

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.

"Nothing in life is more liberating than to fight for a cause larger than yourself"
John McCain

Sign Up For The New York Prohibitionist

Interested in keeping up to date with all the news from the New York Prohibitionist? Well, you can sign up for our email list, and have the latest issues emailed to you when they come out. All you have to do is email newyorkprohibition@aol.com and let us know you'd to sign up. You can also do so by messaging the New York Prohibition Party Facebook Page or the New York Prohibition Party Twitter Account.

National Party News

The Prohibition Party continues to make progress with our ballot access efforts for the 2020 Presidential Election. We have done our ballot access petitions for Arkansas and Mississippi. We are working on ballot access efforts for Colorado, Tennessee, and Vermont. We are looking to find one more person to act as one of our electors for Colorado and two more people to act as electors for Vermont. If one knows about people in those states who may be interested in acting as electors, feel free to refer them to us at prohibitionists@gmail.com. We are working to finish getting the required

number of petition signatures for Tennessee.

We've had some recent news coverage for our party's vice-presidential candidate. Wikinews interviewed Billy Joe Parker as part of an article interviewing three minor party vice-presidential candidates. The other candidates interviewed included Alliance Party vice-presidential candidate Darcy Richardson and Life and Liberty Party vice-presidential candidate.

Mr. Parker was asked about his history with the Prohibition Party, his role as a vice-presidential candidate, and why people should consider voting for the Prohibition Party.

"Americans, if you want the very best for your children — prosperity, education, health, good leadership, and a better security that they shall live in happiness to a ripe old age, then you should vote for the Collins/Parker ticket. Under the Republican and Democrat parties, millions of children and adults have died from the wrongs of men, women, and society that have been imposed on them because of a lack of love for them. The Prohibition Party will obey the promise of life to each person made by the nation through the Declaration of Independence. Happily, we will meet you at the polls in November. We wish you the very best in whatever choice you make. If you choose against us, it will not diminish or end our love for you. Be sure we will defend you and your children in or out of power as we would defend ourselves."

You can read the full article via this link: https://en.wikinews.org/wiki/On_the_campaign_trail_in_the_USA,_June_2020

There has been some recent news from the Massachusetts Prohibition Party. They have reported that they have recruited a new vice-chairman for the state party, are working to get write-in certification for our 2020 ticket in Massachusetts, and are working to aid in efforts to help get our ticket on the ballot in Vermont.



State Party News

We in the Prohibition Party of New York continue to move forward in our efforts. The Prohibition Party of New York is working on preparations for our write-in campaign in the state for our presidential ticket. We are working on preparing the paperwork for gaining write-in certification, so that the state will provide a separate count for the number of write-in votes that our ticket will receive in the presidential election. As we move closer to the election, we plan to promote the campaign through social media, writing letters to the editor to local newspapers, and other campaign efforts.

We continue to engage our legislative and social activism. As we face reports of increased alcohol and drug, and rising overdose deaths, it is important that we advocate for protecting and advancing education, prevention, cessation, and addiction treatment programs. As our state legislature and local governments grapple with fiscal crises, it is important that we act as a voice for prioritizing the protection of life and public wellbeing in budgetary decisions. Going forward, we will work to spread our message, engage New Yorkers, and work to advance progress.

"We cannot avoid meeting great issues. All that we can determine for ourselves is whether we shall meet them well or ill." Theodore Roosevelt



4th of July Statement

The following is a speech written by the party's national secretary in honor of the 4th of July.

Happy 4th of July

On this day, we celebrate the creation of the United States of America. In 1776, our nation's founders declared our nation's independence from Great Britain and moved forward on our path towards establishing our constitutional democratic republic.

As we celebrate our nation's independence, we should reflect upon our nation's high values and ideals. In our declaration of independence, it is stated that we are endowed by our creator by certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is stated that legitimate governments are created by the members of a society to protect their lives and rights. That when a government fails to meet its duties to the public, that the people may act to change the governing order so that it will properly serve its duties. At heart, the people of a society have the right to come together to establish rules, policies, organizations, and efforts to protect their lives, rights, and vital wellbeing from the abusive actions of individuals and private entities, to advance their common interests, and to grant the powers and limitations of the governing bodies which serve the public.

