



The Anniversaries

Welcome to our special anniversary issue of the New York Prohibitionist. This issue commemorates two special anniversaries that are happening in September. The first is the 153rd anniversary of the founding of the national Prohibition Party. On September 1st, 1869, the national Prohibition Party was formally established at a conference in Chicago. This was the beginning of our party's long history as a national force for promoting principled social and political reform in the country.

The second anniversary, on September 8th, is the 5th anniversary of the re-establishment of the Prohibition Party's state-level organization in New York. On September 8th, 2017, the Prohibition Party of New York was publicly announced. Since then, we of the Prohibition Party of New York have worked to spread our message, to promote positive policies and ethical candidates in New York, and to advance the Prohibition Party. We have worked to lay the groundwork for building a strong political presence in New York and we will continue to progress as we move forward.

This issue will commemorate these two anniversaries, reflect on our past, review the progress we have made over the past year, and look toward our plans or the future.



The temperance movement centers on a recognition that alcohol is harmful to people and society, and a concern for the lives for the lives and wellbeing of people." Jonathan Makeley

A Brief History of the Prohibition Party in New York

Temperance and prohibitionism have a long history in New York State. There were temperance societies in New York state as early as 1808. Over the following decades, the temperance movement experienced significant growth and advancement in the state. Increasing awareness of the harmful nature of all forms of alcohol helped give rise to teetotalism (total abstinence from the consumption of alcohol), and teetotalism developed to become the mainstream position of the state's temperance advocates. As the temperance movement developed, there were advocates who became increasingly aware of the social and economic practices that served to encourage and perpetuate drinking. That the producers and sellers and alcohol (who profited off harming others with their products) had a vested interest in encouraging and perpetuating the use of alcohol and would act within their power to impede the temperance movement. Prohibitionism arose as the means of tackling the social, economic, and political dimensions of the problem. By banning the manufacture and sale of alcohol and dismantling the alcohol industry, it could help pave the way for advancing a more comprehensive advancement of temperance.

By the 1830's and 40's some communities had begun banning the sale of alcohol in their areas, and most others had adopted a license system, which determined who was allowed to sell alcohol in their areas. As time went on, local prohibition became increasingly prominent. In the 1850's the movement for statewide prohibition laws had gained steam. In 1851, Maine passed the first statewide prohibition law. In 1854, the New York State Legislature passed its own statewide prohibition law. But it was vetoed by Governor Seymore. State Senator Myron Clark, a key advocate for the New York state prohibition law, ran



against Seymore and was elected governor. Once in office, Clark signed the law, and the first period of statewide prohibition in New York was established. Unfortunately, the law was struck down in state court several months later.

The Maine and New York state prohibition laws were part of the first wave of state-level prohibition laws in the country. In the 1850's 13 states had passed state-level laws banning of restricting the manufacture and sale of alcohol. Though these would eventually be taken down by alcohol industry backed political or court challenges. These experiences helped inspire prohibition activists to embrace advancing prohibition by explicitly establishing the power to ban alcohol in state and federal constitutions.

Following the civil war, prohibition advocates increasingly came to embrace national-level advocacy. Furthermore, some supporters of prohibition concluded that the Democratic and Republican Parties were too reliant on the alcohol industry and wet voters, and were unlikely to fully embrace prohibition on their own. Some began to embrace the idea of creating a national political party dedicated to establishing prohibition and enacting other key reforms that the major parties were reluctant to embrace. In 1867, John Russell took on the task of trying to organize the Prohibition Party. He brought together a coalition of temperance activists and prohibition activists, as well as other reformists (such as former abolitionists and supporters of women's suffrage).

On May 25th-27th, a group of prohibitionists met in Oswego, New York, to move toward organizing the Prohibition Party. A five-person committee (including New York temperance activist and writer John N. Stearns), was established to plan a national convention. The national convention was held on September 1st, 1869, and the Prohibition Party was formally established.

