

New York Prohibitionist



Think NY Vote Dry

March 2020

Volume 3 #3

Join 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. If you are interested in helping to make a positive impact on your state and your community, consider joining the Prohibition Party of New York.

"Politics is about the improvement of people's lives" Paul Wellstone

State Legislative Efforts

The Prohibition Party of New York is continuing its efforts to advance positive bills in the state legislature in this year's session. This has largely been done through sending emails and other messages to state legislators, encouraging them to support certain bills, and by efforts to inform people about such legislation to help build public support for them.

Here are some updates on how efforts for certain bills have gone. Bill A06349/S04648, would significantly expand funding for addiction prevention and treatment programs for alcohol and other drugs. The bill is still stuck in the Assembly Ways and Means committee and has not been brought up for a vote in that committee. Likewise, Bill A03208/S5117, which would increase state restrictions against drunk driving, does not appear to have advanced any further than it was a month ago. Bills A00047A, A04787/S1181, and A08808/S6809, would increase state restrictions on the sale of tobacco. Bill A08808/S6809, has gained 5 new cosponsors in the state assembly in last two months. Bills A09101/S7248, A09102/S7249, and A09103/S7247 would work to strengthen effort combat the abuse of children. These bills also appear to be in the same state of the process as they were last month.

While it is not entirely certain why there hasn't appeared to be much advancement over this past month, it is likely the case that much of it has to do with the disruption caused by the outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus in New York State this month. The outbreak has disrupted regular operations, and state officials have been devoting much of their attention to dealing with the outbreak. The state legislature's activities may be slowed down for the foreseeable future. But this our legislative activism can still continue. We can use email, phone, social media, and other electronic means to spread our messages and work to build support, so that once the legislature is able to go back to focusing on regular business, we can have some momentum for advancing legislation.

Prohibition National Committee Conference

On March 28th, the Prohibition National Committee held a conference call for handling various matters of party business. Here are some key highlights of the meeting.

Two people were appointed to the national committee, to fill some open spots on the committee. One from Massachusetts and the other from Texas.

Phil Collins was selected as to act as the party's national chairman. He succeeds Chairman Randall McNutt.

Discussion was held about the party's ballot access efforts for the 2020 election. The party continues to work on its ballot access efforts. There is some concern that due to the Novel Coronavirus outbreak and the resulting effects, that it may present additional difficulties to completing the requirements to get on ballot in various states. The party will continue to monitor the situation and do what we can to try to get on ballot in as many states as possible, while ensuring the safety of those working on our campaign.



The Partisan Prohibition Historical Society has printed out its new two volume book on the history of the Prohibition Party. The book updates a previous book written by Roger Storms in the 1970's and add additional information covering the party's history up to the 2016 Election. Free copies are available on request. If one is interested in a free copy, contact James Hedges, prohibitionists@hotmail.com

New York State Academy of Family Physicians Calls for State to End Tobacco Sales During Coronavirus Outbreak

The New York State Academy of Family Physicians called on the state government to place a temporary ban on the sale of tobacco and vaping products during the Novel Coronavirus outbreak. This is based on data indicating that smoking increases the likelihood of getting infected by the virus. A study from Wuhan, China found that smokers were 14 times more likely to see the Novel Coronavirus progress to more severe stages, were more likely to need a ventilator for treatment, and required longer periods of hospitalization. It remains to be seen whether the state government will follow their suggestion.

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"The Prohibitionists must stand against the liquor traffic. As the elephant fears the mouse so in time that traffic must fear the prohibition principle" William T. Wardwell

Phil Collins Wins California AIP Primary

On March 3rd, the California American Independent Party held its 2020 Primary as part of the California Primaries. The ballot listed 5 minor party presidential candidates, including Prohibition Party presidential candidate Phil Collins. While the official results have not been completed, reports indicate Phil Collins won the AIP primary with over 32% of the vote. Official results indicate that he received over 17,000 votes, which is significantly greater than the over 4,000 votes received by 2016 Prohibition Party presidential candidate James Hedges in the 2016 AIP primary. It is currently unclear whether this effect ballot access. While the California American Independent Party has ballot access in California, it is not bound to nominate the winner of its primary, and we'll have to wait until they hold their convention to see who they will place on their ballot line.

Novel Coronavirus Outbreak

This month, New York has seen an outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus. The Novel Coronavirus, aka COVID-19, is a respiratory virus, in the same group of viruses as SARS and MERs. The most recent numbers show over 59,000 confirmed cases in New York state, over 136,000 cases nationally, and over 715,000 cases worldwide. These numbers increase each day.

