

New York Prohibitionist



Think NY Vote Dry

June 2020

Volume 3 #6

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.

"We need a growth in our moral imagination" Anna Deaver Smith

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State Party News

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

This month, we started an initiative to help spread awareness about how alcohol use makes users more susceptible to the coronavirus. We have sent numerous messages across social media to help inform people. The state chairman released a statement calling on county boards of health and local health groups to engage in efforts to inform the public that alcohol use makes users more susceptible to the coronavirus. The state party sent messages to many county health departments and local health groups. Some organization have been receptive to us. For instance, the Drug Free Community Coalition of Chemung County asked for us to provide them with some information on the issue.

On June 4th, State Chairman Makeley participated an online meeting, hosted by Upstate Venture Connect, on how to advance the economy in Upstate New York as we recover from the coronavirus outbreak.

We continue with our legislative efforts to promote the passage of bills that would benefit the public and to oppose will that would be harmful to the people of our state. There are elements which are currently trying to weaken state restrictions on alcohol sales in order to help the alcohol industry. During the coronavirus outbreak, the state government made the poor decision to allow companies that sell alcohol for on premise consumption (such as bars) to sell alcohol by delivery for off premise consumption. Now there are elements who are trying to change state law to allow them to continue to do that permanently. Such a change would be detrimental to public health and serve to further perpetuate an industry that profits of poisoning consumers. We will continue to oppose such efforts, and encourage members of the state legislature to reject any attempts to weaken restrictions on alcohol sales.



National Prohibition Party News

The Prohibition Party continues to make progress in our ballot access efforts for the 2020 Presidential election. We are working to place our presidential candidate, Phil Collins, on the ballot in several states, including Arkansas, Colorado, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Vermont. For Mississippi, we petitioned for ballot access. The Mississippi Secretary of State had included Collins and Parker on its 2020 Candidate Qualifying List, confirming that they have received the paperwork, and presumably indicating that our ticket will be on ballot in Mississippi in November. We are close to completing our petitions for getting on ballot in Arkansas and Colorado. We began our ballot access efforts in Tennessee. We are reportedly making good progress acquiring the required signatures and electors. In Vermont, we are working to recruit 1 people to act as electors. We have reportedly found one elector and are working on finding 2 more.



"It is our actions in difficult times, that define our reputations for a lifetime"

Byron C. Lockwood

Prohibition Party Statement on the George Floyd Protests

On May 25th, George Floyd was killed by members of the Minneapolis police department, in a clear act of excessive force that was both witnessed by multiple people and was captured in multiple video recordings. One officer has been charged with 2nd degree murder and manslaughter, and three other officers have been charged with aiding and abetting. Over the past weeks, our nation has seen continuing widespread protests over his death.

Most of those who have protested have done so peacefully and in accordance with their first amendment rights. People have expressed their discontent over the death of Mr. Floyd and their desire to ensure that justice be done.

There have been some who have misused this situation to loot, burn buildings, and commit acts of violence. There are some political extremists who have sought to hijack the situation to advance their own agendas. Those people should be rightfully criticized and held accountable for their actions. At the same time, we must not allow them to distract from the many peaceful protesters and from the main issues at hand.

There are those who have expressed concerns about issues about the about the state of law enforcement in our country: who have expressed concerns about whether enough is done to ensure that members of law enforcement who misuse their power are held to account, about whether various police departments are taking sufficient action to ensure the protection of lives and equal treatment under the law. Such concerns should be treated seriously. Such issues should be given a thorough factual analysis to understand present conditions throughout our country and to look at how to improve things.

The purpose and ideals of law enforcement are to enforce our laws, to advance justice, and to protect the lives and wellbeing of the public. There are many regular and decent people in law enforcement, who work to uphold the law

and protect their communities, and should be commended for doing so. Though there are some police officers who have engaged in misconduct, and they ought to be held accountable for their actions. There are times where the practices of law enforcement have not been best suited for its tasks. In such cases, it is important to look towards making positive reforms so that police are better able to serve their proper functions of protecting the public and ensuring equal justice under the law.

