

New York Prohibitionist



Think NY Vote Dry

January 2019

Volume 2 #1

A New Year to Move Forward

This issue marks the beginning of the second year of the New York Prohibitionist, as well as the first issue of 2019. As we move forward into this new year, we in the Prohibition Party of New York are working to build up our party and make a positive impact on our state.

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"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." Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Messaging the Legislature

This month saw the beginning of the new session of the New York state legislature. With those elected back in November taking their positions and beginning to act to shape state policies. In response, the Prohibition Party of New York has worked to strengthen its efforts to message members of the state legislature. In order to encourage them to adopt positive policies, reject negative ones, and enact needed reforms in the state. We've created an email list for our state party email to allow us to quickly send emails to the members of the state legislature. We've already sent some emails to the legislature, and will continue to do so going forward. Hopefully these messages will help to encourage the legislature to move in a positive direction.

Newspaper Writing

As part of our efforts for 2019, the Prohibition Party of New York plans on expanding its public messaging. Last year, some of our members wrote letters to the editor to various newspapers, in order to spread awareness of the party and our issues. We also managed to get some coverage in online and local newspapers in the state. This year, we intend to write even more letters to the editor, to more newspapers, and to try to get coverage in more online and print news outlets. Those interested in helping by writing letters to the editor articles, or by helping us get in contact with local or online newspapers, can email at newyorkprohibition@aol.com

State Legislature Passes Voting and Election Reforms

This month, the state legislature passed a series of bills reforming the state's voting and election rules. The state will be enacting a system of early voting, which will allow voters to cast their votes up to 9 days before the election. The state will be enacting a system for allowing 16 and 17-year-olds to preregister to vote in preparation for when they will be old enough to vote, and will be making changes to its system for moving voter registration or people who move from one to another in the state.

The state will be consolidating its state and federal primary elections, so that they will be held on the same day. This will likely have the effect of moving the deadlines for filing independent nominating petitions for various offices to earlier times within a year. It has yet to be seen when those new deadlines may be. They passed a bill to close the LLC loophole, to increase restrictions on corporate donations to campaigns.

The legislature also began the process to try to pass amendments to the state constitution to allow for same day registration and voting by mail. In order for those amendments to pass, they would need to pass in the next legislative session, and then be approved by a majority of voters in a public referendum.

Sources: https://auburnpub.com/blogs/eye_on_ny/cuomo-signs-transformative-early-voting-bill-other-ny-election-reforms/article_c6156479-cfc6-5b60-b6fc-62073fd0601d.html

<https://prospect.org/article/new-yorks-democracy-reform-bill-and-message-it-sends>



Helping to Correct the Record

Recently, an article by political scientist Mark Lawrence Schrad appeared in Politico. The article titled, "Why Do We Blame Women For Prohibition? One hundred years later, it's time to challenge a long-held bias" takes on the sexist biases and misperceptions within the common, wet driven, myth about national prohibition. Schrad points out the common image of the prohibition movement as being driven anti-democratic religious zealot women is inconsistent with the historical facts of the temperance and prohibition movement. That prohibitionism was a progressive movement, which had a wide range of supporters, both men and women, who used democratic means to stand up harmful and exploitive business practices.

The full article can be found by this link: <https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2019/01/13/prohibition-women-blame-history-223972>

Though here are some highlights from the article.

"With the obvious exception of the women's rights movement—from suffragism to #MeToo—perhaps no other social movement in American history is as synonymous with women as temperance, and none is as vilified."

"The only woman who voted for the 18th Amendment was Jeannette Rankin of Montana, the country's first—and at that time, only—congresswoman. In 1918, hers was but one of the bipartisan supermajority of 282 yeas (to 128 nays) in the House that passed the prohibition amendment. In the all-male Senate, the vote to submit the amendment to the states for ratification was even more lopsided: 65-20."

