

New York Prohibitionist



Think NY Vote Dry

January 2021

Volume 3 #1

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.

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world." Harriet Tubman

National Party News

Here is some of the latest news for the Prohibition Party

On January 28th, the party leadership had a conference call to discuss various matter including party finances, efforts to build up state-level party organization, working to run candidates for local offices, and advancing party messaging and recruitment efforts.

Phil Collins, who was the party's 2020 presidential candidate, is running for city council in Oshkosh, Wisconsin this year. On February 16th, there will be a non-partisan primary in which the six candidates with the highest number of votes will advance to a general election later in the year, where the three highest performing candidates will be elected to fill 3 seats on the city council.

If you are interested in getting more involved with the Prohibition Party or in running for local office as a prohibition party candidate for local office, you can email prohibitionists@gmail.com

Statement on the Violence in Washington D.C. by State Chairman Jonathan Makeley

Today we have seen outbreaks of violence in the U.S. Capitol, including a violent assault on the U.S. Capitol Building. Some extremist elements have resorted to using violence in a desperate attempt to disrupt the peaceful transfer of power in our federal government. Such actions go against the principles of our democratic republic and of our constitution. Our nation is supposed to resolve political disputes peacefully through discourse, debate, and voting. As such, these acts of violence we have seen must be condemned.

Jonathan Makeley

January 6th, 2021

Study works to further debunk claims of alcohol heart benefits

For years the alcohol industry has tried to push dubious claims of alcohol use having benefits for heart health. These claims were based on exaggerating the implications of some questionable studies that found some correlation between some levels of alcohol use among some demographic groups to some heart health impacts. Subsequent studies have challenged and/or debunked claims made by those past studies. A recent study by Rosoff DB, Smith GD, Mehta N, et al (2020) has further worked towards debunking these claims. Not only did their study find no evidence of alcohol having any beneficial impact on heart health, but that found evidence alcohol actually increased some cardiovascular disease risk factors.

Source: https://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.1003410&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+plosmedicine%2FNewArticles+%28PLOS+Medicine+-+New+Articles%29

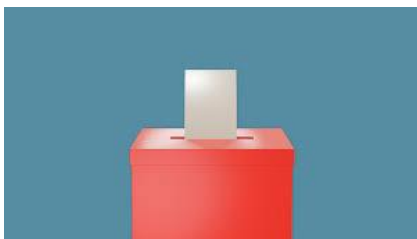


State Legislator Introduces Misguided Pro-Alcohol Industry Bill

We have seen another misguided attempt by a legislator to help the alcohol industry. State Senator James Skoufis has introduced Bill S3808, which would limit delivery fees for alcohol wholesalers selling to alcohol purchasers. Senator Skoufis has done this with the stated intent of helping taverns and restaurants selling alcohol. Now as we have often stated, alcohol is a toxic substance, which kills thousands of New Yorkers every year, causes a wide variety of illnesses and injuries (including brain damage organ failure, and several types of cancer), and costs our state over 16 billion dollars a year in social, medical, and economic damages. Supporting the alcohol industry doesn't help the economy or small businesses, it hurts them. Expanding alcohol sales makes our state sicker and poorer, while driving up taxes on the average New Yorker to help pay for the damages. The bill is currently in the state senate committee on Investigations and Government Operations. It currently has no co-sponsors.

Hopefully the bill will stay that way and never passes the committee. Legislators should be working to address alcohol as a public health problem and look to helping honest businesses, not aiding an industry whose products sicken people and make them more susceptible to the coronavirus.

Sources: https://nystateofpolitics.com/state-of-politics/new-york/ny-state-of-politics/2021/01/04/bill-would-give-restaurants-bars-alcohol-free-relief/?cid=id-ago15_m-share-1-web-omp-app-launch-august2020_c-producer_posts_po-organic
<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/s3808>
https://nysassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=503808&term=2021&Summary=Y&Action=Y&Committee%26nbspVotes=Y&Floor%26nbspVotes=Y



Ranked Choice Voting in NYC Elections

This year, New York City will begin using rank choice voting for some city elections. Rank choice voting will be used for primary elections and special elections for offices including Mayor, City Council, City Comptroller, Public Advocate, and Borough Presidents.

Rank Choice Voting differs from the style of selection that is commonly used in many elections in the U.S.. Our elections often have it where voters select a single person to vote in favor of for each office being voted on and whichever candidate receives a plurality of the vote wins the office. With rank choice voting, voters instead rank candidates in order of preference (selecting their first choice for the position, their second choice et cetera) and a candidate wins when they have won more than 50% of the vote. The vote count will start by counting how first choice votes that each candidate received. If one candidate received over 50% then they win the vote. If no candidate gets over 50% of the vote in the initial count then the candidate with the least votes is eliminated and the ballots that had them as the first choice will then go to their next highest ranked choice. This process continues until a candidate has gotten over 50% of the vote.

For these elections in New York City, voters will be able to rank their 5 top choices of candidates for a position. Voters will be able to cast write-in votes and select where it ranks among their top 5 choices. This voting system will be used in the upcoming mayoral primaries in June.