When it comes to protecting the right of life, that includes the ability to enact policies restricting or prohibiting actions that are destructive of life. When it comes to protecting liberty, it means establishing rules which provide a decent respect to the proper functions of liberty. Contrary to what some falsely claim, liberty does not mean an entitlement to do whatever you want. Liberty does include an element of individual autonomy within society, but it also includes a prerogative to live according to reason, to be morally responsible, to abide by one's proper social responsibilities, and to respect the

lives and rights of people. The notion that a person is entitled to do absolutely whatever they ever wish, without restriction or responsibility is not only a false idea of freedom and liberty, but is fundamentally dangerous to a free society: for such an approach will inevitably result in attacks upon the lives, rights, and wellbeing of people, and foster conditions of violence and exploitation that undermine the ability of people to securely live their lives in a state of proper liberty. As for the pursuit of happiness, it is important to recognize that it does not mean that one is entitled to do or have absolutely anything that is individually pleasurable. Rather, when considered in the context of the intellectual history of Thomas Jefferson, the pursuit of happiness most likely refers to the ability of a society to establish conditions conducive to the general happiness of the public as a whole.

In the preamble of our constitution, it is stated that the purposes for establishing our nation's system of government include: to "form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity". In addition, in the times of the early republic, many people subscribed to a belief in the principle of *Salus populi suprema lex est*, which roughly translates to, the welfare of the people is the supreme principle of law. They held that our governing system had a legitimate interest and responsibility in protecting and promoting the wellbeing of the people. In that spirit, they established a variety of local, state, and at times federal laws, policies, and programs to promote human wellbeing. As a result, our nation saw things such as the creation of public schools, the establishment of local programs to help the poor, the establishment of public health policies, and various laws restricting commercial activities that were harmful to the public. These principles, along with other factors, lead to the rise of reform movements aimed to uplift people, to combat the ills affecting our society, and to change our nation for the better. This has included movements such as the abolition movement, the women's suffrage movement, the civil rights movements, and the temperance and prohibition movement.

In our nation's history, we have seen many great things. We have seen many attain a greater degree of protection for their lives and rights, and have greater access to opportunity and prosperity. We have seen many who have made great contributions to the advancement of law, civil society, science, technology, medicine, art, philosophy, the liberal arts and sciences, construction, agriculture, and many other aspects of human life. In our nation's history, we have also seen instances, where our society has fallen short of our ideals, where people have committed atrocities, where people were harmed and killed due to the selfishness, greed, and maliciousness of others, and where some have stood to preserve backward conditions. Yet, in our nation's history, we have also seen many who have stood up to problems of their times. Those who worked to stand up against the ills of our society, who worked to advance social reform and progress, and who sought to have our society better live up to our ideals.

In the present day, it is important that we not only celebrate the great principles and ideals of our nation, but work to help ensure that they are more fully realized in the conditions of our society, and work to stand against those who aim to corrupt our society and institutions.

There are various threats to the health of our constitutional democratic republic. There are those who endeavor to undermine good governance in order to advance their own selfish and destructive interests. There are those who may try to establish a centralized tyranny, though hijacking control of our governing institutions. They aim to attain governing power, and then once they have it, declare that the government no longer has a responsibility to protect the lives, rights, and vital wellbeing, work to undermine and eliminate democratic processes, work to grant the government powers alien to proper functions, and work to use the government as an instrument of their own ruling faction. There are those who aim to corrupt our governing systems. Those who seek to attain power and influence, so that they pervert the governing system, to use it to advance their own selfish interests and or the selfish interests of their financial backers. Then there are those who seek to advance a decentralized tyranny. They promote a false and distorted notion of

freedom. They claim that freedom means that one is entitled to do whatever one wants, even if it harms people, exploits people, is destructive of life, or violates the security and wellbeing of people. They deny that governments have a legitimate role in protecting the lives and wellbeing of people against the abusive actions of individuals and private entities. They assert that their individual desires and greed matter more than the right to life. They endeavor to weaken our governing systems to the point where they are unable to effectively protect the public against the abuses of individuals and private entities, to impair the ability of the public to establish laws to protect the public welfare, and to give state sanction to systems which harm and exploit people. They endeavor to create a decentralized tyranny, where those with the means may harm, exploit, and terrorize people for their own selfish ends: a society with many small tyrants and large tyrants acting through their own private bases of power.

We can work to face the problems of our current conditions, and work to build a better future. We can work to advance an understanding of the high ideals that have elevated our society. We can work to promote principles of good governance, to promote citizen engagement, and advance good policies. We can work to foster the cultivation of human potential, to bring attention to the problems facing our society, and work to advance social reform efforts. As William Jennings Bryan said, "Destiny is no matter of chance. It is a matter of choice. It is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved." Let us work so that our nation shines even more brightly in the future.

