

New York Prohibitionist



Think NY Vote Dry

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A Vision for the Future

In these trying times, the Prohibition Party of New York continues its work to advocate for positive policies and advance social reform. We offer a vision for a better future for New York. A vision for a new approach to governance focused on moral principle, public service, and advancing the public wellbeing. A vision of a state filled with healthy, prospering communities, and greater opportunity for all New Yorkers. If you are interested in helping to make a positive impact on your state and your community, consider joining the Prohibition Party of New York.

"What reasonable, conscientious man will deliberately deny the fundamental positions assumed by the most ultra of the temperance reformers! Does Anyone need arguments in addition to his own observations, and the deductions of common sense, to convince him that intemperance is a curse to the individual, to society, and to the state? ... But this is a subject which appeals not alone to the perceptions and discriminations of the intellect. It embraces that higher principle which is the manifestation of the deity in the human conscious. It calls for the exercise of that great moral element, the will" Austin Flint

State and National News

The Prohibition Party continues its work on the state and national level. On the national level, the party has been working on preparations for the 2024 presidential campaign.

On the State level, we have continued to work on issue advocacy, networking, and informing New Yorkers. We have worked to promote the advancements of bills to address the problem of alcohol tobacco, and other drugs, as well as to advance ballot access reform.

Legislative Activism

The 2024 legislative session has started and with it comes the opportunity to advocate to advancement of legislation to improve the condition of our state. In order to help advance positive legislation, we would like to highlight some noticeable bills that have been introduced in this year's legislative session.

The effort to pass the Addiction Prevention and Recovery Act has advanced into this year's legislative session. State Assemblymember Tapia, State Assemblymember De Los Santos, and State Senator Comrie have once again introduced the Addiction Prevention and Recovery Act in this year's legislative session. The bill is currently sitting in the Assembly's Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse and in the Senate's Committee on Budget and Revenue. This year presents an opportunity to try to move the Addiction Prevention and Recovery Act forward. In order to do this, it is important that supporters reach out to members of the state legislature and encourage them to support the bill. Especially the state legislators who represent their district and the state legislators who are on the two committees.

Assemblymember Blankenbush has reintroduced Bill A03312, which if passed would undo many of the anti-democratic changes to state ballot access laws that were made in 2020 and establish fairer standards. The bill would return the number of signatures required for petitioning to get on the ballot for statewide office back to 15,000, it would reduce the number of votes (for governor or president) required for a party to gain statewide ballot status to 50,000, and would increase the period for collecting signatures to 12 weeks. The bill has been cosponsored by 5 other Assembly Members and is currently sitting in the Assembly's Committee on Election Law. A similar bill, S7997, which contains the



same main changes, has been introduced in the State Senate by Senator Walczyk. The bill currently sits in the Senate's Committee on Elections. This presents an opportunity to undo the anti-democratic changes that were made in 2020 and improve free participation in our state's elections. To do this, it is important that supporters reach out to members of the state legislature (including the representatives of their district and legislators on the two committees) and encourage them to support the bill.

There is Bill A04171/S775A, which if passed, would require that anyone convicted of a drunk driving offense would be required to have an ignition interlock device for any vehicle that they use for at least 12 months. The device would require drivers to blow into the device to confirm that they don't have alcohol in their system in order to be able to start the vehicle. During last year's legislative session, the bill had managed to pass in the State Senate, but the bill got stuck in the State Assembly's Committee on Transportation, and the State Assembly didn't hold a vote on it before the end of last year's legislative session. This year presents another opportunity to get the bill passed. The bill is currently sitting in the State Assembly's Committee on Transportation and the State Senate's Committee on Transportation.

There is Bill 01627/S776, which if passed, would establish stricter drunk driving laws, by reducing the BAC for DWI from 0.08 to 0.05 and reducing the BAC for aggravated DWI from 0.18 to 0.12.

These changes would help to reduce the number of drunk driving deaths in the state. The bill is sponsored by 13 members of the State Senate and 18 members of the State Assembly. The bill is currently sitting in the State Assembly's Committee on Transportation and the State Senate's Committee on Transportation.