This system could have some benefits for third party candidates in special elections. The Democratic and Republican Parties tend to discourage voters from voting for third party candidates. One of their common strategies for doing this is to claim that third party candidates “spoil” the election, and that a voter voting for a third-party candidate they actually like or

think is best qualified for the position would hurt the major party candidate they dislike less and help the major party candidate they dislike most. Now in reality the dynamics of voting and elections are actually more complex than this. As there are plenty of cases where voting for a third-party candidate does not result in changing the result towards the major party candidate the voter most dislikes. And regardless of which major party candidate wins a particular election, a vote for a third-party candidate can help to elevate the presence of the issues that the voter cares about in political discourse and may effect changes in the political environment in the future. But the major parties continue to use the spoiler argument to try to pressure voters to not vote for third party candidates. Rank Choice Voting helps to nullify this issue. Voting for a third party candidate as one’s first choice would not detract from the prospects of any major party candidate. Let’s say a voter were to vote for a third party candidate they like best as their first choice and a major party candidate they found acceptable as their first choice. If third party candidate doesn’t get enough votes and is eliminated, then their vote would go their second choice. If voters were assured that their vote for their most preferred candidate would not affect the chances of an acceptable, but less preferred candidate, from winning, then voters might be more willing to vote for third party candidates, and if enough people cast their higher ranked choices for a third party candidate that candidate could win election.

It will take time to see how the introduction of rank choice voting for certain elections will affect the political environment in New York City.

Source: <https://www.ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/politics/2021/01/23/nyc-elections-2021-whos-running-ranked-choice-voting-how-does-it-work-what-is-it?fbclid=IwAR1EWLymHsFLzKvCOW4D3On-xT7qoN3kTckZVnBNUIJDKQY-0Y1bFLOUz>



Alcohol Estimated to Cause Roughly 5% of Cancer Cases in U.S.

As we have known for decades, alcohol use is a direct cause of cancer. Alcohol is known to be a direct cause of several different types of cancer and associated with various other forms of cancer. Researchers have reported that in the period 2013 to 2016 alcohol use accounted for 4.8% of all cancer cases in the United States and that deaths from alcohol induced cancers constituted 3.2% of total cancer deaths in the U.S.

Sources: https://drugfree.org/drug-and-alcohol-news/alcohol-accounts-for-5-of-cancer-cases-in-u-s/?utm_source=pns&fbclid=IwAR2kHPHs4UogcDtiRoufKdal3e9VsNy3D8nkgINZ6OmZGmwhAhi6jUq

<https://consumer.healthday.com/b-1-20-alcohol-plays-role-in-u-s-cancer-cases-deaths-report-2650025051.html>

Health Experts Warn Against Drinking Alcohol When Getting the Coronavirus Vaccine

Health experts are warning against using alcohol before and after getting the coronavirus vaccine. As we have reported before, alcohol use is known to weaken the immune system and may make users more susceptible to the coronavirus. As reported by the Huffington Post, scientists have found that drinking alcohol reduces the presence of white lymphocyte cells, which are key for the body’s ability to fight off viruses. Figures such as Russian vaccine developer Alexander Gintsburg and UK medical researcher Tony Rao have suggested that people should abstain from alcohol for at least a few days before and a few days after receiving a coronavirus vaccine. Russian health official Anna Popova suggested that users should avoid drinking two weeks before getting a vaccine and up 42 days after.

Source: https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/alcohol-and-the-covid-vaccine_uk_5f2dd3c5b6ec8ae0b40835?utm_campaign=share_facebook&ncid=engmodushpmg00000003&fbclid=IwAR3Lz677NXUMuqVCNvo6Z3UPzUgF1Uvld-KtcJ_9dErGJxmFbC2Y79-f_bU



Cuomo Effectively Vetoes Broadband Internet Access Bill

Governor Andrew Cuomo has blocked the passage of the Comprehensive Broadband Connectivity Act. Last summer, the state legislature passed the Comprehensive Broadband Connectivity Act. The act would have Public Service Commission with studying the availability, affordability and reliability of high-speed internet in throughout the state and to provide a report and detailed map within a year. This report could have helped to identify areas of improvement for the state to expand internet access. The Governor had until January 30th to sign the bill in order for it to become law. Since the governor didn't act to sign it, he in effect blocked its passage without formally vetoing it. His failure to sign the bill has attracted criticism from various legislators. An advisor for the governor claimed that the governor didn't sign the bill because the spending for the study wasn't included in last year's budget. Though it couldn't have been included in the budget since the bill was passed months after the 2020 budget was done.

Source: https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2021/02/02/nv-broadband-internet-bill-vetoed-after-andrew-cuomo-declines-act/4346039001/71bdcid=IwAR3VfKt1Pmim2a2b8Vj5p6GUNyF1_55C2Cz3WWVTVWtLoKqslReQdQ

Redistricting Amendment Heading to Statewide Vote in November

This November, New Yorkers will be voting on a proposed state amendment to the state constitution regarding the process for the redistricting of congressional and state legislative districts. For the second year, the state legislature voted in favor of the proposed constitutional amendment and according to the state's constitutional process, the proposed amendment will be voted in a statewide referendum to determine whether it will be pass or be denied.