Phil Collins, 2020 Presidential Candidate and National Chairman

Billy Joe Parker, 2020 Vice Presidential Candidate

Jonathan Makeley, National Secretary

"Alcohol is an unconvicted perpetrator of grievous bodily harm, and a mass serial killer of unimaginable proportions, allowed to roam free!" Nick Charles



Alcohol Addressed Through the Lens of a Consistent Life Ethic

At the heart of the temperance and prohibition movement, there is the intent to protect the lives and wellbeing of people, to elevate people and society. There is a recognition that alcohol is harmful to people, comprehensively destructive to life and wellbeing, and damaging to many aspects of society. There is a recognition that the commercial traffic of alcohol has fueled alcohol as a social and public health problem, and that the alcohol industry must be addressed in order to comprehensively address the problem of alcohol. In various articles, we have provided analysis of the various ways in which alcohol is harmful to people and society, and why temperance and prohibitionism is beneficial. In this article, we will analyze the issue in regards to a consistent life ethic and why opposition to alcohol can be regarded as a pro-life issue.

To start, we should consider what a consistent life ethic is. The concept of a

consistent life ethic tackles the issue of what it means to be pro-life. It offers a broad notion of what it means to be pro-life and how the principle of protecting life should inform public policy. Generally, a consistent life ethic holds that life is sacred and should be protect by law: that where there are system and practices in society that are destructive towards life, that actions and policies should be advanced to give greater protection towards people's lives.

Activists have applied this concept to a variety of issues. This has included some who have used it to contend that addiction to alcohol and other drugs is a pro-life issue. For instance, in an article in Teen Life, Caitlin Sica argued that addiction to alcohol and other drugs was a pro-life issue. That addiction damages the lives of those who are addicted, and in many cases leads to their deaths. That more people die from drug overdoses than are killed by gun homicides and car crashes combined. That the hundreds who die from drug overdoses each day are more than a statistic: they are individual people whose lives were destroyed. That addressing the issue of addiction is important to protecting lives and preventing unnecessary deaths. Works like this have begun to address the matter of alcohol and other drugs, but they are scratching the surface. Addiction to alcohol and other drugs is part of a much larger problem: the use of alcohol and other drugs, and the social and economic conditions which promote and facilitate their use. Addiction is just one of the many ways in which alcohol and other drugs cause harm to people and are destructive to life.

Alcohol is destructive to the health, safety, wellbeing, and lives of people. Alcohol use kills over 88,000 Americans a year, and kills over 2.8 million people a year worldwide. To help put these numbers in perspective, the number of Americans killed in one year are more than have died in every war our country has fought in the last 65 years. The number of Americans killed by alcohol each year is over 4 times higher than the number killed by homicides. Say you had someone who turned 21 today. In their young life, it is estimated that over 1.8 million Americans have died from alcohol. Alcohol kills more people a year worldwide than HIV/AIDS, Measles,

Influenza, Malaria, Rabies, Cholera, and Food Poisoning combined.

Alcohol use produces and contributes to a wide variety of illnesses and injuries. These include things such as liver disease, kidney disease, heart disease, pancreatitis, gastrointestinal issues, Osteoporosis, brain damage, impotence and infertility, increased rates of depression, anxiety, and other mental illnesses, addiction, high blood pressure, and cancer. Alcohol is known to be a direct cause of at least 7 types of cancer (breast, colorectal, oesophagus, larynx, liver moth, and upper throat). In regular circumstances, an estimated 25-40% general hospital beds in the U.S. are filled by people with alcohol related illnesses and injuries. In addition, alcohol use weakens the immune system and can make users to more susceptible to other illnesses, such as the coronavirus.

When it comes to alcohol it is important to realize that any level of alcohol use is harmful to mental and physical health. The alcohol industry and its supporters tend to put out the false claim that “moderate” drinking is safe. But these claims run contrary to a strong body of scientific research showing that no level of drinking and that even light amounts of drinking is detrimental to health. A major study was published in the Lancet (one of the world’s leading medical journals), which looked at information nearly 700 other studies and data from over 28 million worldwide, to get a comprehensive look at the impact of alcohol on the health of people. The study found that there was no level of alcohol consumption, that any level of alcohol produced a negative net effect on the health of users. A study by Shrek, et al, in the Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs, studying drinking in Canada, found that moderate alcohol consumption has negative effects on user’s health, and that moderate drinkers had a higher rate of hospitalization and premature death than non-drinkers. Total abstinence from alcohol was the only ultimately safe approach.

Alcohol use does not only threaten the health, safety, and lives of users, but of others as well. Over 10,000 Americans are killed each year by drunk drivers. Alcohol is a significant factor in many cases of violent crime, including many cases of murder, assault, rape, domestic violence,

and child abuse. Alcohol use during pregnancy can harm developing fetuses, resulting in children being born with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorders.