The Prohibition Party established a state-level organization in New York and began running candidates in the state. In 1870, the New York Prohibition Party put up its first slate of statewide tickets, with Myron Clark as its first candidate for governor. The state party organization developed throughout the 1870s. In the early 1880's, the party worked to develop county and local level party organizations throughout the state and run candidates for local elections. And it began running candidates for congress at least as early as 1882. The New York Prohibition Party organized itself in a rather standard structure. It had an executive committee, including a state party chairman, secretary, and treasurer. There were county-level organizations (with executive committees) and local organizations. The state party held conventions, in which representative members from across the state gathered to select the executive committee, formalize the state party platform, and select state-level candidates for office. The state party selected people to serve on the Prohibition National Committee and delegates for national Prohibition Party conventions.

In addition, during the late 19th century there was a neighborhood in Staten Island called Prohibition Park (now called Westerleigh), which had been a center of temperance and prohibitionist activity in the city. For a time, it had hosted a national Prohibition Party headquarters.

The New York Prohibition Party helped to support the Prohibition Party's presidential New York Prohibitionist candidates for president, when they are able to get on the ballot in the state. In 1884, Prohibition Party presidential candidate John St. John a strong performance in New York. So much so, that it's believed that it helped cause the Republican candidate to lose New York, and consequently cause the Republicans

to lose a presidential election for the first time since the civil war.

New York also helped to provide some of the candidates on our party's presidential tickets. William F Varney (the Prohibition Party Presidential Candidate in 1928) and D. Leigh Colvin (the Prohibition Party Presidential Candidate in 1936) were both prominent Prohibition Party figures in New York State. Colvin had also been the Vice-Presidential candidate in 1920. Prohibition Party presidential candidates Clinton Fisk (1884), John Bidwell (1888), and Charles Eugene Bentley (Free Silver Prohibition candidate in 1896) were born in New York. Prohibition Party Vice Presidential candidates John Russel (1872) and Gideon T. Stewart (1876) were born in New York.

Throughout the late 19th to mid-20th century, the New York Prohibition Party ran candidates for numerous local, state, and federal offices. Some candidates managed to win elections. For instance, the Prohibition Party elected over 60 candidates to local offices between 1886-1888. In 1908, Mary Barger was elected city clerk of Jamestown. She was one of the first women to hold elected office in New York. Lynn R. Lewis was elected and served as Mayor of Cortland, from 1911-1912. There were also candidates who had strong performances. In 1890, Prohibition Party Candidate William W. Smith, in the 16th congressional district received 24.73%, of the vote and came in second place. In the same year, Alva Carpenter received 13.63% of the vote in the 31st district, and Jesse Rogers received 10.30% of the vote in the 34th district. In 1892, George Hand received 11.48% of the vote in the 26th district. In 1918, Julius Rogers received 9.48% of the vote in the 34th district. In 1922, H. Westlake Coons received 8.99% of the vote in the 27th district. In 1932, Earnest Clark received 18.76% of the vote in the 39th district, and Arthur Rathjen received 8.73% of the vote in the 38th district. In 1920, Ella Boole received 159,623 votes for Senator. In 1930, Robert Carroll received 190,666 votes for Governor. In 1914, John R. Clemens received 68,049 votes for secretary of state. In 1932, the party's candidates for Senator, Governor, Lt. Governor, Comptroller, Attorney General, and Congressman-At-Large, each received 68,000 to 75,000 votes.

The New York Prohibition Party has nominated many different candidates with interesting life stories. For instance, John McKee, the party's 1904 candidate for governor had come to New York City as a young working-class Irish immigrant, and rose to become a successful real estate businessman and party activist. Alfred and Charles Manierre were two brothers, who were both lawyers, and both ran as a prohibition nominee for governor (Alfred in 1902, Charles in 1926). In 1914, the party nominated William Sulzer for governor. Sulzer had been governor in 1913. As governor, he took on state corruption and the power of Tammany Hall. In response, pro-Tammany politicians had him impeached (the only New York Governor to be impeached). While he didn't win reelection, he made sure the Tammany Hall backed candidate lost as well.