"Anecdotally, I've long asked colleagues, students and historians: 'Who's the most famous prohibitionist?' The answer is Carrie Nation, every time. Little wonder: Today, she plays a starring role in virtually every temperance history"

"The only problem is that Carrie Nation died in 1911, almost a full decade before the 18th Amendment was ratified. So why do we blame her for

something that happened years after her death, while exonerating those directly responsible for prohibition? Why do we remember Carrie Nation, but forget the “father of prohibition” Neal Dow? Or Anti-Saloon League “dry boss” Wayne Wheeler, who in 1922 was described as “the man who is as much or more than any other single person, directly responsible for the able leadership bringing prohibition”? Or Andrew Volstead, the man whose name is on the prohibition-enforcement act? Based on Google’s Ngram dataset of over 500 billion words from some 15 million digitized books, we can chart the notoriety of individuals over time. The data suggests that, since prohibition’s repeal in 1933, the men responsible for prohibition have begun largely to vanish from history, while the image of Carrie Nation endures.”

“If you asked me, I would say progressive stalwart William Jennings Bryan was the most famous American prohibitionist. He fought vehemently against the liquor traffic where rich capitalists got richer by getting workers addicted to booze. “The Great Commoner” had far more political clout than Carrie Nation. Or consider Frederick Douglass—perhaps the most famous orator of the 19th century, back when abolitionism was virtually synonymous with temperance.”

“Such details largely disappear from contemporary biographies, perhaps because they don’t fit our image of temperance as an angry, white, female, Bible-thumping crusade against individual liberty. While their political legacies are obviously variegated, Frederick Douglass, William Jennings Bryan and Carrie Nation all held the exact same positions on abolition, suffragism and prohibition.”

“So, why do we blame women for prohibition? Misogyny is the easy answer; but more fundamentally, we need to better understand not just who the prohibitionists were, but what motivated them in the first place. Perhaps they weren’t the “deeply antidemocratic” monsters that we now make them out to be.”

“Contrary to popular description, prohibitionists weren’t hellbent on taking away the individual’s “right to drink.”

“Just as abolitionists objected to the slave trader who profited from subjugating others, prohibitionists aimed at a predatory liquor traffic of wealthy capitalists and saloonkeepers who—together with a state that, before the income tax, relied disproportionately on liquor revenues—got rich from the drunken misery of the poor. The 18th Amendment doesn’t even outlaw alcohol or drinking. It prohibits the “manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors.” This wasn’t some oversight; the target was the traffic”

“Prohibitionists were very clear about this. The 18th Amendment was very clear, too. That we have a hard time believing it today—scoffing that outlawing booze or booze sales has the same practical outcome of restricting the rights of the individual—says more about our changing understandings of liberty than theirs. It is only in more recent generations (with the rise of Hayekian neoliberalism after World War II) that any interference with the free market is deemed a constraint on our citizenship rights. For most of American history, political liberty and economic liberty were understood to be distinct from each other. There is no “right to buy” anywhere in the constitution.”

“Ultimately, we need to stop vilifying prohibitionists as “antidemocratic” simply because our understanding of liberty has changed. In fact, prohibitionists championed the right of self-determination, and the right of the community to

defend itself against extortionate businesses and government corruption. Prohibitionists encouraged grassroots power—especially for communities, counties and states to vote themselves dry at the ballot box. Such Jeffersonian commitments made prohibitionists natural allies of abolitionists and suffragists from the very beginning. (Prohibitionists who cheered the 18th Amendment’s ratification in 1919 also cheered when the 19th Amendment gave women the vote the following year.) At its core, prohibition was a populist attack against predatory capitalism and its corrupt ties to government power.

It was no fluke that the ultimate victory of prohibition came at the high point of the Progressive Era: like other reforms of its day, prohibition was fundamentally progressive. Prohibition protected consumers from unscrupulous sellers of potentially dangerous substances, just like the progressive Pure Food and Drug Act, and Federal Meat Inspection Acts of 1906. Prohibition targeted the corrupting power of big business, just like the Federal Trade Commission Act and Clayton Anti-Trust Acts of 1914.

Moralizing Bible-thumpers like Carrie Nation were only one part of a broad prohibitionist coalition. Focusing only on activists like her, though, produces a wildly incomplete picture, which our brains try to make whole by filling in the gaps with deeply rooted—and misogynist—social biases.

Centennials are a time for reassessment—and since prohibition’s centennial comes in the #MeToo era, it is high time to unpack our highly gendered received wisdom.”