Jonathan Makeley, National Secretary
Prohibition Party

Third Parties Sue to Challenge Electoral Suppression in New York

Earlier this year, a group of political elites in the state government had made their latest major attempt at electoral suppression. While the state legislature was rushing to pass an annual state budget, while simultaneously trying to deal with the coronavirus outbreak, these figures underhandedly snuck provisions into the state budget rewriting state election law. These changes massively increased the number of votes that a

party with statewide recognition would need to receive in the gubernatorial election in order to retain their statewide ballot access (raising it from 50,000 votes to 130,000) and required them also receive a similarly large number of votes in the presidential election in order to retain their statewide ballot access. It also tripled the required number of signatures that a minor party without statewide ballot access would need to get to place a candidate on the ballot statewide and the number of signatures that an independent candidate would need to get on the ballot statewide (both from 15,000 to 45,000 signatures). These changes, if allowed to take effect during the coming election, could lead most, or possibly all, of the minor parties that currently have statewide ballot access to lose it, and it will make it vastly more difficult for these parties or any other parties to gain statewide ballot access in the future. These changes would eliminate most of the options that New York voters currently have on their ballots. These ballot access changes are anti-democratic attempt to suppress alternative voices in elections, suppress freedom of political association, and constrain the ability of voters to express their will in elections.

In response to this attack on our state's electoral system, several state parties have taken action to sue the state government, in order to try to have the changes revoked. The Serve America Movement (SAM) Party and Working Families Party have filed lawsuits. The Green Party and Libertarian Parties have also announced that they will be suing the state as well. In general, these lawsuits contend that these changes to state election law have no legitimate reason to have been created, are discriminatory, are designed to suppress the electoral participation of minor parties, and unconstitutionally infringe on the 1st Amendment and 14th Amendment rights. Hopefully, these lawsuits will prove to be successful and the courts will strike down the changes.

Sources: <https://independentpoliticalreport.com/2020/07/green-libertarian-parties-file-suit-against-new-yorks-new-ballot-rules/>

https://615c4beb-b241-4f4a-a6b4-a074dc02ce34.filesusr.com/ugd/2cc7be_241fd3580ca54907abc742d3a35b466e.pdf

<https://ballot-access.org/2020/07/25/working-families-party-files-reply-brief-in-new-york-ballot-access-case/>



New York Legislature Votes to Establish Juneteenth as State Holiday

The New York State Legislature voted to pass a bill establishing Juneteenth as an official state holiday. Juneteenth is a holiday on June 19th that celebrates the abolition of slavery in the United States. The bill was passed unanimously in the state legislature, with the State Assembly voting to pass it 142-0 and the State Senate voting to pass it 58-0. If the governor signs the bill then next year's will have the first Juneteenth celebrations in New York as a state holiday.

Source: https://www.syracuse.com/state/2020/07/ny-lawmakers-unanimously-approve-juneteenth-as-a-state-holiday.html?fbclid=IwAR2zSS_FlgmYDlu5yZQalcWk9BuxZlxGwvOqxR1_g1uVcWd6P2X8jOLp_s

Legislature Passes Bill to Curb Abuse of Tax Break for Developers

The New York State Legislature tightening requirements for a tax break it provides to certain developers. The 485-a exemption provides a 12-year tax deduction for redeveloping old commercial buildings into buildings with a mixture of commercial and residential space. It was found that some developers exploited vague wording in the law to get the tax exemption for projects that were not what the exemption was intended for. For instance, some developers demolishing old buildings and building new ones, or developers putting vending machines in housing complexes and claiming that it counted as commercial use. The new law specified that in order to be eligible for the 485-a tax exemption, the project must retain at least 75% of the original building, at least 15% of the building space must be used for commercial purposes, at least 50% of the space must be used for residential purposes, and the owner must certify each year that they have complied with requirements or lose the tax-exemption.

Source: <https://www.syracuse.com/news/2020/07/ny-passes-bill-to-curb-misuse-of-tax-break-syracuse-has-some-of-the-worst-abuses.html?fbclid=IwAR1FTlHlyBo7T3ILBP05rAgYy344zMKp40u0haEHTo-nW6UMITYMNeoWs>

State Legislature Passes Automatic Voter Registration Bill

The New York State Legislature voted to pass bill S8806/A08280, to establish a system for automatically registering citizens in the state to vote. New York citizens of voting age could be automatically registered on the state's voter roles when they visit a qualified state agency, such as the State DMV or State Department of Health. Citizens visiting qualified agencies would fill out forms that would allow them to provide information relevant to voter registration, information, and voter eligibility would be confirmed by qualified agencies and the State Board of Elections, and unregistered voters would be registered with the State Board of Elections.