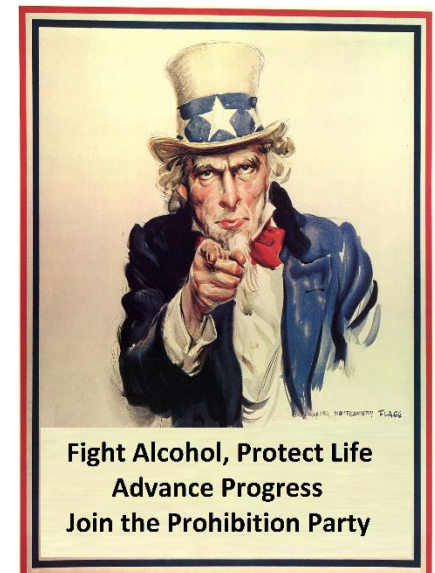
With this information laid out, it should be clear that alcohol use is destructive to the health, safety, wellbeing, and lives of people.

The temperance movement centers on a recognition that alcohol is harmful to people and society, and a concern for the lives for the lives and wellbeing of people. The temperance movement aims to reduce and ultimately remedy the problem of alcohol. Efforts to provide education on the harms of alcohol, to encourage people to not start drinking, to encourage people to quit drinking, and help people dealing with addiction are important aspects to dealing with the problem of alcohol. It is also important to recognize that alcohol is not merely an individual problem, it is a social problem. We have cultural systems and media which work to encourage drinking and foster a drinking culture. We have an alcohol industry that profits off producing and selling alcohol. They profit off selling a toxic product which sickens, injures, and kills consumers, and damages society as a whole. Not only does the alcohol industry facilitate the problem by selling alcohol, they use their wealth to promote alcohol use through advertising, to fund propaganda efforts to mislead the public about the effects of alcohol, and to pay off politicians to oppose policies to seriously address to problem of alcohol. They do these things so that can continue to profit off selling a toxic product. They work continuously to try to get more young people to drink in order to replace all the old drinkers that died, were made severely ill, or quit. The prohibition movement recognizes that the problem of alcohol is a social and public health problem. We recognize that the alcohol industry fuels the problem of drinking, and the commercial sale of alcohol must be combated as part of comprehensively addressing the problem of alcohol.

When the facts of the situation are considered, it is proper to declare that addressing the problem of alcohol should be considered a pro-life issue from the lens of a consistent life ethic. Alcohol is vastly destructive towards human life and wellbeing. The alcohol industry and drinking culture are fueling the problem. If

life deserves to be protected against needless destruction, then that should include protecting people from the harms of alcohol. If we have an ethical obligation to do what we can to help protect life, then we have an ethical obligation to do what we can to address the problem of alcohol. If life is sacred and deserves to be protected in public policy, then we ought to advance public policies that address alcohol as a public health problem and to oppose the commercial traffic of alcohol. There are actions that can be taken to address the problem of alcohol. We can work to educate the public on the harms of alcohol, to expand prevention and rehabilitation efforts, to promote a culture of sobriety, to help businesses and communities’ transition away from alcohol, to increase restrictions on the sale of alcohol, and work towards the eventual abolition of the alcohol industry. In doing so, we can work to better protect the lives and wellbeing of people.

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“In recognizing the humanity of our fellow beings, we pay ourselves the highest tribute.” Thurgood Marshall

South Africa's Temporary Alcohol Ban

In March, South Africa had enacted a temporary ban on the sale of alcohol and tobacco in the country. This ban was based on an understanding that alcohol and tobacco use can make people more susceptible to the coronavirus and was designed to reduce the spread of the coronavirus in the country. The ban on alcohol sales had the added benefit of reducing the prevalence of alcohol induced hospitalizations and deaths. The country saw significant reductions in admissions to hospital emergency rooms for alcohol-related crimes, car accidents, and other illnesses/injuries. The reduction in deaths from alcohol related causes was larger than the country ended up having fewer weekly overall deaths than it normally does, even with some dying from the coronavirus.

On June 1st, South Africa lifted its temporary ban on alcohol sales. After it did, the country saw alcohol related crime, violence, and emergency room visits. The contrast of the drop in alcohol related illness, injury, and death under the temporary prohibition and the resurgence of crime, violence, and emergency room visits following the return of legal alcohol sales has served to help bring attention to the problem of alcohol. Some in the country are calling for a return to a national ban on alcohol sales, some regional officials are looking to establish regional bans on alcohol sales, and some are calling for the nation to at least enact increased restrictions on alcohol sales.