The proposed amendment would change the process for drawing new state legislative and congressional districts. Under the current system, New York's Independent Redistricting Commission consists of 10 members: 2 appointed by the head of the state senate, 2 appointed by the Speaker of the State Assembly, 2 appointed by the minority leader of the state senate, 2 appointed by the minority leader of the state assembly, and 2 people selected by other the members of the

commission, who are not members of the two largest parties in the state legislature. Redistricting plans designed by the commission need be approved by the votes of at least 2/3rds of the state senate and two-thirds of the state assembly. The amendment would change the operation of the commission so that members of the commission selected by legislative leaders would no longer have the ability to veto plans and that it would only need 60% to pass a redistricting plan in the legislature.

Proponents of these changes claim that they will make it easier for the commission to produce plans and reduce the likelihood that the redistricting process would be disrupted. Opponents of the changes contend that these changes would make it easier for the Democratic Party (which currently holds over 60% of the seats in the states senate and assembly) to pass plans favorable to them and make it harder for those in the legislative minority to object to the details of redistricting plans. Jennifer Wilson, Deputy Director of the League of Women Voters of New York State, complained that the proposed amendment was rushed through the state legislature without public input and without giving time for civic organizations to hold meetings regarding the proposed amendment.

Whether or not this proposed amendment will be passed will be decided by voters this November.

Sources: https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/politics/2021/01/22/redistricting-amendment-now-headed-to-voters-in-november?cid=apd15_m-share_s-web_omp_app_launch_medium=2020_c-produser_posts_no-organic
<https://www.nyestate.gov/legislation/bills/LEG/28>
[https://ballotpedia.org/New_York_Redistricting_Commission_Amendment_Proposal_1_\(2014\)](https://ballotpedia.org/New_York_Redistricting_Commission_Amendment_Proposal_1_(2014))
<https://www.nyestate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/5515>

State Legislators Propose Ban on the Use of Pepper Spray by Officers on Children

State Senator Samra Brouk (District 55) and State Assemblymember Desmond Meeks (District 137) have proposed a bill to ban the use of chemical agents, including pepper spray and tear gas, against children under the age of 18. This bill was inspired after a recent incident in the city of Rochester, where a 9-year-old girl was handcuffed and pepper-sprayed by police. The officers have suspended, while an investigation of the incident is being conducted.

Sources: https://www.wjlb.com/news/state-legislators-propose-ban-on-chemical-agents-against-minors-by-police-officers/?utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=socialflow&utm_source=facebook.com&fbclid=IwAR3bzWsgIvEsJD2-KTChgzhK7PvIB8ukmDaAwYBQeOvRxtMDWwWw
<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/news/local-news/9-year-old-pepper-sprayed-why-wasnt-the-new-person-in-crisis-team-called/>

"Either the United States will destroy ignorance or ignorance will destroy the United States." W.E.B. DuBois

The Sobering Truth: Report on World Governments and the Alcohol Industry

The organization Vital Strategies has released a new report titled The Sobering Truth: Incentivizing Alcohol Death and Disability. While alcohol is a toxic substance, which kills 3 million people a year worldwide, causes a wide variety of illnesses, and causes vast social damages, various governments have not only failed to seriously address this problem, but have instead enacted perverse incentives aimed at supporting the growth of the alcohol industry. This report looks at the pro-alcohol industry incentives that have been established in various countries and the ways in which the alcohol industry interferes with efforts to establish policies aimed at reducing alcohol consumption. It then provided a list of recommendations for how to strengthen health systems against the harmful use of alcohol.

Here are some highlights from the report:

"Economists have a term for payments to industries that produce products that are harmful to health: "perverse incentives." An economic tool is said to be "perverse" when the result goes against the fundamental interests of the payer—in the case of this report, governments. When governments incentivize tobacco, alcohol, fossil fuels, and foods high in sugar and salt, they impose an economic and social burden on themselves because these products strain health systems, harm people, and exert an unnecessary cost on societies."

"Harmful alcohol consumption is a major public health concern worldwide. Globally, alcohol use is the largest risk factor for years of life lost for people between 15 and 49 years old.^{1,2} Each year, more than 3 million people die as a result of the harmful use of alcohol.¹ Alcohol use is linked to noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), including cancers, cardiovascular diseases and liver diseases, and it can also harm mental health and exacerbate infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, pneumonia and COVID-19."

“Alcohol consumption affects a range of health, social and economic factors, including lost productivity, road injury and death, crime, and violence in the form of homicides, suicides and abuse of women and children.⁷ The cost of alcohol consumption to society is estimated to be more than 1% of the gross domestic product (GDP) in high- and middle-income countries.¹ For instance, in the United States alone, alcohol consumption costs \$249 billion a year in health care and other social costs.”

“The alcohol industry has shifted its attention from high-income countries, with increasingly stringent regulations on alcohol, and focused its expansion on low- and middle-income countries. It does so through: political activities, such as lobbying and making donations and campaign contributions; policy substitution and litigation that weaken existing alcohol policies; and through expensive marketing efforts that glamorize and promote alcohol use.”

“The alcohol industry benefits from a range of incentives that are either unique to the industry—known as discriminatory incentives—or made available to corporations in general, known as non-discriminatory incentives. While both should ultimately be scrutinized, discriminatory incentives are particularly concerning because they are designed to specifically benefit this industry.”

The report states types of incentives can include special tax breaks, tax rebates, and tax deductions, as well as government subsidies and money given by the government to alcohol companies in the name of economic development.

