

# New York Prohibitionist



*Think NY Vote Dry*

*June 2019*

*Volume 2 #6*

## Marching Onward

Prohibition Party activism continues to move forward in New York and nationally. We continue to work towards progress, while facing the challenges that are presented to us. As we reflect on our past efforts and inform ourselves on present matters, let us take greater direction and resolve as we move forward in our endeavors.

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"Telling the truth is more important than trying to be popular" Carl Cameron

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## Legislative Support Grows for addiction prevention and recovery act

Earlier this year, State Assembly member DenDekker had introduced a bill called the Addiction Prevention and Recovery Act of 2019. The bill would increase funding for prevention and addiction treatment efforts for alcohol and other drugs. Support for the bill among members of the state assembly has been growing over time. Since the last issue, the number of sponsors and cosponsors of the bill in the State Assembly has increased from 33 Assembly members to 40 Assembly members.

The current list of sponsors and cosponsors includes Assembly members: Thiele (district 1), Destefano (district 3), D'Urso (district 16), Raynor (district 18),

Solages (district 22), Hevesi (district 28), Hyndman (district 29), Cook (district 32), DenDekker (district 34), Aubry (district 35), , Miller MG (district 38), Cruz (district 39), Ortiz (district 51), Simon (district 52), Wright (district 56), Mosley (district 57), Barron (district 60), Fall (district 61), Glick (district 66), Epstein (district 74), Seawright (district 76), Fernandez (district 80), Dinowitz (district 81), Benedetto (district 82), Arroyo (district 84), Crespo (district 85), Pichardo (district 86), Reyes (district 87), Sayegh (district 90), Jaffee (district 97), Tague (district 102), Jacobson (district 104), Ashby (district 107), McDonald (district 108), Fahy (district 109), Steck (district 110), Walsh (district 112), Salka (district 121), Lawrence (district 134), and Romeo (district 136).

The regular legislative session for the state legislature this year ended on June 19<sup>th</sup>. So, unless some special session of the legislature is called. The bill is likely not going to pass this year. But the growing support that the bill has gotten indicate that with increased activism, that the bill might pass the state assembly next year.

## Regular Session of the New York State Legislature Came to a Close

The regular session of the New York State Assembly and State Senate for the year came to an end on June 19<sup>th</sup>. The state legislature will be out of session for the rest of the year, unless any special sessions of the legislature are called.

Here are some highlights of legislative news for the end of the regular session.

This year's session had some proposed bills for taking stronger actions to address some of the harms of alcohol. Assembly member Ortiz had reintroduced a proposed bill to change the BAC limit of DWI from 0.08 to 0.05, and the BAC limit for Aggravated DWI from 0.18 to 0.12. The bill got more support than it did last year, including several more cosponsors in the state assembly and the bill was introduced



in the state senate by Senator Liu. But did not make it out of the assembly and senate transportation committees. Assembly member DenDekker introduced the Addiction Prevention and Recovery Act of 2019, which would have raised state taxes on the alcohol industry by 50% and used the revenue to increase funding for addiction prevention and recovery programs. The bill has managed to gain 40 sponsors and cosponsors in the assembly and has been introduced in the state senate by senator Comrie.

The pro-marijuana elements in this state made a misguided effort to try to get the state legislature to legalize the sale of recreational marijuana in the state. In past months, a variety of citizens, community groups, public health groups, and members of law enforcement came out in opposition to their effort. The effort failed to gain enough support among state legislators and failed this year. Instead, the state legislature opted to change the legal consequences for some marijuana possession offences from prison sentences to fines. Unfortunately, the group of politicians who tried to legalize the sale of recreational marijuana plan on trying again in next year's legislative session. Hopefully it will be met with an even stronger rejection of their misguided effort.

The state legislature managed to pass Erin's Law: a law that will require schools to provide education to protect against the sexual abuse of children. This is a

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further step in working to prevent and combat the sexual abuse of our children in our state. Earlier this year, the state legislature had managed to pass the Child Victims Act, which extended the statute of limitations for pursuing criminal and civil action against those who sexually abused children. Towards the end of the session, the state legislature took a further step in fixing the state's absurd statute of limitations laws. The state extended the statute of limitations for second- and third-degree rape. The legislature also strengthened state laws against sexual harassment. Hopefully the state legislature will continue to take steps in the coming years to abolish the statute of limitations for sex crimes, and to strengthen efforts to combat sexual abuse.