Public health recommendations have included having people practice social distancing (minimizing the number of people are in physical proximity to), and regularly washing one's hands, to help minimize the spread of the virus.

More detailed information can be found on the CDC website:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

In addition, BNO newsroom has a tracker for confirmed cases around the world:
<https://bnonews.com/index.php/2020/03/the-latest-coronavirus-cases/>

"He who lives outside the law is a slave. The free man is the man who lives within the law, whether that law be the physical or the divine" Booker T. Washington



"Knowledge will forever govern ignorance; and a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives." James Madison

Advancing Education

"Education plays a crucial role in our society. A quality education can aid in the intellectual and moral development of the population. It can aid in the development of knowledge, reason, and character. It can aid in the development of good citizenship and help enable people to informed, and active citizens of our republic. It is important for providing the skills and knowledge needed for people to pursue a variety of careers, to advance their own prosperity, and provide the work needed for the prosperity of our society.

It is to that end that the Prohibition Party supports the development of quality education in this country. That it supports a strong public education system, and educational options to help meet the different needs of children. That it supports a quality general education that teaches reading, writing, mathematics, science, history, and good citizenship. And that it encourages states to advance efforts to make tertiary education (including colleges, universities, vocational schools, and job training programs) affordable for all Americans.

There a variety of ways in which Prohibition Party members can work to advance these ends. By paying attention to state legislative efforts, supporting bills that would help improve the quality of schools and libraries, and supporting bills to improve the availability and affordability of education. By being involved with your local school, library, college, or non-profit that helps to advance education. By supporting efforts in local schools to educate youth on the harms of alcohol and other drugs. By running for your local school board. There is much that can be done on the grassroots level."

Prohibition Party National Secretary Jonathan Makeley

Incompetent Oversight

In light of the Novel Coronavirus outbreak, New York State (as well as various other states) has enacted emergency policies temporarily shutting down or restricting the operations of various businesses, to help minimize the spread of the coronavirus. These shut downs have tended to occur to types of work and businesses categorized as "non-essential", while allowing certain types of work and businesses categorized as "essential" to continue to operate. State officials have made a significant mistake in categorization, when they placed liquor stores and various other places that sell alcohol among their list of so called "essential" businesses allowed to continue to operate in a regular or modified form.

Now, any reasonable person realized that alcohol is obviously not an essential product. On the contrary, alcohol is totally unnecessary and harmful to the physical and mental health of users. Alcohol is a significant public health problem, which causes widespread illness and injury, and kills over 88,000 Americans a year.

For New York state, this mistake appears to initially be based on New York state generally categorizing food and beverage-based businesses as essential, and since alcohol was categorized as a beverage it ended up falling under that general act. They failed to distinguish between food and beverages that have an actual nutritional function, and toxic beverages. For the sake of public health, and for the sake of basic common sense, the state should remove liquor stores and any other alcohol companies from their non-closure categories, and place them under non-essential, where they belong.

But this problem is even more widespread. Various other state governments have made the mistake of categorizing alcohol selling businesses among there lists of allowed businesses, and some even taken actions to try to ensure the delivery of alcohol to homes. This incredibly misguided action is made worse by their attempts to justify their actions. Some claim that they need to keep alcohol sales open or else alcoholics will go through withdrawal, and may end up taking up spaces in Emergency Rooms and hospitals. In doing so, they express an unwitting exposure of the vast failure of a

system which allowed legal alcohol sales to occur with little restriction and failed to seriously address alcohol public health problem.

They allowed the alcohol industry to promote and sell toxic products. They did little to address the public health problem of alcohol, alcohol induced illnesses, injuries, and deaths mounted. They did little as more and more people develop alcohol use disorders from drinking. They let it get to the point where addiction was so common that they believe that even a temporary loss of alcohol sales would cause large numbers of people addicted to alcohol to need medical attention for withdrawal. Now after letting it get to the point we are at, their idea is stand impotently and let the sale of alcohol continue. To try to kick the can down the road.