The reports states that despite many countries in Central Eastern Europe facing significant alcohol pandemics, due to “high levels of alcohol consumption, pervasive binge drinking, high levels of disease attributable to alcohol, and weak alcohol policy”, that the European Bank for Reconstruction and Investment has invested 422 million dollars in constructing breweries in Central European, Eastern European, and Central Asian Countries. It also reports that the European Union sought to promote the rum industry through financial incentives and signing trade agreements with other countries to expand rum sales in those countries.

It was reported that Brazil gave substantial tax breaks to alcohol companies that were partners with the 2014 FIFA World Cup.

It reports that in the U.S., the federal government gives significant tax breaks to alcohol advertising. It was found that 2017, that in 2017 alone, the top 10 alcohol companies received \$1.5 billion in tax breaks on alcohol advertising. It was reported that the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico gave give hundreds of millions of dollars in tax rebates to alcohol companies in order to encourage their business in the territories, despite heavy rates of binge drinking in both territories.

It was reported that from 2017-2020, that a set of massive tax cuts for alcohol companies saved alcohol companies 5.4 billion dollars, resulted in increased alcohol consumption, and increased deaths from alcohol by 1,500 a year.

It was reported that various African governments have been subsidizing efforts to expand the production of beer in their countries. In addition, the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands, and the United States have been giving money to alcohol companies to help finance their efforts to expand in African countries.

It was reported that “Alcohol consumption has risen sharply in countries in South and Southeast Asia, and especially in India, with per capita consumption more than doubling from 2.4 liters in 2005 to 5.7 liters in 2016.” This was in large part credited to international efforts to weaken restrictions on alcohol sales in Asian countries. In 2009, SABMiller (an alcohol company from the United Kingdom) sued the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh to force them to change the minimum required procurement price of alcoholic beverages in the state. This resulted in significantly increased sales for the company. It was reported the government of the United Kingdom has been working with SAB Miller to try to make other countries weaken their restrictions on alcohol sales.

“Between 1995 and 2020, governments and development agencies provided significant financial incentives to the alcohol industry in countries across the world. Incentives are commonly disbursed from high-income countries to transnational alcohol corporations producing and selling in low- and middle-

income countries. Most of the incentives come from the European Union, United Kingdom, and United States, and go to countries in Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, and the Caribbean.”

“Incentives to the alcohol industry are often justified as economic benefits to the countries, to advance economic development, create jobs, or produce much needed tax revenue. But there is a direct conflict of interest between the economic objectives of incentives to the industry and public health objectives.”

“Taxpayer-funded support for the expansion of the alcohol industry creates a triple burden for countries—lost revenue, increased alcohol consumption, and overwhelmed public health systems, particularly in low- and middle-income countries with lower health protections and higher alcohol-attributable deaths.”

The report provided the following recommendations for strengthening health systems against alcohol.

- Use fiscal policies to reduce availability of products that harm health and direct available finances to strengthen health systems. Reallocate savings or potential new revenue to enhance health budgets.

- Phase out incentives that can be harmful to health. Important lessons can be learned from tobacco control. For instance, governments can demand transparency on interactions between government staff and alcohol companies and restrict alcohol companies from receiving development aid.

- Track the adaptation of alcohol industry behavior and corporate actions during and after crises and shocks. Alcohol companies around the world are taking advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic for commercial gain, including partnering with governments, international organizations and health agencies.⁴⁶ Such interactions should not distract from public health objectives.

- Avoid alcohol industry interference. Governments and development agencies should steer clear of the conflict of interest that arises with alcohol industry engagement. From finance to trade to health departments, governments need to be consistent across policies that address alcohol.

- Monitor investments made to the alcohol industry through robust data collection and by tracking each investment's overall impact.
- Calculate the health cost of incentives provided to the alcohol industry. Incentives that promote economic development and job creation must be weighed against health and social costs. Countries should consider whether investments are health-positive or health-negative."

Source: <https://www.vitalstrategies.org/resources/the-sobering-truth-incentivizing-alcohol-death-and-disability/>



New State Laws That Took Effect at the Beginning of 2020

At the beginning of the year, various new state laws took effect and some laws will take effect early in this year. Here is a list of some the notable new laws.

- The minimum wage in most parts of the state outside of New York City increased to \$12.50 an hour, and the minimum wage increased to \$14.00 an hour in Long Island and Westchester County.
- Eligible employees will now be eligible for up to 12 weeks paid family leave.
- Participants in the resident-commercial urban exemption program under the Section 485 property tax exemption will now be required to get yearly recertification to ensure they are in compliance with program requirements.
- Stretch limousines are now required to have two safety belts in the front seat and one safety belt in the back for each passenger.
- The state's thruway tolls at most NY EZpass sites was increased by 15%.
- A new election law establishes that a recount of elections will take place if the margin of victory is less than 20 votes, is 0.5% or less, or the margin of victory in an election with 1 million or more votes is less than 5,000 votes.
- People born after January 1st, 1988 are now required to take a boating safety class before getting a boating license.
- Beginning on February 15th, intended parents of children born through third-party reproduction (such as sperm and egg donation or surrogacy) will have full parental rights and obligations for their children.
- Beginning on February 9th, companies are required to notify customers at least 15 days in advance before automatically renewing service contracts.
- The state has capped the out of pocket price of insulin to \$100 for a 30-day supply for those with insurance.