Child Victims Act Passes

On January 28th, the New York State legislature finally passed the Child Victims Act, and made a forward step towards more effectively confronting the evil of child sexual abuse. The Child Victims Act extends the statute of limitations for survivors of childhood sexual abuse to pursue criminal charges against their abusers from 23 to the survivors 28th birthday. It expands the statute of limitations for pursuing action in civil court from 23 to their 50th birthday. It also creates a one-year period in which survivors of any age can come forward to pursue charges against the abusers. The bill passed unanimously in the state senate and passed 130-3 in the state assembly.

We in the Prohibition Party in New York commend the survivors and activists who spent years working to get this bill passed. We are glad to have joined with you in working to advance this worthy cause. We commend the members of the state legislature who voted to pass the Child Victims Act.

The passage of the Chil Victims Act makes an important step toward pursuing justice for all. And hopefully it will soon be followed by further advances. Hopefully our state will soon move toward abolishing the statute of limitations for rape, sexual assault, and the sexual abuse of children.

Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2019/01/28/us/new-york-child-victims-act/index.html>

Women in India’s Anti-Alcohol Movement

Earlier this month, BBC News carried an article by Milan Vaishnav and Jamie Hintson, titled The women who fought to ban alcohol.

The full article can be found by this link: https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-46453934?ns_source=facebook&ocid=socialflow_facebook&ns_mchannel=social&ns_campaign=bbcnews

The article focuses on the activism of Women in the nation of India against alcohol and its destructive impacts. Not unlike the women temperance activists of the 19th and early 20th century united states, women temperance activists in India have recognized the destructive impacts that alcohol can have on people and society. Some of the negative impact of alcohol, such increased domestic violence and husbands wasting family income on alcohol have especially impacted women. Though as women’s social and political activism has increased, the temperance cause has become one element of the broader effort of women seeking equality and wellbeing in Indian society. The Indian Prohibition effort has seen some successes. A few years ago, the state of Bihar (which has a population of over 100 million people) banned the sale of alcohol. Since then, the rates of domestic violence, murder, gang robberies, riots, and traffic accidents have decreased, while the average spending and wealth of household economies has improved.

“The true grandeur of humanity is in moral elevation, sustained, enlightened and decorated by the intellect of man” Charles Sumner

Yates County Bans Tobacco use on County Properties

This month Yates County enacted a ban on using tobacco products on county owned properties. That includes cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chewing tobacco, e-cigarettes. This is yet another instance of local government taking action to work to reduce the destructive presence of tobacco in their communities.

Source: https://www.fingerlakesdailynews.com/2019/01/01/tobacco-ban-in-effect-at-yates-county-owned-properties/?sc_ref=facebook

“An idealist is a person who helps other people to be prosperous.” Henry Ford

Throughout its long history the Prohibition Party has drawn much of its strength from its local activists: everyday people who joined the party and spent some of their time working to advance the party and its cause. Oftentimes, the lives and contributions of these people have had little recording and have been little note in historical accounts.

Though there is further information on his life overall.

In 1889, his first son Edward was born. In 1894, his daughter Ethel was born. By 1900, Travis was living in the town of Angelica. In 1902 or 1904, his second son Alvin was born. In 1908, his third son Leonard was born. By 1910, Travis was living in the town of Allen.

In 1915, Travis was still living in Allen. In 1919, he was injured in a car accident in Belmont, Allegany County, New York. By 1925, he was living Birdsall. By 1930, he and his wife had returned to Angelica. Bert Travis died on January 12th, 1932.

A large black and white photograph of a crowded stadium during a football match. The stands are filled with spectators, and the pitch is visible in the foreground.

In the past, the New York Prohibition Party held statewide party conventions, in various cities throughout the state. We've compiled a list of those conventions, to their years and host city. Though this list is an incomplete one, and missing ones are labeled as unknown.