Besides running candidates for office, the New York Prohibition Party worked to advance its effort through issue advocacy and legislative activism. Prohibition Party activists worked to encourage state and local governments to pass stronger laws against alcohol and to enact other reforms.

The state was (and still is) also home to the national party's main financial institution, the Prohibition Trust Fund Association. The Prohibition Trust Fund Association was established as an organization to help financially support the Prohibition Party and various other prohibition supporting organizations. Many of its board members have been residents of New York and often leading figures in the state party.

The New York Prohibition Party spent decades advocating for the establishment of prohibition in New York. This effort succeeded when the 18th Amendment was passed in 1919. During the period of national prohibition, the New York Prohibition Party worked to promote strong enforcement of prohibition laws and defended its continued existence.

In 1926, D. Leigh Colvin became the national chairman of the Prohibition Party (a position he would hold until 1932). Colvin worked to help reinvigorate the party in New York State and nationally. This was being advanced in the state by figures such as then state chairman John McKee and Charles Manierre. In 1926, the Prohibition Party and a coalition of other

groups supportive of national prohibition worked to support the senate campaign of former state senator Franklin Christman. Christman had launched a third-party campaign to challenge New York's Republican Senator James Wadsworth (who was opposed to national prohibition and had voted against women's suffrage). Christman had received over 230,000 votes and helped ensure the defeat of Wadsworth.

The New York Prohibition Party tried to prevent New York from ratifying the 21st Amendment. It ran dry candidates for the convention to ratify the 21st Amendment, in the hope of trying to get it defeated. Unfortunately, the 21st Amendment was ratified and national prohibition came to an end in 1933.

Though national prohibition had ended, the Prohibition Party continued, in New York and nationwide. In 1936, the national Prohibition Party conference was held at the Niagara Falls State Armory Building, in Niagara Falls, New York. D. Leigh Colvin was selected as the party's first candidate after national prohibition. He would earn over 37,000 votes. The party's national vote total would increase in each presidential election, until it reached its post-national prohibition peak of over 103,000 votes in 1948.

The New York Prohibition Party continued to run candidates for several years after the end of national prohibition. The last recorded prohibition party candidates for the old state party organization were in 1940. As it stands, we don't have much information about what happened with the New York Prohibition after 1940. It's conceivable that the state party organization may have continued for some unknown period of time after 1940. Though it is known that New York State continued to have Prohibition Party members in the state, even after the old state party organization ended. Some of these include members of the Prohibition Trust Fund Association. Prohibition Party member Russell Hallock represented New York in the Prohibition National Committee for years before the re-establishment of the state party organization in 2017.

The story of the reestablishment of the Prohibition Party's state-level organization starts with the 2016 presidential campaign. James Hedges' presidential campaign generally helped to revitalize

the Prohibition Party and helped to bring in new members. At the Prohibition Party's 2017 conference, two newer Prohibition Party members from New York, Jonathan Makeley and Robert Emery joined Russell Hallock as members of the Prohibition National Committee. Shortly after the conference, Jonathan Makeley had begun communicating with other party members about the idea of reestablishing a state-level party organization in New York state and took on the task of working to organize it. Jonathan Makeley, Robert Emery, and Russell became the main founding members of the reestablished Prohibition Party of New York. On September 8th, 2017, the reestablishment of the Prohibition Party of New York was publicly announced. Thus, a new chapter in the history of the Prohibition Party in New York State had begun.

Updated version: September 2022



Past State Party Leadership and Candidates

As we proceed forward, we are also looking to our past: to gain understanding and guidance. Here are some historical sources, which provide some good information on the old New York Prohibition Party state organization.

In 1926, D. Leigh Colvin published his book, *Prohibition in the United States: A History of the Prohibition Party and of the Prohibition Movement*. The book included in its index, a list of the Governor Candidates, State Chairman, and National Committee Members.