Source: https://www.rochesterfirst.com/new-york-state/ny-laws-that-will-take-effect-beginning-in-2021/?fbclid=IwAR0iatX-FtTF07Nyfk8YbRNGVDWLVGpc05xYtqHwKtmE_wZVJe2syNV6y8

Prohibition Party of New York Response to Governor Andrew Cuomo's 2021 State of the State Address

January 13, 2021

On January 11th, 2020, Governor Andrew Cuomo delivered his annual state of the state address, laying forth his own understanding of the condition of the state, and his proposals of what he would like to see in the coming year. In the interest of advancing a productive discourse as to the condition and future of the state of New York, we 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 devoted much of the beginning of his speech to the coronavirus outbreak, its impact on the state, and the effort to advance vaccination efforts in the state. Governor Cuomo spoke of the federal government's shortcomings in responding to the virus and how they exacerbated the problem. And while it is the case that failed aspects of the federal government's response contributed to the severity of the coronavirus's impact on the state, that the failings of the state government's response also played a role in exacerbating the problem. Governor Cuomo claims that the state was blindsided by the coronavirus despite weeks of media reporting and health figures warning that it was coming. The Governor neglects to mention his initial

hesitance in enacting statewide social distancing measures, which squandered the state's opportunities to curb the spread of the virus early on. That state policies requiring nursing homes to take in patients with coronavirus ended up contributing to the spread of the virus among vulnerable populations and resulted in increased deaths. The Governor neglected to mention that he sought to push for cuts to state Medicaid funding in the middle of a pandemic, even when it endangered the state's eligibility for receiving certain federal aid for dealing with the coronavirus.

He neglected to mention that the state government made the state's incompetent decisions to designate liquor stores as essential businesses and to weaken measures against the sale of alcohol in the name of helping bars and restaurants. This was done despite the fact that alcohol makes users more susceptible to the coronavirus, that injuries and illnesses caused by alcohol use take up a significant portion of hospital beds (thus reducing hospital bed capacity for dealing with coronavirus patients and other patients), and warning from health officials about the risk of increased drinking during the coronavirus. Their alcohol friendly policies helped to fuel increased drinking among segments of the state's population, resulting in increases in alcohol-induced illness, injury, and death, as well as helping to fuel a rise in domestic violence in the state. And even as the state was seeing increases in problems with alcohol and other drugs, which were exacerbating the state's overall, health crisis and leading to increased deaths, Cuomo made significant cuts to addiction treatment and prevention programs.

The Governor neglected to mention how he abused the situation with the coronavirus pandemic and the 2020 budget to pressure the state legislature into granting him an almost unilateral power to make cuts to the state budget and to pass anti-democratic changes to the state's ballot access law. While federal officials should be recognized for their shortcomings in dealing with coronavirus, state officials should as well.

More recently, our nation has begun the process of working to vaccinate against the coronavirus. The governor recognized that the state and country

have not been making as much progress in distributing the vaccine as initially hoped. The governor mentioned some efforts that the state would undertake to try to increase the rate of vaccination. Time will tell how effective these efforts will be.

Governor Cuomo made mention of how the state government faces a 15-billion-dollar deficit, in large part due to the economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic and exacerbated by a lack of aid to state and local governments by the federal government for dealing with the impacts of the pandemic. The governor correctly noted that the state's financial future is in large part dependent on whether and to what extent congress and the coming Biden administration work to provide aid to state and local governments for dealing with the coronavirus. The governor mentions that the state may face significant cuts to important programs and significant increases in taxes to deal with these fiscal problems. But rather than proposing sensible measures that the state could take to help resolve its fiscal problems, the governor used this situation to push for regressive policy changes in the name of generating revenue.

The governor proposed legalizing the sale of recreational marijuana in the state and legalizing online sports gambling in the state, based on dubious claims that such things could raise revenue for the state. He also tried to justify legalizing marijuana based on a false narrative that it would somehow advance social justice and aid minority communities.

Cuomo's proposal to legalize recreational marijuana sales would be a step backward for public health and consumer protection. He overlooks the negative impacts that recreational marijuana can have on users' physical and mental health, as well as the costs that dealing with the problems involved with marijuana have on society. Companies should not be allowed to sell harmful products to the public. The state would end up losing more money dealing with the social, medical, and economic damages caused by legal marijuana sales than it would generate in revenue. As we have seen in states like Colorado. We have seen time and again that pro-marijuana advocates vastly exaggerate their estimates of the revenue that it would bring in, and that the states that

legalized it ended up seeing far less revenue than it was claimed they would get. His proposal would not help communities. His proposal would lead to vulnerable communities being exploited by the very type of corporate interests that have been lining his pockets. We have already seen in various states that made the mistake of legalizing marijuana, that the marijuana industry disproportionately targets poor and minority communities for their own profit.