Source: https://www.wivb.com/news/nys-legislature-passes-automatic-voter-registration/?fbclid=IwAR059HP8QBV8G-Rz5_gPIZsVgIwp5xJWYwJlDrqyQcoPVfz4dnlG1on564M

South Africa Reintroduces Temporary Prohibition

This month has seen the return of a temporary ban on alcohol sales in South Africa. In March, South Africa had enacted a temporary ban on the sale of alcohol and tobacco in the country. This ban was based on an understanding that alcohol and tobacco use can make people more susceptible to contracting the coronavirus and can increase the risk of severe illness and death from it. By banning alcohol sales, it could help to reduce risk factors for coronavirus transmission. The ban on alcohol sales had the added benefit of reducing the prevalence of alcohol-induced hospitalizations and deaths. The country saw significant reductions in admissions to hospital emergency rooms for alcohol-related crimes, car accidents, and other illnesses/injuries. The reduction in deaths from alcohol-related causes was larger than the country ended up having fewer weekly overall deaths in April and May than it normally does; even with some dying from the coronavirus.

South Africa's first temporary ban on alcohol sales came to an end on June 1st. After lifting the ban, the country saw increases in alcohol-related crime, violence, and emergency room visits. This contrast between reductions in alcohol-related illness, injury, and death under temporary prohibition, and the resurgence of crime, violence, and emergency room visits after the return of alcohol sales served to bring greater

attention to the negative effects of alcohol. Some began to call for the country to return to banning alcohol sales. These calls gained strength as the coronavirus continued to spread in the country. On July 12th, the South African government heeded these calls and reestablished the temporary ban on alcohol sales in the country. Going off existing data, this reintroduction should aid in helping to reduce risk factors for coronavirus transmission and help to free up more hospital space for treating coronavirus patients. Hopefully, the reintroduction of temporary prohibition will help encourage South Africa to more seriously address alcohol as a social and public health problem, and encourage them to enact long term restrictions against alcohol sales.

Sources: https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-53382797?fbclid=IwAR1gvJT3nTmmQ_n_w3bjaINXf9q2dweKl-F7rUfDXatqah2Dslilziqrh-w
https://615c4beb-b241-4f4a-a6b4-a074dc02ce34.filesusr.com/ugd/2cc7be_bc0625230b4a4d2eba5f44c792a37b7d.pdf
https://615c4beb-b241-4f4a-a6b4-a074dc02ce34.filesusr.com/ugd/2cc7be_6248221c0bb94f6496d6376e30fa0e16.pdf

Various States and Localities Reclose Bars in Response to Coronavirus Hotspots

As we have previously mentioned, the use of alcohol weakens the immune system and can make users more susceptible to the coronavirus. As we have seen various states move toward reopening, it has been seen that bars have acted as focus points for spreading the virus. In recent weeks, various states, having recognized this, and have moved to reclose or increase restrictions on bars. The states of Arizona, Florida, and Texas reclosed bars in their state. The states of California, Louisiana, and Kentucky have closed dine-in services at bars. Colorado closed bars that don't serve food. Michigan closed indoor dining at bars and some parts of the state have limited bars to take-out only sales. Various counties in Idaho, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee have either closed or increased restrictions on bars. The City of Chicago closed dine-in services at bars.

Sources: <https://www.eater.com/2020/7/1/21310415/restaurants-bars-shutdown-closed-covid-19-cases-spiking>

<https://www.newsweek.com/bars-are-closing-again-these-states-due-coronavirus-spikes-1514423>

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/bars-coronavirus-spread_1.5eebca60c5b6d9234ce7c684?utm_campaign=share_twitter&ncid=engmodushpmg000000004

<https://www.eater.com/2020/7/1/21310415/restaurants-bars-shutdown-closed-covid-19-cases-spiking>

State Increases Temporary Restrictions on Alcohol Sales in Bars

The state government has moved to add some additional restrictions for bars during the coronavirus. Now, alcohol is known to weaken the immune system and can make users more susceptible to the coronavirus. As states have moved towards reopening, many states have seen significant increases in new cases. While some new cases would be expected in transitioning towards reopening, a number of states have seen new cases occur at a rate where their healthcare systems struggle to handle them. Bars have been among the notable locations for acting as hotspots for spreading the virus.

It is not clear how cognizant the Cuomo Administration is of the fact that alcohol weakens the immune system, given their lack of public statements acknowledging it. Though they have publicly stated that they recognize the rising coronavirus cases in other states and that bars have often acted as hotspots. It was based on this that the administration acted to enact additional restrictions and requirements on bars.