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Schumer Makes Misguided Attempt at Getting Federal Support for the Alcohol Industry

Senator Charles Schumer is once again making a misguided effort to support the alcohol industry. Senator Schumer wishes to give a special tax break to companies that import and distribute alcohol. An industry that profits off poisoning and killing Americans does not deserve a special tax cut. Especially not when their

toxic products make users more susceptible to the coronavirus, and when there are many honest businesses that don't sell poison, which are struggling, and will end up having to pay higher taxes in the long run to subsidize the special tax cut for the alcohol industry.

Source: https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/nys-state-of-politics/2020/06/12/schumer-says-alcohol-importers-at-disadvantage-in-reopening?cid=facebook_Spectrum_News_Central_New_York%2FS.Tier&bcid=waAR3CCbSgtZfyPDy2SD4G8s9EViWIBZ2nLo5N45gA9CA5DTY18MoA_Agl4U

Electoral Suppression

Elections are central to the health of our constitutional democratic republic. It is the means by which citizens can express their will and help to select public officials. It is important to ensure the existence of free and fair elections, and to foster conditions favorable to maximizing the participation of citizens in the electoral system. Unfortunately, our country has seen and continued to see instances where some elements have sought to engage in electoral suppression. That is, elements that have tried to impair aspects of free and fair electoral participation, in order to improve the chances of their own faction to win elections. Their unethical actions serve to marginalize citizens and weaken the health of our republic.

The anti-democratic elements that have engaged in electoral suppression efforts have tended to find a home in the organized leadership of the Democratic and Republican parties. Since the 19th century, elements in the Democratic and Republican parties have used their existing powers to rewrite election laws, suppress certain groups voters, attempt to block other parties and candidates from the ballot, and commit other actions aimed to shift elections in their favor. Some of the main forms of election suppression that have been used (and in various cases are being used) include voter suppression, gerrymandering, and restrictive ballot access laws.

Voter suppression occurs when elements endeavor to prevent a citizen from exercising their right to vote. This can occur through outright efforts to prevent people from voting, such as how poll taxes were used in the Jim Crow South to prevent African Americans from voting. It can also be done by efforts to make it so difficult to be able to vote that it acts to discourage people from voting. For instance, limiting the availability places for people to register to vote, so

that people in certain areas would have to travel long distances and expend considerable time and expense just to be able to vote, or limiting the polling places and staff in certain areas so that people have to wait hours just to be able to vote on election day.

Gerrymandering is the practice of manipulating the drawing of districts for congress, state legislatures, and other multi-member elected bodies, to make them more favorable to electing candidates of a certain party. The distribution of voters can be uneven. Some areas can be composed mostly of voters who tend to vote for candidates of a certain party. Periodically, congressional and state legislative districts are redrawn to help ensure that they have roughly even populations in each district. With gerrymandering, politicians draw districts in ways where a majority of voters in the district are people that tend to vote for candidates of certain party, thus make it likely that that party's candidate will win the seat in future election. In doing so, they act to reduce electoral competition and make it harder for their party's candidates to lose an election. This can have the effect of discouraging voters from participating in elections and discouraging candidates from other parties from running in gerrymandered districts. It makes it easier for politicians to be reelected to the same position for decades and reduces the need to make efforts to earn the support of voters.

Restrictive ballot access act to suppress alternative candidates and parties by making it impossible or extremely difficult for them to get on the ballot. States generally set the rules and requirements for candidates and parties to be able to get on the election ballot. By establishing high requirements to be able to get on the ballot, the Democratic and Republican parties can either prevent minor party and independent candidates from getting on the ballot, or force them to expend large amounts of money, manpower, and time, just to be able to get on the ballot, and thus greatly reduce the resources that they will have for competing in the general election. In many cases, these restrictive ballot access requirements can be unequal. For instance, a Republican or Democratic candidate for New York State assembly needs 500 signatures to petition to get on ballot, while an independent candidate or candidate from a minor party

that doesn't have statewide ballot access needs 1,500 signatures. For the 2020 election they temporarily reduced the number of signatures required for Democratic and Republican candidates to 30% of the regular signature requirements (making it 150 signatures for state assembly), while leaving the requirement for petitions for independent candidates and minor parties without statewide ballot access at the same level, and thus requiring an independent candidate to have to submit times as many signatures to get on the ballot as a Democratic or Republican candidate. By establishing restrictive ballot laws, it suppresses voters, candidates, and parties. It suppresses voters by reducing their options on the ballot, and it suppresses minor parties, minor party candidates, and independent candidates by impeding their ability to get on the ballot and compete for votes. By establishing unfair and unequal ballot access requirements it makes it difficult for minor parties to grow and to win elected offices. It allows the Democratic and Republican parties to avoid competition, marginalize alternatives, to retain a greater degree of power that they otherwise would have, and insulate their power from shifts in public opinion.

