

Volume 4 #7

“Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer.” John F. Kennedy

The Prohibition Party continues to move forward on the state and national level. The party's national committee is scheduled to have a conference call on October 16, to take care of various things and work on planning for our activities and efforts in 2022.

The party's national secretary reports that the party continues to gain new members in New York and across the nation.

We continue to engage in temperance activism and to seek to rally people to stand up to the alcohol industry. One recent example of this is supporting a petition asking PepsiCo to abandon its plans to create an alcoholic version of Mountain Dew. Both the national and state party have brought attention to this and encouraged people to sign the petition. Since we started promoting it, the petition has more than tripled the number of signatures it had and has gotten some attention from PepsiCo's communications department.

The FDA has begun to take some significant steps towards shutting down the commercial sale of electronic tobacco products. In September, the FDA announced that it would be banning over 946,000 electronic tobacco products produced by over 500 companies.

In recent years, the FDA has taken a more active role in regulating the sale of electronic tobacco products. In 2016, a rule was created, requiring e-cigarette makers to file with the FDA to seek approval for their products and to submit information on the health impacts of their products. The deadline for filing applications was initially 2018, before being delayed to 2022 by the Trump administration. Anti-tobacco activists filed a lawsuit and a federal judge changed the deadline to 2020. The FDA has since spent the last year reviewing applications for 6 million electronic tobacco products. Over 4.5 million of these products were immediately rejected due to their manufacturers failing to provide key information on the health impacts of their products. The FDA has been reviewing information for the remaining applications. In September the FDA announced that they had rejected the applications for over 946,000 products from over 500 companies after reviewing information on their impacts on consumer's health.

The FDA was initially scheduled to complete its review of product applications by September 9th but had announced that its review was only 93% percent complete, and would be taking longer to finish reviewing the remaining applications. Much of the remaining 7% of applications are from major e-cigarette companies, such as Juul. Juul and associated companies have been major contributors to present day problems with e-cigarettes and played leading roles in



promoting e-cigarette use among teenagers. It remains to be seen how the FDA will rule in regards to these companies and their product applications. If the FDA rules against them, they could stop these companies from being able to sell electronic tobacco products and deal a significant blow to the tobacco industry. Hopefully, the FDA will make the right choice and announce as they are reasonably able to do so. In the meantime, anti-tobacco activists should keep their activism and encourage the FDA to take action.

Sources: <https://www.npr.org/2021/09/09/1035288752/fda-vaping-e-cigarettes-smoking>
<https://abcnews.go.com/Health/fda-decision-luul-banning-popular-cigarette-products/story?id=79917388>
<https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/us-fda-ask-more-time-before-deciding-luul-e-cigarettes-2021-09-09/>
<https://www.abc.com/news/economy/fda-decision-on-e-cigarette-ban-for-vaping-giant-luul>

The FDA and CDC have released some of their findings from the 2021 National Youth Tobacco Survey in regard to the use of electronic cigarettes by youth. They found that reported use of e-cigarettes has decreased over the past 2 years, but a significant portion of youths still reported using e-cigarettes. They found that over 2 million high school and middle school students were currently using e-cigarettes. Over 1/4th of them reported using them on a daily basis. Nearly 85% reported using flavored e-cigarettes. There are indications that increased restrictions on the sales of e-cigarettes in recent years have played a significant role in driving decreased use. Though further efforts will be needed in order to further decrease youth tobacco use.

Sources: <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/press-releases/2021-09-30-myts-2-million-kids?fbclid=IwAR3xYMXinWda9rXfNvQDV-9fzWwHx0L550mt73xklvgUz6qGt58EQaU7o>
https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7039a4.html?cid=mm7039a4_w
<https://www.fda.gov/tobacco-products/youth-and-teenagers/results-annual-national-youth-tobacco-survey>



More Communities Take Local Action Against Marijuana

More communities in New York have been taking local action against marijuana. Here are some of the latest developments which have occurred over the past month.

Johnson City is looking to establish a local ban on smoking marijuana in local parks and other village-owned properties where tobacco smoking is already prohibited.

The Village of Lynbrook is also considering establishing a ban on smoking marijuana in public spaces.

The Colonie Town Board voted to ban onsite consumption of marijuana at marijuana stores.

Philpstown has been moving forward with plans to establish a local ban on recreational marijuana sales.

The Brookhaven Town Board voted to establish a zoning law banning marijuana stores in their downtown business district, within 500 feet of residential homes, and within 1000 feet of hospitals, libraries, places of worship, parks, playgrounds, gyms, and dance studios.

The town of Westport's board votes to establish a zoning law banning recreational marijuana sales in zoning districts.

The Smithtown Town Board is considering establishing a local ban on recreational marijuana sales.

The Town of Fayette Board voted to establish a local ban on recreational marijuana sales.

The Village Board of Patchogue also votes to opt-out of recreational marijuana sales.

In Delaware County, Sheriff Doug DuMond has been working to encourage each of the towns and villages in the county to opt-out of marijuana sales. Some communities have taken up the call and have begun moving towards establishing local bans.