Firstly, these new rules establish stricter social distancing requirements to ensure that bar-goers keep their distance from each other. Secondly, they set up requirements that bars would have to serve food in addition to alcohol and that customers would have to purchase food as part of their initial order to be able to purchase alcohol. They additionally set up guidelines as to what types and amount of food would be considered sufficient for this requirement. The food requirement seems to be mainly motivated by the idea that the food component may keep people from crowding around the main bar area and reduce talking between bar-goers, and by extent work to reduce the chances of bar-goers breathing on each other. It is unclear at this time how effective these new rules will be in reducing the potential spread of coronavirus in bars (especially since they fail to address the role that alcohol consumption plays in weakening the immune system), but in time data may provide a sense of their effects.

Sources: <https://www.syracuse.com/coronavirus/2020/07/no-more-alcohol-without-food-at-ny-bars-restaurants-cuomo-says.html?fbclid=IwAR12iW6A0uINuqP-w2r006vaqjDRgaavTcOf6dbuQYamtcEM19s1CLOfAw>

Drug Overdose Deaths Increasing Nationwide

The CDC has released a report that drug overdoses have been increasing nationwide. It is reported that provisional indicates that there were 71,000 overdose deaths in 2019. This is up from 67,000 deaths in 2018. While the national overdose numbers were up, there was a slight decrease in overdose numbers in New York state. There is concern that there may be even greater increases in overdoses this year.

Sources: <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/capital-region/health/2020/07/19/cdc-drug-overdoses-jumped-to-record-high-71-000-in-2019>

https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm?source=email#nature_sources_of_data

Expected Cuts to State Funding for Addiction Treatment Programs

Addiction treatment programs for alcohol and other drugs have seen increased challenges following the coronavirus outbreak. There been reports of increased use of alcohol and other drugs by segments of the population, drug overdoses are on the rise, and various programs have had their normal operations disrupted. Now addictions treatment programs are facing challenges from cuts in state funding. The Cuomo administration has recently enacted a 31% cut in state funding for addiction treatment programs. This is further exacerbated by an anticipated 20% cut in funding for state aid to localities, which could lead to further cuts in local funding addiction treatment programs.

John Cappella, the Executive Director of the New York Association of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers states that these significant cuts will force many addiction treatment programs to reduce their staffing levels and the number of people that they will be able to provide treatment for. Cappella stated that "Programs will close. More people will die and we're going to have a real difficult situation on our hands in communities across New York State".

Organizations that provide addiction treatment programs are struggling to figure out how to deal with these cuts and how they can continue. For instance, Horizon Health Services, in Western New York, which had already had to reduce the number of patients it serves by 30%

following the coronavirus outbreak, now has to figure out how heavily its funding will be cut and what it will do about those cuts. CEO of Horizon Health Services Anne Constantino told the Buffalo News, "I don't like to throw hysterical words out, but a 31% cut, I honestly don't know how we'd figure that out when we're already in a dire situation".

State Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal, chair of the Assembly Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Committee stated,

"The problem is, drug and alcohol treatment providers have been subsisting on starvation budgets for years, and there is simply no fat left to cut. A 31% cut for addiction treatment providers at a time when overdose deaths are increasing will mean more people will die from preventable overdoses as community-based treatment providers are forced to close their doors."

State Senator Peter Harkham, chair of the State Senate Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Committee commented that,

"It is certain that substantial decreases in funding to valuable, community-based treatment programs will add a great deal of woe to residents who need more help, not less, during this medical emergency ... With our most vulnerable neighbors and loved ones especially at risk right now, we simply need to face these challenges together. Effective treatment options should receive the proper support they require."

Some people and organizations, such as Assemblywoman Rosenthal, Senator Harkham, and New York Association of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers, are speaking out about this and are urging the state avoid making major cuts to addiction treatment programs, so that we can better be able to try to avoid unnecessary deaths from alcohol and other drugs.

The Prohibition Party of New York recognizes the importance of addressing the problem of alcohol and other drugs. We recognize that having good quality and properly funded addiction treatment programs are an important part of a comprehensive approach to dealing with the problem of alcohol and other drugs. Making major cuts to addiction treatment programs at a time when we are seeing reports of increased alcohol and other

drug use, as well as increased overdose deaths, is not only counterproductive, but will result in the deaths of more New Yorkers. The state legislature should act to prevent major cuts to addiction treatment services.