This is what Colvin Listed:

New York. The candidates for Governor were: Myron H. Clark, '70; C.C. Leigh, '72; Myron H. Clark, '74; William J. Groo, '76; John W. Mears, '79; A.A. Hopkins, '82; H. Clay Bascom, '85; W. Martin Jones, '88; J.W. Bruce, '91; Francis E Baldwin, '94; William W. Smith, '96; John Kline, '98;

William T. Wardwell, '00; John McKee, '02; Alfred L. Manierre, '04; Henry M. Randell, '06; George E. Stockwell, '08; T. Alexander MacNicholl, '10 and '12; William Sultzter, '14; C.E. Welch, '16; Charles S. Whitman (Rep), '18; George F. Thompson, '20; George K. Hinds, '22; Charles E. Manierre, '26.

The members of the National Committee were: William Hosmer, '69; C.H. Mead, '76-'80; C.C. Leigh, '76-'80; Stephan Merritt, '80-82; J.W. Grosvenor, '80-82; Dr. T.J. Bissell, '82-'88; J.O. Hazelton, '82-'84; J.W. Bruce, '84-'88; H. Clay Bascom, '80-'96; William T. Wardwell, '88-'08; Fred F. Wheeler, '96-'00; Francis E. Baldwin, '00-'04 and '16-'24; J.H. Durkee, '04-'08; George E. Stockwell, '08-'12; C.E. Pitts, '08-'12; Alexander T. MacNicholl, '12-'16; Olin S. Bishop, '12-'20; Mrs. D. Leigh Colvin, '20-'28; William F. Varney, '24-'28.

The State Chairman were: D.T. J. Bissell, '73; Fred F. Wheeler, '84-'89; Francis E. Baldwin, '89-'93; Dr. Mitchell Downing, '93-'98; J.H. Durkee, '98-'07; C.E. Pitts, '07-'12; O.S. Bishop, '12-'19; W.H. Burr, '19-'21; W.E. Moore, '21; John McKee, '22-'24.

It should be noted that Colvin made a mistake in the governor's list. Alfred Manierre was a governor's candidate in 1902 and John McKee was the candidate in 1904. Also, John McKee had been the state chairman in 1926. So, it is likely that he returned to the chairmanship at some point between 1924 and 1926. In addition, William F. Varney served as state chairman in 1936.

Another important source for the history of the New York Prohibition Party is a digitized version of the 1906 handbook of the Prohibition Party in New York. <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?i=d:mdp.390%2015071647940;view=1up;seq=3>

The handbook provides a lot of information about the structure of the New York Prohibition Party at the time. It had an executive committee, including a state party chairman, secretary, and treasurer. There were county-level organizations (with executive committees) and local organizations. The state party held conventions, in which representative members from across the state gathered to select the executive committee,

formalize the state party platform, and select state-level candidates for office.

From it can be seen that the 1906 state party's executive committee consisted of Chairman J. H. Durkee of Rochester, Secretary Rev. Clinton J. Taft of Binghamton, Treasurer J.A. Hartman of Albion, and committee members William T. Wardwell of New York City, F. E. Baldwin of Elmira, Levi Hoag of Binghamton, Captain Henry M. Randall of Port Jefferson, Alfred Manierre of New York City, and James McNeil of Hudson.

The Babel Hathitrust database also contains digitized versions of the New York Red Book: an annual publication, which included information on state elections. The different additions of Red Book list election results for numerous prohibition party candidate for statewide, congressional, state senate, and state assembly elections throughout the late 19th and early 20th century.

There is the Partisan Prohibition Historical Website.

<http://www.prohibitionists.org/>

It has compiled a lot of information on the history of the Prohibition Party. Part of this includes a list of past Prohibition Party candidates in New York state. While it doesn't contain information on every past candidate, it does contain the most comprehensive list that is so far available. <http://www.prohibitionists.org/Candidates/candidates.html>

The New York Prohibition Party Website includes a history section with articles on various figures that were involved with the Prohibition Party in New York, as well as other articles on state party history. The News section of the website contains all issues of the New York Prohibitionist Newspaper, and most issues of the paper include at least one historical article.

