New York Prohibitionist



Think NY Vote Dry March, April, May 2021 Volume 3 #3

The New York Prohibitionists Returns

After a hiatus of a couple of months, the New York Prohibitionist has returned with this issue. This issue will cover news for the months of March, April, and May, and the next issue should return to covering news on a monthly basis.

"Men make history and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better." Harry Truman

State and National Party News

We in the Prohibition Party have been continuing to continuing our work on the state national level. In New York, we have been advocating against efforts to weaken restrictions on the sale of alcohol and other harmful substances. Despite the efforts of various activists to dissuade them, the state legislature made the misguided decision to legalize the sale of recreational marijuana. Though this is not the end of the matter. Local towns will have until the end of the year to try to enact local restrictions on the sale of marijuana. Hopefully, we will be able to convince some towns to establish local bans, so that the damage can at least be somewhat limited going forward, until enough of the public and legislature can be made to realize that the commercial sale of marijuana is detrimental to the state and undue those regressive changes.

Nationwide, we have been working to oppose efforts in various states that would aim to weaken state restrictions on alcohol sales. We have been working to promote bills to improve ballot access laws and to oppose bills that would aim to make it harder for third party and independent candidates to gain ballot access. Unfortunately, the Arkansas state legislature managed to pass a bill making the number of signatures required to get

on ballot for president five times higher. Though our party is working to complete a petition for getting on the ballot for president in 2024 before the new requirements take effect. The signature collecting process is reportedly going well so far, so hopefully we will be able to secure ballot access in Arkansas for 2024.

Restoring the Old Restrictions on Alcohol Sales

During the pandemic, the state government made the misguided and incompetent decision to weaken restrictions on alcohol sales in order to support businesses that sell alcohol during the pandemic. This was done despite the fact that alcohol weakens the immune system and makes users more susceptible to the coronavirus. This was done despite the warning signs of rising alcohol use among portions of the population, and that the rising use of alcohol among that segment would lead to increased alcoholinduced illness, alcohol-induced injury, alcohol-fueled domestic abuse, and alcohol-related death. While governments in some other increased restrictions on alcohol sales or even enacted temporary bans on alcohol sales, for the sake of protecting public health and helping to contain the virus, the Cuomo administration instead opted to weaken state restrictions on alcohol sales. This misguided decision has contributed to increased alcohol-induced illness, injury, and death, at a time when they state struggling to deal with the coronavirus and served to further exacerbate problems. These weakened state restrictions on alcohol sales, while terrible policy, were designed to be temporary. But now, as these measures are nearing their end date, the alcohol industry and its backers are trying to convince state legislators to make them permanent. If they were to succeed in doing this, that it would allow these companies to more easily profit off selling their toxic products, while making alcohol problems in our state worse, and weakening our



state's recovery. For these reasons, we must work to ensure that the weakened restrictions expire and stay expired. We must work to better inform the public of the harms of pro-alcohol policies and work to convince legislators to vote against efforts to make those weakened restrictions permanent.

Those who wish to help in the effort to restore the old restrictions on alcohol sales, should contact their state legislators and let their will be known. Contact information for state legislators can be found on the State Assembly and State Senate Websites.

State Senate:

https://www.nysenate.gov/senatorscommittees

State Assembly:

https://nyassembly.gov/mem/

"All the property that is necessary to a man for the conservation of the individual and his propagation of the species is his natural right, which none can justly deprive him of; but all property superfluous to such purposes is the property of the public, who by their laws have created it, and who may therefore by other laws dispose of it, whenever the welfare of the public shall demand such disposition. He that does not like civil society on these terms, let him retire and live among savages." Benjamin Franklin

Study Finds that Any Level of Alcohol Use Damages the Brain

A new study has come out regarding the role of alcohol in causing brain damage. Researchers from Oxford University conducted an observational study of the brains of 25,000 people. They found that any level of alcohol use was associated with decreased grey matter (which plays an important role in the brain's ability to process information). The more people drank, the less grey matter they tended to have, and those who drink alcohol in any amount tended to have less grey matter than those who did not drink at all. They found that consuming any amount or type of alcoholic beverage was worse for the brain than not drinking it. They found that alcohol use provided a greater contribution to decreased grey matter than other modifiable factors. Overall, this study adds to a growing body of research showing the various harmful effects of alcohol use on people.

