

New York Prohibitionist



Think NY Vote Dry

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A Vision for the Future

In these trying times, the Prohibition Party of New York continues its work to advocate for positive policies and advance social reform. We offer a vision for a better future for New York. A vision for a new approach to governance focused on moral principle, public service, and advancing the public wellbeing. A vision of a state filled with healthy, prospering communities, and greater opportunity for all New Yorkers. If you are interested in helping to make a positive impact on your state and your community, consider joining the Prohibition Party of New York.

"Law is the embodiment of the moral sentiment of the people." William Blackstone

State and National Party News

The work of the Prohibition Party continues to move forward on the state and national level. On the national level, the Prohibition Party has been working on preparations for the party's efforts in the coming year. One important aspect of this has been working to fill openings within the party's national committee and find people willing to take fill positions for working on certain projects. Multiple members have put themselves forward for consideration for positions on the national committee and the national committee is planning to hold a vote, in the near future, on whether to appoint them to positions on the PNC.

On the state level, the party has also been working on preparations for its statewide efforts in the coming year. The party's last statewide conference call helped with developing the party's statewide organization and identifying strategies for moving the party forward in the coming year.

On the legislative front, there has been some progress on the effort to try to repeal the anti-democratic changes to ballot access laws that were made in 2020. As we finally have a member of the

assembly who is working to introduce a bill to repeal these changes. This provides a tangible avenue for us to work to restore ballot access standards that at least give minor party and independent candidates some feasible chance of getting on the ballot for statewide offices and provide at least some reasonable chance for minor parties to gain and retain statewide ballot access recognition.

On the local front, we have worked to do what we can to convince local communities to vote to opt-out of having recreational marijuana sales in their areas while the window for opting-out was still open. Thankfully, many communities chose to opt-out of local sales for the time being, but there is still much work that needs to be done in order to counteract the state legislator's misguided decision to legalize recreational marijuana sales, turn the tide, and work towards a future where that failed decision will be overturned and replaced by sensible prohibitionist policies.

Going forward, the Prohibition Party of New York has plenty of plans for developing the party organization, expanding messaging, reaching out to local communities, engaging in legislative activism, and working to advance the election of ethical public servants.

More Than 40% of New York Communities Opt-Out of Marijuana Sales

With 2021, having drawn to a close, more than 40% of New York's cities, towns, and villages have moved to opt-out of allowing recreational marijuana sales in their local communities. Earlier this year, members of the state legislature made the misguided decision to pass a bill legalizing the commercial sale of recreational marijuana in New York State. By doing so, they will allow those in the marijuana industry to profit off selling their harmful products to the detriment of public health and wellbeing. As part of the



process, local communities were given until the end of the year to be able to initiate action to opt-out of allowing businesses to sell marijuana as dispensaries or act as on-site consumption sites within their communities. This presented a window for local communities to be able to partially insulate themselves from the negative effects of the state legislature's misguided decision to legalize recreational marijuana sales, and in this period, many communities in New York moved to opt-out.

Following the close of the year, we can see that over 40% of New York municipalities had voted to opt-out. The Marijuana Opt-Out Tracker by the Rockefeller Institute of Government states that at least 642 out of 1,518 (42.3%) municipalities had voted to opt-out of allowing marijuana dispensaries and at least 733 of 1,518 (48.3%) municipalities had voted to opt-out of consumption sites. Though the Municipality Tracking Map created by Mike Doyle of the consulting firm Cannasigliere lists 665 municipalities as having opted out of both dispensaries and consumption sites and 100 municipalities as having opted out of just consumption sites. Which these numbers would indicate a 43.8% opt-out rate for local sales and a 50.4% opt-out rate for consumption sites. It will take some time for a full and official list to be compiled, stating exactly how many municipalities took action. But for now, it seems that over 40 forty percent of municipalities have opted-out of marijuana sales.