Sources: https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-nv/ny-state-of-politics/2020/07/16/lawmakers-warn-against-cuts-to-addiction-programs?cid=facebook_Spectrum_News_Central_New_York%2FS_Tier&fbclid=IwAR12il-jGGr6UjrDU05v0_OJRkUHI2Ch7_DYUE1ZxkdsINPCrAd9tE1FS8

https://buffalonews.com/news/substance-abuse-treatment-programs-warn-of-dire-consequences-from-cuts/article_634322da-c2bc-11ea-9ffb-bb3c0962ace6.html?utm_campaign=snd-autopilot&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook_The_Buffalo_News&fbclid=IwAR2gun1RFrOC_09pypogE2m2D8h4yBC_mLLRDuWzVZRaMFUGE-riU5mp1Y

Broadband Study Bill

The state legislature has passed a bill calling for the New York Public Services Commission to conduct a year-long study into the condition and availability of broadband internet throughout New York State. The purpose of the study would be to discern which people and areas in the state are being adequately served, which are being underserved, and which lack access to broadband. The study would evaluate based on the metric of whether there are at least two internet service providers available in an area and whether they provide a download speed of at least 25 MBps. This study, if completed could provide greater insight at the state of broadband internet access throughout the state, and could help to inform efforts to improve the state's internet infrastructure.

Source: https://www.localsyr.com/news/local-news/broadband-study-bill-headed-for-governor-cuomos-desk/?utm_source=facebook.com&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=socialflow&fbclid=IwAR3VKZ05q2-GNwau2XJWDSKBVp-Su58su8gzxAvZfqrD0bz6WkPP7CTJAZc



"Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals." Martin Luther King, Jr.



Former Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver Sentenced to Prison

Earlier This Month, former Speaker of the New York State Assembly Sheldon Silver was sentenced to 6 ½ years in prison. Sheldon Silver had served Speaker from 1994 to 2015. He was driven out of office in 2015 after he was arrested on federal corruption charges. Silver had misused his position as speaker to illegally enrich himself and his family through bribes and other acts of corruption. He was initially convicted in 2015 for bribery and extortion. He appealed his conviction and was able to get the initial conviction overturned, due to a Supreme Court ruling that established tougher requirements for proving official corruption. Silver's case was retried and he but was convicted again in 2018. He appealed the decision again and was able to get it partially overturned, but the main part of the conviction remained. On July 20th, Silver was sentenced to serve 78 months in prison.

Sources: https://www.syracuse.com/state/2020/07/ex-new-york-state-assembly-speaker-sheldon-silver-gets-prison.html?fbclid=IwAR1b23bhwMtsjR9tcv7aekeyqByxC-EDJth_MXyx2M1KxdDqDXHxVX_2sdc

<https://nypost.com/2020/07/20/sheldon-silver-sentenced-to-more-than-6-years-in-prison/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/13/nyregion/sheldon-silver-conviction-is-overturned.html>

"It is easy enough to vote right and be consistently with the majority. But it is more often more important to be ahead of the majority and this means being willing to cut the first furrow in the ground and stand alone for a while if necessary." Patsy Takemoto Mink

Local Governments Face Fiscal Challenges

The economic disruption from the coronavirus outbreak has produced new fiscal challenges for state and local governments. A new report from State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli states that state and local governments have seen significant decreases in revenue in recent months due to decreased commercial activity, and will likely see decreased revenue for the rest of the fiscal year. Local governments are expected to see significantly decreased sales tax revenue throughout the fiscal year. In addition, it is anticipated that local governments will see around a 20% reduction in state aid. It is estimated that on average a "typical" county in the state could lose \$34.9 million in sales tax revenue and \$21.5 million in state aid. The report states that while local governments may have some actions to try to mitigate potential cuts or find alternate sources of revenue to partially cover lost revenue, but it will be difficult to deal with major decreases in revenue. State and local governments have received some federal aid to help cover some costs of dealing with the coronavirus, but these were focused more on things like healthcare costs for treating the virus, rather than on mitigating lost revenue for localities. With ongoing talks in Congress about future stimulus and aid bills it is possible that additional aid to localities might be given in the future. But there is no guarantee of that. In the present, many local governments will have to deal with significant fiscal challenges.

Sources: <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/buffalo/ny-state-of-politics/2020/07/09/dinapoli-local-governments-face-profound-fiscal-challenges>

https://www.osc.state.ny.us/sites/default/files/local-government/documents/pdf/2020-07/local-government-revenue-challenges-during-covid-19-pandemic.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

New York State Progresses on Phased Reopening

New York continues to move forward with phased reopening plans. As we had reported last month, the state has begun enacting a multiphase and regionally based process to transition from the previous state of lockdown to a more open system, where many previously closed places can reopen and more activities can resume, while maintaining policies and practices to manage the Novel Coronavirus.