Source:https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/19/health/alcohol-brain-health-intl-scliscliwellness/index.html?fbclid=lwAR20Ww974QERgjXViLomVAfvEjoZUAVgfJIWI 37SVP4HSTC01oHTG9gKLXY

Revelations of Sexism and Harassment within the Craft Beer Industry

Recently there has been a wave of revelations regarding sexism and harassment within the craft beer segment of the alcohol industry. Hundreds of women have come out to describe how they have witnessed sexism and have received harassment by male coworkers or bosses within the craft beer industry. The heads of several brewing companies have resigned as a result of these revelations.

It is sad to see that an industry is riddled with rampant sexism and harassment. Though these revelations are unsurprising given the context of the alcohol industry. Over a hundred years ago, American brewing companies were notorious for opposing the women's suffrage movement and using their wealth to try to prevent women from being able to vote. This was in reaction to the significant connections between the temperance/ prohibition movement and the women's suffrage movement. Many women suffrage activists supported prohibition due to the harm that male alcohol use had on women and children

(such as drunken men spending all their money on alcohol and leaving their wives and children in poverty, or coming home drunk and violently abusing their wives and children). The alcohol industry feared that women voters would help get alcohol banned and thus opposed women's rights to protect their own wealth. The alcohol industry has continued to be involved colored by sexism and harm towards women. In more recent years, the alcohol industry has focused on trying to promote increased drinking among women, at the expense of the health, safety, and lives of women, for the sake of enlarging their own profits. In addition, it cannot be overlooked that alcohol is the most common rape drug; with it being the most common drug used to incapacitate women for the purpose of sexual assault, and is also commonly used to lower the inhibitions of those committing acts of sexual assault. The alcohol industry has and is colored with its mistreatment of women.

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Drug Overdose Deaths Spike During Pandemic

The Coronavirus pandemic has had significant impacts on public health. In addition to the effects of the virus directly on people, it has served to exacerbate other public health problems. This includes rising drug overdoses. The CDC has reported that more people have died in the year leading up to May 2020 than in any year prior to that. In some areas, overdose deaths increased by over 40%.

Source: https://wnyt.com/capital-region-comeback/covid-19-coronavirusshutdowns-trigger-substance-abusespike/6112599/?fbclid=lwAR2!YbtbjvhzLfYMqaVSD6mZIo4yMrMCR1imJ8bDwhHkqetxcTyQRbrjpY

"To be hopeful in bad times is based on that human history is not only of cruelty, but also compassion, sacrifice, compassion, kindness. If we only see the worst, it destroys our capacity to do something. If we remember those times and places where people have behaved magnificently, this gives use the energy to act. And if we do act, in however small a way, we don't have to wait for some grand utopian future. The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory." Howard Zinn



State Government Makes Misguided Decision to Legalize Recreational Marijuana

The New York State Legislature and Governor made the misguided and illconceived decision to legalize the sale of recreational marijuana in the state. In April, they passed a bill to legalize the sale of recreational marijuana. This is a significant step backward when it comes to public health and consumer protection. Despite their refusal to acknowledge it, marijuana is a drug, which can detrimentally affect mental and physical health, and contribute to a variety of social, medical, and economic damages. They have prioritized the interests of greedy corporations over public health. These companies will use their wealth to promote and normalize drug use, to pay off politicians to weaken whatever regulations the state will set in place, and will work to undermine education and prevention efforts. Contrary to the false claims of social justice by its advocates, legalization will lead to further exploitation of poor and minority communities. As with the alcohol and tobacco industries and in the marijuana industry in other states, the marijuana companies will disproportionately target poor and minority communities. They will extract money from communities and try to portray the little portion they give back as "investing in communities". Legalizing marijuana will do nothing to address the systemic issues that have led to inequalities in policing, and their new legal order may actually give racist elements a broader area of discretion to disproportionately arrest people of color. Having companies profit off exploiting consumers and selling harmful products does not help our society, it makes its problems worse. The failures of legalizing alcohol and tobacco should show the folly of commercializing drugs. Our society needs to move towards recognizing alcohol and other drugs as a social and public health problem, recognizing that

the commercial sale of intoxicants is detrimental, work towards promoting a culture of sobriety, and work towards abolishing the commercial traffic of alcohol and other drugs.

Now, cities, towns, and villages in New York state do have a window of opportunity to opt-out of the commercial sale of marijuana. The bill allows for local communities to go through a process to restrict or ban places from selling marijuana. Unfortunately, they only have until the end of the year to do this. The state won't allow local communities after the deadline, though it will allow the promarijuana elements to try to repeal local bans after that deadline, in an effort to try to permanently eliminate any communities from having local protection against drug sales. We would encourage New Yorkers to do what they can to try to establish local restrictions in time, so that at least some communities can be somewhat insolated from the state's misguided pro-drug policies.