New York Prohibition Party Website: <https://newyorkprohibition.wixsite.com/new-york-prohibition>

VOTE 

PROHIBITION
www.prohibitionists.org

Prohibition Party History

The Prohibition Party has a rich and continuing history. For those who are looking to help familiarize oneself about the Prohibition Party's history, here are some good places to start:

Prohibition in the United States: A History of the Prohibition Party and of the Prohibition Movement, by D. Leigh Colvin is a classic account of the party's history up to 1926.

The Politics of Prohibition: American Governance and the Prohibition Party, 1869– 1933, by Lisa Anderson, is a good example of more recent scholarly work covering the history of the Prohibition Party up to the end of national prohibition.

Partisan prophets; a history of the Prohibition Party, 1854-1972, is a short book on the history of the Prohibition Party up to 1972 and is one of the few significant works that covers the party's history after national prohibition.

More recently, James Hedges and the Partisan Prohibition Historical Society published *A Faithful Remnant: Prohibition Party 1972-2016*. The book continues where Storms' book left off and provides details on the Prohibition Party's history from 1972 to the 2016 election.

There is also the paper, *The Continuing History of the Prohibition Party, 1933-2018*, by Jonathan Makeley, which provides an overview of the party's history after national prohibition. https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/2cc7be_05fb2a92e40144e7b928acce497ebc2b.pdf

America's Other Party: A Brief History of the Prohibition Party, by C.L. Gammon is another good book for providing an overview of the party's history.

The Partisan Prohibition Historical Society website contains plenty of information on the party's history. <http://www.prohibitionists.org/>

There is also the *Others* book series by Darcy Richardson, which covers the history of third party politics in the country, including that of the Prohibition Party.

Issues of *The New York Prohibitionist* generally contain articles on Prohibition Party history. Typically these are

biographic articles on the lives of certain Prohibition Party figures in New York.

Online newspaper databases, such as newspapers.com, contain a lot of old reports on the activities of the Prohibition Party and its candidates. The election database OurCampaigns.com contains information on the election results for various Prohibition Party candidates. The Hathitrust database contains digitized versions of many different old books that were written by Prohibition Party activists, books that described party news and activities (such as *American Advance*) and books that reported on election results (such as the *New York Red Book*).

The Prohibition Party of New York Over the Past Year

Over the past year, we in the Prohibition Party of New York have worked to spread our message, develop our organization, and to help positively impact our state's politics. Here is an overview of some of the big things that have happened over the past year.

Organization

Over the past year, we have worked to develop the Prohibition Party of New York as an organized group. We have worked to encourage New Yorkers to join the Prohibition Party. The Prohibition Party of New York continues to be headed by state chairman Makeley. In the past year, we have seen an increasing number of people in this state join the party. The state party is working to recruit more members and develop their participation, so that one day we will be able to form a fully functioning state party executive committee.

Public Messaging

We have worked to develop our public messaging efforts in order to increase public awareness of the party and help influence the state's political discourse. The *New York Prohibitionist* acts as a central element for state party news and messaging. The *New York Prohibitionist* has seen an increasing readership. The email list for the *New York Prohibitionist* has continued to grow over the past year.

The state party has continued to act through social media sites, including Facebook and Twitter.

On Twitter, we have 214 followers and have reached over 920,000 cumulative

impressions (the number of times someone has seen something from us on Twitter). Our Twitter Account is titled New York Prohibition Party and the link is <https://twitter.com/nyprohibition>

On Facebook, we currently have 157 followers. Previously, we had used information features from Facebook to keep track of what communities in the state had people who were viewing our content. Overall, we had managed to reach people in over 400 communities across the state, in 61 of the state's 62 counties. Though more recently Facebook has reduced the amount of viewer data they provide to pages, so we have less precise data to work with. Though, we have continued to see a growing number of people following the page.

Our Facebook Page is also titled New York Prohibition Party and the link is <https://www.facebook.com/NewYorkProhibition-Party-1864593657192574/>

News Coverage

Over the past year, the Prohibition Party of New York has seen some news coverage in some online publications and local newspapers. We had local news coverage for State Chairman Makeley's campaign for Sweet Home Central School Board.