While many communities have been able to opt-out of recreational marijuana sales for the time being, it is important to move on to the next stage in fighting back against the state's misguided policy of legalized marijuana. An important next step would be to try to convince some of the more sensible/ open-minded legislators to pass a bill amending the opt-out provisions to eliminate the opt-out deadline and allow communities to vote opt-out of marijuana sales going forward, including ones that failed to opt-out previously or have made the misguided decision to opt-in. If such a change were made, then it would allow local activists to turn the tables and start to push back the marijuana industry on the local level. The ability to establish local bans, combined with efforts to promote the development of prevention and cessation programs could help to achieve a long-term shift in trends, before statewide activism could allow for the passage of a bill prohibiting the commercial sale of recreational marijuana. If such a change were not made, then there would need to be a greater focus on statewide activism earlier on. Though either way, strong efforts to help educate the public on the harms of recreational marijuana sales, expanding prevention and cessation programs, and activism on the state and local level will be needed so that once the public and legislators wake up to the failures of legalizing recreational marijuana sales,

[illegible]

Multiple parties had made lawsuits challenging the constitutionality of those ballot access changes and these lawsuits have been advancing through the courts in 2020 and 2021. The ruling by judge Koeltl marks another instance in which a court has so far failed to remedy the matter. The full document of his decision can be viewed via this link: <https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.nysd.529998/gov.uscourts.nysd.529998.137.0.pdf>

While Judge Koeltl did not take action to remedy the ballot access problem, the court process for the lawsuits will still continue forward. It has been indicated that the parties challenging the ballot access changes will make an appeal to have the case heard in the Second Circuit Court. Hopefully, the judges in the Second Circuit will be sensible enough to recognize the anti-democratic nature of the ballot access changes and strike them down. But it will take time to see how the court cases will turn out, and even if the court challenges do not pan out, there is still the potential route of seeking to convince the state legislature to pass a bill restoring the old ballot access laws.

Sources: <https://ballot-access.org/2021/12/22/u-s-district-court-upholds-new-york-petition-requirement-and-definition-of-a-qualified-party-in-error-filled-decision/>
<https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.nysd.529998/gov.uscourts.nysd.529998.137.0.pdf>

Assemblymember John Salka Introduces Ballot Access Bill

It has been reported that Assemblymember John J. Salka is working to introduce a bill that would repeal the anti-democratic changes to the state's ballot access rules that were made in 2020 and restore the old ballot access standards. The bill has not yet been given a bill number. It remains to be seen which figures in the state legislature will support this bill, though it will likely gain outside support from various minor parties and reform activists seeking to remedy the damage caused by 2020 changes.

The Prohibition Party of New York will do what we can to support the effort to repeal the 2020 ballot access law changes and seek to convince legislators to support the effort.

Source: <https://ballot-access.org/2021/12/17/new-york-assemblymember-john-salka-introduces-ballot-access-bill/>

Goldfeder Writes on New York Ballot Petition Problems

New York election law expert Prof. Jerry H. Goldfeder recently published an article in the New York Law Journal on how the state's process for candidates petitioning to get on the ballot in unnecessarily complicated and negatively impacts voter choice. In the article, Goldfeder contends that often state election boards will deny candidates' petitions for ballot access based on minor errors in filling out paperwork (such as coversheets), irrespective of how many valid signatures from voters were present

and how minor the errors are. For instance, a candidate having their petition rejected for accidentally mistyping their election identification number by one digit and then making a minor wording error on their amended cover sheet. These complex rules tend to disproportionately affect new candidates, but can be so complicated that even seasoned elected officials can make mistakes in the paperwork. At which point, candidates would often need to hire experienced election lawyers and take the matter to court to attempt to get a ruling to get them placed on the ballot. As Goldfeder points out, these difficulties lead to fewer candidates being able to get on the ballot and reduce the choices that voters have on election day.