Sources: https://nypost.com/2021/04/15/get-ready-for-a-nyc-reeking-of-weed-and-crawling-with-potheads/

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Impeachment Process Proceeds Against Governor Cuomo

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo faces the possibility of impeachment. Earlier this year, we saw a surge of revelations and allegations against Governor Cuomo for various misconduct. This has included revelations that the Cuomo administration hid information about the number of nursing home deaths from the coronavirus, several women accusing the governor of sexual harassment, and allegations of the governor misusing his powers for his own benefit. This led many legislative officials in the state to call for the governor's resignation or impeachment. In March, the State Assembly opened an impeachment probe into the Governor's alleged misconduct. The State Assembly's investigation is currently ongoing. It is currently not known when the investigation will conclude. Once the investigation is completed, the State Senate might then vote on whether to bring up charges for impeachment. If a majority of the assembly votes in favor of

impeachment, an impeachment trial will occur, Governor Cuomo will be temporarily stripped of his powers, and Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul will become acting governor until the impeachment trial is concluded. An impeachment trial would be conducted by the State Senate and the State Court of Appeals. A 2/3rds vote would be required in order to convict Governor Cuomo and remove him from office. If the impeachment is successful, governor Cuomo would no longer be governor, and Lt. Governor Hochul would become governor until the end of his term. If the vote falls short of 2/3rds, then Governor Cuomo would remain governor for the remainder of his term.

Sources: https://615c4beb-b241-4f4a-a6b4-

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Prohibition Party of New York Statement Calling for the Resignation of Governor Andrew Cuomo

March 15, 2021

There comes a time when the actions of an elected official so significantly compromise their integrity and so greatly violate their duties, as to render them unfit for continuing their office. For years, the people of our state have borne witness to the misdeeds of our sitting governor, Andrew Cuomo, as he failed to uphold the ethical responsibilities of a public servant, violated the principles he was supposed to uphold, and took actions destructive towards the lives and wellbeing of the people of this state.

Governor Andrew Cuomo abused the power of his office to promote the growth of the alcohol industry. He did so, despite the fact that alcohol is a toxic substance, which causes widespread illness and injury, kills thousands of New Yorkers each year, contributes to a variety of crimes and social ills, and causes widespread social, medical, and economic damages. In doing so, Cuomo acted to make the problem of alcohol in the state worse. He abandoned his responsibility to protect the lives and vital wellbeing of New Yorkers, and instead acted to harm those he was supposed to serve. He put the greed of the alcohol companies above

the interests of the public. Furthermore, he has continued to put corporate greed above public health, by attempting to legalize the commercial sale of even more drugs.

Governor Cuomo presided over a period of significant corruption within state government and mismanagement of economic development programs. This corruption involved some of the highest-ranking figures in state government and some of Governor Cuomo's closest associates. After Governor Cuomo shut down a state commission investigating corruption, federal investigations resulted in the conviction of multiple state officials. Even after these revelations, Governor Cuomo failed to take sufficient actions to reform state programs to discourage future acts of corruption.

Governor Cuomo abused his power to undermine the democratic processes of our state and suppress political opponents. Last year, Governor Cuomo and his co-conspirators in the state legislature such provisions in the state budget to rewrite the state's ballot access laws. They rewrote the state's ballot access laws in order to vastly increase the number of signatures needed to place independent and minor party candidates on the ballot for statewide offices and vastly increased the requirements for a party to get and retain statewide ballot access. These changes to ballot access laws are a blatantly anti-democratic effort to block minor party and independent candidates from the ballot and to deprive voters of many of their existing options on the ballot. These changes have already resulted in four parties having their statewide ballot access unjustly revoked. Governor Cuomo and his coconspirators in the state legislature acted to weaken our state's democratic system and in order to advance their own political power. Governor Cuomo has shown that he has a fundamentally anti-democratic attitude towards our state's elections and voters.

In more recent times, we have seen the revelations of how Cuomo's administration reportedly altered the presentation of state data to underreport the number of nursing home deaths from the coronavirus. Reported have indicated the Cuomo administration had intentionally hidden information to avoid public criticism and a potential federal investigation. This revelation has resulted

in investigations from the State Attorney general, the FBI, and Federal prosecutors.