In recent times, we have seen growing efforts for electoral suppression in New York State. Earlier this year, anti-democratic elements in the state legislature hijacked the state budget progress to rewrite state election laws. The massively increased the requirements for parties to be able to maintain statewide ballot access and massively increased the requirements for minor party (without statewide ballot access recognition) and independent candidates to get on ballot for statewide elections. These changes, if allowed to take effect, would likely result in most, in not all, minor parties that currently have statewide ballot access recognition to lose their statewide ballot access. They would make it extremely difficult for these parties to regain their statewide ballot access and for any other minor party to try to get statewide ballot access. As a result, voters would lose most of the options that are currently on the ballot, and their would be more elections with only one candidate on the ballot. There have been some lawsuits challenging these changes to state election laws.

Though it remains to be seen how it will turn out. Overall, it is important to for people to vigilant, to challenge efforts at electoral suppression, and to work to advance efforts towards freer and fairer elections.

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American Cancer Society Updates Cancer Prevention Guidelines

The American Cancer Society had updated its diet and physical activity guidelines for cancer prevention. Their changes have reflected an awareness of new scientific research on how various aspects of diet and exercise effect the likelihood of developing cancer. One of the most notable changes to its guidelines is in regards to alcohol consumption. As a growing body of scientific research has shown that level of alcohol use is safe and that any level of drinking increases risks of developing cancer, they have changed their guidelines to recognize that avoiding alcohol use is best.

Previous guidelines stated, "If you drink alcoholic beverages, limit consumption. Drink no more than 1 drink per day for women or 2 per day for men."

The new guidelines state, "It is best not to drink alcohol. People who do choose to drink alcohol should limit their consumption to no more than 1 drink per day for women and 2 drinks per day for men."

They had also amended their guidelines on community action to include actions to limit the availability of alcohol. The previous guidelines stated, "Public, private, and community organizations should work collaboratively at national,

state, and local levels to implement policy and environmental changes that:

- Increase access to affordable, healthy foods in communities, worksites, and schools, and decrease access to and marketing of foods and beverages of low nutritional value, particularly to youth.
- Provide safe, enjoyable, and accessible environments for physical activity in schools and worksites, and for transportation and recreation in communities."

The new guidelines state, "Public, private, and community organizations should work collaboratively at national, state, and local levels to develop, advocate for, and implement policy and environmental changes that increase access to affordable, nutritious foods; provide safe, enjoyable, and accessible opportunities for physical activity; and limit alcohol for all individuals."

The change is the American Cancer Society's guidelines is significant, not only because it is one of the nation's major cancer organizations, but also due to the organization's historic reticence to address the connection between alcohol and cancer. In past years, the organization had attracted controversy for taking money from alcohol companies and engaging in various fundraisers that involved alcohol use. In some respects, it has lagged behind other cancer organizations in informing people about the connection between alcohol use and cancer. The changes to their guidelines are a step forward for informing the public about the connection between alcohol and cancer, and that total abstinence is the best approach for cancer prevention. And hopefully, as they come to increasingly recognize the connection between alcohol and cancer, they may move away from their past connections with alcohol companies and move away from alcohol related fundraisers.

Source: <https://movendi.ngo/news/2020/06/12/american-cancer-society-updates-cancer-prevention-guideline/?fbclid=IwAR37WVSOX4eivbaIKdZFIJD6oruotSRZO-6a6erE2O5KfIcGeRI2ZaAuk61M>

New York State Progresses on Phased Reopening

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

The plan divides that state into 10 regional groupings of counties. These regional groupings are New York City (New York County, Kings County, Queens County, Bronx County, and Richmond County), Long Island (Nassau County and Suffolk County), Mid-Hudson (Westchester County, Rockland County, Orange County, Putnam County, Dutchess County, Ulster County, and Sullivan County), Capital District, Albany County, Schenectady County, Saratoga County, Warren County, Washington County, Rensselaer County, Columbia County, and Greene County), North Country, Hamilton County, Essex County, Clinton County, Franklin County, St. Lawrence County, Jefferson County, and Lewis County), Mohawk Valley (Herkimer County, Fulton County, Montgomery County, Schoharie County, Otsego County, and Oneida County), Central New York (Onondaga County, Cayuga County, Cortland County, Madison County, and Oswego County), Southern Tier (Steuben County, Schuyler County, Chemung County, Thompson County, Tioga County, Broome County, Chenango County, and Delaware County), Finger Lakes (Monroe County, Wayne County, Ontario County, Seneca County, Yates County, Livingston County, Genesee County, Orleans County, and Wyoming County), and Western New York (Erie County, Allegany County, Cattaraugus County, Chautauqua County, and Niagara County).