The plan divides that state into 10 regional groupings of counties. There are 4 planned phases of reopening. Phase 1 involved reopening construction operations, manufacturing companies, wholesale supply chain businesses, agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting businesses, landscaping and gardening businesses, and drive-in movie theaters. It will also involve reopening some retail businesses, such as clothing and electronics. Phase 2 included reopening various storefront retailers, professional service businesses, finance and insurance businesses, and real-estate and retail licensing companies. Phase 3 will involve reopening various hospitality businesses such as restaurants and food service businesses. Hotels will move toward more regular operations. Phase 4 includes the reopening of schools, museums, theaters, movie theaters, and various other institutions and businesses that involve education, arts, or entertainment. Regions need to meet a set of criteria in order to be able to enter into each phase of reopening. These criteria include getting average levels of new cases, hospitalizations, and deaths down below certain levels, as well as ensuring that the region has certain levels of available general hospital beds, available ICU hospital beds, coronavirus testing, and contact tracers.

As of July 31st, all regions the state have begun phase 4 of reopening. In the coming months, the state will need to figure out how it is going to provide K-12 schooling for the upcoming school year. School districts will need to figure out whether classes will be provided in person, virtually, or some combination of the two. And in many cases, schools will have to figure out various matters related to sanitation, staffing, and funding. Even with all regions entering into phase four of reopening, many individual businesses, non-profits, and public places are working on their own pace to plan and enact their own reopening. New York continues to move forward in a state of transition.

Sources: <https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2020/07/when-will-new-york-reopen-phases-and-full-plan-explained.html>

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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, Hanley 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.

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Charles S. Whitman

Charles Seymour Whitman was an attorney, politician, 41st Governor of New York, and 1918 Prohibition Party candidate for Governor. Charles Whitman bears the distinction of being the only Prohibition Party candidate for Governor of New York to have been a fusion candidate for both the Prohibition Party and one of the major parties.

Charles Whitman was born on September 29, 1868, in Hanover, Connecticut. He was the son of Rev. John Seymour Whitman and Lillie Arne Whitman. His father and grandfather were Presbyterian ministers. He spent a year studying at Adelbert College and a year studying at William College. He studied at Amherst College in Massachusetts and graduated in 1890. He then moved to New York City, where he worked as a teacher and studied law at New York University. In 1894, he was admitted to the bar and began a career as an attorney.

From 1901 to 1903, Whitman served as Assistant Corporation Counsel of New York City. In 1902, Corporation Council Rives assigned Whitman to watch legislation relating to New York City in Albany. In the process, Whitman began to gain growing prominence in politics. New York City Mayor Seth Low appointed Whitman appointed him as a city magistrate.

Whitman served as a city magistrate from 1904 to 1907. During his time as a magistrate, he sought to break to take a group of bail bondsman, who were profiting of bribing policemen to make questionable arrests and bailing out those who were arrested. As part of this, he campaigned for the city to create a night court, so that palpably innocent people wouldn't have to spend a night in jail or have to deal with those bail bondsmen. In 1906, he became chairman of the city's board of magistrates.

In 1907, Whitman was appointed as a municipal judge in New York City's Court of Sessions. In 1908, he acted as deputy attorney general to investigate election fraud in the state.

In 1908, Whitman married his first wife, Olive Hitchcock. They went on to have two children, Olive and Charles.

In 1909, Whitman ran for New York County District Attorney. He ran as a fusion candidate, with the nomination of the Republican Party, Prohibition Party, and the Independence League. He defeated the Tammany Hall backed Democratic candidate and was elected as District Attorney. He served as District Attorney from 1910-1914. While acting as District Attorney, he gained statewide and national attention for his investigations into graft and corruption in the New York City police force. Most notably, for the prosecution of a former police officer Charles Becker for the murder of whistleblower Herman Rosenthal.

In 1914, the Republican Party nominated Whitman as their candidate for Governor of New York. He was one of several candidates for Governor. The Prohibition Party had nominated former Democratic governor William Sulzer, who had taken on the Tammany Hall political machine and was impeached from office pro-Tammany Hall figures in the state legislature in 1913. The Democratic Party, with the backing of Tammany Hall, nominated Gov. Martin H. Glynn, who had served as governor for the remainder of the term. While Sulzer was unable to regain the governor's office, his strong performance helped to ensure that Glynn wouldn't be able to win either. Whitman won the 1914 election for governor. In 1916, Whitman won reelection as the candidate of the Republican Party, Progressive Party, and the Independence League. In the same year, he had also been a delegate to the 1916 Republican National Convention.