We have seen allegations of professional misconduct and misbehavior by Governor Cuomo. Several women have come forward to publicly accuse Governor Andrew Cuomo of sexual harassment. The Attorney General is opening an investigation of these accusations. In addition, numerous others have reported that the Governor has fostered a toxic professional environment within his administration and has on numerous occasions bullied and threatened other officials.

The actions that Governor Cuomo has engaged in over his years as governor have shown that he has failed his ethical duties as a public servant. He has taken actions that have been detrimental to the lives and wellbeing of New Yorkers, has favored the interest of his corporate backers over the health and safety of New Yorkers, has allowed corruption to take place in his administration, has undermined our states democratic system, has placed the interests of his political career above his responsibilities to the public. He now stands accused of personal and professional misconduct which is at best grossly unprofessional and at worst criminal.

This has led to the conclusion that Governor Andrew Cuomo is unfit to serve the state as governor. As such we call on Governor Andrew Cuomo to resign from his position as governor of New York. We also call on state legislators and law enforcement to take appropriate actions to hold Governor Cuomo responsible for his actions.

New York Ballot Access News

The battle over ballot access laws continues. As we have reported, last year Governor Cuomo and his co-conspirators in the state legislature passed a set of anti-democratic changes to the state's ballot access laws. These changes make it far harder for minor parties to get and retain statewide ballot access, and make it far harder for minor party and independent candidates to get on the ballot for statewide offices. Four parties which previously had statewide ballot access have already had it unjustly taken away from them. Multiple parties have sued the state to challenge these changes as unconstitutional.

Here is some of the latest news in regards to this matter. An article by Richard Winger in the Gotham Gazette points out some of the further negative implications if the changes to the state's ballot access laws are not reversed soon. After the 2020 elections, four of the state's minor parties (Independence, SAM, Green, and Libertarian) lost their statewide ballot access, leaving only the Democratic, Republican, Working Families, and Conservative Parties on the ballot. The Conservative Party candidates for statewide and congressional elections as the Republicans and the Working Families party typically nominates the same candidates for statewide and congressional elections as the Democrats. With these factors, we could likely go from having 3 or more options for most statewide and congressional elections to only having the Democratic and Republican party candidates for most of those elections. The parties which lost ballot access after the 2020 elections will face a difficult time just getting their candidates on the ballot for governor, let alone getting their gubernatorial candidates enough votes for them to regain their statewide ballot access. Meanwhile, the Conservative and Working Families party would also be in danger of potentially losing their ballot access and leaving the state without any minor parties with statewide ballot access. The massive increase in signature requirements for getting a candidate on the ballot for president could result in only the Democratic and Republican presidential candidates getting on the ballot in New York. As Richard Winger points out, in 2020, no minor party or independent candidate was able to successfully complete any ballot access petition requiring more than 5,000 signatures. The 45,000-signature requirement set in the changes would make it nearly impossible for minor parties to get their candidates on the ballot. These changes if allowed to stand would destroy New York's long history of having several minor parties with ballot statewide access and create a future where New Yorkers would have far fewer options to express their will at the ballot box.

Another article by Winger at Ballot Access News further highlights the negative effects of these changes to ballot access. If these changes were to stand, then New York would make New York the hardest state for minor party presidential candidates to get on the ballot in 2024, when the easiest methods for each state are compared.

Finally, there has been some news regarding the lawsuits challenging the ballot access changes. Kevin W. Goering, who was the lawyer for the Working Families party in their lawsuit challenging the changes to the state's ballot access laws, died unexpectedly on May 4th. This has caused a temporary pause on the case. The case should resume later this year. Hopefully, when the case does resume, the court will come to recognize that the challenges are correct, strike down these anti-democratic changes, and reinstate the state's old ballot access laws.

Source: https://ballot-access.org/2021/05/17/new-york-ballot-access-proceedings-paused-due-to-unexpected-death-of-attorney-for-working-families-party/

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New York Prohibition Party History



Lynn R. Lewis: Prohibitionist Mayor

Lynn R. Lewis was a businessman, manufacturer, and Prohibitionist Mayor of Cortland, New York. He was one of the various local officials in the state that were elected as a Prohibition Party candidate, and was an example of what a prohibitionist could do as the mayor of a city.