**Jonathan Makeley for
Sweet Home School
Board**



Campaigning

Throughout this past year, we have focused on our efforts to run candidates for local offices, and were able to gain some successes. State Chairman Jonathan Makeley ran as a candidate in this year's Sweet Home Central School Board election. He was able to complete the candidate petition to become the first Prohibition Party member to get on ballot for an office in New York state since 1940. The election was held on May 17th. There were four candidates running for two positions on the board, including two incumbents. Makeley received 149 votes (18.08%) and came in 4th place, while the two incumbents were reelected. While Makeley did not win the election, it was still a significant step forward for the Prohibition Party running candidates for

elected office in New York state, and hopefully will help to pave the way for more candidates in the future.

Policy Advocacy and State Trends

Over the past year, the Prohibition Party of New York has worked to advance its issue advocacy efforts. We have worked to promote the passage of positive legislation and policies in the state, while advocating against policies that were harmful to the wellbeing of New Yorkers.

We have continued our cause of advocating for addressing alcohol as a social public health problem, opposing the alcohol industry, and opposing efforts to weaken state restrictions on alcohol sales. Governor Hochul, despite her early attempts to try to portray herself as a break from the prior administration, unfortunately, ended up following in Cuomo's footsteps when it comes to the alcohol issue. She has misused her position to support the alcohol industry and weaken state restrictions on alcohol sales. She sought to not only bring back the backwards policy of allowing to-go alcohol sales for bars and restaurants that the Cuomo administration had enacted during the pandemic, but attempted to try to make it a permanent policy. The Prohibition Party of New York and other New Yorkers spoke out against her proposal, and were able to prevent her from making the policy permanent. Unfortunately, she was able to abuse her power in the state budget process to allow to-go alcohol sales for three years. Governor Hochul has made clear her intentions to try to gut the state's Alcohol Beverage Control laws, to give the alcohol industry even greater free-reign to poison New Yorkers. But the Prohibition Party of New York will continue to oppose her efforts.

We have continued to work to promote the passage of the Addiction Recovery Act, which would greatly increase funding for addiction prevention and recovery services. The bill had managed to gain significant support in past years, including the support of dozens of state legislators. Though it was never able to advance to a vote, due to being stuck in committee. After Assemblymen DenDekker left office, the bill has been without a sponsor to reintroduce it in the state assembly. We have endeavored to find a legislator who

would reintroduce the bill in the State Assembly, but have yet to find one. Though we will continue our endeavor and hopefully might find someone after this year's elections.

Pro-drug elements have continued to cause damage to our state by pushing for the commercialization of marijuana. In April 2021, the New York State Legislature and Governor Cuomo made the misguided and ill-conceived decision to legalize the sale of recreational marijuana in the state. This is a significant step backward when it comes to public health and consumer protection. There was a window of opportunity in 2021, where local communities could vote to opt-out of recreational marijuana sales in their communities. The Prohibition Party of New York worked to encourage local communities to vote to opt-out. At the end of the year, around 40% of New York communities voted to opt-out of recreational marijuana sales; providing these communities with some insulation for these communities against the damages that will be caused by the sale of recreational marijuana in the state. Though the problem is that the pro-marijuana elements set up rules so that officials in communities that opt-out could legalize local sales later on, but communities that didn't opt-out and are subsequently harmed by the effects of recreational sales have no option to opt-out afterwards. They will seek to use misinformation, propaganda, and corruption to try to officials into opting in, so they can gradually eliminate any local restrictions on their recreational marijuana sales. It is important that the law be amended to allow local communities to once again opt-out recreational marijuana sales, so that communities can act to insulate themselves and push back against commercial forces until greater changes can be enacted. In the long term, there is the task of working to organize and inform the public, so that in time enough New Yorkers come to realize the failure of legalized recreational marijuana and are able to urge the state legislature to once again prohibit its commercial sale.

