

New York Prohibitionist



Think NY Vote Dry

January 2020

Volume 3 #1

The Grand 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.

"We need leaders not in love with money but in love with justice. Not in love with publicity but in love with humanity."
Martin Luther King Jr.

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 newyorkpohibition@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.

Activities in the Prohibition Party Across the Nation

As we near closer to the 2020 election, the Prohibition Party continues to work on ballot access efforts for its 2020 Ticket. Work is being done to try to get Collins and Parker on ballot in Arkansas, Colorado, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

On January 16th, the semi-annual meeting of the Prohibition Trust Fund Association was held, and financial grants were made to help support various temperance and prohibition efforts. This included grants to help cover expected costs for the Prohibition Party's 2020 ballot access efforts, as well as funds to send C.L. Gammon to deliver a series of presentations on the history of the Prohibition Party to temperance groups in Russia.

Adam Seaman, has been appointed as state chairman of the Prohibition Party in Massachusetts. In addition, Mr. Seaman has stated his intention to run as a Prohibition Party candidate for library trustee, in the town of Southwick, MA.

State Legislative Efforts

This month, the New York State Assembly and State Senate returned to regular session. We are now in a period where legislators can work to pass legislation. The Prohibition Party aims to help generate support for bills to help improve the condition of New York, and to oppose bills which would be detrimental to the people of this state.

Last year, Assembly member DenDekker put forward Bill A06349A/S04648. The bill would increase funding for addiction prevention and recovery efforts for alcohol and other drugs. The bill had managed to get 40 sponsors in the state assembly. Though the bill didn't manage to make it out of committee before the end of last years' session. This year represents a new change to pass the bill. The bill has been referred to the State Assembly's ways and means committee and the State Senate's budget and revenue committee.

In 2018, Assembly member Ortiz introduced a bill to strengthen the state's drunk driving laws, by lowering the BAC limit for DWI from 0.08 to 0.05 and the BAC limit for Aggravated DWI from 0.18 to 0.12. Currently, the bill is numbered as Bill A03208/S5117. The bill currently has 16 sponsored in the state assembly. The bill has been referred to the State Assembly's transportation committee and the State Senate's transportation committee.

An important way in which people can help to get these bills past is to contact members of the State Assembly and State Senate and encourage them to support these bills.

In previous issues, we had mentioned how there is a misguided effort to pass a



bill to allow the sale of alcohol in movie theaters. We have the bill for that effort as Bill A07681A/S6202. It was introduced by Assembly member Fahy and State Senator Savino. The bill has been referred to the State Assembly's economic development committee and the State Senate's agriculture committee.

In order to help defeat this bill, it is important that people contact members of the State Assembly and State Senate and encourage them to oppose this law.

If one is interested in contacting members of the State Assembly and State Senate, their contact information can be found on the New York State Assembly and New York State Senate websites.

New York State Assembly:

<https://nyassembly.gov/mem/>

New York State Assembly:

<https://www.nysenate.gov/senators-committees>

If one is interested in following the details of these bills, here are the links:

Bill A06349A/S04648:

<https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?bn=A06349&term=2019>

Bill A03208/S5117:

<https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?bn=A03208&term=2019>

Bill A07681A/S6202:

https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=A07681&term=2019&Summary=Y

"Courage is often contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are often stiffened." Billy Graham

Governor's Addresses

This month, Governor Cuomo Released his annual State of the State address, as well as his proposals for the 2021 state budget. The Prohibition Party of New York released a 6-page response to Governor Cuomo's State of the State address. The response was posted on January 17 on the Prohibition Party of New York website. It can be viewed via this link:

https://615c4beb-b241-4f4a-a6b4-a074dc02ce34.filesusr.com/ugd/2cc7be_0f7e4bc3cc794f7cbbab7be62649ef4a.pdf

The response will also be included at the end of this issue. This issue will also include an article responding to Governor Cuomo's recently released proposals for the state budget.

State Legislators Propose Bills to Ban E-Cigarettes and Flavored Tobacco

In recent times there has been a growing movement against flavored tobacco products, including flavored E-cigarette products. Last year, the Governor and state health authorities issued a temporary ban on the sale of flavored E-cigarettes. But that order was temporary and was recently struck down in state court. But there is a change that the state legislature may take action in this year's legislative session.

Assembly member Linda Rosenthal has introduced bill A00047A. The bill would ban the sale flavored liquids for E-cigarettes. The bill is currently sponsored by 40 members of the state assembly and is currently being considered by the Codes committee in the state assembly.

Assembly member Sandy Galef and State Senator David Carlucci have introduced bill A04787/S1181. The bill would ban the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored E-cigarettes. The bill currently being considered by the health committee in the State Assembly and the health committee in the State Senate.

Assembly member Rodneyse Bichotte and State Senator Brad Holyman have introduced Bill A08808/S6809. The bill would ban the sale of flavored tobacco products and accessories. It has been sponsored by 14 members of the State Assembly and 5 members of the State Senate. The bill is currently being

considered in the health committee of the State Assembly and the rules committee of the State Senate.