Lynn R. Lewis was born on January 28th, 1858, possibly in Chenango Forks, New York. He was the son of Salmon

[&]quot;The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life." Jane Addams

Lewis and Sarah Lewis. In 1882, Lewis moved to Cortland, New York. In the same year, he married his wife Emily L. Phelps Lewis. They would have 3 children: Paul (1886 to 1950), (Ralph 1892 to 1978), Florence (1893-1894). Around 1886, Lewis began a career as a local businessman and manufacturer. Census records indicate that his manufacturing included things such as tin smithing, producing plumbing materials, and manufacturing plow trucks.

In 1910, Lewis was nominated as the Prohibition Party candidate for Mayor of Cortland. He campaigned on a platform of doing everything in his power to enforce state laws restricting alcohol sales and to shut down saloons where possible, of working to remove graft and corruption from city government, and of strengthening law enforcement. He won the election by a plurality of 100 votes against the Democratic and Republican candidates. The elected city council consisted of 3 Democrats and 3 Republicans. The Syracuse Post Standard claimed that Lewis was the first Prohibition Party Mayor of a city in New York State.

The election of Mayor Lewis was met with hope from those who sought to achieve reform in the city. Mayor Lewis made known his intentions to combat liquor, gambling, crime, and corruption in the city. He promised a square deal for every man, with no special treatment for private or corporate interests. He stated that he would receive suggestions from any constituent and give them honest consideration. Lewis also realized that the process of reforming the city would be hard fought and that he likely wouldn't be able to achieve everything he hoped to. But he was committed to achieving what he could.

Mayor Lewis was opposed the city's pro-alcohol politicians, including 4 of the city's six alderman. At the head of this opposition was Alderman Vern Skeel. Skeel was a Democratic Alderman, hotel owner, and liquor dealer, who sought to oppose everything that Lewis sought to achieve.

Mayor Lewis worked to strengthen the city's enforcement of state laws regulating alcohol sales. He was successfully able to appoint a new city commissioner, who was a staunch prohibitionist and shared his goals for strengthening law

enforcement. They encouraged city police officers to strictly enforce state laws on alcohol sales. Lewis' administration worked to shut down saloons that didn't have a state liquor license and to shut down licensed saloons that weren't in compliance with state liquor laws.

Lewis' efforts to combat the crime and corruption would eventually lead to the defeat of his opponent Alderman Vern Skeel. In spring of 1912, police officers raided Skeel's hotel on suspicion of it operating as a site of prostitution. Skeel grabbed a revolver and tried to shoot the officers. His wife also tried to assault the officers. Skeel and his wife were arrested and charged for a variety of crimes, including keeping a disorderly premises and assault on police officers. Not long after his arrest, Skeel resigned from his position as alderman. After a ten-day trial, he was convicted of conducting a disorderly house, sentenced to 10 months in prison, and required to pay a \$200 fine. He was charged with a felony for attempting to shoot the officers. It in uncertain whether he was convicted for this, and if so, what sentence he was given for this. Through this, Lewis succeeded in driving out one of the corrupt officials in the city's government.

Lewis did other work as mayor. He sought to remove graft and corruption from the city government, though due to the interference of the opposing alderman, his ability to do this was largely limited to the parts of city government that he could make decisions about on his own. He worked to discourage gambling in the city. He took on the Cortland Gas Light Company for overcharging the city and made them agree to lower their charges. Overall, Mayor Lewis was able to make some changes in the city of Cortland, despite facing opposition.

State Chairman C.E. Pitts described him as an example of what a Prohibitionist mayor could be and used his mayoralty as a template for a general platform of what a prohibitionist mayoral candidate could run on and work to accomplish as a mayor.

Mayor Lewis ran for reelection in 1912. His opponents in the Democratic and Republican parties united against him. The local Republican and Democratic Parties both nominated a Republican named Mr. Angell. Angell won the election with 1,486 votes to 1,103 votes for Lewis.

After losing reelection, Lewis returned to his regular life as a citizen. His wife Emily died in 1922. After that he ended up living with his son Ralph and his family in Cortland. By 1930, he was a foreman at one of the city's wire mills. Lynn R. Lewis died on March 24, 1940 and was buried in Cortland Rural Cemetery.

Source: https://615c4beb-b241-4f4a-a6b4-a074dc02ce34.filesusr.com/ugd/2cc7be_c046cc9558ed414b957883d541745c88.pdf



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 385 communities across the state, in 61 out of 62 counties

Interested in Running For Local Office? Consider Running With The Prohibition Party of New York

Contact: newyorkprohibition@aol.com Think NY Vote Dry