They ignore the fact that the illnesses and injuries caused by regular alcohol use send many people to emergency rooms and hospital beds under normal circumstances. Usually, 25-40% of hospital beds are filled by people dealing with alcohol induced illness or injury. They ignore the fact that by allowing alcohol sales to continue these illnesses and injuries will continue to happen, and they will continue to take up much of the space in our nation's healthcare systems. They further ignore the fact that the alcohol industry has long worked to try to convince people of the misguided notion that alcohol use is a way of seeking enjoyment and dealing with stress. As a result of this and given the stress of current circumstances, we may end up seeing even more people hospitalized as a result of alcohol use. By allowing legal alcohol sales, with little restriction, and failing to adequately address alcohol as a public health problem, they allowed the problem of alcohol to grow to a massive level. Now the damages caused by alcohol have reduced the ability of healthcare systems to address the Novel Coronavirus outbreak, and officials are letting the problem continue going into the future, because they lacked the sense or the courage to address it. Even as the numbers of confirmed cases and deaths from the Novel Coronavirus continue to increase, they are still dwarfed by the vast amount of illness and death produced by alcohol.

State governments should work to realize and correct their mistakes. Firstly, they should clearly distinguish that alcohol sales are no way essential. If they are unwilling to completely stop sales during this period, then they would work to restrict them more significantly, to reduce the amount of harm done, and reduce the amount of people who may be hospitalized by alcohol use. They should ramp up public information efforts on the harm of alcohol and other drug use, emphasize how such substances make things worse for individuals and produce additional burdens for our healthcare system, and encourage people to avoid or at least reduce the use of those substances. And work on designing comprehensive plans for seriously addressing alcohol as a public health problem going forward. That way, we don't have a repeat of this the next time there's a viral outbreak in the country.

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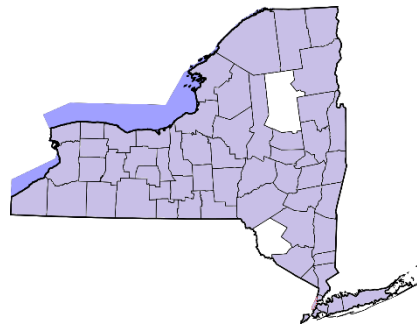
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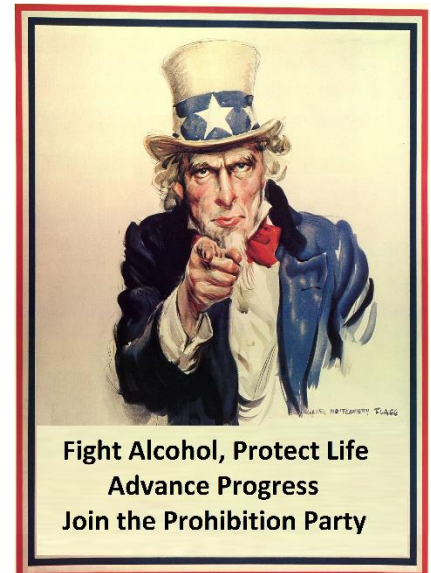
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Expanding Outreach

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 353 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 870,000 cumulative views.



Court Strikes Down Illegal Rewriting of State Ballot Access Laws

Last year, a group of political elites hijacked a state commission on designing public funding for elections, to rewrite the state's ballot access laws, in a way that make it vastly harder for minor party and independent candidates to get on ballot, would likely result in most parties which currently have statewide ballot access laws, and make it nearly impossible to regain statewide ballot access. Their move was a clear anti-democratic attack on our election system, designed to suppress competition, suppress alternative voices in the election system, and take away most voting options from the citizens of New York state. In doing so, they attacked the political freedom of all New Yorkers. While members of the state legislature sat by and failed to take action to stop this attack, multiple parties stood up against this and sued the state. The New York Conservative and New York Working Families Parties sued the state, contending that the commissions efforts to change state ballot access laws violated the state constitution.

Earlier this month, Judge Ralph A. Boniello III of the Niagara County Supreme Court ruled that the commissions actions illegally usurped legislative powers were a violation of the New York State Constitution.

"In this case, the court finds that the legislature, clearly and unequivocally, empowered the commission to legislate new law and repeal existing statutes,

...The line between administrative rule-making (which can be delegated) and legislative action (which cannot be delegated) has clearly been transgressed. The legislature established the commission and delegated to it the authority to create new law and repeal law without further action by the legislature. The court notes that the fact that the legislature reserved the right to modify or abrogate by statute the recommendations of the commission does not validate the process."

This ruling is to some degree a victory, since a judge has formally declared that the commission's actions of rewriting state election law were unconstitutional. But this is not the end of things. The anti-democratic elements in the state government who conspired in this anti-democratic effort will seek to appeal this decision to a higher court, in hopes that another judge will rule differently. The fight will continue until either the state gives up or until the case reaches a court high enough to give final say on the matter. Hopefully the judges in the higher courts will have the same sense as Judge Boniello, and will strike down the commission's unconstitutional rewriting of state election law.