Sources: https://www.hudsonvalley360.com/news/greenecounty/new-york-legislators-push-ban-of-e-cigarettes-and-flavored/article_52b3e18d-5cde-50d7-a8ec-dcf944bebef3.html?fbclid=IwAR0Mm-lz4VulDQNIvblTFC20pOrQDYwrD43fecINaWMu6gpmwa8yQlvZ_8c

https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=A00047&term=2019&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Text=Y

https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=A04787&term=2019&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Text=Y

<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2019/s1181>

<https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?bn=A08808&term=2019>

<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2019/s6809>

State Legislatures Introduce Bills to Address Childhood Sexual Abuse

State Senator Alessandra Biagi and State Assembly member Andrew Hevesi have introduced a set of three proposed bills to reform state laws, with the aim of taking stronger steps to combat the crime of child sexual abuse. This includes Bill A09101/S7248, Bill A09102/S7249, and Bill A09103/S7247. A press release on the bills describes them as follows:

S7247/A9103 amends the Criminal Procedure Law to allow evidence of how a sex crime victim first disclosed the abuse regardless of when the disclosure was made relative to the crime. Unlike 48 other states, New York currently bars testimony of first-outcry from being admitted if the disclosure was delayed.

S7248/ A9101 amends the crimes of sexual conduct against a child in the first and second degrees and predatory sexual assault against a child to include all sexual conduct against a child committed prior to the child's 17th birthday. Under current law, prosecutors have to charge different offenses based on the age of the child, despite the fact that abuse often occurs across age groups for which different crimes – with different evidence standards – exist.

S7249/ A9102 amends the Penal Code to create a class E felony, establishing the crime of endangering the welfare of a child in the first degree. The bill addresses extraordinary forms of child abuse that often cannot be adequately charged under existing law, including risks of serious injury and protracted impairment, conduct resulting in physical injury to young children, and recidivist abusers.

Source: <https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/alessandra-biaggi/senator-biaggi-and-assemblymember-hevesi-build-gains-2019>

100

100th Anniversary of National Prohibition

January 17, 2020 was the 100th anniversary of the enactment of national prohibition under the 18th Amendment. National prohibition was the product of decades of prohibitionist activism and widespread public support prohibiting the sale of alcohol. Under national prohibition, the manufacture, transportation, and sale of alcohol was generally prohibited. The nation saw the largest reduction in drinking in its history, and vast reductions in alcohol-induced illnesses and deaths. Since alcohol use was a factor in crimes, this resulted in massive reductions in many areas of crime and resulted in an overall reduction in the nation's crime rates. Under national prohibition less money was wasted on alcohol, resulting in increased prosperity and savings for the average working man, as well as significant increases in the number of families able to afford to get their children an education. Unfortunately, the pro-alcohol elements, backed by a wealthy elite, launched a campaign against national prohibition, which resulted in its end in 1933. The end of national prohibition was followed by increased drinking, increased alcohol-induced illness and deaths, and increased crime. Since then, millions of Americans have been killed by legal alcohol, so the alcohol industry can line its pockets. But the American people can change this. We can work to turn the country back towards progress: towards the rejuvenation of the temperance movement, towards the dismantling of the alcohol industry, and towards the establishment of sound prohibitionist policies.

“Temperance crusaders weren't crackpots. They were fighting the business of making money off addiction.” Mark Lawrence Shrad

Support for Prohibition

100 Years Ago

Earlier this month, there was an article in the New York Times titled, “Why Americans Supported Prohibition 100 Years Ago”, Mark Lawrence Schrad. While other figures in the media have used the 100th Anniversary of the beginning of national prohibition to spread anti-prohibitionist myth’s, Mr. Schrad attempted to give a more factually accurate look into national prohibition and the motivations of those who supported it. While the article does not offer a full history of the U.S. prohibition movement, and doesn’t touch on the public health successes of national prohibition, it still represents a decent attempt at helping to inform the public and to correct some of the anti-prohibitionist myths.

Here are some highlights from Schrad’s article:

“Contrary to popular imagination — including recent coverage of the amendment’s centennial — there was no mad dash for hooch on the night of Jan. 16, 1920, no “going out of business” liquor store sales on Prohibition Eve. The United States had already been “dry” for the previous half-year thanks to the Wartime Prohibition Act. And even before that, 32 of the 48 states had already enacted their own statewide prohibitions.”

“That the final triumph of prohibition was met with shrugs, rather than the outraged street protests we tend to imagine, says less about prohibition back then and more about our inability to understand it today. The entire idea of prohibition seems so hostile to Americans’ contemporary sensibilities of personal freedom that we struggle to comprehend how our ancestors could have possibly supported it.”

“For decades now, popular histories have concocted false stories that the majority of the public had never supported prohibition, or that prohibition was conceived by a “radical fringe” of Bible-thumping, rural evangelicals trying to codify their Puritan morality... But this portrayal of prohibition as some reactionary, cultural-religious movement runs into a bevy of uncomfortable historical questions.”

“In reality, the temperance movement was anything but pinky-raising Victorians forbidding society to drink. Temperance was the longest-running, most widely supported social movement in both American and global history.”

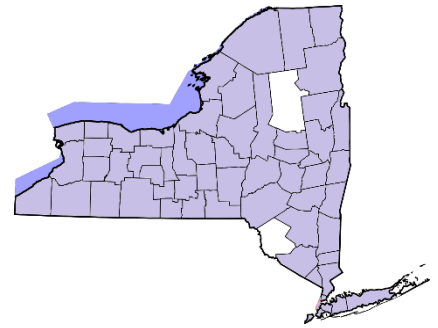
“In the 19th century, saloonkeepers across the United States and around the world were seen as parasites on the local community. This wasn’t Ted Danson, the friendly bartender in “Cheers!” There was no sending home a customer for having too much; that was lost profit. And since the saloonkeeper was often also the town pawnbroker, once you had drunk up your last penny, he might take your shirt, hat and watch too — if his hired pickpockets didn’t pinch them first.”

