

Prohibition Party of New York Statement Calling for the Resignation of Governor Andrew Cuomo

There comes a time when the actions of an elected official so significantly compromise their integrity and so greatly violate their duties, as to render them unfit for continuing their office. For years, the people of our state have borne witness to the misdeeds of our sitting governor, Andrew Cuomo, as he failed to uphold the ethical responsibilities of a public servant, violated the principles he was supposed to uphold, and took actions destructive towards the lives and wellbeing of the people of this state.

Governor Andrew Cuomo abused the power of his office to promote the growth of the alcohol industry. He did so, despite the fact that alcohol is a toxic substance, which causes widespread illness and injury, kills thousands of New Yorkers each year, contributes to a variety of crimes and social ills, and causes widespread social, medical, and economic damages. In doing so, Cuomo acted to make the problem of alcohol in the state worse. He abandoned his responsibility to protect the lives and vital wellbeing of New Yorkers, and instead acted to harm those he was supposed to serve. He put the greed of the alcohol companies above the interests of the public. Furthermore, he has continued to put corporate greed above public health, by attempting to legalize the commercial sale of even more drugs.

Governor Cuomo presided over a period of significant corruption within state government and mismanagement of economic development programs. This corruption involved some of the highest-ranking figures in state government and some of Governor Cuomo's closest associates. After Governor Cuomo shut down a state commission investigating corruption, federal investigations resulted in the conviction of multiple state officials. Even after these revelations, Governor Cuomo failed to take sufficient actions to reform state programs to discourage future acts of corruption.

Governor Cuomo abused his power to undermine the democratic processes of our state and suppress political opponents. Last year, Governor Cuomo and his co-conspirators in the state legislature such provisions in the state budget to rewrite the state's ballot access laws. They rewrote the state's ballot access laws in order to vastly increase the number of signatures needed to place independent and minor party candidates on the ballot for statewide offices and vastly increased the requirements for a party to get and retain statewide ballot access. These changes to ballot access laws are a blatantly anti-democratic effort to block minor party and independent candidates from the ballot and to deprive voters of many of their existing options on the ballot. These changes have already resulted in four parties having their statewide ballot access unjustly revoked. Governor Cuomo and his coconspirators in the state legislature acted to weaken our state's democratic system and in order to advance their own

political power. Governor Cuomo has shown that he has a fundamentally anti-democratic attitude towards our state's elections and voters.

In more recent times, we have seen the revelations of how Cuomo's administration reportedly altered the presentation of state data to underreport the number of nursing home deaths from the coronavirus. Reports have indicated the Cuomo administration had intentionally hidden information to avoid public criticism and a potential federal investigation. This revelation has resulted in investigations from the State Attorney general, the FBI, and Federal prosecutors.

We have seen allegations of professional misconduct and misbehavior by Governor Cuomo. Several women have come forward to publicly accuse Governor Andrew Cuomo of sexual harassment. The Attorney General is opening an investigation of these accusations. In addition, numerous others have reported that the Governor has fostered a toxic professional environment within his administration and has on numerous occasions bullied and threatened other officials.

The actions that Governor Cuomo has engaged in over his years as governor have shown that he has failed his ethical duties as a public servant. He has taken actions that have been detrimental to the lives and wellbeing of New Yorkers, has favored the interest of his corporate backers over the health and safety of New Yorkers, has allowed corruption to take place in his administration, has undermined our states democratic system, has placed the interests of his political career above his responsibilities to the public. He now stands accused of personal and professional misconduct which is at best grossly unprofessional and at worst criminal.

This has led to the conclusion that Governor Andrew Cuomo is unfit to serve the state as governor. As such we call on Governor Andrew Cuomo to resign from his position as governor of New York. We also call on state legislators and law enforcement to take appropriate actions to hold Governor Cuomo responsible for his actions.