

## Prohibition Party of New York Online Q&A Event

In order to help better inform people, the Prohibition Party of New York we held an online question and answer event. In the week of April 8<sup>th</sup> to April 14<sup>th</sup>, we gathered together a series of questions from people, and on April 19<sup>th</sup> we posted answers to them. The questions and answers have been placed in this document.

Anyone who would like to more information can feel free to email us at [newyorkprohibition@aol.com](mailto:newyorkprohibition@aol.com)

### Question and Answer Event

#### Questions and Answers

Q. What is the Prohibition Party? What is the Prohibition Party of New York? / What is your group?

A. The Prohibition Party is the oldest living third party political organization in the United States. We were founded in 1869, in order to establish prohibition laws and advance other policies to advance other reforms to improve our society. Our organization has helped to advance many important causes, including national prohibition, women's suffrage, and civil rights.

In recent years we have seen significant increases in membership and activism, and as we move forward we are working to build up our party's presence and influence.

The Prohibition Party of New York is the state level organization for the Prohibition party in the state of New York. We work to advance the Prohibition Party in the state and to promote positive policies to improve the condition of New York.

Q. What kind of Issues are you involved with?

A. The Prohibition Party is involved with a variety of issues. This includes things such promoting stronger laws against alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, encouraging states to establish systems of free college education, protecting the environment, opposition to gambling, and other such positions outlined in the party's 2016 national platform. In addition to these issues, the Prohibition Party of New York advocates on issues at the level based on our guiding principles. This includes things such as encouraging the passage of the Child Victims Act, supporting positive financial reforms to lower the burden of property taxes, and promoting stronger state ethics laws.

You can find the 2016 Platform on the Prohibition Party Website

<https://www.prohibitionparty.org/platform>

And the Prohibition Party of New York website has an on the issues section

<https://newyorkprohibition.wixsite.com/new-york-prohibition/issues>

Q. How would you find information on the Prohibition Party/ Prohibition Party of New York?

A. For the Prohibition Party nationally, you can check out the Prohibition Party Website <https://www.prohibitionparty.org/> or email [prohibitionists@hotmail.com](mailto:prohibitionists@hotmail.com) or email the party secretary at [bbayes51@gmail.com](mailto:bbayes51@gmail.com) or mail us at P.O. Box 11, McConnellsburg, PA 17238 or check us out on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/prohibition2k16/>

You can get news on the Prohibition Party by subscribing to the Party Newspaper, *The National Prohibitionist*. Subscriptions cost \$5/year, with checks made payable to Prohibition National Committee, and mailed to Box 212, Needmore, Pennsylvania 17268.

For the Prohibition Party of New York, you can check out our state party website <https://newyorkprohibition.wixsite.com/new-york-prohibition> or email the Prohibition Party of New York at [newyorkprohibition@aol.com](mailto:newyorkprohibition@aol.com) or check us out on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/New-York-Prohibition-Party-1864593657192574/> or check us out on twitter <https://twitter.com/nyprohibition>

We also have a monthly state party newsletter, which can be viewed on our website.

Q. How can you join?

A. You can join the Prohibition Party by emailing [prohibitionists@hotmail.com](mailto:prohibitionists@hotmail.com). Those who wish to be members in good standing can pay an annual \$10 membership dues, made payable to the Prohibition National Committee and sent to P.O. Box 11, McConnellsburg, PA 17238.

Those who would like to join the Prohibition Party of New York state group can email [newyorkprohibition@aol.com](mailto:newyorkprohibition@aol.com)

Q. When did the Prohibition Party return to New York?

A. We began to reestablish the state Prohibition Party organization in New York state following the Prohibition Party 2017 National Conference in June. The Prohibition Party of New York is currently in its early stages of organization building. We are working to expand our messaging in the state, recruit new members, and form connections with individuals and groups who we share common issues with.

Q. What about the history of national prohibition?

A. Unfortunately, many people believe the inaccurate myth that National Prohibition was a failure. But that myth does not match with the historical reality. National Prohibition achieved the largest reduction in drinking in our nation's history, it helped reduce many forms of crime that were fueled by alcohol use, in many areas of the country it was well enforced, and it helped many people improve their quality of life. The nation's overall crime rate decreased under national prohibition. And no, the mafia and organized crime did not arise under national prohibition. The mafia had already been a significant force in America for decades, before national prohibition ever happened.

National Prohibition may have come to an end, but it is possible for it to be one day be reestablished, and for it to attain clear and lasting success.

Q. Why should the state or nation legislate moral issues like prohibition?

A. The government exists to serve the people and protect their rights. This includes making laws and taking actions on matters which bear significance to the vital wellbeing of people. The Declaration of Independence declares that the government has a responsibility to protect the lives of its people, and the U.S. Constitution declares that part of the purpose of the government is to promote the general welfare. Our communities have been making laws to promote the public good since the earliest days of the republic. Just look at our policies today. Laws against murder and rape, public education, programs to help the poor, and many other things are acts of morality based legislation.

Q. Has the party fielded any candidates, or are there any races you're targeting in the future?

A. We aim to run candidates where we can. Nationally, we have candidates running for various local, state, and federal offices.

In New York, we currently have a candidate running for the 146<sup>th</sup> district of the State Assembly. You can view the Makeley for Assembly website through this link <https://mrhistory956.wixsite.com/makeley-for-new-york>

As we work to build up our membership and presence in New York, we aim run even more candidates in the future. We see plenty of opportunity in running candidates for various local offices in the state, such as town offices, village offices, and school boards (since the petitions to get on ballot will require relatively fewer signatures and it also affords the opportunity to build up grassroots support).

Q. What is the party's position on the recent state-backed boom of the craft beer, wine and cider industry?

A. We object to the state's support of the alcohol industry. We consider it unethical that the state is supporting an industry that causes such great harm to people in New York, and those politicians who have supported this have acted contrary to their duties as public servants. The growth of the alcohol industry is based on expanding drinking, which will increase the overall negative effects of alcohol use. This will not only harm individuals and the those around them, but create vast social, medical, and economic damages which will hurt society overall.

We contend that the state and public officials should stop supporting the alcohol industry. The state should instead promote teetotalism, expand prevention efforts, expand treatment for alcoholism and drug addiction, increase restrictions on the alcohol industry, make them pay taxes comparable to the costs of their damages, and work towards the eventual shut down of the alcohol industry. This would help improve the health and safety of New Yorkers and increase our prosperity from the wealth and human potential that would otherwise be lost.

Q. What about the economic and tax impact of the alcohol industry?

A. Contrary to what the alcohol industry claims, they do not help the economy overall. The effects of alcohol use cost our state over 16 billion dollars a year in damages. The damages caused by alcohol (numerous medical illnesses, lost productivity, increased crime, drunk driving, and numerous other ills) cause our economy to shrink. The alcohol industry siphons off money that would otherwise have been spend on other things and as such its growth produces no additional wealth for society. The government spends far more money dealing with the social, medical, and economic damages of alcohol than it ever gets from taxes on it. Thus, the government has to raise taxes on the rest of us to pay for the damages which the alcohol industry caused. Growing the alcohol industry actually means making our state sicker, poorer, and more highly taxed. Promoting temperance, reducing drinking, and dismantling the alcohol industry would make us more prosperous; both from the damages avoided and from utilizing human potential which would otherwise be squandered.