“One legislator called for prohibition “for the safety and redemption of the people from the social, political and moral curse of the saloon.” That zealot was Abraham Lincoln, rising to support Illinois’s statewide prohibition in 1855. Similar sentiments were expressed by Frederick Douglass, Theodore Roosevelt, Susan B. Anthony, William Jennings Bryan, William Lloyd Garrison, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and many other progressive leaders.”

“For a better understanding of temperance and prohibition, forget Bible-thumping “thou shalt nots.” Think instead about a major industry making outlandish profits by getting people hooked on an addictive substance that could kill them. Maybe that industry uses some of those profits to buy corrupt political cover by currying favor with government and oversight bodies. Let’s call this substance “opioids,” and the industry, “Big Pharma.””

“This is the same type of predatory capitalism that the temperance-cum-prohibition movement fought 100 years ago. Should big businesses be able to use addiction to reap tremendous profits from the poor? If your answer is no, and you were around 100 years ago, you likely would have joined the vast majority of Americans calling for the prohibition of liquor traffic.”

Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/17/opinion/prohibition-anniversary-100.html?fbclid=IwAR3CIJokqrudlxDX1U3cPu6KnTGCL1AsU2IF5BYPCcV1aUViQumU8FEDQ>



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 335 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 860,000 cumulative views.

Prohibition Party Gets Some Media Coverage, and the Modern Anti-Alcohol Movement

Earlier this month, BBC put out an article titled, “Prohibition: US activists fight for temperance 100 years on”, which includes some coverage of the modern-day Prohibition Party.

The article makes mention of the fact that the Prohibition Party continues to advocate the prohibitionist cause. That our party works towards establishing a sea change in public opinion, and moving our society towards the eventual reestablishment of national prohibition. It mentions how our presidential ticket received over 5,600 votes in 2016. It also makes mention of our 2020 presidential candidate, Phil Collins, and our efforts to get our presidential ticket on ballot in Arkansas, Colorado, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

To give an overview of the rest of the article. This is not the type of article that one would want to read if you were seeking to learn about the history of national prohibition. While it does make mention of the period of national prohibition, its description is filled with some sensationalist and factually inaccurate myths. It does get some details correct, such as the significant overlap

between the prohibitionist movement and the women's suffrage movement. But overall, it is not a fair or accurate description of national prohibition.

The article's usefulness is more in the details it provides on more contemporary times. In addition, to its information about the Prohibition Party, it includes some information on the modern-day Women Christian's Temperance Union. It also mentions a Gallup poll which states that 19% of Americans consider alcohol consumption to be immoral. The article makes mention of how there are various towns and counties across the country with local level prohibition laws.

The article makes the dubious claim that there is a trend towards liberalizing alcohol laws. While there may be some instances of local or state governments in the U.S. weakening laws against alcohol. There are certain global trends in the other direction. In recent years, various local, state/provincial, and national governments around the world have worked to increase restrictions on the sale of alcohol. Recently, the World Health Organization started a global initiative to reduce alcohol induced harms. One of the key tenants of this plan is increasing restrictions on alcohol sales. In 2016, the state of Bihar, in India (home to over 103 million people) established statewide prohibition policies. These policies have resulted in reduced drinking, decreased crime, and improved economic prosperity to the average household. The state of Andhra Pradesh, in India (home to nearly 50 million people) is working to implement a multi-phased plan to move the state towards statewide prohibition. The issue is in flux, and there is plenty of opportunity to build efforts to advance prohibitionist policies in the U.S.

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-51090163?fbclid=IwAR0leub5Qj6btt3PeFtR6zq0t5GIPtq9a4A3tCXU7mjX0hgaMhn3rMzao>
<https://news.gallup.com/poll/1582/alcohol-drinking.aspx>
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/15/world/asia/india-bihar-alcohol-banwomen.html>
<https://www.timeslive.co.za/sunday-times/lifestyle/health-and-sex/201910-01-hold-the-vodka-russians-cut-drinking-by-43-life-expectancysoars/7fbclid=IwAR1V0CX7rHjrengUroclis25oKnfflB6512VDHbR9taeWTuwU4jrOUAKQ>
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<https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/329393/9789241515368-eng.pdf>
https://www.who.int/substance_abuse/safer/launch/en/
<https://www.cnn.com/2018/04/18/politics/how-andhra-prohibition-is-impacting-alcohol-consumption-in-the-state-4805101.html>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andhra_Pradesh
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bihar>

New Study on Alcohol Deaths

A new study has been released by the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism on deaths from alcohol. Researchers looked for alcohol related deaths reported in death certificates from 1999 to 2017. They found records of over one million alcohol related deaths, with the number increasing from 35,914 reported deaths in 1999 to 72,558 reported deaths in 2017. This translated to an increase in reported deaths from 16.9 per 100,000 to 25.5 per 100,000. Though researchers note that given their limited source of data, that the number of people killed by alcohol is likely higher. Since a person could have been killed by an alcohol induced illness and not have had it included in the details of their death certificate. Indeed, a moderate estimate from the CDC puts the number of alcohol-induced deaths in the U.S. at over 88,000 a year, and there are others who estimate the annual death toll as even higher than that. Though this study helps to shed light on the fact that alcohol destroys many lives.