The Cuomo states that laws against marijuana left communities of color over-policed and over-incarcerated. This narrative portrays a lack of understanding of both the present conditions and history of our nation's law enforcement system. While our nation's law enforcement system has worked to enforce our laws, promote justice, and to provide protection to the public, it has not always lived up to its ideals, and we have seen instances or inequalities in law enforcement. This is not something that is particular to the enforcement of laws against marijuana. Rather we have seen African Americans and people of color disproportionately arrested and sentenced for a variety of offenses. This is because these inequalities are rooted in more systemic issues and not any singular law or policy. Legalizing the sale of marijuana would do nothing to address these underlying systemic issues. Not only that, but his proposal may actually end up reinforcing these inequalities while pretending to address them. Our state needs reforms that would actually improve policing. Our state needs actual justice for our society, not an underhanded attempt to line the pockets of greedy corporations.

Cuomo's proposal to legalize sports betting is misguided and economically irresponsible. The gambling industry does not help the economy. It does nothing to add to the wealth of a society and instead siphons away money from productive sources. The gambling industry exploits poorer communities and contributes to a variety of social ills, whose costs weaken and shrink the economy. His proposal would ultimately make New York poorer in the long run.

Governor Cuomo's main proposals for raising revenue are built on opening the door for companies to exploit and harm New Yorkers for profit. His proposals are

both unethical and economically irresponsible. As such, we would call on the legislature to reject his proposals and instead pursue sensible and responsible measures to deal with the state's fiscal crisis.

Governor Cuomo made mention of the need to expand broadband internet in the state. Indeed, our state needs to make stronger efforts to improve its broadband internet infrastructure and access, especially in light of the expanded need for it following the pandemic.

Governor Cuomo mentioned that developing green energy presents the state with opportunities to create jobs and foster long-term industry. Indeed, green energy is important to securing long-term sustainable sources of energy for the state, and if New York can do well in fostering its development within the state it could help to bolster the state's economy. The Governor has stated that he intends to have the state further advance its green energy development in the coming year. Time will tell as to how the state would attempt to implement these aims, to what extent they will be successful, and whether they can advance these efforts in a manner that accounts for present needs and future opportunities.

Governor Cuomo has proposed having the state pass a law that would prohibit the disconnecting of utilities for residential homes in areas under a state of emergency. This idea warrants consideration and the details of such a bill should be looked into.

Governor Cuomo made a number of proposals related to the state's medical systems. One proposal was to expand telehealth services in the state, including expanding access to telehealth services for substance abuse and mental health treatment. Hopefully, this is done in a way that helps to better improve access to such healthcare. Another proposal included creating a program to educate members of the public on how to deal with public health crises. Indeed, our state could benefit from expanded public awareness of health issues. Though an important question would be whether such efforts will only include education pathogenic diseases, or whether it will give attention to the other crises we face (such as the public health problems of

alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, mental illness, and rising rates of suicide).

In his speeches and proposals regarding election issues, Governor Cuomo further displayed his hypocrisy regarding issues of democracy. He has played up passing early voting measures in New York state, passing an automatic voter registration bill, and his efforts to try to establish no-excuse absentee voting. Yet, he fails to acknowledge the actions that he has taken against our democratic system of elections. Governor Cuomo and conspirators in the state legislature snuck changes to the state's ballot access laws in the state budget. 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 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. Governor Cuomo and his conspirators in the state legislature acted to weaken our state's democratic system and in order to advance their own political power. Governor Cuomo through his actions has shown his fundamentally anti-democratic attitude towards New Yorkers who affiliate with parties other than his own or who chose not to be affiliated with any party. If Governor Cuomo has any genuine care for our democratic system of elections then he should recognize his wrong-doing and work to repeal the anti-democratic ballot access law changes he helped to create.

More recently, the governor has called for changes including amending the state constitution to allow all voters to be able to request an absentee ballot for any reason, expanding the period to be able to request absentee ballots from 30 days before the election to 45 days, and establishing a shorter period for county officials to finish counting absentee ballots. These proposals should be evaluated based on their merits. Though we must also be vigilant against the governor attempting to silently make other changes in state election law aimed at blocking political competitors from participating in elections. He can not let

one step forward be accompanied by a large leap backward, as it was last year.

Governor Cuomo stated going forward would have to face whether it would move in a positive or negative direction, whether it would move forward or move backward. Indeed, each New Yorker will have to face what direction they will seek to move the state in, and through our cumulative actions, our state's future will be shaped. Whether our state will take stronger actions to address alcohol and other drugs as social and public health problems, or whether these problems will continue to fester. Whether our state will move towards greater protection of the lives and wellbeing of New Yorkers, or whether these protections would be eroded for the sake of capriciousness and greed. Whether we will move back towards strengthening our state's democratic system or whether we will see continued erosion. Whether or not we will better rise to the occasion of dealing with the coronavirus pandemic. Whether our state will take sensible actions to deal with our economic and fiscal challenges, or fall prey to the misguided and ineffectual plans of those who fail to see the big picture. Whether or not we will strengthen our healthcare system to meet the challenges we face. And whether or not we can make progress on any number of issues facing our state. While we wish we could say that we had a governor and state legislature that was strongly inclined to move our state forward in a positive direction, our actual governor and legislators have too often fallen short. That is why we need informed and engaged citizens to encourage our elected officials to do the right thing, to promote positive policies, to stand up to those who seek to profit at the expense of the public wellbeing, and to do what they can to help forge a better future for our state.