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"How difficult the task to quench the fire and the pride of private ambition, and to sacrifice ourselves and all our hopes and expectations to the public weal! How few have souls capable of so noble an undertaking! How often are the laurels worn by those who have had no share in earning them! But there is a future recompense of reward, to which the upright man looks, and which he will most assuredly obtain, provided he perseveres unto the end." Abigail Adams

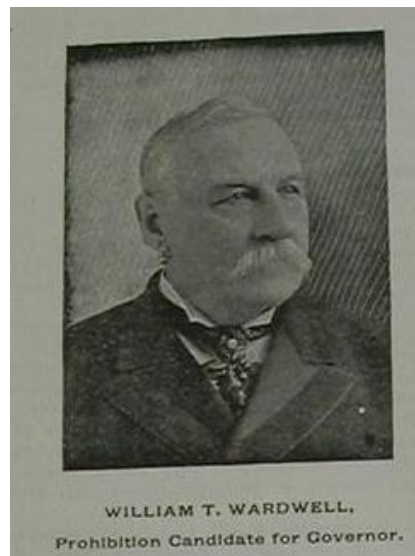
Stand Up for Electoral Opportunity

The Novel Coronavirus outbreak has impacted many areas of life and society in our country. One of the areas that has been impacted is ballot access for the 2020 elections. The spring and early summer months are important for the ballot access efforts for many candidates. Often times, candidates need to gather a certain number of petition signatures, within required time periods, and file certain paperwork, within certain time

periods. Social distancing policies and restrictions on travel make it difficult for campaigns to acquire the required number of signatures and complete required processes. This could risk producing situations where many candidates are unable to get on the ballot and thus voters may have significantly fewer options on election day. Now it is possible for state governments to take various actions to grant exceptions to their regular ballot access requirements, to account for current circumstances, and thus reduce the degree to which the Novel Coronavirus outbreak can disrupt the 2020 elections.

The Green Party has set up a page on its website where people can quickly message the governors of their states, to encourage them to take action. Here is a link to it: <https://www.gp.org/covid19-ballot>

New York Prohibition Party History



William T. Wardwell

William Thomas Wardwell was a New York businessman, oil refiner, and Prohibition Party politician. William Wardwell born in 1827 in Bristol, Rhode Island. His parents were William Taylor Wardwell (who was a mechanic and farmer) and Mary Hawes Wardwell. He was the second of 8 children.

At age 9, the family moved to a farm in Niles, Michigan. Wardwell gained an education from local schools and lessons by his mother. At 13, he moved to Buffalo, New York and became a clerk at an oil business, ran by his uncle, Samuel W. Hawes.

Once Wardwell came of age, he started his own oil business. At the time, the oil

business was being transformed by the rise of petroleum-based oil. Petroleum had been discovered in Pennsylvania. Wardwell recognized and seized on the opportunity presented. He established a large petroleum refinery in Buffalo, which proved to be successful. He then moved to New York City. He established another oil refinery, Pioneer Oil Refinery, at Hunter's Point in Long Island, as a center refining and exporting oil. By 1875, the Pioneer Oil refinery had become one of the largest refineries in the Eastern United States. In 1875, he sold the Pioneer Oil Refinery to the emerging Standard Oil Company.

After selling the Pioneer Oil Refinery, Wardwell purchased a controlling interest in the Devoe Manufacturing Company and became its treasurer. The Devoe Manufacturing Company was an oil company, which exported oil to foreign markets.

Around the same time, John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company, which would become the nation's leading oil company, was in its early stages of development. Given his prominence in the oil industry, Wardwell was recruited to become one of the early key figures in the company. He served Standard Oil in various capacities, including serving as treasurer from at least 1893 to around 1901.

In 1853, Wardwell had married his first wife, Eliza W. (Lantermann) Wardwell. They had 8 children, with 2 surviving to adulthood: a son, Allen, and a daughter. Eliza Wardwell died in 1887. And in 1889, he married his second wife, Martha (Wallace) Wardwell. While living in the New York City, he had been involved in a variety of charitable and cultural institutions. He was president of the New York Red Cross Hospital, donated to various charities, and was a member of the National Arts Club, the New York Zoological Gardens, the New Metropolitan Museum of Art, the New England Society, the Sons of the American Revolution, and the New York Chamber of Commerce.