1869 Oswego, Syracuse; 1870 Syracuse
1871 Troy, Syracuse; 1872 Syracuse; 1873
Albany; 1874 Auburn; 1875 Syracuse; 1876
Syracuse; 1877 Utica; 1878 Albany; 1879 New
York City; 1880 Unknown; 1881 Syracuse; 1882
Rochester, New York City; 1883 Syracuse; 1884
Albany; 1885 Syracuse; 1886 Albany; 1887
Syracuse; 1888 Syracuse; 1889 Syracuse; 1890
Unknown; 1891 Albany; 1892 Unknown; 1893
Elmira; 1894 Syracuse; 1895 Saratoga; 1896
Syracuse; 1897 Syracuse; 1898 Syracuse; 1899
Unknown; 1900 Utica; 1901 Unknown; 1902
Saratoga Springs; 1903 Unknown; 1904
Oswego; 1905 Rochester; 1906 Binghamton;
1907 Unknown; 1908 Syracuse; 1909 Unknown;
1910 Cortland; 1911 Unknown; 1912 Olean;
1913 Unknown; 1914 Utica; 1915 Unknown;
1916 Elmira; 1917 Unknown; 1918 Utica; 1919
Unknown; 1920 Unknown; 1921 Unknown;
1922 Brooklyn; 1923 Unknown; 1924 Syracuse;
1925 Unknown; 1926 New York City

In 1855, the New York state legislature and Governor Myron Clark passed An Act For The Suppression of Intemperance, Pauperism, and Crime, which established the first period of statewide prohibition in New York. This was an achievement that took years of activism and the engagement of hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers. Though it was a victory that was short lived. When the liquor industry lost the democratic process and the majority of the state's elected stood up against them, the liquor industry then turned to attacking the law through criminality and

Unfortunately, there were enough pro-alcohol and conservative judges on the court that they were able to get the state prohibition law struck down in a 5 to 3 ruling. The majority opinion, which struck down the state prohibition law, included within it a dangerous emerging notion in judicial interpretation. It was the idea that individuals possessed a right to property that extended to any commercial use of any type of property, that was so absolute and undifferentiated, that the state could not pass laws which restricted commercial activity to for the public good. This was a dangerous concept which ran contrary to the state's long-standing history of restricting commercial activities for the sake of the public good. The three dissenting judges pointed out that the notion of an absolute right of property in commercial activity was found nowhere in the state constitution, was contradicted by many instances of judicially accepted laws restricting commercial activities for the public good, and which if held as a principle would undermine the ability of the state to protect the rights of its people.

These cases help to further illuminate the connections between the cousin institutions of slavery and the alcohol industry. Now it is clear that both were similar in that they were both systems which harmed and exploited people for the profit of the few. But these cases go to the historical connection between the types of perverse legal thinking which was used to justify the existence of these systems.

Sources: "GEORGE FRANKLIN COMSTOCK," HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE NEW YORK COURTS. Accessed January 29, 2019. <http://www.nycourts.gov/history/legal-history-new-york/history-legal-bench-court-appeals.html?http://www.nycourts.gov/history/legal-history-new-york/jurimetrics-court-appeals/grover-martin.html>

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State of the State

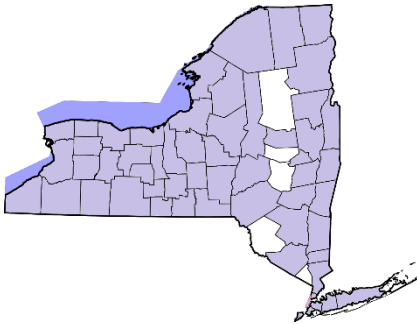
Dry January and the benefits of total abstinence

This January has seen another run of dry January. Dry January is an annual health challenge, in which participants seek to abstain from alcohol throughout the month of January. Dry January has continued to gain in popularity in recent years.

A recent study by British researchers shows that typical drinkers who participate in dry January tend to experience more energy, better sleep, and weight loss, saved money, and that those who returned to drinking afterwards attended to drink less.

Hopefully this health challenge has encouraged more people to adopt long term teetotalism, and hopefully it will encourage more to abandon alcohol in the future.