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"The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave." Patrick Henry

## David Bellavia Receives Medal of Honor

On June 25<sup>th</sup>, Staff Sargent David Bellavia, a native of Western New York, was awarded the Medal of Honor. The president presented Bellavia for the Medal of honor in recognition for his actions during the second battle of Fallujah, in 2004, in the Iraq War. Mr. Bellavia bears the distinction of being the first living veteran to receive a medal of honor for service in the Iraq War.

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## C.L. Gammon Holds Campaign Event in Tennessee

Earlier this month, Prohibition Party presidential candidate C.L. held a campaign event in Tennessee. The following article on the event was posted on the Independent Political Report.

Prohibition Party presidential Candidate, C.L. Gammon Holds Campaign Event in Tennessee

By: Jonathan Makeley

On June 8<sup>th</sup>, C.L. Gammon, the Prohibition Party presidential candidate for 2020, held a campaign event in Hartsville, Tennessee. The event was hosted by the Trousdale County Historical Society and was attended by about 50 people. C.L. Gammon spoke about his campaign and the Prohibition Party, and he responded to questions from the audience. He talked about the party's history of campaigning against alcohol, tobacco, gambling, and other vice industries, as well as it's history of working to advance women's suffrage and civil rights. He spoke about the human and social costs of alcohol, tobacco, and gambling, and the need to take stronger action to address these problems. He stated that alcohol had produced a public health crisis, which has affected the lives of more people than HIV/AIDS, TB, and Polio, and it needs a strong public effort to address it. He stated that alcohol, tobacco, and gambling costs jobs, destroys lives, causes poverty, and wrecks the lives of kids. "Thousands of kids will go to bed hungry tonight because their parents stopped at a convenience store

on their way home and spent all their money on beer, cigarettes, and lottery tickets" Gammon stated.

Gammon also spoke about his stances on other issues. On immigration, he stated that it was in the best interest of immigrants to enter the country legally, that illegal immigrants were more likely to fall prey to unscrupulous persons, and that he favored a clear path for legal immigrants to gain citizenship. On abortion, he stated that he opposed abortion on demand, and that he favored programs that explain the options other than abortion that are available to pregnant women. On gun issues, he stated that he supported the second amendment, and favored strong punishments for those who use guns to commit crimes. On government spending, stated that he supported requiring the federal government to pass balanced budgets.

In remarking on the impact of the event, Gammon stated, "Overall, I think it was a success."

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"I am a Prohibitionist because I am in favor of God, home and my native land: because the Prohibition Party is the only party that has a live, moral, Christian principle: because I want to lift the pall of intemperance that is shrouding so many homes, and because I love and revere the objects which the party seeks to attain." Joseph W. Bruce, Prohibition Party candidate for Governor of New York in 1891

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## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Congress Passing 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment

June 4<sup>th</sup> was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment in Congress. The movement for women's suffrage had gained momentum in the 1910's. In 1919, Congress held several votes on a proposed constitutional amendment for women's suffrage. The proposed 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment passed the House of Representatives on May 21<sup>st</sup>, and it passed the Senate on June 4<sup>th</sup>. It was then ratified by states over a period that mainly occurred in 1919 and 1920. Tennessee became the 36<sup>th</sup> state to ratify the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 1920, and the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment was officially established in August 26<sup>th</sup>, 1920.

Among one of the congressmen who voted for the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment was Prohibition Party Congressman Charles H. Randall, of California.

## Attack on One of New York's Dry Towns

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. The are currently trying to gather the 353 petition signatures to be able to get a referendum on the ballot. 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.

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.

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"We have the right to prohibit the sale of stale meat and fish, and here was something infinitely worse, which we ask shall be prohibited. If we can prevent the sale of stale articles of food, why can we not do it with a drink, which is not only destructive of health, but of the soul?" William J. Groo

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### Charitable Volunteering Rates

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Corporation for National and Community Service have released new data on volunteerism in the United States. It is reported that in 2017, Americans spent an estimated 6.9 billion hours doing volunteer work, and that 30.3% of Americans age 16 and older had engaged in volunteer work that year. That is was 6 percentage points higher than 2016.