Goldfeder contends that the rules for ballot access petitioning should be changed to make the rules less complicated and more flexible. He suggests a number of possible changes, including creating alternative means for getting on the ballot for office (such as paying a candidate filing fee in lieu of collecting petition signatures, or allowing candidates who have a minimum number of donors from the election district contributing to them to be placed on the ballot) or changing the process so that petitions can't be rejected based merely on minor technical errors.

The full article by Goldfeder can be accessed by this link:

<https://www.stroock.com/uploads/2021-12-17-Goldfeder-NYU-Ballot-Access-and-Voter-Choice-Alternatives-Required.pdf>

Goldfeder's article brings attention to some of the issues related to the state's current system of ballot access petitioning. In various ways, the current rules make it unnecessarily difficult for New Yorkers to run for public office and as a result, reduce the ability of voters to express their wills through their choices on the ballot. Goldfeder brings attention to some of the things which make the petitioning process difficult and suggests some possibilities to consider for making changes. Overall, it is important that New York moves towards making changes that eliminate unnecessary hurdles, make it easier for citizens to run for office, and help to provide greater choices for voters on election day.

Sources: <https://www.stroock.com/uploads/2021-12-17-Goldfeder-NYU-Ballot-Access-and-Voter-Choice-Alternatives-Required.pdf>
<https://ballot-access.org/2021/12/21/law-professor-jerry-goldfeder-scholarly-article-suggests-easing-new-york-petitioning-rules/>



"If there's a regulation that's saving 10,000 lives and costing one job, it's worth it." Cass Sunstein

Economic Health and Corrective Measures

The economy of a society is meant to serve the needs, interests, and goals of the people of a society. A healthy economy should be able to effectively meet the needs of its people, while helping to furnish the means and opportunities for individual and social development, and functioning together with other important systems and institutions within society. It should not only act to provide for material needs or the creation of wealth, but work to benefit the lives, wellbeing, and cultivation of people. The health and prosperity of an economy should be understood not merely in terms of the quantity of material wealth it produces, but in terms of how economic activities affect the lives of people: how economic economies are or not conducive to meeting individual and communal needs, benefiting the wellbeing and quality of life of people, and helping individuals and communities to better achieve their potential.

The operation of economies is complex and relies upon a variety of factors (including resources, production, labor, property, trade, commerce, laws, regulations, education, and public services), but there are some important general details to keep in mind. The economy relies upon a mixture of individual and collective behavior, public and private activities, and commercial and non-commercial activities. Aspects of economic activity such as property, labor, and commerce rely on the existence of a system of law and regulation in order to provide the order and security that is needed for them to operate. The conduct of businesses and commercial activity are an important aspect of our economy, shaping the provision of products and services and employing much of our labor force. But business and commercial

activity is often in danger of being corrupted by those who are overcome by greed, selfishness, and indifference to moral responsibility, who would seek to gain wealth through behaviors that harm, exploit, or kill others. A strong system of laws and regulations is needed to set standards for honest business practices, discourage fraud, promote fair labor relations, set standards for health and safety, protect consumers, prohibit harmful products, and prohibit practices that amount to the harmful exploitation of people for profits. In addition, while commerce plays an important role in providing many goods and services, there are various public needs and interests that are not met and cannot be effectively met through mere commercial activity. Things such as the enforcement of law, the provision of security, the education of the public, programs to help those in need, the creation of infrastructure, and the like provide important services to help meet basic needs, improve the quality of people's lives, provide opportunities to people, provide things which indirectly benefit commercial activity, and ensure that important aspects of society are functioning. This requires the existence of non-profit institutions, public services, and public programs to do the work of providing these services. By coming together through collective action, the cumulative burdens of providing services can be reduced, access can be expanded to more people, and communities and societies as a whole benefit. A strong system of laws and regulations and a robust system of public services and projects help to balance out the commercial part of the economy, and together they can support a strong and healthy economy.

