

# New York Prohibitionist



Think NY Vote Dry

September 2019

Volume 2 #9

## Continuing Cause

The Prohibition Party of New York continues to move forward. We are continuously working to advocate for positive policies and to engage New Yorkers in efforts to build a better future for our state.

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"If you only knock long enough and loud enough at the gate, you are sure to wake up somebody." Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

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## Sign Up For The New York Prohibitionist

Interested in keeping up to date with all the news from the New York Prohibitionist? Well, you can sign up for our email list, and have latest issues emailed to you when they come out. All you have to do is email [newyorkprohibition@aol.com](mailto:newyorkprohibition@aol.com) and let us know you'd to sign up. You can also do so by messaging the New York Prohibition Party Facebook Page or the New York Prohibition Party Twitter Account.

## Yonkers Bans Sales of Flavored E-Cigarettes

The City of Yonkers, New York has become the first city in the state to ban the sale of flavored E-Cigarettes. In September 17<sup>th</sup>, the Yonkers City council unanimously voted for the ban, and it is scheduled to take effect on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Source: [http://westchester.news12.com/story/41064453/yonkers-bans-flavored-e-cigarettes?fbclid=IwAR1Uq77RapUnXj6rwoSe8DGFgG4mCuX8vmjt9S1ZIdV1N3ihYX9TzL\\_0](http://westchester.news12.com/story/41064453/yonkers-bans-flavored-e-cigarettes?fbclid=IwAR1Uq77RapUnXj6rwoSe8DGFgG4mCuX8vmjt9S1ZIdV1N3ihYX9TzL_0)

## State Moves to Ban Flavored E-Cigarettes

The New York State government has begun to move towards banning the sale of flavored E-Cigarettes. On September 15<sup>th</sup>, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced an emergency executive action banning the sale of flavored E-Cigarettes in the state. He also stated his intention to work

with state police and the state Department of Health, to enforce this ban, and to crack down against efforts to market and sell E-Cigarettes to minors. On September 17<sup>th</sup>, the state Public Health and Health Planning Council voted in support of banning the sale of flavored E-Cigarettes. On September 26<sup>th</sup>, the governor and health planning board announced their intention to expand the emergency ban to include menthol E-Cigarettes.

It is at least somewhat commendable for the states executive agencies to be taking some actions to try to reduce the health risk from tobacco and vaping products. Especially in light of increasing reports of people suffering severe illnesses and injuries from E-Cigarettes. Though such bans are only of a temporary executive nature, and the state legislature would need to pass legislation to establish such bans as a long term policy.

Sources: <https://www.wivb.com/news/national/andrew-cuomo-announces-ban-of-e-cigarettes?fbclid=IwAR1spAku4SiFG4IXO7Sio1S8BTblkKND2Psu2JZH2svUz5c5r5qG7yFh4>

<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/politics/2019/09/17/ny-public-health-council-officially-implements-e-cigarette-ban>

<https://patch.com/new-york/new-york-city/menthol-e-cigarettes-will-be-banned-ny-cuomo-says>

## Marijuana Breathalyzer being Developed

Researchers at the University of Pittsburg, in Pennsylvania, are working to develop a breathalyzer devise that could be used to detect whether someone is intoxicated with marijuana and measure the presence of THC in their body. The developers have filed for a patent and are working to develop it for general production. The devise is not yet commercially available, though developers are hoping to soon make the devise available for law enforcement. Once this devise is released, it could aid law enforcement in combating drugged driving.

Source: [https://www.rochesterfirst.com/news/national-news/marijuana-breathalyzer-in-the-making?fbclid=IwAR1BUQzw141ChpnRnzzDhoP9Vz8M6bwWPKdGtzyS3-Vw69BOS1IUsGoh\\_M](https://www.rochesterfirst.com/news/national-news/marijuana-breathalyzer-in-the-making?fbclid=IwAR1BUQzw141ChpnRnzzDhoP9Vz8M6bwWPKdGtzyS3-Vw69BOS1IUsGoh_M)



## World Health Organization Releases Anti-Alcohol Initiative

This month, the World Health Organization has released its SAFER plan. The SAFER plan is an initiative aimed at encouraging countries to enact policies aimed to reduce harms caused by alcohol. The plan includes 5 proposed areas of policy efforts aimed at reducing alcohol harms. These are 1. Strengthen restrictions on alcohol availability. 2. Advance and enforce drink driving countermeasures. 3. Facilitate access to screening, brief interventions, and treatment. 4. Enforce bans or comprehensive restrictions on alcohol advertising, sponsorship, and promotion. 5. Raise prices on alcohol through excise taxes and pricing policies.

Further details on the specifics of the SAFER plan can be found on the WHO website, via this link [https://www.who.int/substance\\_abuse/safer/launch/en/](https://www.who.int/substance_abuse/safer/launch/en/)

THE WHO states its intention to work with governments and non-government agencies to work towards the goal of reducing alcohol harms by 10% by 2025.

