment in a lockdown treatment hospital (rather than jail), for non-violent drug offenders who have overdosed multiple times. Up to 300 beds are needed.</li> <li>• Increase support for first responders, who are experiencing fatigue resulting from the high number of overdoses requiring Narcan.</li> <li>• Increase Quick Response Teams beyond District 3 to connect persons who overdose to treatment services ASAP.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a proud, vibrant recovery community.</li> <li>• Start our community’s first Recovery High School, following the Heartland High School model in Columbus, Ohio.</li> <li>• Support educating the public and health care providers about recovery to reduce stigma.</li> <li>• Work with faith community, schools, businesses and others to further strengthen recovery communities.</li> </ul>