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

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

We must work to reduce the spread of the coronavirus, to improve our healthcare response to it, improve our

state's vaccination efforts, work to minimize death and serious injury from the virus, and work toward putting an end to this pandemic. Our state has faced viral outbreaks before and we can do so again.

We must work to rebuild our economy in a sensible way, that deals with the challenges imposed by the virus, meets the needs of New Yorkers, and supports honest productive businesses. An approach that does fall into misguided efforts to support greedy companies at the expense of the public wellbeing or promote social ills in the name of revenue. A growing tumor may expand its weight, but it will nothing to rejuvenate an emaciated body. We must adopt a holistic approach to economic growth. We can embrace opportunities for seeking positive economic growth. Whether that be through expanding our internet infrastructure to allow more New Yorkers to work from home and run businesses online, further developing our green energy industries, expanding education and job training opportunities, or various other efforts.

In this pandemic, we have seen increasing alcohol and drug abuse among segments of the population, a weak state response that failed to enact sensible restrictions on alcohol sales, and massive cuts to state support for addiction prevention treatment efforts when the need for such efforts has grown. We must work to reverse these trends. We must work to ensure that addiction prevention and treatment efforts have the support they need, to inform the public of the role that alcohol plays in exacerbating the coronavirus pandemic, to enact sensible restrictions on alcohol sales, and work to reduce the use of alcohol and other drugs.

We should 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.

We should 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, we should work to address tobacco and other harmful drugs as well. Our state has made some progress in increasing restrictions on tobacco sales in recent sales. Hopefully, we can continue to make progress in the coming years. Hopefully, we can also continue to guard against misguided elements who are attempting to legalize the sale of more types of drugs.

We should work to oppose Cuomo's misguided efforts to expand gambling in our state, and instead move our state away from gambling.

We must work to further advance the principles of equality, justice, and the protection of public wellbeing in our society. We should work to enact stronger state ethics laws and increase anticorruption efforts. We should work to improve our system of law enforcement so that it may better provide equal justice for all New Yorkers.

We must stand in defense of our state's electoral system. We must work to end the unconstitutional changes to our states ballot access laws, either may action in the legislature, or by striking them down in court.

Our state should work to take stronger actions to combat sexual predators. We should work towards abolishing the statute of limitations for rape and the sexual abuse of children. We must also take stronger actions to prevent and combat domestic violence by enacting measures such as passing Britany's law.

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

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

We should reform our education system to improve the quality of education and ensure adequate funding for all schools. We should expand TAP and other financial aid efforts, and work towards a system where all New Yorkers

have a reasonable opportunity to a debt-free education at any of the state's public and non-profit independent colleges, universities, and vocational schools.

We welcome those who wish to help build a better future for New York to join us in our effort to seek positive reforms for our state, and to stand for moral principle, public wellbeing, and progress, against the regressive forces of greed and permissivism, who seek to drag down our state for their own selfish gain. As William Jennings Bryan had said, "The humblest citizen of all the land, when clad in the armor of a righteous cause, is stronger than all the hosts of error." Let us work to build a better future for the people of New York state.

New York Prohibition Party History



John F. Vichert

John Frederick Vichert was a minister, educator, Prohibition Party politician, and 1932 Prohibition Party candidate for Governor of New York. John F. Vichert was on August 10th, 1874, in Ontario, Canada. His parents were of ethnic German ancestry. Vichert grew up in Canada. He married Nettie Douglas Wallace on September 20, 1899, and had two sons: Richard 1899 and Clarence 1902. He immigrated to the United States in 1904.

At some point before or after immigrating, Vichert became a Baptist minister. By 1907, he became the pastor of First Baptist Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana. While living in Fort Wayne, he preached, performed marriage

ceremonies, spoke at various religious meetings, participated in evangelical campaigns, and served on the executive committee of the Chapman-Alexander evangelistic campaign in Fort Wayne. He stayed in Fort Wayne until 1912

In 1912 Vichert moved to Providence, Rhode Island, where he became a pastor for another church. In 1913, he gave a prayer for the electors of Rhode Island in the electoral college vote. While he providence, Vichert got into teaching and also traveled to give speeches in places such as Brooklyn, New York.



THE REV. JOHN F. VICHERT.

By 1916, Vichert had become Dean of the Colgate Theological Seminary (which later became the Colgate Rochester Divinity School in 1928 and the Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in 1970) in Rochester, New York. He worked for the Colgate Rochester Divinity School until at least 1935. During this period, he spoke at various schools, churches, and conferences. In 1932, Vichert was working as a professor of practical theology and lived in Rochester, NY.

On October 4th, 1932, the New York Prohibition Party, which at the time was going by the name the Law Preservation Party, held its convention in Syracuse. The party selected John F. Vichert as its candidate for governor. Vichert was initially hesitant, but agreed to run. Vichert campaigned in favor of maintaining national prohibition, in opposition to legalizing beer in New York, and in favor of strong anti-alcohol policies in New York state.