We have seen some positive trends in regards to tobacco policy. In the past year, the FDA has begun to take some actions against the tobacco industry. The FDA has acted to ban the sale of many forms of electronic cigarette and vaping devices. In

the spring, the FDA announced that it was considering enacting regulations to ban the sale of menthol tobacco products. There was a public commenting period over the summer. The FDA has yet to announce whether it will go forward with the proposed menthol ban. Hopefully, they will decide to do so.

In 2020, the state legislature passed a set of anti-democratic changes to the state's ballot access laws. These changes made it vastly harder for minor party and independent candidates to get on the ballot for offices in the state, created an almost impossible standard for parties to gain and retain statewide ballot access recognition, and resulted in four political parties being stripped of their statewide ballot access in New York. The Prohibition Party of New York, along with several other parties in the state, have stood up against these anti-democratic changes to ballot access. Multiple parties have filed legal challenges to the 2020 ballot access law changes, challenging them as an unconstitutional attempt at electoral suppression. There have been multiple ongoing cases over the past year, but so far, no court has taken action to strike down the 2020 ballot access law changes. In the past year, the Prohibition party of New York has worked to promote the passage of Bill A08683 (a bill introduced by Assemblyman Brian Miller, which would repeal most of the anti-democratic ballot access rule changes). The bill has gradually gained some increased support in the state legislature, but had gotten stuck in committee, and was not voted on before the end of this year's legislative session. Hopefully, we will be able to make progress in next year's legislative session. Though in this year's November election, we will see the damaging effects of these anti-democratic ballot access changes. This will be the first election since 1946, where only the Democratic and Republican candidates will be on ballot for governor.

In the 2021 election, we saw a positive outcome from one of the statewide ballot measures. New York took a step towards better protecting public health and the environment, when New Yorkers voted overwhelmingly to pass Statewide Ballot Proposal 2. As a result, the New York State Constitution would be amended to add a section recognizing the right to clean water, clean air, and a healthy environment to the state bill of rights. By

adding this provision to the state constitution, it more clearly establishes the state's responsibility to protect both the health of the environment and the health of New Yorkers, and more clearly establishes the authority of the legislature to pass legislation towards that end.

In this year, there were some hopes about the potential for strengthening state ethics laws. Though unfortunately, these prospects were largely dashed, as the state legislature failed to enact several proposed reforms. In January, Governor Hochul proposed replacing the state's Joint Committee on Public Ethics (JCOPE) with a new state ethics organization, and subsequently released a plan for a 15-person ethics committee. A group of several civic and government watchdog groups (including the League of Women Voters of New York State) criticized Hochul's plan for the new ethics body as having many of the same problems which made JCOPE ineffective at investigating and punishing corruption by state officials. This coalition of several civic and government watchdog groups put forward an alternative plan for a new state public ethics body, which would have greater independence and more power to enforce ethics laws on state officials. Unfortunately, the state legislature opted to go with a somewhat watered-down version of Hochul's plan. While we did not gain any major ethics reforms, the Prohibition Party of New York will continue to advocate for stronger ethics laws in the future.

The Prohibition Party of New York has advocated for the state to improve the quality of education and for the state to take serious steps to help ensure that all schools are adequately funded. Some progress was made on this front with the page of this year's state budget. The state budget included expanding the state's TAP program to help provide more aid to part-time college students and some improvements in funding for public schools.

Due to the economic impacts of the coronavirus, the state is facing significant economic and fiscal challenges. The Prohibition Party of New York has called on state legislators to prioritize the protection of the life and wellbeing of New Yorkers in its budgetary decisions.

In this time of challenge and uncertainty, the Prohibition Party of New

York has worked to put forward a vision for the state's future. 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, brought about by hard work and positive reforms.

Overall

Overall, we have been gradually making progress in developing the Prohibition Party of New York and building the basis for enacting positive change in the state. While we remain in the early stages of our development, we have the opportunity to make great progress as we move forward. As we move forward, we will continue to build our party and work to move the state in the right direction.