Sources: https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/08/health/alcohol-related-deaths-double/index.html?utm_term=.link&utm_content=2020-01-08T13%3A31%3A29&utm_source=fbCNN&utm_medium=social&fbclid=IwAR1Q6ARhr3BEjxb4XYc_0BUejvUdRk7ZRD-P5qr5R-V58sTILuDITTha6Y
<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/the-number-of-americans-drinking-themselves-to-death-has-more-than-doubled-2020-01-08>
<https://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/fact-sheets/alcohol-use.htm>

Associated Press Report: Average Rate of Drinking Increasing, Now Higher Than Before National Prohibition

The Associated Press has reported that per-capita alcohol consumption in the U.S. is increasing, and has reached a level higher than before National Prohibition. Associates Press claims that in 1910 per capita alcohol consumption was around 2 gallons. Alcohol use vastly decreased under national prohibition. It is reported that in 1934, the year after the end of national prohibition, that per capita consumption was less than a gallon. After the end of national prohibition, alcohol use increased in the following decades. It is reported that post-national prohibition alcohol consumption peaked at around 2.75 gallons per capita in the 1970's and early 1980's, and then somewhat decreased in the late 1980's and 1990's. But per capita consumption began increasing again in 1998 and has been rising since then. It has now reportedly

increased to 2.34 gallons per capita in 2017, which is larger than the reported per capita consumption rate prior to national prohibition. This report gives warning of the large-scale problem of alcohol use. The American temperance movement needs to be greatly expanded, in order to reduce alcohol use, increase the number of teetotalers (committed non-drinkers) in our country, and move towards the abolition of drinking culture.

Sources: <https://apnews.com/f1f81ade0748410aaeb6eeab7a772bf7>

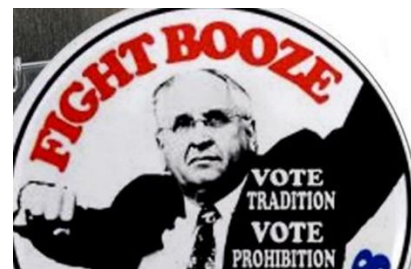
<https://www.wivb.com/news/us-headlines/us-drinking-more-now-than-just-before-prohibition/?fbclid=IwAR2ZZNE6m0gBgBHAzXEAFDXV6-ZF0kmI9PJ57epn1MYDK6UKua0zCM1m4M>

Study Reports Binge Drinking on the Rise

The CDC has released a report on binge drinking in the U.S. It reported that in 2015, 17.1% of U.S. adults regularly engaged in binge drinking. It was reported that from 2011 to 2017, the percentage of people engaging in regular binge drinking did not change significantly on the national level. But 9 states did see significant increases in binge drinking. Those states were Idaho, Indiana, Maine, Montana, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, and Virginia. At the same time, there has been an increase in terms of the severity of binge drinking. The study found that from 2011 to 2017, the average total amount of alcohol consumed by binge drinkers in instances of binge drinking had increased by about 12.

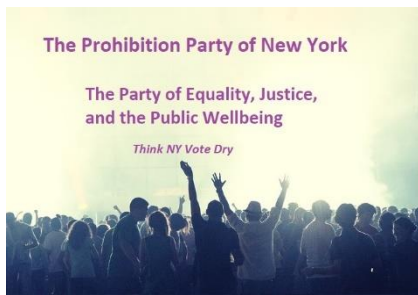
This information is concerning. Especially since New York was one of the states reported to have seen significant increases in binge drinking.

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6902a2.htm?_cid=mm6902a2_e&deliveryName=USCDC_921-DM17216



"Evil in humankind lies in the lack of governance by reason over the passions"
John Adams

"The superior man understands what is right; the inferior man understands what will sell" Confucius



U.S. Surgeon General Releases Report on Smoking Cessation

The Surgeon General Jerome Adams has released on a new report on tobacco cessation. This report the first surgeon general report since 1990 that is exclusively focused on how to get people to quit smoking. It found that while smoking has decreased in past decades, tobacco still remains a leading cause of preventable death, disease, and disability in the U.S., which costs us roughly 300 billion dollars a year in damages.

"This is not just a toll on our personal and physical health, it's a toll on our economy and our nation." Jerome Adams

The report found that many smokers attempt to quit, but have difficulty in finding help to quit smoking. More than half of all smokers attempt to quit in a given year, but many face challenges, including not being provided with adequate information and aid from medical providers. It was reported that 40% of smokers who see a healthcare provider are not advised to quit.

"One of the problems is we think people in these populations don't want to quit, or can't quit. We know based on the report that's not true. They're trying to quit. They want to quit." Jerome Adams

The report highlights that there are also disparities when it comes to tobacco use. Tobacco use and addiction has persisted more heavily among people with mental health issues, people with addictions to other substances, racial and ethnic minorities, and the LGBT community. In the past, there has been insufficient efforts to help people within these groups, and people in those groups may face additional challenges in receiving help to quit smoking.

The surgeon general made a series of recommendations as to ways to help more people quit smoking. This included taking steps to make sure doctors advise

patients to quit smoking, having healthcare providers expand access to behavior counseling and tobacco cessation products, raising the price of cigarettes, adopting comprehensive smoke-free policies, using mass media campaigns to inform people and promote cessation, and maintaining statewide tobacco control programs.

Source: <https://www.healthcarefinancenews.com/news/surgeon-general-releases-smoking-cessation-report-outlining-strategies-healthcare-systems>

SAM New York Joins in Suing Against Ballot Access Changes

In past issues, we have reported on how a group of political elites hijacked a state commission on public financing for elections and used it to re-write state ballot access laws, in a way that will likely result in most minor parties which currently have state ballot access to lose it, will make it almost impossible for them to regain it, will make it far harder for minor party and independent candidates to get on ballot for state office, and will cause voters to lose most of their options on the ballot. Several minor parties have stood up in opposition to this change. The New York Conservative Party and New York Working Families Party were already suing the state, contending that the commission lacked the authority to change ballot access laws and violated the state constitution. The New York Green Party and New York Libertarian Party subsequently announced their intention to challenge the ballot access changes. Earlier this month, New York's Serve America Movement party, aka SAM, started its own lawsuit against the ballot access changes. They contend that the changes violate the 1st and 14th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution. It remains to be seen how things will turn out. But hopefully all these different lawsuits will result in the court's striking down those ballot access changes and a quick restoration of the state's old ballot access laws.