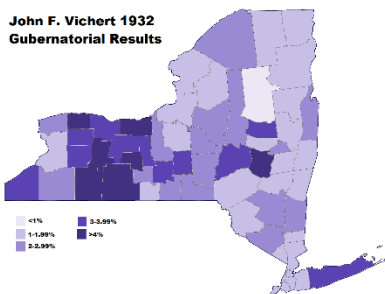
At a rally by the WTCU in Ontario County, he gave a speech in opposition to legalizing beer. Vichert ridiculed the notion that legalizing beer would bring in government revenue or reduce unemployment on any significant level. He contended that the increased police and court and poverty costs would overbalance the revenue from liquors and that while some may be employed by breweries that more jobs would be lost in other areas. He contended farmers are more than able to sell grain to dairy producers as opposed to brewers and that selling grain to dairy producers was more profitable for them. In his speech he stated:

“Alcohol, for which beer is drunk, is a habit forming poison. Its consumption increases danger on the road, and in the machine shop lessens the worker’s ability; takes food and clothing from wives and children, and is sure to make some drinkers drunkards.”

“Are you willing to take the risk of causing your children and friends to become miserable drunkards?”

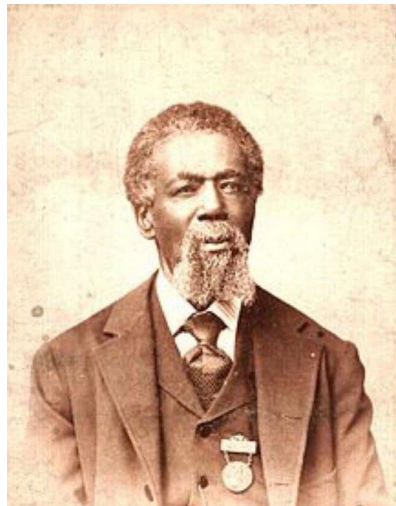
In the election, Vichert ran against Democratic candidate Herbert Lehman, Republican Candidate William J. Donovan, Socialist Party candidate Louis Waldman, Communist Party candidate Israel Amter, and Socialist Labor Party candidate Aaron M. Orange. Vichert received 83,452 votes (1.78% of the vote) and came in 4th place behind Lehman, Donovan, and Waldman.

John F. Vichert 1932
Gubernatorial Results



After the election, Vichert went on to give speeches in New York and other states. In 1933, Vichert was a Dry candidate for delegate to the New York convention on whether to ratify the 21st amendment. At some point between 1944 and 1945, Vichert moved to St. Petersburg, Florida. In 1947, Vichert served as a missionary in Western China. In 1948, Vichert died in Pinellas, Florida.

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Thomas Mundy Peterson

Thomas Mundy Peterson is regarded as the first African American to vote, following the passage of the 15th Amendment. He was the son of a former slave, and had made a living as a janitor in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. His first vote was cast as part of a referendum on changing Perth Amboy's city charter. He was an active member of the Prohibition Party and the Republican Party. He would also go on to be the first African American in the city to serve on a jury and got elected to the Middlesex County Commission. In 1884, members of the city honored him with a gold medallion of Abraham Lincoln. He lived until 1904.

Sources: <http://amsterdamnews.com/news/2020/jan/30/americas-first-black-voter/>
<https://twitter.com/Keytutiful/status/1224666290696212480>

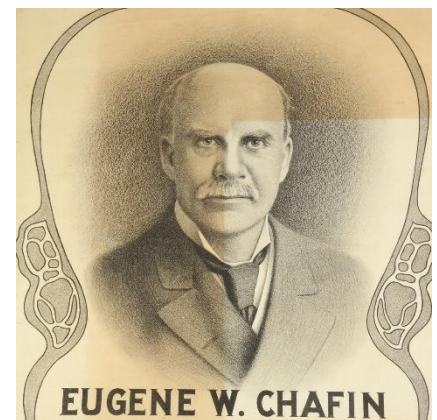


Chafin and Springfield

Here is a bit of history. On August 14-16, 1908, the city of Springfield, Illinois experienced the Springfield Race Riot. In which, an angry mob of racists rioted, went around attacking the city's African American population, killed 9 African-Americans, and destroyed part of the city. During this time, 1908 Prohibition Party presidential candidate Eugene Chaffin was in the city, delivering a speech at a campaign rally. During the event, an African American man fleeing members of the mob took refuge on the rally stage

with Chafin. Several dozen members of the mob showed up. Eugene Chafin stepped in front of the mob and stated that he would defend the man. Newspaper reports indicate that he said something along the lines, "I will shoot the first man who attempts to take this colored man", or "Stand back gentleman or I will shoot every one of you who touches this man". Despite not actually having a gun, he placed his hands in his pockets to try to trick the mob into thinking he did. A member of the mob then threw a brick at Chafin, hitting him in the head, and knocking him down. Chaffin's supporters, as well as the African American man who had sought refuge with them, then entered into a melee to fight off members of the mob. In the midst of this terrible event, Chaffin and others acted to protect the lives of people.

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“Prohibition, as viewed by Prohibitionists, with its relation to the solution of many other social and economic problems, with its economic outreaches, with its view of government as an agency for the promotion of the public good, provides an issue, a platform, a tendency and a new spirit in politics around which to build a party for the present crisis.” David Leigh Colvin

“The Prohibition Party was established as a moralist party, to advance prohibition and other social reforms to promote the public wellbeing. The party is not conservative, it is not liberal; it is prohibitionist.” Jonathan Makeley