In contrast to healthy economic practices, there are unhealthy economic practices. That is, when the economy is operating in ways where it fails to meet the needs of the public and is affected by destructive practices (which include the harming, exploitation, and killing of people for profit, the corruption of institutions, and the undermining of the public welfare). When businesses and other commercial actors are able to engage in practices that harm, exploit, and kill people for the sake of profit they can cause vast economic and social damage to individuals and society as a whole. When they are able to engage in

dishonest practices that allow them to gain at the expense of others, they are able to accumulate wealth as others grow poorer. When those driven by greed and moral indifference gain an undue influence over the political system, they can undermine public protections, weaken laws and regulations that are supposed to keep them in check, and distort the legal system into protecting and perpetuating their ill-gotten gains and influence. When non-profit and public institutions are lacking or fail to meet public needs, people in need suffer, the quality of life for many can decline, the opportunities for the average person decrease, and other aspects of society erode.

Corruption, unchecked greed, moral indifference, and social neglect can allow predatory elements to enrich themselves at the expense of undermining the lives, wellbeing, and prosperity of the common man, and making society as a whole poorer. The damaging effects of these predatory actors can last well beyond the time of their actions. Those who enriched themselves through predatory tactics can often use their wealth to help acquire more wealth, opportunities, and influence for themselves, and in plenty of cases can pass that advantage onto their descendants. While the people who were harmed by their actions (if they weren't killed as a result of them) can end up suffering lifelong damages, could lose opportunities, could end up spending significant time and effort trying to recover their losses, and can end up seeing their children's opportunities diminished. Allowing predatory economic practices to continue and fester leads to significant long-term social and economic problems that affect our lives.

The economy of both our state and our nation have been affected by the destructive impacts of unhealthy economic practices, and in order to help fix this, corrective measures need to be taken. Corrective measures would include political, legal, and economic reforms aimed at ending current economic ills and working to heal their damages. Corrective measures can include policies to discourage and prohibit stopping predatory economic practices, taking steps to end the undue influence of predatory elements in our political system, holding predatory businessmen

legally and financially accountable for the damages that their actions have caused, establishing better laws and regulations on commercial practices, revitalizing important public services, working to provide greater aid and opportunities to those who were greatly harmed by predatory business practices, and working to rebalance the economy to a healthier state.

It will take a lot of effort in order to implement various corrective measures. It will involve not only going up against the wealth and influence of these predatory actors, but also countering their false narratives. These predatory elements attempt to convince people that they are entitled to enrich themselves through their harmful practices: that them harming and exploiting people is somehow freedom and that they are morally entitled to their wealth based on their ability to acquire it. They attempt to mislead people into believing that any sort of public intervention in the economy to confront their behavior is somehow bad or unjustified. With them sometimes misusing and misapplying terms like socialism or communism, to try to scare people away from adopting things that are actually just common-sense policies to help alleviate economic problems and stop them from gaming the system. These narratives must be countered in order to develop public awareness and support for reforms. Public activism will be needed in order to counter the undue influence of predatory actors and turn the tide in favor of enacting corrective measures. Honest citizens must take a stand against the crooks that have been corrupting our economy, so that we can move towards creating a healthier economy that better meets the needs of the people, improves the quality of life, and provides greater opportunities for people to prosper and give future generations a better life.

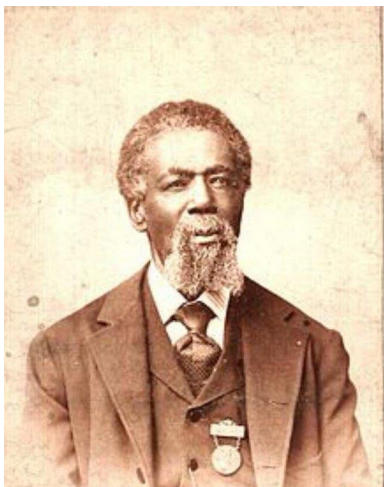


Dry January and the benefits of total abstinence

This January has seen another run of dry January. Dry January is an annual health challenge, in which participants seek to abstain from alcohol throughout the month of January. Dry January has continued to gain in popularity in recent years. A 2019 study by British researchers shows that typical drinkers who participate in dry January tend to experience more energy, better sleep, and weight loss, saved money, and that those who returned to drinking afterwards tended to drink less. Hopefully, this health challenge has encouraged more people to adopt long-term teetotalism, and hopefully, it will encourage more to abandon alcohol in the future.