Sources: <https://joinsam.org/blog/sam-ny-sues-cuomo-legislators-and-nys-board-election-over-ballot-access-law?fbclid=IwAR00Dtlwzpf6x0D37sKWHeP5F0SU8ldU9SxMxAWP2gJy6NvsrVaWVt1e4>

https://615c4beb-b241-4f4a-a6b4-a074dc02ce934.filesusr.com/ugd/2cc7be_887a551bb084464ea4de867d3918e2d4.pdf

"We maintain that all American citizens, regardless of race, religion or national origin, are equal before the law and are entitled to equality of treatment under the laws of our land." 1960 Prohibition Party Platform

The Governor's Budget Proposals

Recently, Governor Cuomo has released his proposals for the 2021 state budget. A detailed account of his proposals can be found via this link: <https://www.budget.ny.gov/pubs/archive/fy21/exec/book/briefingbook.pdf>

The Governor's proposed budget in problematic in several aspects. Tucked within his proposed budget are plans to legalize the sale of recreational marijuana, to weaken state restrictions on the alcohol industry, and to weaken state restrictions. In doing so, the governor is endeavoring to advance a set of misguided and regressive changes, which will line the pockets of corrupt industries (and many of Cuomo's campaign donors) at the expense of the health, safety, and wellbeing of New Yorkers. Such efforts should be rejected.

The state faces a 6-billion-dollar budget deficit. Governor Cuomo's plans for addressing this deficit include some major misguided proposals. These include plans to cut state funding to Medicaid and push the costs off to local governments, as well as weakening state aid to local governments. The state already forces local governments to pay for a significant portion of the state's budget expenses, particularly state Medicaid expenses. These state-imposed costs on local governments have been a major driver of high property taxes. If the governor's proposed changes are made, it could lead to a decreased quality in state Medicaid services and significant increases in local property taxes. Instead of having the state take greater responsibility for its expenses and reduce the burden placed on local governments, the governor seems intent on doing the opposite.

Sources: <https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/politics/albany/2020/01/21/new-york-state-budget-2020-9-proposals-could-impact-your-wallet/4530292002/?fbclid=IwAR2OTdcG6ASdVfTo6s8rhvOW8vaOxI5-xFe0uoE7fNbxS32zLdbB2ReDvYs>

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-outlines-fy-2021-budget-making-progress-happen>

<https://www.budget.ny.gov/pubs/archive/fy21/exec/book/briefingbook.pdf>



Excelsior and College Affordability

Earlier this month, Governor Cuomo announced his intention to work to implement the latest phase of expanding his Excelsior Scholarship program in the state. The Excelsior Scholarship is a state financial aid program, which provides some additional financial aid to some students and SUNY and CUNY colleges, to help cover the remaining costs of tuition not covered by other sources of financial aid. This new phase of expansion would increase the eligibility range from students from households making up to \$125,000 a year, to households making up to \$150,000 dollars a year. When the Governor initially introduced his Excelsior Scholarship plan, it had included the intention to eventually raise the income eligibility range to \$150,000. So, this change would complete that aspect of his plan.

While the Excelsior Scholarship has helped make college more affordable for some New Yorkers, Governor Cuomo has had a tendency to publicly exaggerate the impact of the Excelsior Program. He has made claims such as that Excelsior established free college for the average New Yorker, or that it was the first free college program in the country. In reality, most college students still have to take on debt to cover the cost of tuition. Most of the students in the state whose financial aid allows them to effectively attend college tuition were able to do so because of existing programs, such as the state's TAP program. Due to the restrictive eligibility requirements of the program, only about 2-3% of New York College Students receive aid from the Excelsior Scholarship, and most students who apply to the program are rejected. In addition, Tennessee its own free college program before the Excelsior Program was established.

The latest proposed expansion of the excelsior program has come new, exaggerated claims. Some media outlets have been reporting claims that that the change would enable an additional 230,000 New York resident students to attend college tuition free, and some go further claim that with

The Times Union has claimed that the change would enable an additional 230,000 New York resident students to

attend college tuition free. WKBW Buffalo claimed that the change would enable an additional 230,000 New York resident students to attend college tuition free, and that it would result in 58% of New York resident college students attending college tuition free. These claims seem unlikely to be true.

The existing excelsior program has only helped about 20,000 to 25,000 students a year. In addition, only around 230,000 students currently attend college tuition free. It seems highly unlikely that a 20% increase in the income range for eligibility would result in hundreds of thousands of additional students attending college tuition free. Unless there are some other significant actions being taken, which reporters haven't elaborated, it seems unlikely that such a large increase in the number of students attending college tuition free will actually occur.

If the state serious about improving college affordability and expanding the number of students able to attend college tuition free, then they should make significant expansion's to the state's TAP program: a program which actually aids the average college student and has been a key force in allowing for most of the students which currently attend college tuition free.