There is bill A00669/S4477, which if passed, would prohibit the sale of flavored smokeless tobacco within 500 feet of a school. The bill has one sponsor in the State Senate and three sponsors in the State Assembly. The bill currently sits in the State Assembly's Committee on Health and the State Senate's Committee on Health.

Sources: https://nyassembly.gov/leg/7default.fid=8leg_video=8bn=501546&term=2023&summary=Y&Actions=Y
https://nyassembly.gov/leg/7default.fid=8leg_video=8bn=A06145&term=2023&summary=Y&Actions=Y
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https://nyassembly.gov/leg/7default.fid=8leg_video=8bn=504477&term=2023&summary=Y&Actions=Y

Unite NY Moving Forward with Election Law Reform Effort

Unite NY is moving forward with an effort to advance election law reform in New York state this year. On January 16th, the organization officially kicked off its 2024 campaign for advancing election law reforms in the state, which they are calling the *Move Voices, More Choices* campaign. The reforms they are advocating for include restoring the pre-2020 ballot access standards to allow more candidates and parties to be on the ballot, enacting term limits on elected officials, creating a system of initiative and referendum in the state, enacting ranked choice voting, and creating non-partisan primaries. They are working to lobby members of the state legislature to promote the passage of various bills that would advance some of these challenges.

Some bills have been introduced, such as bill A02993/S2290, which if passed would enact a system of initiative and referendum. The bill has gained 2 sponsors in the State Senate and 8 sponsors in the State Assembly.

Sources: <https://unite.ny.org/>
<https://nyassembly.gov/leg/7bn=A02933&term=2023>
<https://nyassembly.gov/leg/7bn=S02290&term=2023>



Governor Looking to Revamp Literacy Education

Governor Hochul is looking to revamp literacy education in state schools. On January 3rd, the governor unveiled her *Back to Basics* plan for literacy education in state schools. Governor Hochul's proposal would include trying to establish statewide education standards, which would direct schools to incorporate instruction based on an approach known as the Science of Reading into their reading education. This approach focuses on systematic instruction in phonics, phonemics, decoding, vocabulary, and comprehension, and utilizes a set of approaches that researchers have found to be most impactful at improving literacy among students. It is also meant to help support students with dyslexia who have trouble learning reading under less systemic methods of literacy instruction, such as the Balanced Literacy Model. The state education department would create a set of guidelines for instructional best practices for literacy education based on the Science of Reading. Her plan would require schools to certify that they are integrating these methods of literacy instruction as early as the 2025-2026 school year. Her plan would also provide \$10 million in funding for professional education and expand programs in SUNY and CUNY colleges for teaching future k-12 educators on the Science of Reading. This plan will need to be passed by the state legislature in order to go into effect.

Sources: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-unveils-second-proposal-2024-state-state-back-basics-plan-improve-reading>
<https://apnews.com/article/reading-new-york-phonics-education-a59e20b671fa9cea6055bc431b2e4ac4>
<https://www.chalkbeat.org/newyork/2024/01/03/gov-kathy-hochul-embraces-science-of-reading/>

"Resolved, that in the opinion of this Convention, the traffic in ardent spirits, as a drink, is morally wrong; and that the inhabitants of cities, towns, and other local communities, should be permitted by law to prohibit the said traffic within their respective jurisdictions." 1833 Convention of the American Temperance Society.

Tobacco Control Efforts in Buffalo and Western New York

Activists in Buffalo and Western New York continue to move forward with efforts to promote policies to address the harm of tobacco products. Activists in the city of Buffalo are working to convince the city government to pass an ordinance banning the sale of menthol tobacco products. Stan Martin has reported to us that activists have been working to convince members of the Buffalo City Council and the Mayor to support the ordinance and have been making progress towards advancing the proposed ordinance. They have also been working to develop a tobacco cessation program, to help those who want to quit smoking.