Source: https://615c4beb-b241-4f4a-a6b4-a074dc02ce34.filesusr.com/ugd/2cc7be_20dffe62c02a44f99d7d5ea0a76d5d11.pdf

Prohibition Party History



Thomas Mundy Peterson

Thomas Mundy Peterson is regarded as the first African American to vote, following the passage of the 15th Amendment. He was the son of a former slave, and had made a living as a janitor in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. His first vote was cast as part of a referendum on changing Perth Amboy's city charter. He was an active member of the Prohibition Party and the Republican Party. He would also go on to be the first African American in the city to serve on a jury and got elected to the Middlesex County Commission. In 1884, members of the city honored him with a gold medallion of Abraham Lincoln. He lived until 1904.

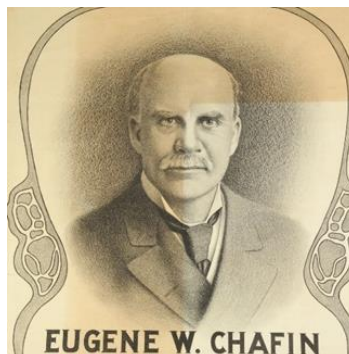
Sources: <http://amsterdamsnews.com/news/2020/jan/30/americas-first-black-vote/>
<https://twitter.com/KeyUtifull/status/1224666290696212480>



Chafin and Springfield

Here is a bit of history. On August 14-16, 1908, the city of Springfield, Illinois experienced the Springfield Race Riot. In which, an angry mob of racists rioted, went around attacking the city's African American population, killed 9 African-Americans, and destroyed part of the city. During this time, 1908 Prohibition Party presidential candidate Eugene Chaffin was in the city, delivering a speech at a campaign rally. During the event, an African American man fleeing members of the mob took refuge on the rally stage with Chafin. Several dozen members of the mob showed up. Eugene Chafin stepped in front of the mob and stated that he would defend the man. Newspaper paper reports indicate that he said something along the lines, "I will shoot the first man who attempts to take this colored man", or "Stand back gentleman or I will shoot every one of you who touches this man". Despite not actually having a gun, he placed his hands in his pockets to try to trick the mob into thinking he did. A member of the mob then threw a brick at Chafin, hitting him in the head, and knocking him down. Chaffin's supporters, as well as the African American man who had sought refuge with them, then entered into a melee to fight off members of the mob. In the midst of this terrible event, Chaffin and others acted to protect the lives of people.

Source: https://615c4beb-b241-4f4a-a6b4-a074dc02ce34.filesusr.com/ugd/2cc7be_241fd3580ca54907abc742d3a35b466e.pdf



Sarah Jane Woodsen Early

Sarah Jane Woodsen Early (1825-1907) was an African American educator, author, advocate for black education, temperance activist, and prohibitionist. She was the daughter of former slaves, who worked with the underground railroad the African Methodist Episcopal Church. She was educated at Oberlin College. She taught in black community schools in Ohio for several years, served as principal of a school in Xenia, Ohio, and became the first African American woman to teach at a college in 1858. She continued teaching at schools and colleges after the Civil War. Following the Civil War, she got involved with temperance and prohibition activism. She was involved with the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and rose to be a leading figure in the WTCU. She had also been a spokesperson for the Prohibition Party in Tennessee. She is one of the many African American activists in the period who was involved with temperance and prohibition activism.

"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

"The Prohibition Party was established as a moralist party, to advance prohibition and other social reforms to promote the public wellbeing. The party is not conservative, it is not liberal; it is prohibitionist." Jonathan Makeley