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

New York Prohibition Party History

| GOVERNOR. | | Vote for ONE |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Jacob Sloat Fassett—of Elmira | | Republican |
| Daniel DeLeon—of New York | | Socialist |
| Joseph W. Bruce—Canastota | | Prohibition |
| Roswell P. Flower—of New York | | Democratic |
| | | Labor |

Joseph W. Bruce

Joseph W. Bruce was a farmer, businessman, and prohibition party politician, who was the Prohibition Party's candidate for governor of New York in 1891.

Joseph W. Bruce was born on July 3rd, 1821. He was the son of Joseph Bruce Sr. and Maria Bruce. He seems to have spent most of his life living in the town of Lenox and the village of Canastota (which is in Lenox) in Madison County, New York. Some time before 1858, he married Caroline Starr Bruce. In 1858, his daughter Nancy was born.

Joseph Bruce mainly made a living as a farmer in Lenox. In 1888, Joseph and E.N. Bruce opened Bruce Theater in Canastota. Bruce Theater showed films until it was damaged by a fire in 1909, and went out of business.

Bruce was involved with the Prohibition Party at least as early as the early 1880's. In 1882, Bruce ran as the Prohibition Party's candidate for State Assembly in Madison County's 1st Assembly District. He received 641 votes and 7.21% of the total vote. In 1884, he ran for Congress in New York's 26th district, received 1,534 votes and 3.48% of the total vote. In 1888, he was selected as one of the electors for the party's presidential ticket in New York. In 1889, Bruce was the Prohibition Party candidate for State Treasurer. He received 26,527 votes and 2.61% of the total vote.

In 1891, the Prohibition Party nominated Bruce as its candidate for Governor of New York. The party campaigned on a platform which included support for state and national prohibition laws, support for adding a prohibition amendment to the U.S. Constitution, support for women's suffrage, support for a national currency backed by gold and silver, and strict enforcement of the civil service law. Bruce held campaign events

in communities throughout the state. In the end, Bruce received 30,353 votes and 2.61% of the total vote. This was the largest percentage that the Prohibition Party has so far received in a New York governor's election.

Joseph W. Bruce died on September 24th, 1907, and was buried in Lenox Memorial Cemetery.

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Prohibition Party of New York Response to Governor Andrew Cuomo's 2020 State of the State Address

January 10, 2020

On January 8th, 2020, Governor Andrew Cuomo delivered his annual state of the state address, laying forth his own understanding of the condition of the state, and his proposals of what he would like to see in the coming year. In the interest of advancing a productive discourse as to the condition and future of the state of New York, we of the Prohibition Party of New York will put forward a response to Governor Cuomo's address; in which, we will evaluate his statements and proposals, and counter by articulating our own vision and proposals for the state.

Prior to the beginning of Cuomo's speech there were a number of opening speakers. Among those was Rev. Phil Turner, who delivered an invocation. In it, he claimed that the governor is "concerned with the welfare and safety of every sector of our population". If only this were the case. But unfortunately, various policies and actions advanced by his administration in the past and present suggest otherwise. Perhaps the governor does believe he is concerned with the welfare and safety of all sectors of the population, but is severely misguided as to what is in the public interest. But in terms of the conditions and effects of his policies and actions, he has shown a general indifference to the lives, safety, and wellbeing of New Yorkers. Time and again, he has pursued misguided policies which have been detrimental to the lives and wellbeing of New Yorkers, and on various occasions has failed to take important steps to deal with important problems facing the state. If the governor truly cares about the lives and safety of New Yorkers, then he should come to realize the error of his ways, and change his approach. He should end his support for the alcohol industry, stop his misguided efforts to legalize the sale of recreational marijuana, take serious steps to combat the problems of alcohol and other drugs, take serious steps to combat corruption, and take serious steps to improve education, infrastructure, and economic development.

Governor Cuomo has proposed that the state take action to ban fentanyl analogues. That is, substances which are chemically similar to fentanyl, which could be used as a substitute for fentanyl or altered to make fentanyl, but under current law are technically not illegal. Indeed, the state legislature should pass a law banning

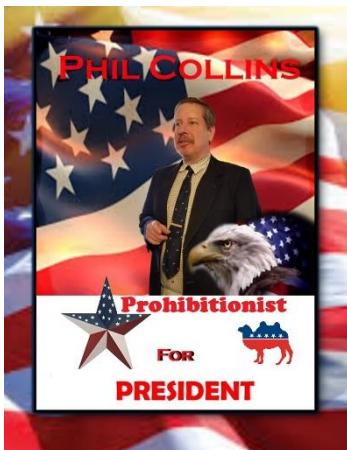
fentanyl analogues. The Cuomo has also proposed expanding state treatment programs for dealing with opioid addiction. In general, the state should expand its efforts to treat opioid addiction, as well as prevention and treatment efforts for drug use in general.

Governor Cuomo has proposed increasing state efforts to crack down on retailers who illegally sell tobacco products to minors. He has also proposed that the state should ban the sale of flavored nicotine vaping products, and ban vaping advertising aimed at youth. Indeed, the state should expand measures to combat the tobacco industry in all forms.

While Governor Cuomo has made some sensible proposals for addressing fentanyl and tobacco, he has unfortunately put forward some very misguided and regressive proposals in regards to alcohol and marijuana. Governor Cuomo continues his support for the alcohol industry and continues to engage in efforts to weaken state laws restricting the alcohol industry. Governor Cuomo wants to make it legal to sell alcohol in movie theaters, he wants to weaken the state's tied house laws which restrict connections between alcohol manufacturers/wholesalers and alcohol retailers, he wants to severely weaken state restrictions on colleges instructing students on how to produce alcohol, he wants colleges

to be able to get in the business of selling alcohol produced by students, and he wants to exploit colleges as a means of producing a workforce for the alcohol industry.