Plans and Goals for the Future

As we move forward, we have much that we seek to accomplish. We are working to spread our message, grow our party, and develop its presence in New York state.

In these trying times, our party can participate in the public discourse on how to address the great challenges facing our state. We can act as a voice of reason in favor of an approach based on moral principle, ethical public service, protecting the lives and vital wellbeing of the people, cultivating human potential, and positive social reform. We can act to present a vision for a better future for the people of New York.

In the long term, we will work to grow our party and make it a stronger force in New York politics, so that we can better advance progress.

We are working to establish a fully operating state party executive committee. We are looking to run candidates in local elections and to grow the party over time. We will continue to operate as a non-state recognized minor party, engaging in issue advocacy and running candidates through independent nominating petitions, until we can hopefully one day become large enough to attempt to become a state-recognized minor party.

A key element to our future growth will be expanding our ability to spread our message and reach people.

There are several things which could be done to help with this, including:

- Continuing to grow our social media messaging
- Working to get more coverage in local and state-level newspapers
- Trying to get coverage in other mediums such as radio and TV news
- Continuing to develop our website and our state party newsletter
- Making greater use of advertising efforts such as flyers, pamphlets, and letters to the editor
- Attending more events in communities across the state in order to expand public awareness and form positive relationships with people and groups within these communities
- Work to put on our own events to help build our party's membership, public presence, and organization
- The use of activist techniques designed to help attract attention to our cause.
- Increased use of email, phone calls, and letters to important and local elected officials

It is also clear that in order to build greater support for our party that we will need to address the problem of the misinformation and propaganda that the alcohol industry and its wet supporters have long spread throughout the state. For this, we need to respond by informing people in the state about the harmful nature of alcohol, the damages it causes

to society, about the benefits of teetotalism, about the benefits of strong laws against alcohol, about the need to abolish the alcohol industry, and the actual history of temperance and prohibition in our country. In order to do this, we must forge connections with community groups, health groups, educators, faith groups, historians, and the like, convince them of these things, and work with them to help inform the public.

Likewise, we must work to build our membership. Through public messaging, holding events, and working to engage with people, we can work to attract more people to join the party.

We must continue working to develop a network of activists and groups across the state, in order to help advance our common issues and policy goals. That will involve working to find activists and groups with which we share common goals, getting in contact with them, working to establish a positive relationship, and working to find ways of working collaboratively. If we can do this enough times, in enough places in the state, we can eventually build a coalition for helping to drive change in the state.

The more we can build up our membership and the more can build a network of support across our state, the more we will be able to engage in larger-scale political activism, and the more we can influence the state's political direction.

Another key front for advancing our party is running and electing candidates for office. As we work to build our party, we will work to find more people who we could run as Prohibition Party candidates for office in New York state. Our greatest opportunities early on are likely with small local offices. Things such as school boards, town and village governments, and other local offices. The relatively lower ballot access requirements increase the likelihood of being able to get on the ballot, and their smaller total voting population means that it requires relatively less money and manpower to be able to reach enough voters to be competitive. If we run enough candidates for local offices, eventually some of them will start winning elections. By winning local elections, we can be in a position to enact reforms on a local level, to build grassroots support for the party, and

create a base of support to help run candidates for higher offices in the future.

Then there is the matter of the party's presidential campaigns. Given the high ballot access requirements in New York state, we won't be able to get a Prohibition Party candidate on the ballot for president any time soon. But we can still help get votes through write-in efforts. In 2020, we were able to file paperwork to get write-in ballot certification for our presidential candidate and we conducted a campaign to convince voters to vote for them. In future presidential campaigns, we can file for write-in certification for our ticket and then work to conduct even larger write-in campaigns.

Overall, we plan to grow our party and its impact on our state's politics and social condition. As we move into our second year, let us resolve to work to achieve even more progress than we had this year.

"These words are addressed to the prohibitionists who believe in the principles here enunciated, and propose to support those principles at the ballot-box. We are enlisted for the war, and the struggle will be a long and desperate one before our principles can be fully engrafted upon the laws of the land."
John N. Stearns



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