In regard to overall trends, the consulting company Cannasigliere created a map tracking how different communities have addressed the matter of whether to opt-out of local sales of recreational marijuana. It shows that so far over 100 communities in New York have moved to establish local bans.

Sources: <https://www.pressconnects.com/story/news/local/2021/09/30/johnson-city-weed-law-would-ban-drug-public-spaces/5913763001/>
<https://highlandscurrent.org/2021/09/11/opt-out-on-pot-philpstown-moves-closer-to-a-ban/>
<https://www.lherald.com/stories/vnbrook-village-board-weighs-banning-smoking-pot-in-public-135222>
<https://www.newsday.com/long-island/suffolk/marijuana-sales-zoning-amendment-ban-opt-out-1.50350769>
<https://www.westport-news.com/news/article/Westport-bans-recreational-marijuana-businesses-16459241.php>
<https://www.newsday.com/long-island/suffolk/marijuana-retail-sales-opt-out-public-hearing-1.50357689>
<https://www.times.com/news/fayette-bans-retail-sale-on-site-use-of-cannabis/article-11046dee-1e19-5024-a2db-12d9ca23889.html>
<https://www.longislandadvance.net/stories/village-opts-out-with-option-to-opt-back-in-89026>
https://www.thedailystar.com/news/local_news/sheriff-stirs-opposition-to-legalized-marijuana/article-4187841a-4c9d-54dc-a25e-4741f53a7fa.html
<https://www.waer.org/2021-09-23/cny-towns-debate-whether-to-permit-weed-sales-in-their-jurisdiction>
<https://www.google.com/maps/@40.015677,-74.688076,7N8d-SwMIPTR-c8H0u8ll41.744257296993716%2C-74.68807627476588r10>
<https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Colonie-bans-on-site-marijuana-consumption-16459132.php>

State Senator Proposes Expanding Time Period for Communities to Opt-Out of Marijuana Sales

Following the state legislature's misguided and ill-conceived decision to pass a bill legalizing the sale of recreational marijuana in the state, local communities were given a short period to be able to vote to opt-out of having marijuana sales in their communities. As it stands, local communities only have until the end of the year to opt-out. After that, local communities will no longer be able to opt-out, but they will allow local governments that previously opted out to opt-in later. This is part of an insidious design, in which pro-drug elements in the state government seek to manipulate local communities into accepting a system where their citizens are poisoned for the sake of corporate profit. They will allow marijuana companies to corrupt local officials into selling out their communities, but if members of a local community come to realize the harms that commercial drug sales do to their community, they will be denied the opportunity to opt-out.

State Senator George Borrello has proposed expanding the time period for local communities to opt-out by another

year. The senator argues that the state government has been slow to make important appointments and provide information about the state's planned regulatory structure. He contends that local communities have not been given sufficient information and shouldn't be forced into a hasty decision. Sen. Borello is encouraging other members of the legislature to consider an extension of the opt-out period. But it remains to be seen whether such an extension would be made.

Extending the period for local communities to opt-out of marijuana sales would provide more opportunities for local communities to establish local bans and partially insulate themselves from the state's misguided decision to allow recreational marijuana sales. In that sense, it would be good for an extension to be granted. But such a change wouldn't go far enough. The state law should be amended to allow for local communities to opt-out indefinitely and to allow for local communities that previously made the mistake of opting-in to opt-out later on. That way communities will have a greater ability to protect their citizens and activists will be better able towards reversing the state's mistake.

Source: <https://www.marijuanamoment.net/new-york-senator-wants-to-give-cities-more-time-to-ban-marijuana-businesses-as-regulations-develop/>

"A vitiated state of morals, a corrupted public conscience, is incompatible with freedom. No free government, or the blessings of liberty, can be preserved to any people but by a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, frugality, and virtue; and by a frequent recurrence to fundamental principles." Patrick Henry

JCOPE Doing Independent Review of Cuomo Book Deal Approval

New York State's Joint Commission on Public Ethics (JCOPE) is launching an investigation into its own operations, regarding the approval of a book deal by former governor Andrew Cuomo. JCOPE Chair Jose Nieves announced that was going to be a probe conducted regarding the organization's handling of ethics review for Cuomo's book deal. Particularly, why approval was granted by a JCOPE staff member, rather than through a decision by the commission's main board (which presumably should have been making that decision). The commission will hire outside lawyers to conduct the investigation.

This comes at a time when the State Attorney General and the State Assembly Judiciary Committee are investigating former governor Cuomo's \$5.1 million book deal. And while JCOPE is finally moving to investigate the matter, it still faces criticism over its handling of the matter, and broader concerns about JCOPE's ability to effectively act as a body for enforcing public ethics for state officials. Some figures, including Governor Hochul, have called for JCOPE to be replaced with a new ethics enforcement organization.