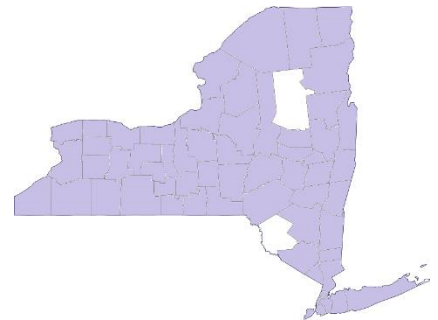
Source: [https://www.cnn.com/2019/06/04/us/volunteering-statistics-united-states-america-cfc/index.html?utm\\_term=.link&utm\\_content=2019-06-04T14%3A00%3A06&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twCNN](https://www.cnn.com/2019/06/04/us/volunteering-statistics-united-states-america-cfc/index.html?utm_term=.link&utm_content=2019-06-04T14%3A00%3A06&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twCNN)

## Voter Enthusiasm High for 2020 Election

Early polling for the 2020 Presidential election has shown signs of relatively high levels of interest and enthusiasm among voters. An NBC/ Wall Street Journal Poll in April/May reported that 69% of respondents reported a 9 or 10 on a 10/10 scale on their level of enthusiasm for the 2020 election. This is greater than the 60% that was reported in April 2015 for the 2016 election. It is also higher than the level reported in each NBC/ Wall Street Journal poll from January to August 2012 for the 2012 election. A poll by Fox News in April of this year reported that 52% of respondents were extremely interested in the 2020 election. This is significantly higher than the 31% of respondents who were extremely interested in a July 2015 poll for the 2016 election, and the 32% of respondents who were extremely interested in a September 2011 poll for the 2012 election.

Now, these are early polling numbers and it is unknown how voter interest and enthusiasm will change between now and the 2020 campaign period. But these early numbers are a positive sign that there might be a relatively high level of public engagement for the 2020 election.

Source: <https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/sick-of-2020-already-most-voters-arent/>



### 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 303 communities across the state, in 60 out of 62 counties. We also reached people in 48 other states, and over 50 countries. The New York Prohibition Party twitter account has reached over 820,000 cumulative views.



## Competition in Politics

There was a recent article by Jim Jonas (chief political strategist for the Serve America Movement Party), It's Time to Break Up the Two-Party Monopoly, on [Insidesources.com](https://www.insidesources.com/its-time-to-break-up-the-two-party-monopoly/), about competition in U.S. Politics. The full article can be read via this link:

<https://www.insidesources.com/its-time-to-break-up-the-two-party-monopoly/>

Mr. Jonas starts by pointing out recent calls to break up major tech companies, such as Facebook, out of concern about them acquiring an almost monopolistic power of online communication, and he uses that to segue into the consideration of the almost monopolistic power that the Democratic Republican Parties in our elections. Mr. Jonas correctly points out that the two major parties have used their power to create unequal systems that favor their parties, while suppressing minor parties and independents, and stifling electoral reforms. The major parties have also sought to propagandize voters into believing that their two-party dominance and its accompanying political disfunction is inevitable. Mr. Jonas also aptly states that,

"The two dominant political parties may not agree on solutions to hot-button policy disagreements. But they're in complete cahoots when it comes to blocking more competition from entering the political system. From ballot access and campaign finance restrictions to gerrymandered districts, the system is littered with anti-competitive rules that protect the two-party monopoly instead of encouraging the emergence of new voices and choices that will demand real progress on fixing problems."

Mr. Jonas then writes in favor of some electoral reforms such as non-partisan redistricting, fair and equal ballot access laws, fair and equal standards for debate access, open primaries, and ranked choice voting. He then, unsurprisingly ends his article with a pitch for his own party. Overall, he makes some useful points, and we can agree that there is a need to change the system to end the major parties' unfair advantages, and establish a fairer and more open political system.