Some activists from Western New York have met with state legislators to promote policies to address the harm of tobacco products. A press release from CAI Tobacco Free Erie and Niagara states that local tobacco control representatives have met with Assemblymembers Angelo Rivera and Karen McMahon. They talked with the Assemblymembers about the successes that local tobacco control programs have had, as well as the continued toll that tobacco still has on the public. They pointed out that for every dollar the state invests in tobacco control, it saves \$11 in reduced healthcare costs. Yet the state only spends 2% of its tax revenue from tobacco sales on programs to prevent and reduce tobacco use and vaping. Meanwhile, tobacco continues to kill over 30,000 New Yorkers each year.

Additionally, it has been reported that a local youth leader was granted honorary recognition for their anti-tobacco activism. During a press conference, members of the state legislature presented Jah'Asya Cannon of Buffalo with the 2024 Western Region Youth Ambassador of the Year Award. The award is sponsored by Reality Check of New York. It acknowledges her work in the community to hold the tobacco industry accountable. She provides an example of the young activists in communities throughout the state who are working to address the harm of tobacco through public education efforts, peer-to-peer training, and outreach to policymakers.

Reality Check Coordinator Amanda Hucksoll had commented on the event, stating,

“I am beyond proud of the Erie/Niagara youth for taking their commitment to improving public health to the capitol and using their power to speak out on what they see as the issues of tobacco in their lives and local communities”.

Overall, we have seen some positive developments for local anti-tobacco activism in Buffalo and Western New York. The progress that activists in Buffalo are making is a positive sign for the prospect of enacting a local ban on menthol tobacco sales in Buffalo. If this effort is successful, it may help set the stage for other activists throughout the state to campaign for menthol parts in other cities. The efforts by local activists to reach out to state legislators helps to keep the issue of the harm of tobacco present in state political discourse and serves to remind legislators that this is an issue that should be addressed. Hopefully, their efforts will help to convince more legislators that they should make stronger efforts to address and reduce the harms of tobacco for New Yorkers.

“We are advocates of Temperance- friends of total abstinence from all that intoxicates. The advancement of the holy movement of our age against alcohol in all forms”. George Clinton

Response to Governor Hochul’s 2024 State of the State Address

On January 9th, 2024, Governor Kathy Hochul delivered her annual State of the State address, laying forth her own understanding of the condition of the state, and her proposals of what he would like to see in the coming year. In the interest of advancing a productive discourse as to the condition and future of the state of New York, we put forward a response to Governor Hochul’s address; in which, we evaluate his statements and proposals, and counter by articulating our own vision and proposals for the state.

Governor Hochul claimed that New York State has become healthier, safer, and more affordable. Unfortunately, this does not match the reality in some important aspects. The pro-alcohol policies pushed forward by the governor and some members of the state legislature have damaged public health,

undermined public safety, and produced net losses for our state’s economy. Alcohol-related illnesses, injuries, and deaths have been on the rise in recent years, alcohol-related violence and crime have harmed numerous people, and the state is losing over \$16 billion a year from damage caused by alcohol. Meanwhile, tobacco, opioids, and other drugs continue to inflict considerable damage to the lives, health, safety, and economic wellbeing of New Yorkers. The problem of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs needs to be addressed as a social and public health problem. Doing so will allow our state to become healthier, safer, and more prosperous.

Governor Hochul claimed that they had worked to restore integrity and trust in government. Yet Governor Hochul has remained silent on the anti-democratic changes to state ballot access that were made in 2020 under then-governor Cuomo. The changes were an act of electoral suppression, which have made it vastly harder for alternative parties and candidates to even have the chance to be on the ballot and have deprived voters of many of the options they once had on the ballot. Despite claiming to want to restore trust and integrity in government, Governor Hochul has not spoken up on the issue and has not taken action to help remedy the problem. Since the governor has taken office, attempts at electoral suppression have continued. Over the past few years, state legislators have made repeated and ongoing attempts to gerrymander New York’s state legislative and congressional districts. These anti-democratic efforts threaten and harm the health of our democratic system, undermine the integrity of our government, and undermine public trust in our government. We should be moving towards election laws that enhance the ability of voters to vote for the candidates of their choice, allows for freer participation in the electoral process, and provides fairer ballot access standards for independent candidates and alternative parties.