There are 4 planned phases of reopening. Phase 1 will involve reopening construction operations, manufacturing companies, wholesale supply chain businesses, agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting businesses, landscaping and gardening businesses, and drive-in movie theaters. It will also involve reopening some retail businesses, such as clothing and electronics. Phase 2 will include

reopening various storefront retailers, professional service businesses, finance and insurance businesses, and real-estate and retail licensing companies. Phase 3 will involve reopening various hospitality businesses such as restaurants, food service businesses, and gyms. Hotels will move toward more regular operations. Phase 4 will include the reopening of schools, museums, theaters, movie theaters, and various other institutions and businesses that involve education, arts, or entertainment. Regions need to meet a set of criteria in order to be able to enter into each phase of reopening. These criteria include getting average levels of new cases, hospitalizations, and deaths down below certain levels, as well as ensuring that the region has certain levels of available general hospital beds, available ICU hospital beds, coronavirus testing, and contact tracers.

As of June 22nd, 7 regions in the state have entered into Phase 3 of reopening and the other 3 have entered into Phase 2. These regions that have entered Phase 3 are Western New York, the Finger Lakes, the Southern Tier, Central New York, Mohawk Valley, North Country, and the Capital District. The regions that have entered Phase 2 are Mid-Hudson, New York City, and Long Island. In addition, various colleges in the state are working to design plans for how they will operate for the fall semester, in the event that their region enters into phase 4 of reopening. Given existing trends, it is likely that at least some regions will enter into phase 4 of reopening before the start of the fall semester.

So far, the state's phased reopening seems to be generally going well. The average number of new confirmed cases in the state continues to decrease, the total number of people in the state hospitalized due to the coronavirus is decreasing, and the number of deaths per day has declined from its height of 800 deaths per day, to between 14-39 deaths a day in the first 3 weeks of June.

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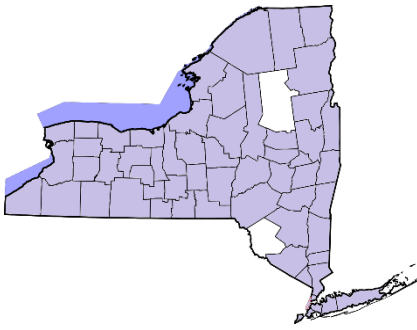
"A more secret, sweet, and overpowering beauty appears to man when his heart and mind open to the sentiment of virtue." Ralph Waldo Emerson

Educational Inequalities

Education plays a crucial role in our society, for advancing knowledge and human development, and enabling a prosperous functioning society. The Prohibition Party of New York supports the principle of ensuring that everyone has universal access to a decent education, which works to develop knowledge, reason, skill, character, and good citizenship. It is to this end that we advocate for policies to improve the quality of education in our state, and work to address problems effect education.

One significant issue facing education in our state is the unequal support that different schools receive in state funding. As we have pointed out before, many schools in our state are systemically underfunded. That is, they are provided with less state and local funding than is calculated to be needed in order to provide a decent quality of education, and/or are given less funding that other schools in the state, and thus aren't able to provide the same degree of educational opportunities. A high degree of reliance on local property taxes as a source of revenue leaves districts with a smaller property tax base at a disadvantage. State funding for education is supposed to help balance out the situation and make sure that every school district has a sufficient level of funding to meet the needs of their students. But existing practices for state funding for education have fallen short of this. For years, the state has systemically underfunded many schools across the state, by billions of dollars. This underfunding has especially effected schools in Upstate New York, schools in the poorer parts of New York City, rural schools, and schools where a large percentage of students of color.

In order to help improve the quality of education, we must work to fix the state's system of education funding to ensure that all schools are adequately funded. Likewise, we must work to advance improvements in other aspects of education, in areas of content, curriculum, teaching, administration, community involvement, organization, and other aspects with affect the quality of education and the opportunities provided to students.



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 382 communities across the state, in 60 out of 62 counties. We also reached people in every other state, and in over 50 countries. The New York Prohibition Party twitter account has reached over 890,000 cumulative views.