Source: <https://wnyt.com/health/benefits-of-no-alcohol-study/5195874/7fbclid=IwAR2hgNjY6OAN0-yX8U9aIA38vPsKMTxzw7BtVKpD4OoOsDnFwOtiw6UHiU>



Expanding Outreach

Our public messaging efforts continue to reach an increasing number of people in New York State and beyond. We continue to reach more people over Facebook. Our most recent data shows that content from our Facebook page has been viewed by people in at least 244 communities across the state, in 57 out of 62 counties. We also reached people in 48 other states, and over 50 countries. The New York Prohibition Party twitter account has reached over 700,000 cumulative views.

"The whole people must take upon themselves the education of the whole people, and must be willing to bear the expenses of it. There should not be a district of one mile square, without a school in it, not founded by a charitable individual, but maintained at the public expense of the people themselves." John Adams

"But if the laws are to be so trampled upon with impunity, and a minority is to dictate to the majority, there is an end put at one stroke to republican government, and nothing but anarchy and confusion is to be expected thereafter." George Washington

On January 15th, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo delivered his annual State of the State and budget address. On January 17th, the Prohibition Party of New York issued a written response. The following is the content of that response.

The Prohibition Party of New York's Response to Governor Andrew Cuomo's 2019 State of the State and Budget Address

January 17, 2019

On January 15, 2019, Governor Andrew Cuomo delivered his annual State of the State and Budget address to the people of New York. In the interest of advancing a productive discourse as to the condition and future of the state of New York, we of the Prohibition Party of New York will put forward a response to Governor Cuomo's address; in which, we will evaluate his statements and proposals, and counter by articulating our own vision and proposals for the state.

Governor Cuomo has called his set of proposals his 2019 Justice Agenda. A name which is not befitting of the whole of his proposals. While their indeed some proposals, such as passing the Child Victims Act and ending the statute of limitations for rape are good proposals, which are benefitting of the title of a justice agenda, other proposals, such as his proposal to legalize the commercial sale of recreational marijuana are socially regressive and detrimental to the endeavor of crating actually just society. Some proposals reflect the long and dedicated efforts of activists to seek positive changes in this state. While other proposals reflect Governor Cuomo's continuing willingness to support special interests at the expense of the public wellbeing and his reluctance to engage in serious reform on a variety of issues.

Governor Cuomo makes the claim that New York is the most progressive state in the nation. While there are variety of things which attest to the progress of our state, there are variety of facts which complicate this and which show how much there is to be done. Governor Cuomo's administration, and its Democratic and Republican coconspirators in the state legislature, have worked to significantly weaken state restrictions on the alcohol industry, and have used state agencies and taxpayer money to support the growth of the alcohol industry. These actions have worked to make the problem of alcohol New York worse and has undermined the health, safety, and wellbeing of the people of New York. The state's support of the alcohol industry and other greedy special interests at the expense of the public is fundamentally regressive. Some politicians, including the governor, want to drag public health efforts further backward by legalizing yet another drug for greedy corporations to profit off of. Our state government has seen widespread corruption at levels that (based on the frequency of corruption convictions) are likely greater than most other states.

In various ways New York state has lagged behind as other states have made advances. For instance, states such as Tennessee have taken larger steps to advance the availability of tuition free college. Utah has passed a 0.05 BAC limit for drunk driving. 7 states, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming have abolished the statute of limitations for felony sex crimes.

There is much which needs to be done in order for New York State to truly and fully be a leader in progress. For New York to be truly progressive, it must abandon the regressive forces that have falsely hidden under the term. The state must embrace good government based in moral principle and advancing the wellbeing of its people.

Governor Cuomo claims that our state as seen economic progress. While her are indeed some positive statistics, our state's economy still faces significant challenges. Post-recession economic growth in the state has often lagged behind national averages. Post-recession economic growth in the state has mostly been focused in New York City, while the rest of the state has seen far less economic growth. The state has seen large numbers of people move out the state in past years, which has exacerbated the struggles of many communities in the state. The state has seen losses in retail business, struggling agricultural industries, and high levels of food insecurity in many counties. The state's economic development programs have often produced mediocre results, and have often been affected by corruption.

Our state needs to change its economic approach. We need to adopt a smart, holistic approach to economic development. We need to work to revitalize our communities and reorganize our systems, in a manner that fosters sustainable economic growth, that better allows for people to make a decent living in the state, and which advances quality of life for people in our state.