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"You can fool all the people part of the time, or you can fool some people all the time, but you cannot fool all people all the time." William J. Groo

## William J. Groo

William J. Groo was a lawyer, judge, and Prohibition Party politician. William Groo was born in 1831, in Sullivan County, New York. He was one of the five children of Samuel and Mercy Groo. In 1855, William married his first wife, Sarah Graham Lines, and they went on to have 5 children. William Groo entered a career in law. In 1856, he became a district attorney for Sullivan County, and at some point, had become the special county judge in Sullivan County. In 1860, Groo attended the national Republican convention that nominated Abraham Lincoln.

At some point between 1860 and 1870, Groo moved from Thomson, Sullivan County, New York, to Middletown, Orange County, New York. He would spend most of remaining life living in Middletown (with the exception being some period of time around 1875, in which he lived in Wawayanda, Orange County, before returning to Middletown by 1880). In 1870, he served as vice president of the Orange County Bible Society. In 1872, Groo became a Special County Judge for Orange County. In 1873, Groo married his second wife, Mary Frances Groo, and they went on to have 7 children.

By the early 1870's Groo became active in temperance and prohibitionist activism. In June 1873, Groo chaired a meeting of temperance and prohibition activists from several different groups, in Albany. The meeting was in response to then Governor John Adams Dix's failure to pass a local prohibition law in the state of New York. Groo spoke in favor of prohibition and the need to elect principled temperance men.

In 1876, Groo ran as the Prohibition Party candidate for governor of New York. He received 34,12 (0.34%) votes and came in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. He was able to get 1% or more of the vote in Chenango, Dutchess, Herkimer, Livingston, Niagara, Oswego, Otsego, Schuyler, Suffolk, and Tompkins counties.

Groo continued with his temperance and prohibition activism. In 1877, Groo gave an address at a meeting of the American Temperance Union at the Cooper Institute, in New York City. He spoke of the social costs of the damages caused by alcohol; including the resources wasted on alcohol manufacturing, and the

role of alcohol in contributing to crime. His speech included the following lines: "Forty million bushels of grain, or a bushel for every man, woman, and child in the country, was destroyed annually in this business. Every interest suffers from it. The rents of tenement houses are increased as a result from increased taxation to support prisons, lunatic asylums, and poor houses. The furniture dealer suffers, so does the carpet manufacturer, the shoemaker, the tailor, the dry goods dealer, the grocer, for in each of these lines of trade the money spent for rum would be used in purchasing the necessities for families."

In 1878, at the national meeting of the Sons of Temperance, in Buffalo, New York, Groo gave a speech, calling for increased efforts to educate the public on the harms of alcohol.

In 1885, there was a debate held at Music Hall, in Brooklyn, New York, on the merits of prohibition vs. high license. Groo was one of the participants on the prohibitionist side. Groo's arguments included the following statement: "The license people propose to perpetuate this obnoxious traffic and simply to increase revenue from it. We propose to stamp it out completely and to unite prohibition in state and national constitutions. We have developed such a sentiment with regards to this traffic that it has become odious, and nobody pretends to apologize for it. We have the moral duty and the right to pass laws against murder and larceny. We also have the moral right and obligation to write upon the statute book a law against that which makes murder and larceny."

In 1886, Groo ran as the prohibition party candidate for Justice on the state Court of Appeals. He received 36,414 (3.76%) votes. In 1887, Groo spoke at various temperance meetings, promoting prohibitionism. In August of that year, Groo attended the annual Prohibition Party state convention in Syracuse.

In 1888, Groo acted as a lawyer in a civil case in which the WCTU and the state Liquor Dealer's Association clashed. A woman in Orange County, whose husband had been injured in a drunken accident, sued the hotel who sold her husband liquor, in order to receive compensation for the financial losses caused by his injury. The woman was supported by Orange County WCTU, who hired Groo,

In 1891, the city of Middletown had a close election for Excise commissioner. The election featured Prohibition Party candidate Jesse Woods and his opponent Lewis B. Scott. The initial results of the election showed Scott winning. Groo represented Woods and challenged the results. After a recount, in March 1892, the Board of Canvassers still ruled that Woods narrowly lost to Scott, 216 to 238. In 1892, Groo served as chairman for a committee of Prohibitionists in Orange, Rockland, and Sullivan Counties to

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