William Wardwell had been a strong supporter of temperance and prohibition. He became drawn to the cause after attending a series of temperance meetings at Chickering Hall in New York City. He was involved with the National Temperance Society and the American Temperance Union. At some point he served as director of the National Temperance Society and at some point served as treasurer of the American Temperance Union.

Wardwell had initially been a staunch Democrat, but his support for prohibitionist

policies lead him to join the Prohibition Party in 1884. After joining the party, he quickly rose to become a prominent prohibitionist in New York, as well as a significant financial supporter of the party.

In 1886, Wardwell ran as the Prohibition Party candidate for Mayor of New York City. He received 532 votes and 0.24% of the vote. In 1888, he ran for Mayor of New York City again. He received 832 votes and 0.31% of the total vote. In 1887, Wardwell served as county chairman of the Party in New York County. In 1888, Wardwell began serving as a member of the Prohibition Party's national committee for New York. He served on the national committee from 1888-1908.

In 1890, Wardwell was the Prohibition Party candidate for New York City Comptroller. He received 1,298 votes and 0.31% of the total vote. Around 1892, Wardwell became the national secretary of the Prohibition Party and served as secretary for at least 8 years.

In 1896, Prohibition Party was affected by a dispute between the Broad-Gauge and Narrow-Gauge factions of the party. The Narrow-Gauge factions wanted the party to hold a platform that was solely or almost exclusively focused on the issue of Prohibition. While the Broad-Gauge faction wanted a broader platform, which included positions on other major issues. This led to a temporary split in the party, where two rival Prohibition Party presidential tickets were nominated, and the party's overall results decreased from its 1892 results. Wardwell had sided with the Narrow-Gauge Faction. In the 1896, he was one of the electors for the presidential ticket of Joshua Levering and Hale Johnson in New York.

In 1897, Wardwell ran for Mayor of New York City for a third time. He advocated for having New York City take stronger action against the liquor traffic. In describing Wardwell, the *Standard Union* newspaper wrote, "He believed that public opinion was not, like a rock, immovable, but could be brought to take the Prohibitionists view of the right way of holding the saloon and its consequent evils in check." He stated that if elected he would administer the city honestly, and only appoint prohibitionists to the position of police commissioners.

On election day, he received 1,359 votes and 0.26% of the total vote.

In 1900, the Prohibition Party nominated Wardwell as it's candidate for governor of New York. Wardwell ran under the platform that focused on opposition to the liquor traffic and support for prohibitionist policies. Wardwell criticized New York's Raines Law: A

law which taxed liquor sales, and banned the sale of alcohol on Sundays for some places that sold alcohol, but which was poorly designed and allowed saloons to largely get around it by exploiting loopholes in the law. Wardwell contended that it was time for people to act to advance prohibitionist policies.

In his letter of acceptance for the nomination, Wardwell made the following statements:

"I can only say, if the people of this State ratify this choice and shall elect me Governor, I will in loyalty to the spirit of the Prohibition Party, to the best of my ability, give to the people of this State an honest, practical, business like administration, seeking only to establish and conserve that which will be for the best interest for this State and the people thereof. An administration unconcerned by "bosses" and over which the arrogance and blighting influence of the liquor interest will have no power".

"Time and experience do not weaken, but demonstrate more and more the need of a Prohibition Party. Never was the hopelessness of reform in the old parties more apparent than now."

"We believe a new day has dawned, one in which moral principle shall have a voice in party politics, and righteousness, the righteousness which exalteth the nation, shall control in civic government."

"It is a time for Prohibitionists to hold fast to their convictions"

Wardwell held various speeches and campaign events throughout the state during his campaign.

He reportedly spent \$3,855 over the course of his campaign for Governor. The breakdown of those expenses are: \$700 to Prohibition Party national committee, \$1,200 to state committee, \$360 to the New York County Committee, \$450 to the defender (a Prohibition Newspaper), \$110 to the Young People's Prohibition League, \$100 to the lecturer C.H. Mead, \$125 for Prohibition newspapers and books for distribution, and \$340 for incidentals.

Wardwell received 22,704 votes, 1.47% of the total vote, and came in third place. This was an increase from the 18,383 votes by the party's 1898 candidate for governor.

Towards the end of his life, Wardwell suffered from occasional "attacks indicating a weak heart". On January 3rd, 1911, Wardwell died of heart disease.

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