The governor’s address did note some positive developments and proposals in fields such as education, career opportunities, mental healthcare, the environment, and taking some actions to address drug problems. The address

noted the state’s progress in improving state funding for the state’s public schools, included proposals for strengthening literacy education in schools, proposals to expand career opportunities for disabled New Yorkers, and proposals for creating programs for public service and civic engagement. It included proposals for increased planting of trees and supporting the growth of renewable energy. It included proposals for expanding access to mental healthcare, requiring insurance companies to provide timely mental healthcare services, and expanding access to mental healthcare in schools. It included some proposals for expanding access to addiction treatment services for New Yorkers. It also included plans for increasing state enforcement against shops illegally selling marijuana without a license. While the Governor has yet to recognize the fundamental failure of legalizing the commercial sale of recreational marijuana, taking action against the unlicensed sale of marijuana in shops can help to alleviate part of the problem.

While Governor Hochul’s address includes some positive proposals, it still demonstrates a lack of understanding and attention to some of the important issues affecting the people of our state. The notion of advancing the common good, using common sense, while seeking common ground is a worthy goal. But it takes understanding and effort. Until our state’s policies focus on protecting the lives and wellbeing of New Yorkers, our state will fall short of the goal of advancing the common good. Until we advance policies that work to alleviate public problems facing our state instead of favoring industries that profit off them, our state’s policies will fall short of common sense. As long as electoral suppression policies get in the way of voter expression and free electoral participation, partisan division will continue and get in the way of seeking common ground. Hopefully, Governor Hochul and other state officials will come to better understand this, so that they can take actions that would help to create a new era that is better for New Yorkers.

Having responded to the governor’s statements, let us turn to our own vision and proposals.

The Prohibition Party of New York puts forward a vision of good government, based in moral principle, ethical public service, and advancing the public wellbeing. To this end, we put forward the following proposals.

We must work to address alcohol and other drugs as the social and public health problems that they are. We should work to end any and all state support for the alcohol industry and other such harmful industries. That includes prohibiting state agencies from being used to support the alcohol industry or its products, eliminating all special tax cuts that were given to the alcohol industry, prohibiting state money from being used to support any alcohol manufacturing or selling business, and restrengthen state restrictions on the alcohol industry. We should adopt a comprehensive approach to address the harm of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. This includes developing and expanding education programs, to educate the public on the harms of alcohol and drugs, spread awareness of the benefits of teetotalism, and help prevent people from using alcohol and other drugs in the first place. It includes expanding addiction treatment programs to help those seeking to overcome addiction, as well as developing and expanding cessation programs to help users in general who are seeking help to quit alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. It involves working to expand supports that help to deal with problems that exacerbate and/or are exacerbated by the use of alcohol and other drugs. Such as working to improve mental healthcare. It also involves addressing the commercial aspect of this problem. We should work to enact policies that will increase restrictions on the sale of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. We should enact policies that will work to transition communities and businesses away from the sale of intoxicants and towards products and services that do not harm public health. We should work to build a culture of sobriety and work towards dismantling the alcohol, tobacco, and other recreational drug industries. By embracing a comprehensive approach, our state could make great progress

New York should stand for the principles of democracy and free participation in our elections. We urge the

state legislature to repeal the anti-democratic changes to state ballot access laws passed in 2020, so that we may help to heal the damage done to our electoral system. And even after those damages are fixed, we must continue to move towards further progress. Our state should move in the direction of establishing fair ballot access rules, which would better allow for New Yorkers of all affiliations to participate in the electoral process and vote for the candidates of their choice.