Governor Cuomo fundamentally misunderstands the problem of alcohol and the alcohol industry. Alcohol is a toxic substance, which is detrimental to the mental and physical health of users. It causes a wide variety of illnesses and injuries, including brain damage, organ failure, and several forms of cancer. Scientific and medical research has shown that any level of alcohol use is damaging to health. Alcohol kills over 88,000 Americans a year, and over 3 million people a year worldwide. Alcohol kills more people and produces a larger amount of addiction than all opioids combined. Alcohol use is a major factor in many instances of crime, particularly violent crime. Alcohol use fuels drunk driving. Alcohol use contributes to increased rates of spousal abuse, child abuse, and child neglect. Alcohol is the most common rape drug in cases of sexual assault. Alcohol is a public health problem. The alcohol industry not only produces and sells this harmful product to consumers, but only



promotes its use, and works to undermine efforts to inform the public about its harms. The alcohol industry is fueling this public health crisis. By weakening state restrictions against the alcohol industry and using the state government to promote its growth, Cuomo and his coconspirators are actively working to make the problem worse.

Cuomo falsely claims that growing the alcohol industry will help grow the state's economy. But in reality, it is harming it. Our state loses over 16 billion dollars a year due to the social, medical, and economic damages caused by alcohol. That includes treating alcohol induced illnesses, the financial lost caused by alcohol caused deaths, lost worker productivity, the damages caused by drunk driving, the costs of other alcohol fueled crime and violence, and many other damages. The state loses 4 times as much money from the damages caused by alcohol then it gets from the alcohol industry. Many of these damages end up having to be paid by the state and local governments. And since the amount of money that the alcohol industry pays in taxes is nowhere near the amount of money the state spends in dealing with the problems caused by alcohol, the average taxpayer ends up having to pay higher taxes to cover the cost. The alcohol industry does not help the economy. The alcohol industry makes our state sicker, poorer, and more highly taxed. And expanding the alcohol industry only makes it worse.

The state should not allow movie theaters to sell alcohol. Companies should not poison their customers with toxic products like alcohol. And we don't another social space promoting drinking, and by result likely facilitating increased rates of drunk driving. We should instead by increasing restrictions of alcohol sales, and working to expand the amount of alcohol-free social spaces for families and those who do not drink. Weakening Tied House laws would only serve to increase the power and influence of alcohol companies. Our colleges are meant to educate, develop, and uplift its people. They are not meant to be used as places for facilitating the exploitation, harm, and degradation of people. Our colleges shouldn't be turned into breweries and our students shouldn't be treated as a product to be sold off to the alcohol industry. On the contrary, the state should ban any SUNY college, CUNY college, or college receiving state funding from operating any alcohol production program.

Last year, Governor Cuomo and his coconspirators attempted to legalize the sale of recreational marijuana in the state. After rising opposition from doctors, law

enforcement members, and many members of the public, the state legislature rejected the effort. This year, Governor Cuomo is once again making another misguided attempt to legalize the sale of recreational marijuana. Governor Cuomo ignores the growing body of medical and scientific researching the negative effects of marijuana use on

the brain and body. He ignores the fact the states which have legalized the sale of marijuana use have seen increasing rates of marijuana use among children and have seen increasing rates of drugged driving accidents. He ignores the fact that states that have legalized the sale of recreational marijuana have ended spending far more money dealing with the problems caused by legal marijuana than the have gained in revenue from it. The state of Colorado loses 4 times the money it receives. And he ignores the general reality that whenever a state has allowed companies to sell a drug for recreational use (whether it be alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, et cetera) that it has resulted increased drug use, greedy corporations openly promoting its use, a decline in public health due to illnesses and injuries resulting from such use, and increased costs in terms of social, medical, and economic damages. From the standpoint of public health, wellbeing, and safety, legalization is a failure. Hopefully sensible members of the public will continue to voice their opposition to Cuomo's misguided effort and the legislature will once again reject his efforts.

They should also reject Cuomo's misguided idea of hijacking state colleges and state funds to promote marijuana. Again, colleges are supposed to be used to education and uplift. They are not a tool for the Governor to help out the corrupt businesses that donate to his campaign. The governor should stop to sell of the futures of students to his corporate donors, and start to look out for the public interest.

Governor Cuomo has proposed closing the intoxication loophole in the state's rape law. Under current state law, there is a loophole a person having sex with someone who is too drunk to consent is not automatically considered rape. As a result, it allows accused of rape in such cases to try to claim that consent when a victim is too impaired to effectively defend against attack, and thus potentially avoid being convicted of rape. Thus, the governor is calling for the legislature to pass a law removing this loophole. This change should be made. Rapists should not be able to walk free because they used alcohol (the most

common date rape drug) as an instrument to help enable them to commit rape.

Governor Cuomo has proposed updating state laws regarding the online activity of registered sex offenders, to require them to disclose the screen names for their online accounts to the Division of Criminal Justice Services, and establish criminal penalties for sex offenders misrepresenting themselves online. Indeed, the state should take stronger efforts to combat sexual predators and work to prevent them from using the internet as a means of targeting children.

Governor Cuomo spoke about the need to make changes to the state's system of funding for schools. Indeed, there are flaws in the state's system of finance, which result in the systemic underfunding of many schools, particularly in upstate school districts and lower income school districts. The state should take steps to help ensure that all schools are adequately funded. This is a long-standing problem, which the Cuomo Administration has long failed to adequately address. Hopefully this year the state will take significant step to improve the situation.