The WHO can be commended for making some efforts to try reduce the harm caused by alcohol. Any reduction in alcohol use and the harms it causes is a step toward working to solve the problem. They can be further commended for recognizing that reducing alcohol use and working to restrict and reduce the

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commercial sale of alcohol are important steps in reducing the harm caused by alcohol. Now of course this initiative falls short of working toward a comprehensive solution. Since in order to comprehensively solve the problem we must abolish the alcohol industry, eliminate drinking culture, and establish universal teetotalism. But the SAFER initiative can be regarded as a potential step in the right in the direction, and if effective enough could help set a precedent for stronger efforts in the future.

### Alcohol Harm Highlights

Here are some of the latest highlights from the World Health Organization as to the harms caused by alcohol.

#### Key Points

Worldwide, 3 million deaths every year result from harmful use of alcohol, this represent 5.3 % of all deaths.

The harmful use of alcohol is a causal factor in more than 200 disease and injury conditions.

Overall 5.1 % of the global burden of disease and injury is attributable to alcohol, as measured in disability-adjusted life years (DALYs).

Alcohol consumption causes death and disability relatively early in life. In the age group 20–39 years approximately 13.5 % of the total deaths are alcohol-attributable.

There is a causal relationship between harmful use of alcohol and a range of mental and behavioral disorders, other noncommunicable conditions as well as injuries.

The latest causal relationships have been established between harmful drinking and incidence of infectious diseases such as tuberculosis as well as the course of HIV/AIDS.

Beyond health consequences, the harmful use of alcohol brings significant social and economic losses to individuals and society at large.

“The philosophy of the schoolroom in one generation is the philosophy of government in the next.” Abraham Lincoln

### Heroin Deaths Rising

New reports on drug overdose death rates have shown that the number of overdoses from heroin have increased by 23% in a year. Overdose deaths from fentanyl have increased by 73%, and overdoses from Oxycontin and Vicodin have increased by 4%.

Source: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4015536/A-grim-tally-soars-More-50-000-overdose-deaths-US.html>



### Attack on Dry Town

An attack is being made against one of New York's dry towns. The town of Argyle, in Washington County, is one of the 8 towns in New York state that fully bans the sale of alcohol. New York State law allows towns and cities to establish local laws restricting and banning the sale of alcohol through a petition and referendum process. The same process can be used to repeal existing local laws restricting and banning alcohol. A group of Wets in the area, quiet possibly with the aid of alcohol companies, are attempting to repeal the towns dry laws. They have unfortunately managed to gather enough signatures to place the referendum on ballot for this coming November. Alcohol is a social and public health problem, which causes vast social, medical, and economic damages. Ending Argyle's local dry laws would be a serious step backwards and would negatively impact the town. Now the fate of the towns voters, and hopefully the majority of voters in the town will do the smart thing and vote to maintain the town's dry laws.

The case for maintaining Argyle's local dry laws was well put in a letter to the editor to The Post Star.

*The Post Star recently published an article about a group of people who are trying to repeal the local dry laws in*

*Argyle. I am responding to the make the case that such a proposal is misguided. Alcohol is a harmful substance. For instance, it kills more people and produces more addiction than opioids. Alcohol use is a direct cause of cancer, including a quarter of all breast cancer. Allowing alcohol sales would only serve to make this public health problem even worse. We should be taking steps to improve public health, not make it worse.*

*Pro-alcohol proponents claim that allowing alcohol sales would help the economy and generate tax revenue. But this is not the case. The State of New York loses over 16 billion dollars a year from the social, medical and economic damages that result from the harms of alcohol. As a result, the alcohol industry ends up making the economy smaller. Even if a few people may open some businesses and make some money, the overall economy will be made worse.*

*While alcohol sales may generate some tax revenue, it is almost universally the case that areas which allow alcohol sales end up spending far more money dealing*

*with the problems of alcohol than they get from taxing it. As a result, the average taxpayer ends up having to pay higher taxes to subsidize the damages caused as a result of alcohol sales. In the end, allowing alcohol sales, only serves to make communities sicker, poorer and more highly taxed. I would encourage all voters in Argyle to reject this misguided effort and to vote to maintain their local dry laws.*

We hope all decent and reasonable residents of Argyle will reject this misguided attempt to try to repeal their local dry laws. As they have every time the wets have tried to bring it up for a vote. The Prohibition Party of New York will do what it can to encourage residents to support their local dry laws and to aid locals who are willing to stand against this assault on the welfare of their community.

We would encourage any residents looking to work with us to contact us at [newyorkprohibition@aol.com](mailto:newyorkprohibition@aol.com)

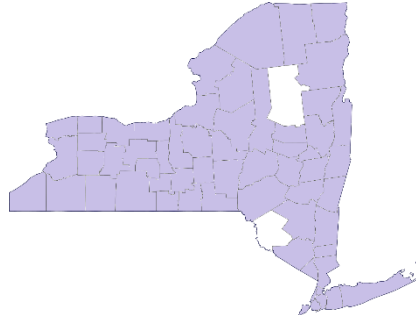
And if you are a resident of any other community in our state, who is interested in enacting local dry laws in your community, we would encourage you to contact us as well.