Source: <https://www.news10.com/news/ny-capitol-news/jcope-to-probe-its-own-cuomo-book-deal/>
<https://www.spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/ny-state-of-politics/2021/10/04/hochul-signs-bill-expanding-snap-benefits-to-restaurants>
<https://www.wgrr.com/article/news/local/new-legislation-signed-that-allows-qualifying-people-to-use-snap-benefits-to-buy-hot-meals-from-restaurants-restaurant-resiliency-kathy-hochul/71-b1fe03ea-0e33-479c-a8ee-581de6ac0093>

"High moral and ethical standards are essential, and they don't change from one job to another, or from one level of authority to another. Honesty, truthfulness, integrity, unselfishness- These are always there. And whenever a leader violates these basic principles, through arrogance or through ignorance, there is a derogation of duty."
 Jimmy Carter

Gov. Hochul Signs Legislation to Help Restaurants and Food Assistance Programs

Governor Hochul signed legislation aimed at helping both restaurants and food assistance programs. The bill will establish a state restaurant meals program as part of the state's broader supplemental nutrition assistance program. It requires the State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance to apply for USDA authorization for the program. If authorized, then the program could allow elderly, homeless, and disabled recipients to use their benefits to purchase prepared food from participating restaurants. The Governor also announced the establishment of a \$25 million Restaurant Resiliency Program, which will allow food banks to replenish their supplies by purchasing food from restaurants.

These programs will serve a dual function of providing relief to restaurants, while also helping to provide food to those in need. This announcement is a welcome change of pace from the small-minded approach that legislators have been taking in recent times. Where some misguided legislators thought they could help the restaurant industry by pushing regressive pro-alcohol policies, while overlooking the harm that such policies

would do to public health and the negative impacts that increased alcohol sales would have on the economy. This restaurant relief program seems to be focused on helping restaurants in a manner that helps the broader public, rather than helping them in a way that hurts the broader public.

Source: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-signs-legislation-helping-homeless-disabled-and-elderly-snap-recipients>
<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/ny-state-of-politics/2021/10/04/hochul-signs-bill-expanding-snap-benefits-to-restaurants>
<https://www.wgrr.com/article/news/local/new-legislation-signed-that-allows-qualifying-people-to-use-snap-benefits-to-buy-hot-meals-from-restaurants-restaurant-resiliency-kathy-hochul/71-b1fe03ea-0e33-479c-a8ee-581de6ac0093>

"I am a temperance man because I am an anti-slavery man; and I am an anti-slavery man because I love my fellow men. There is no other cure for intemperance but total abstinence."
 Frederick Douglass



New York Prohibition Party History

Webber Stevens

Webber Stevens was a farmer, teacher, and local prohibition party politician. Webber Stevens was born on May 27, 1844, in Stafford, New York. He was the son of Richard Stevens and Elizabeth Webber Stevens, who were immigrants from England. His parents moved to Oakfield, when he was 4 months old. He grew up in Oakfield and spent his life living in the town. He was educated at Cary Collegiate Seminary and Lima Seminary. He also took a course at the Eastman Business College in Poughkeepsie. He married Frances Jane Stevens and had 8 children: Richard F. (b.1872), William W. (b.1873), Ada A. (b.1875), Fanny E. (b.1877), George B. (b.1879/1880), Ralph W. (b.1885), Arthur G. (b.1889), and Clare M. (1891). He made a living as a farmer and had also spent several years as a Sunday school teacher.

Webber Stevens was an active member of the Oakfield Community. He was described in his obituary as a "public-spirited citizen, always taking great interest in the welfare of Oakfield". He was an active member of the Oakfield

Methodist Episcopal Church. He was president of the Oakfield Realty and improvement company, was president of the Cary Cemetery Association, was treasurer and an active member of the Oakfield Grange, and a member of the Oakfield Tent K.O.T.M. He served on a Grand Jury in Genesee County in 1882. He again served on a Genesee County Grand Jury in 1888 and acted as the clerk for the Grand Jury.

Webber Stevens was active in local politics. At some point, he served as village president of the village of Oakfield (within the town of Oakfield). In 1892, he was elected as a member of the local school board.

Webber Stevens was an active prohibitionist in politics. In 1886, he was elected as the Prohibition Party candidate for excise commissioner in Oakfield. In 1892, Stevens ran as the Prohibition Party candidate for State Assembly in Genesee County. He received 456 votes (5.69% of total).

Stevens continued to make a living as a farmer until at least 1900. In 1907, suffered from a stroke, and he spent his last few years in declining health. On November 29th, 1910, his health problems caused him to become bedridden. In January 1911, he had his right leg amputated up to the knee, but his health continued to deteriorate. He passed away peacefully on March 5th, 1911. He was survived by his wife and seven of his children. He was buried in Cary Cemetery in Oakfield.

Source: https://615c4beb-b241-4f4a-a6b4-a074dc02ce34.filesusr.com/ugd/2cc7be_b4f96ee113a24dfbaae0223fb7a03c.pdf

The Prohibition Party Anti- Alcohol Pro- Humanity



"Service is the measure of greatness; it always has been true; it is true today, and it always will be true, that he is greatest who does the most of good."

William Jennings Bryan