As Governor, Whitman focused on reforming the state's finances, reorganizing various state departments, and investigating the salary system for state employees. During his time as governor, the New York State Police was established, and statewide women's suffrage was established in New York in 1917. During World War I, Whitman worked to organize and facilitate state support for the war effort. He had a new State Guard established to stand in place of New York's National Guard, which had been deployed to France.

In 1917, Congress passed the 18th Amendment. Following this, prohibition activists campaigned to have states ratify the 18th Amendment. In New York, Governor Whitman supported the effort to pass the 18th Amendment in the state, and worked to rally support for passing it in the state legislature.

In 1918, Whitman ran for a third term for Governor. In addition, to seeking the Republican nomination for governor, he also sought the nomination of the Prohibition Party. In addition, Eugene M. Travis, the incumbent Republican State Comptroller and a supporter of prohibition, sought the Republican and Prohibition Party nominations for State Comptroller. Initially, the New York Prohibition Party had planned to nominate state party chairman Olin S. Bishop for Governor and Claude V. Stowell for State Comptroller. Bishop

and Stowell were initially endorsed at the party's state convention, but Whitman and Travis were able to run in the party's primary. A number of prominent figures in the state's Prohibition Party supported Whitman in the primary, including John McKee, Francis Baldwin, Charles Welch, and Henry Randall. Olin S. Bishop had reportedly made statements that he was fine if Whitman won the nomination. Support for nominating Whitman seems to have been significantly motivated by the prospect of securing the passage of the 18th Amendment and establishing national prohibition. Though some members of the party were concerned as to how strongly committed Whitman and Travis were to the cause of Prohibition: whether Whitman and Travis would hold to their word that they would help ensure the passage of the 18th Amendment and ensure the enactment of Prohibition in New York State. As such, some members backed Bishop and Stowell in the primaries. In the end, Whitman and Travis had enough support to win the Prohibition Party primaries. The Republican and Prohibition Parties nominated Whitman for Governor and Travis for State Comptroller, while each party nominated their own separate candidates for Lieutenant Governor, New York Secretary of State, State Attorney General, State Treasurer, and State Engineer.

In the general election, Whitman ran against Democratic Party candidate Alfred E. Smith (who was strongly opposed to prohibition and supported by Tammany Hall), Socialist Party candidate Charles W. Ervin, and Socialist Labor Party candidate Olive M. Johnson. The gubernatorial election ended up being close and Whitman narrowly lost reelection to Smith. Whitman had received 995,094 votes and 46.68% of the statewide vote in total. He received 956,034 votes on the Republican ticket and 38,794 on the Prohibition Party ticket. Smith received 1,009,936 votes and 47.37% of the vote. Writers in the Journal of the American Bar Association Journal speculated that Whitman's loss in the 1918 election may have been due to a combination of a major subway train accident in New York City days before the election, which some newspapers blamed the Whitman administration for not preventing, and insufficient provisions for absentee voting for New Yorkers who were overseas at the time. Eugene Travis did succeed in getting elected to another term as State Comptroller. While Whitman did not get reelected, the movement for ratifying the 18th Amendment in New York still continued. On January 19th, 1919, New York became the 43rd state to ratify the 18th Amendment. In 1920, the period of National Prohibition had started.

After leaving office, Whitman returned to practicing law. He became one of the founding members of the law firm Whitman, Ottinger, and Ransom (later named Whitman, Ransom, Coulson, and Goetz). He had been involved

with the American Bar Association since 1913. From 1923-1926, he chaired a committee in the state bar association which focused on studying the causes of crime and designing recommended changes to laws and legal practices to try to reduce crime. In 1926 he became president of the American Bar Association and served in that position from 1926-1927.

Whitman remained involved in politics and public service. In 1920, he was a delegate to the Republican National Convention. He was involved with New York Fusion Committees. These committees sought to encourage different parties to come together to nominate fusion candidates in opposition to Tammany Hall. In 1925, Whitman ran for New York County District Attorney, but he was not elected.

On May 29, 1926, his first wife, Olive Hitchcock Whitman died. In 1933, he married his second wife, Thelma Somerville Grosvenor.

In 1935, Whitman was appointed as a commissioner for the Port of New York Authority. In 1945, he was chairman of the Committee on Port Planning.

Whitman died on March 29, 1947, and was buried at Westlawn Cemetery, in Williamstown, Massachusetts.

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