## Cognitive Dissonance

Earlier this month, Governor Cuomo of New York and Governor Lamont of Connecticut came together to announce two intended joint state partnerships, to coordinate intended policy efforts between the governors. One was a plan to try to coordinate efforts to take action against youth vaping. The other was the two governors conspiring to come together with a common idea of how they would want a system of legal recreational marijuana in the two states. This is despite the fact the misguided effort to legalize recreational marijuana in this state failed this year in the state legislature. Yet, Cuomo still remains committed to pursue this backwards and misguided effort, regardless of the negative effects that it would have on New York. Its yet another case where Cuomo has put the greed of his donors above the welfare of the public he is supposed to be serving. But this instance also shows a glaring case of cognitive dissonance (meaning, the state of having inconsistent thoughts, beliefs, or attitudes, especially as relating to behavioral decisions and attitude change). With the vaping action, he committed to taking action against a corporate interest in the interest of public health. With his marijuana legalization conspiracy, he is seeking to undermine public health and wellbeing, in order to enrich greedy companies. In a sense, he was able to act in opposite ways, while showing no apparent awareness of his contrary actions and behavior. Now what could explain this cognitive dissonance? It could be that he lacks a fundamental understanding of the issues, their underlying values, and the implications of his policy position on these matters. It could be that he is so focused on trying to advance his own wealth and political career that he has lost sight of the impacts that state policies can have on people. It could be that he is amoral about how his decisions impact the lives, health, and wellbeing of people. Perhaps its some combination is all these things. Though whatever the reasons, the governor shows a dangerous level of cognitive dissonance for someone sitting in his position. And his willingness to support the commercial sale of marijuana, alcohol, and other intoxicants is a danger to the health and wellbeing of the people of this state. The Governor should come to his

senses, abandon his misguided pro-alcohol and pro-drug positions, take a que from the anti-tobacco movement, and move towards prevention, treatment, and restricting and prohibiting the commercial sale of harmful products.

Source: <https://www.urbanrcny.com/governor-cuomo-and-connecticut-governor-lamont-announce-joint-state-partnership-to-develop-uniform-approach-to-e-cigarettes-and-legal-cannabis-program/>



## 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 324 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 850,000 cumulative views.

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"Dreams are the touchstones of our characters." Henry David Thoreau

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## New York Prohibition Party History

### St. John in New York

In 1884, former Kansas governor and prohibition activist, John St. John ran as the Prohibition Party candidate for president. He had strong national results, receiving over 147,000 votes. In New York, he received over 25,000 votes. His strong results in New York and his ability to attract disaffected voters away from the major parties arguably lead to Republican James Blaine losing the state to

Grover Cleveland, and bringing an end to the Republicans six-time presidential winning streak.

During the election, St. John made dozens of speeches at temperance camp meetings and Prohibition Party rallies. He attracted crowds with hundreds, and at times thousands, of people. He gave his speech formally accepting the Prohibition Party nomination for president at a

temperance camp meeting in Cuba New York, to a crowd of over 3,000 people.

On October 18th, he held a campaign event at Chickering Hall in New York City, during which he spoke to a crowd of several hundred people.

In the speech, he made the following statement:

"Some people say our party, that it has not got money nor uniforms nor 80,000 torchbearers. Very True. But we are lighting a torch that will burn forever. We have no influence, they say. Very true. We have not sufficient interest with the railroad companies to secure palace cars to haul us all over the country. In fact, I'm inclined to the belief that, being in the interest of the laborer, it would not be becoming in us to ride through Hocking Valley in a palace car, when laborers are working under the ground with barely enough to live on. [Applause.] We pay our own fare. If we have not sufficient money we go on foot, [cheers,] but we reach our destination. People say: 'oh we don't want to throw away our vote.' Let me tell you that no vote cast for principle ever was thrown away. [Cheers]"

On October 24th, he visited the city of Buffalo for two events. Hundreds of supporters from Buffalo and across Western New York came to see him. A crowd of 300 prohibitionists paraded through Buffalo and converged at St. John's first event. His second event attracted a crowd of 600. He spoke about how the Prohibition Party was a party of principle that championed prohibition. He spoke about how the major parties had abandoned the homes of the country and were siding with the liquor interests. He spoke in favor of women's suffrage and the need to champion the interests of the working class.

When all was said and done, St. John was able to receive the largest presidential vote result that the party had gotten so far at the time, greatly increased public awareness of the party, help attract many people to join the party, and started off a series of Prohibition Presidential candidates receiving hundreds of thousands of votes per election.

Sources: "Blaine's Cowardice. Governor St. John Addresses Two Rousing Meetings." The Buffalo Times (Buffalo), October 24, 1884. POCOCK, EMIL. "Wet or Dry? The Presidential Election of 1884 in Upstate New York." New York History 54, no. 2 (1973): 174-90. <http://www.jstor.org/gate.lib.buffalo.edu/stable/23170001>. "St. John In Town." Buffalo Evening News (Buffalo), October 24, 1884. "Their Votes Not Thrown Away." New York Times (New York City), October 18, 1884.