Governor Cuomo has once again bragged about this Excelsior program (a program which provides some additional funding to some college students for covering tuition costs). While this program has helped some students in the state, and is a step towards expanding college affordability, Cuomo has had a tendency to make exaggerated statement about the program does. In this speech his statements were more accurate as compared to his exaggerated claims last year. Unfortunately, he failed to use the opportunity to press for further reforms that would help make college education more affordable, such as expanding the state's TAP program.

Governor Cuomo spoke about the supposed improved economic conditions in the state. To some extent, he is correct that there is data to indicate that the state has seen some job growth and reductions in unemployment in recent years, he underplays some of our challenges. Many of the communities across the state have experienced decreasing populations. Decreasing populations have led to reduced consumer bases and tax bases, making it more difficult for many communities to maintain and attract businesses, to maintain enough jobs for residents, and finance important public services. While there are some signs of some millennials moving to the state, the state is still seeing some of the largest net outward migrations in the country, and more steps will be needed in

order to solve the problem. In addition, the state's economic development programs have in various cases been plagued by corruption, mismanagement, and poor planning. Stronger efforts need to be taken to improve our state's economic development efforts.

Governor Cuomo proposed enacting a new program to help facilitate the repairing of natural environments throughout the state. He stated that he planned on holding a public vote for the plan. Indeed, protecting the environment our state is important to protecting the quality of life of people and ensuring the long-term economic prosperity of our state. So, his proposal may be something to consider.

Governor Cuomo spoke about the importance of developing the state's infrastructure. He made several proposals for various infrastructure development projects across the state. Now generally, the state should work to further improve its infrastructure. But as to the governor's specific proposals, it will be important to look into the details to see how feasible they would be.

Governor Cuomo proposed passing a law requiring elected public officials in the state, making over \$100,000 to publicly disclose their taxes. Indeed, it would be interesting to see what officials may be personally receiving financial benefits from corporations and special interests. Though, Governor Cuomo has a history of ethics reform proposals at state of the union addresses and not following up to get them passed.

Governor Cuomo failed to address how a group of political elites hijacked the state commission that was designing a plan for public financing of elections, and used it to rewrite state ballot access laws in a way that would cause most of the current state recognized parties to lose statewide ballot access, would make it almost impossible for those parties to regain ballot access, would make it vastly harder for independents to get statewide ballots, and removing most of your options from the ballot. Those changes were anti-democratic and attack on the political freedom of all New Yorkers. The state legislature failed to take action from stopping these changes from taking effect. While they could still reverse those changes, there isn't much time to do so, before it starts to cause serious damage to our state's elections. Multiple minor parties have already started suing the state, challenging that the commission did not have the power to change state election laws, and that the changes violate the state constitution.

Hopefully these lawsuits will succeed, and the state's old ballot access laws will be restored.

Governor spoke about how are state is facing problems with hate and social division. This included things such as a general rise in the number of hate crimes, an increasing number of anti-Semitic attacks, a series of incidents involving the KKK and various white-supremacist groups in the state, and increasingly extreme animosity and division between those of differing political views. Indeed, these outbreaks of hate and division are a problem and a danger to health of our republic. We must work to

uphold and promote the principles of equality and protection of the human rights of all New Yorkers. We must also work to move our state towards a healthier political discourse.

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

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

End state support for the alcohol industry in all forms. That includes prohibiting state agencies from being used to support the alcohol industry or its products, eliminating all special tax cuts that were given to the alcohol industry, prohibiting state money from being used to support any alcohol manufacturing or selling business, and restrengthen state restrictions on the alcohol industry.

Have the state seriously address alcohol as a social and public health problem. That includes expanding prevention and education efforts (including the promotion of teetotalism), expanding support for reformatory efforts and rehabilitation treatment, holding the alcohol industry legally liable for the damage caused by its products, increasing restrictions on the alcohol industry, and working towards the eventual abolition of the alcohol industry. Likewise, expand efforts to combat tobacco, other intoxicating drugs, and gambling.

In the coming year, we must work to prevent Cuomo and his conspirators from weakening state restrictions on the alcohol industry, and work to once again defeat their misguided attempt to legalize more drugs. In the last year, there was progress toward a bill to significantly expand addiction prevention and treatment programs for alcohol and other drugs. Let us work toward

getting a bill passed this year. Let us work to build on progress from last year, and further expand state restrictions on tobacco products.

We must must to further advance the principles of equality, justice, and the protection public wellbeing in our society. We should work to enact stronger state ethics laws and increase anticorruption efforts. We must stand in defense of our state's electoral system. We must work to end the unconstitutional changes to our states ballot access laws, either may action in the legislature, or by striking them down in court.

Our state should work to take stronger actions to combat sexual predators. In addition to fixing the intoxication loophole in the state's rape law, we should grant an immediate extension to the lookback window granted in the child victims act. We should then work towards abolishing the statute of limitations for rape and the sexual abuse of children. We must also take stronger actions to prevent and combat domestic violence by enacting measures such as passing Britany's law.

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

We should reform the state's economic development efforts, to embrace an effective holistic approach to economic development. Reform the state's fiscal system, to have the state take greater responsibility for its expenses and reduce the burden of property taxes. And take further actions to protect the environment and advance renewable energy.

We should reform our education system to improve the quality of education and ensure adequate funding for all schools. We should expand TAP and other financial aid efforts, and work towards a system where all New Yorkers have a reasonable opportunity to a debt free education at any of the state's public and non-profit independent colleges, universities, and vocational schools.

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