Standing up to the Tobacco Industry

Earlier this month, the African American Tobacco Control Council put out a strong statement against the tobacco industry and in favor of removing menthol tobacco from our communities. The statement reads as follows,

"The nicotine addiction industry and their supporters who oppose bans on menthol products are NOT fighting for your right to choose. They are fighting to hold on to the lucrative business of selling these products to our people and to keep a tight grip on our wallets. Tobacco companies have created cigarettes to be highly efficient at delivering nicotine into our bodies, making it easier to become addicted and harder to quit. Worse yet, menthol cigarettes which most smokers in our community use, encourage longer drags that pull nicotine and other toxins deeper into our lungs. By design, these products have gotten us "hooked" making it difficult for us to quit and make healthier choices for ourselves. It's time we choose our community's health over tobacco profits by supporting efforts to get nicotine products, especially menthol products out of our community"

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/AATCLC/>

New York Prohibition Party History



THOMAS ALEXANDER MACNICHOLL

Dr. T. Alexander MacNicholl

Thomas Alexander MacNicholl was a doctor, medical scientist, temperance advocate, and Prohibition Party candidate for Governor in 1910 and 1912. MacNicholl was born on February 21, 1867, in Admagh, Ireland. He was the eldest son of Robert Turner MacNicholl. The family were Scotch-Irish, descendent from the MacNicholls, Dunbars, and Turners of Scotland. In 1874, the family immigrated to the United States and came to live in New York City. His father became a well-known clergyman of the New York East Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

MacNicholl was educated in New York City schools. He studied at the New York City College and the Cooper Institute. He spent three years working as a bookkeeper at New York Publishing House, and spent some time working as a general manager for Enterprise Refrigerator Company in New York. MacNicholl studied medicine at Bellevue Medical College (which later became part of New York University). He began practicing surgery in 1891, he received a doctorate in medicine in 1892.

MacNicholl began his career as a doctor and medical scientist. He specialized in diseases affecting women and children, and his work included surgery, gynecology, and medical research.

In the early 1890's, a local branch of the American Red Cross was founded in

New York City by a group of doctors, nurses, and philanthropists. Nurse Bettina A. Hofker Lesser and her husband A Monne Lesser began working on an effort to establish a hospital in New York City for the training of Red Cross nurses and providing healthcare to people in the city. In 1893, the New York Red Cross Hospital was founded. The founders of the hospital included Bettina A. Hofker Lesser, Dr. A. Monne Lesser, Mrs. Charles A Raymond, Dr. Gottlieb Steger, Dr. George F. Shradly, Dr. T.F. Gaillard, Dr. MacNicholl, Dr. Ellison, Dr. Zeh. MacNicholl served as one of the original doctors at the hospital. Over the next 17 years, MacNicholl would spend six years as head of the hospital's surgical division, one year as the hospital's Surgeon-in-Chief, and spend some time as secretary of the hospital's board of trustees.

On June 14, 1893, MacNicholl married Elsie Eugenia Robinson. In 1897, they had their son, Ernest Robert MacNicholl.

Dr. MacNicholl devoted much of his efforts to studying health issues regarding children and families. His research included studying mental illness in children and adolescents, disabled children and adolescents, alcohol use among children and adolescents in New York City schools, the effects of parental drinking on children and adolescents. In the early 1900's, MacNicholl conducted a study of 55,000 New York school children from 143 schools. As part of the study, he analyzed over 22,000 children whose parent's drinking habits were known. He found that 53% of children whose parents were regular drinkers academically underperformed. While only 10% of children whose parents were total abstainers had such issues.

MacNicholl conducted research into the relationship between parental alcohol use and childhood disability. His research indicated that children of heavy drinkers were more likely to be physically and or mentally disabled. He conducted research that indicated that parental drinking may cause genetic damage to children. It appears that at least some of what he observed may have been children affected by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. The diagnosis of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder wasn't created until the 1970's, but the research of MacNicholl and other early 20th century doctors helped pave the way towards its eventual discovery.

In another study, MacNicholl looked at the drinking among New York City 30,000 students, up to age 19. He found that 58% of engaged in drinking occasionally or regularly, with 37% drinking beer, and 21% drinking liquor or wine. He found that in some classes, drinking rates were higher than 70%. He claimed that youths who consumed alcohol tended to perform worse in school and had higher risks for various illnesses and injuries. He contended that the problem of youth drinking wasn't just a problem among poorer households, but effect children of all social classes. He found instances of New York City saloons promoting drinking among children, and selling alcohol to children as young as 9. In 1909, the City of New York, in response to MacNicholl's research, was moved to conduct its own study of 10,000 school children to look into the issue.

In 1912, he did a study on two groups of families, where one group was families where the parents were heavy drinkers and the other group was of families where the parents were total abstainers. He found that children from families where the parents were heavy drinkers were more likely to die in infancy, and were more susceptible to diseases such as tuberculosis.