In order for our state to progress, we must work to further advance the principles of equality, justice, and the protection of public wellbeing in our society. We should work to enact stronger state ethics laws and increase anticorruption efforts. We should work to improve our system of law enforcement so that it may better provide equal justice for all New Yorkers. We should work to reform our state's institutions to be more effective and better serve the public.

Our state should work to take stronger actions to combat sexual predators. We should work towards abolishing the statute of limitations for rape and the sexual abuse of children. We should also enact policies to take stronger actions to prevent and combat domestic violence and child abuse.

Our state should adopt a sensible and holistic approach to economics. We should work to rebuild our economy in a sensible way, that deals with the challenges imposed by the pandemic and international inflation, meets the needs of New Yorkers, and that supports honest productive businesses. The state government should not fall into misguided efforts to support greedy companies at the expense of the public wellbeing or promote social ills in the name of revenue, as they have done in the past. Rather the state should pursue opportunities for positive economic growth. Whether that be through expanding our physical and digital infrastructure, further developing our green energy industries, expanding education and job training opportunities, or various other efforts.

We should take further actions to protect the environment and advance renewable energy.

We should work to expand opportunities and improve services for those in the state living with disabilities.

We should reform our education system to improve the quality of education and ensure adequate funding for all schools. We should work to tackle the education gap created during the pandemic, to restrengthen the teaching of key subjects in schools, and advance informational literacy, critical thinking, and civic engagement. We should further expand TAP and other financial aid efforts, and work towards a system where all New Yorkers have a reasonable opportunity to a debt-free education at any of the state's public and non-profit independent colleges, universities, and vocational schools.

We welcome those who wish to help build a better future for New York to join us in our effort to seek positive reforms for our state, and to stand for moral principle, public wellbeing, and progress, against the regressive forces of greed and permissivism, who seek to drag down our state for their own selfish gain. As William Jennings Bryan had said, "The humblest citizen of all the land, when clad in the armor of a righteous cause, is stronger than all the hosts of error." Today, we may not have a large army of torchbearers, but we will light a torch that will burn on as we come together and march towards our destination. Let us work to build a better future for the people of New York State.



New York Prohibition Party History



William Sulzer

William Sulzer was a New York lawyer, politician, 39th governor of New York, and 1914 Prohibition Party candidate for Governor of

New York. William Sulzer was born on March 18, 1863, in Elizabeth, New Jersey. He was the son of German and Scottish Irish parents. He was educated in public schools, and studied law at Columbia College, in New York City. He was admitted to the bar in 1884 and began practicing law in New York City.

William Sulzer began to enter into politics in 1884. Initially, he had been involved with the Democratic Party. In 1884, he acted as a campaign speaker promoting Grover Cleveland's presidential campaign. In 1889, he won election to the New York State Assembly. He was a member of the State Assembly from 1890-1894. In 1893, he had served as Speaker of the State Assembly. In, he was elected as a member of Congress. He was a Representative in Congress from 1894-1912, and from 1910-1912, was the chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. As a Congressman, he gained a reputation as one of the progressive members of the Democrats in Congress (progressive, as in progressive era progressivism). He supported the passage of federal labor laws, supported the creation of an 8-hour workday, and supported the creation of the department of labor. In matters of foreign affairs, he opposed U.S. intervention the Mexican Revolution, supported the Cuban

Independence movement, introduced a resolution supporting the Boer Republics in their conflicts against the British Empire, introduced a resolution supporting the 1911 Chinese Revolution (which overthrew the last Chinese Imperial Dynasty and resulted in the creation of the Republic of China), repeatedly introduced resolutions condemning Russia for its persecution of its Jewish population, and

supported efforts to pressure the Russian Government into accepting American passports issued to Jewish-Americans.

Sulzer was a delegate to the Democratic National Conventions in 1892, 1896, 1900, 1904, 1908, and 1912.