Governor Cuomo made several proposals for reforming our state's voting and election laws. These include requiring that all polls are open by 6:00 am, making election day a state holiday, having federal and state primaries on the same day, enacting early voting, enacting vote by mail, same-day voter registration, and automatic voter registration.

We support a strong electoral system, with strong voter participation, and welcome positive reforms to that effect. Things such as ensuring all are open by 6:00am, making election day a state holiday, early voting, allowing vote by mail, and cutting back the deadline on voter registration, and automatic voter registration could potentially help to increase voter participation. In endeavoring to enact voting reforms, care should be taken to ensure that they are properly funded, and implanted in a way that ensures their effectiveness and the integrity of our election system.

We would propose additional voting reforms. We should reform our state's ballot access requirements to make them fairer and more equal. Our current ballot access requirements often require candidates seeking to get on ballot by independent nomination petition to collect 3 times as many signatures than the do for Democratic and Republican candidates. Furthermore, the high signature requirement to get on ballot present a costly barrier to democratic participation, which favors big money and powerful organizations to the disadvantage of the average citizen trying to serve the public. The state should lower its signature requirements and end the disparities that require independent candidates to collect more signatures than major party candidates. Currently, the only way for parties to gain statewide ballot access to run a candidate for governor and get over 50,000 votes. We propose creating a second additional means for seeking state party recognition. Perhaps, adopting something similar to the system in Vermont, where here is a process for local party organizations, and reaching a certain number of local organizations being able to apply for statewide recognition. The state should also consider the possibility of adopting ranked-choice voting.

Governor Cuomo has proposed passing the Child Victims Act. As an organization which has supported the Child Victims Act, and as people with a sense of morality, we applaud this. Yes, we have waited too long to get the Child Victims Act passed. Let's get it passed this year, and let's work towards abolishing the statute of limitations for rape, sexual assault, and the sexual abuse of children.

Governor Cuomo proceeded to make further proposals for combating sexual abuse. He proposed banning revenge pornography, establishing a specialized police unit to combat child sexual predators online, and abolishing the statute of limitations for rape. Again, we commend him for these proposals, and hope that we can get them passed this year.

Unfortunately, Governor Cuomo then proceeded towards making the misguided and regressive proposal of legalizing recreational marijuana. Legalizing recreation marijuana is a terrible idea. It would only serve to give greedy corporations another drug to profit off of, at the expense of the health, safety, and wellbeing of the public. Contrary to the marijuana industry's and the permissivists' propaganda, recreational marijuana does have negative effects on the mental and physical conditions of its users, and is conducive to various social ills. Which is why organizations such as the state's association of county health officials has taken a stand against legalizing recreational marijuana.

Governor Cuomo falsely claims that legalizing recreational marijuana would reduce racial disparities in our criminal justice system. As can be seen in Colorado, where marijuana is legal, yet African American residents are three times as likely to be arrested than their White counterparts. Rather scapegoating the state's

laws against marijuana as a cover trying to line the pockets of his marijuana industry donors, Cuomo should try actually addressing the systemic issues in our legal system that are conducive towards producing racial disparities.

Governor Cuomo claims that he would do it in a way that wouldn't be about enriching the big companies, and in a way that would benefit poor communities and communities of color. It's a flat out lie. While he spouts this hogwash, politicians like Chuck Schumer and Byron Brown are rolling out the welcome mats to the big marijuana companies, ready to make into the next Big Tobacco. But ultimately whether it's sold by big or small companies, it still involves companies exploiting people by selling harmful products and profiting off people with substance use problems. As it does with the alcohol industry, the tobacco industry, et cetera. While these companies will target any community they can profit off of, they end to especially target lower income and minority communities. This is seen with the alcohol and tobacco companies in New York, and with the marijuana companies in other states. Legalizing marijuana will not empower poor and minority communities, it will exploit them.

Cuomo states that his proposal for legalizing marijuana would allow cities and counties to opt out and establish their own local bans on recreational marijuana. If that comes to pass, then we will campaign on the grassroots level to drive it, along with the alcohol and tobacco industries, out our state, and keep pressing until the state realizes its mistake and makes the progressive move of prohibiting their manufacture and sale.