MacNicholl gained prominence through his research. He delivered speeches at various medical conferences and temperance meetings. His research was reported on by newspapers throughout the country. In 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt selected MacNicholl to represent the U.S. at the 1907 International Congress Against Alcoholism held in Stockholm, Sweden.

MacNicholl had produced various papers, such as *Heredity a Factor in Mental Deficiency*, *"Septic and Suppurative Peritonitis"*, and *"Alcohol a Cause if Degeneracy"*. At various points in his life, he served as secretary of the New York State Medical Alliance, vice-president of the American Association for the Study of Alcohol, Secretary of the Board of Education of Sea Cliff, New York, councilor of the Bureau of Scientific Temperance of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and president of the Harlem Athenaeum. He had been a member of the Medical Association of Greater New York and a fellow for the British Medical Society for the Study of Inebriety.

In 1910, the Prohibition Party decided to nominate Dr. MacNicholl as the Prohibition Party candidate for Governor of New York. MacNicholl gave speeches at party events throughout the state. The negative effects of alcohol on children and families was a major topic of many of his speeches. MacNicholl became a target of anti-alcohol extremists. He reportedly survived three assassination attempts and extremists attempted to burn down his house. Yet MacNicholl persevered. He received 22,295 votes and 1.55% of the statewide vote.

In 1912, MacNicholl acted as temporary chair for the Prohibition Party's state convention in Olean. He reportedly gave a rather inspiring opening speech at the convention. The Convention decided to nominate MacNicholl as the party's candidate for governor in 1912. One again, MacNicholl campaigned and delivered speeches in various places in the state. He received 18,990 votes and 1.22% of the statewide vote.

In 1913, MacNicholl delivered a speech at a meeting of Prohibition Party members in Westchester County. In 1914, he wrote an article comparing governments' responses to public health problems such as typhoid with their lack of effective responses to alcohol as a public health problem.

"Health boards, armed with police authority, eradicate the carriers of typhoid and quarantine the victims, but alcohol, a thousand times more destructive health that typhoid fever, continues to destroy. Alcoholic degeneracy is the most important sanitary question before the country, yet health authorities do not take action because alcohol is entrenched in politics."

In 1914, New York State held elections to select delegates for the 1915 State Constitutional Convention. This included elections for district-level delegates and 15 statewide at-large delegates. MacNicholl was selected as one of the Prohibition Party's candidates for at-large delegates. MacNicholl received 24,636 votes statewide, and the party's other candidates for delegates at-large ranged from 24,367-25,562 votes.

In February 1917, delivered an address at a meeting of the Kings County Prohibition Party. On April 9, 1917,

MacNicholl died of heart failure in his home in Brooklyn.

Sources: https://615c4beb-b241-4f4a-a6b4-a074dc02ce34.filesusr.com/ugd/2cc7be_c5f70cad3cea46afa6375d3b55c06b1e.pdf

T. Alexander MacNicholl's Letter of Acceptance for the 1910 Prohibition Party Nomination for Governor of New York

"Dear Friend,

For many years I have been engaged in scientific work and have never desired political eminence, but the spontaneous and unanimous nomination for governor by my fellow citizens of the Prohibition Party in the convention assembled at Cortland, New York, forces me to assume new duties in the interest of humanity.

The increased per capita consumption of alcoholic drinks and the widespread degeneracy attributed to their use should command the serious consideration and the active participation of every citizen in the efforts of the Prohibition Party to destroy this evil.

Alcohol is not a mere matter of temperance or else we could relegate it to the rescue mission and the church. It profoundly effects every department of life, physical, intellectual, moral, social and political and through the organized liquor traffic fosters disrespect for law, consumes the profits of the individual, burdens the state with its victims, and produces an environment in the highest degree prejudicial to the interests of the child.

While the physician is loth to enter the political arena, here is the question that he is pre-eminently fitted to solve, a question that is woven into the very warp and roof of politics and that cannot be eliminated save by political action.

The nomination for governor comes to me unsought and unexpected but I would be recreant to my trust as a medical scientist, false to my duty as a citizen did I not accept this honor. May I not depend on your cooperation in securing a solution of this problem. Cordially Yours

T. Alexander MacNicholl,

M.D."

Source: "Dr. MacNicholl at Federation Hall". *Star Gazette*. (Elmira, New York). October 26, 1910. Accessed, June 10, 2020. <https://stargazette.newspapers.com/clip/11692229/star-gazette/>