In 1912, Sulzer was nominated by the Democratic Party as its candidate for Governor of New York, and he was elected. His time as governor started on January 1, 1913, and would end up being short-lived. The Tammany Hall political machine had long been a major force in New York City and New York State politics, especially in regards to New York's Democratic Party. They were also notorious for corruption and using their influence to advance their own interests. The leader of Tammany Hall at the time, Charles F. Murphy, had hoped that Sulzer would go along with serving Tammany's interests. Instead, Sulzer turned against Tammany Hall. He refused to appoint people to state positions that Murphy wanted to be appointed, launched anti-corruption investigations into the state government's legislative and executive branches, had several Tammany politicians investigated for graft, and tried to pass an open primary law. Tammany Hall retaliated by having its people in the State

Assembly launch an investigation against Sulzer. They used the fact that Sulzer hadn't completely reported all his campaign donations as grounds for impeaching him. He was the first, and so far only, governor of New York to be removed from office. His time as governor came to an end on October 18, 1913.

After Sulzer was removed from the governor's office, he left the Democratic Party and continued his political career. In 1913, he ran as a Progressive Party candidate for state assembly and was elected. In 1914, Sulzer launched a campaign for governor. As part of this effort, he gathered a group of his followers to form the American Party (1914-1917) and used to petition to get on the ballot. As Sulzer was in favor of prohibition, he ran for and received the Prohibition Party nomination for governor. Thus, Sulzer ran as a fusion candidate of both the Prohibition Party and the American Party.

William Sulzer made a relatively strong showing. He received 126,270 votes and 8.77% of the total vote. He received 70,655 votes on the American party ballot line, 54,189 on the Prohibition Party ballot line, and 1,426 write-in votes. While he did not win back the governorship, his strong performance helped to make sure that his Tammany Hall backed replacement Governor Martin Glynn lost.

Republican Charles Whitman was elected as the next Governor of New York.

After the 1914 election, Sulzer continued his involvement with the Prohibition Party, as well as the American Party. On February 22, 1916, Sulzer delivered a speech in favor of prohibition

in Pittsburg, PA. In it, he contended that alcohol was harmful to users, families, and communities, was destructive to life, damaged the economy, drove up poverty, drove up taxes to cover the cost of the damages caused, and was overall damaging to people and society. He contended that temperance and prohibitionist policies were key to addressing the problem of alcohol, and that such policies would benefit people in a variety of ways; including improved public health, the prevention of unnecessary harm and death, improved economic conditions, and greater opportunity for the public. He additionally contended that supporting prohibition was rightful and courageous.

"When they ask you why I am for prohibition, you tell them because I have the courage of my convictions; because I am against intemperance; because I do not straddle a fundamental principle; because I will not be a hypocrite; because I love my fellow man; because I believe the time has come for the government to get out of the liquor business".

In 1916, Sulzer sought the Prohibition Party nomination for president. Sulzer was one of several candidates seeking the party's nomination. In the end, the nomination was won by the former Indiana governor J. Frank Hanley. Sulzer had considered running as for president with the American Party, but declined to do so. In the presidential election, Hanly won over 220,000 votes. His strong performance in the state of California arguably prevented the Republican candidate Charles Evan Hughes from winning the state, and thus allowed for the election of Democrat Woodrow Wilson. This strong showing helped to pressure Congress into finally passing an Amendment for the nationwide prohibition of the manufacture, sale, and transport of intoxicating liquors. By 1920, the 18th Amendment had entered into effect and National Prohibition had started.

While not running as the American Party candidate for president, he continued to be involved with it. The American Party ran a slate of statewide candidates in the New York's 1916 elections. The American Party didn't get enough votes to retain statewide ballot access, and appears to have disbanded after 1917. After 1917, Sulzer left politics and returned to his work as a lawyer. He would also spend time writing and speaking about the Baha'i religion. Sulzer died on November 6, 1941, and was buried at the Evergreen Cemetery in Hillside, New Jersey.

"Whether or not the world would be vastly benefited by a total banishment from it of all intoxicating drinks seems not now an open question. Three-fourths of mankind confess the affirmative with their tongues, and I believe all the rest acknowledge it in their hearts."
Abraham Lincoln