Governor Cuomo made several proposals for changing campaign finance laws, including closing the LLC loophole in campaign finance rules and banning corporate contributions. We generally support reforms to try to reduce corruption and the undue power of wealthy special interests in state's our politics. And while we are hopeful for making progress, there is reason to skeptical as to whether Cuomo will actually make any substantive steps to advance these. Governor Cuomo is one of the biggest beneficiaries of big money in politics and of the LLC loophole. In his political he has amassed tens of millions of dollars from corporations and special interest donors. Governor Cuomo has promised to seek similar kinds of changes in the past, but nothing came of them, and he continued to take money from corporate donations and through the LLC loophole.

Governor Cuomo has proposed expanding support for efforts to ensure the safety of our drinking water. Which is a sensible thing.

The governor has proposed measures to increase environmental cleanup efforts, increase environmental restrictions, and undertake what he terms a Green New Deal (which would be a program to develop renewable energy, with a stated goal of trying to reach 100% renewable energy electricity by 2040).

The Prohibition Party of New York supports protecting the environment, as a necessary part of ensuring the health and prosperity of our society. We believe in pursuing a balanced program of environmental protection and green energy development, which worst wards better relation with the environment while meeting our economic and energy needs. The development of green energy presents an opportunity for our state to improve its economy and create jobs. Though, further information will be needed in order to evaluate the governor's proposals, see whether his plan would be the best course of action, or whether a different strategy of green energy development would work better.

Governor Cuomo proposes legalizing sports betting in the state of New York. That is a misguided idea. Gambling is a socially and economically destructive practice. The gambling industry creates no wealth in our economy. It creates no useful product or service. It instead siphons money from people, often those with lower incomes, for the profit of a few. The negative impacts of gambling cost our society and as a result produces a net reduction in wealth for our society. Our state should instead go in the opposite direction, and work towards removing the exiting gambling structures in our state.

Governor Cuomo proposes further investments in infrastructure programs in our state. Indeed, our state should work to revitalize its infrastructure. And we should work to do so in a manner that is cost effective and that broadly benefits the people of this state. At this point we would need more details in order to evaluate the governor proposed plan for infrastructure.

Governor Cuomo points out that there's an inequity in our state's system of funding schools. This is correct. Our state government systemically underfunds many of its schools; especially in lower income and upstate school districts. In the past, Governor Cuomo and the tat legislature have done little to address this. Hopefully they will take more substantive steps to address it this year.

Our state should also work to undertake curriculum and teaching reform, to improve the quality of education. To advance quality education, which develops knowledge, reason, character, good citizenship, and skills. The Prohibition Party of New York calls on the governor, state legislature, and the public at-large to join in working to establish a system where all students are able to receive a decent quality education.

Governor Cuomo continues to tout his Excelsior program for college financial aid. A program which governor Cuomo has tended to misrepresent and exaggerate the impact of. He claims that it is the first free tuition college program, when it is not the first. And while this program had helped provide some additional financial aid, to some students, at some colleges, it has not benefited the average student. The Excelsior Program has been reported to provide aid to less an 2%.

Meanwhile, the state has neglected to take significant actions to expand TAP (the New York State Tuition Assistance Program), New York's main financial aid program and has helped the greatest number of students with affording college.

We offer a bolder vision for making college more affordable. Let's expand the state's TAP program in both the range of eligibility and the amount of aid provided. Let's expand aid to part time students. Let's expand job training programs. And let us work towards establishing a system where all students have a reasonable opportunity to a debt free education at any of our state's public an independent non-profit, colleges, universities, and vocational schools.

Governor Cuomo complains about high property taxes in New York State. Though he ignores the leading driver of high property taxes in the state. The state requires local government to pay for a significant portion of the state's budget, an as a result makes local government have to raise property taxes. The state needs to restructure its financing so that the state government takes more responsibility for paying for its own expenses and reduce the burden it places on local governments. That would allow local government to be able to significantly reduce property taxes.

The Governor has proposed passing laws requiring the labeling of products that contain known carcinogens and other toxic substances. This should be done, and we should make sure that it includes the labeling of alcohol, which is a known group one carcinogen.

The Governor proposes increasing restrictions on tobacco by raising the age to purchase tobacco to 21, banning flavored E-Cigarettes, banning the sale of tobacco in pharmacies. These would be welcome steps to help address the problem of tobacco.

The governor has proposed additional funding to combat the opioid crises. Indeed, more should be done to combat the opioid crises. Though more should combat alcohol, tobacco, and other drug problems as well. We should increase support for prevention efforts, education, and rehabilitory services.

Governor Cuomo claims concern over the lives of the young in our state, but his actual proposals are inconsistent on this. Some proposals have supported protecting the lives and wellbeing of our youth, while others openly endorsed things that are destructive towards their lives and wellbeing. If only the governor were willing to stand on a platform that was consistently in favor of life and wellbeing.

The governor proposes increasing support for our state's parks and historic heritage sites. That is a sensible move for helping to develop tourism in a healthy manner. But unfortunately, not all of his tourism proposals are like that.

Governor Cuomo boasts about the increase in breweries and wineries in the state. He ignores the damaging effect that alcohol has on people and society, and how support or growing the alcohol has damaged the health,

safety, and wellbeing of New Yorkers. He falsely claims that this has helped the economy, when in reality the state loses over four times as much money from the damages caused by alcohol than it gets from its business. He boasts about the role that the Taste New York program has done to promote the alcohol industry. He outright lies by claiming that their products are healthy. Alcohol is a toxic substance, that kills thousands of New Yorker's each year, contributes to over 200 types of injury and illness (including rain damage, organ failure, and several forms of cancer), and produces high rates of addiction. The alcohol problem in our state is larger than the opioid crisis. His statement is outright dishonest, immoral, and shows an utter indifference for the lives and wellbeing of the people of this state. If Governor Cuomo has even the slightest ethical integrity, he will admit to lying to people of New York, admit to supporting the alcohol industry at the expense of the people of this state, and stop using the state to support the alcohol industry.

The Governor proposes additional support for anti-gang operations, violence prevention efforts, and school-based supports. Indeed, we should take stronger efforts to combat organized crime and work to reduce violent crime.

The Governor has proposed several changes to state ethics laws, including enacting a code of conduct for lobbyists to discourage self-dealing and revolving door practices, expanding lobbying report requirements, banning political consultant from acting as lobbyists to people they helped elect and banning lobbyists from becoming consultants t people that they lobby, expanding the minimal amount of time from former elected officials and policy makers from becoming lobbyists to 5 years, and requiring lobbyists to disclose conflicts of interest, requiring lobbyists to report campaign donations, increasing penalties for lobbyists who violate disclosure requirements, passing a FOIL law covering the state's executive and legislative branches. These would be welcome changes.

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.

End state support for the alcohol industry in all forms. 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.

Have the state seriously address alcohol as a social and public health problem. That includes expanding prevention and education

efforts (including the promotion of teetotalism), expanding support for reformatory efforts and rehabilitation treatment, holding the alcohol industry legally liable for the damage caused by its products, increasing restrictions on the alcohol industry, and working towards the eventual abolition of the alcohol industry.

Likewise, expand efforts to combat tobacco, other intoxicating drugs, and gambling. With such efforts including stronger education, prevention, reformatory, and rehabilitation efforts, and stronger restrictions.

Enact stronger state ethics laws and increase anti-corruption efforts.

Pass the Child Victims Act and work to abolish the statute of limitations for rape, sexual assault, and the sexual abuse of children.

Pass Britany's Law

Reform the state's economic development efforts, to embrace an effective holistic approach to economic development.

Reform the state's fiscal system, to have the state take greater responsibility for its expenses and reduce the burden of property taxes.

Take further actions to protect the environment and advance renewable energy.

Reform our education system to improve the quality of education and ensure adequate funding for all schools.

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.

Work to promote equal rights and opportunity in the state.

Work to expand opportunity and improve services for those in the state living with disabilities.

Work to improve voter participation and improve the state's ballot access laws.

And in general work to improve the condition of our state.

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." Let us work to truly advance justice and progress in our state.