

New York Prohibitionist



Think NY Vote Dry

May 2025

Volume 8 #5

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.

"Nothing that is morally wrong can be politically right." William E. Gladstone

State and National News

The Prohibition Party continues to move forward on the state and national level. On the national level, the Prohibition Party is continuing with efforts to build up the party's organization and membership. In May, the Prohibition Party helped support efforts by local activists in Sparta, Missouri, who are working to try to shut down an alcohol-selling outlet in their city. The effort in Sparta is still ongoing.

On the state level, the Prohibition Party of New York is continuing to move forward with information efforts and legislative activism. We are continuing to work to oppose attempts by pro-alcohol legislators to pass bills that would weaken restrictions on alcohol sales and use the state government as a tool for promoting the alcohol industry. Additionally, there was some electoral activity in May, with State Chairman Jonathan Makeley having run for school board in Sweet Home School District. He received 177 votes (17.07%) during the non-partisan election on May 20th. This is the largest number of votes that a member of the party has gotten in an election in New York state, since the reestablishment of the New York

state branch of the Prohibition Party several years ago.

Prohibition Party of New York Calls on Governor Hochul to Veto Bill A03922/S7423

As part of our ongoing efforts to oppose pro-alcohol bills, State Chairman Makeley sent the following letter to the office of Governor Kathy Hochul, urging her to Veto Bill A0922/7423. The letter reads as follows.

Governor Hochul,

I am writing to urge you to veto bill A03922/S7423.

This bill, if passed, would require the state commissioner of economic development to promote state policies that will encourage the production and sale of alcohol in the state. This proposal is severely misguided and would harm the health, wellbeing, and economic prosperity of New Yorkers. Alcohol is a public health problem that causes widespread illness, injury, and death in our state, and costs our state over \$16 billion a year in social, medical, and economic damages. The state government should not be requiring the state economic commissioner to push for pro-alcohol policies, when there is vast evidence that not only will these policies harm the wellbeing of New Yorkers, but they will also damage our state's economy. As such, I would encourage you to veto this bill if the state legislature goes through with delivering it to your desk.

Jonathan Makeley, State Chairman

Prohibition Party of New York

"Public service must be more than doing a job efficiently and honestly. It must be a complete dedication to the people and to the nation." Margaret Chase Smith

"Order without liberty and liberty without order are equally destructive." Theodore Roosevelt



Legislative Activism

As this year's regular session of the state legislature moves towards its completion, the Prohibition Party of New York has continued its legislative activism. In order to help advance positive legislation, we will highlight news on some important bills and legislative matters.

The effort to advance the Addiction Prevention and Recovery Act (bill A04961/S2506) is ongoing. The bill, if passed, would significantly improve funding for prevention and addiction treatment programs for alcohol and other drugs. The bill does not appear to have advanced any further in the legislature over the past month. The bill is still sitting in the State Senate's Committee on Budget and Revenue and the State Assembly's Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

There is an effort to advance election reform through Bill A02724/S1870. This bill, if passed, would undo many of the anti-democratic changes to state ballot access laws that were made in 2020 and establish fairer standards. The bill does not appear to have made any noticeable progress in advancing over the past month. The bill is currently still sitting in the State Assembly's Committee on Election Law and the State Senate's Committee on Elections.

Earlier this year, Assemblymember Simon and State Senator Liu had introduced Bill A01232/S0052. The bill, if passed, would strengthen drunk driving laws by decreasing the BAC level for DWI

offenses from 0.08 BAC to 0.05 BAC and lowering the level for Aggravated DWI from 0.18 BAC to 0.12 BAC; which would help to reduce drinking deaths in the state. The bill does not appear to have advanced any further over the past month. The bill is currently sitting in the State Senate's Committee on Transportation and the State Assembly's Committee on Transportation.

There is Bill A5699/S1041. This bill, if passed, would amend aspects of the state's driving laws to classify vehicular assault, manslaughter, and homicide committed under the influence of alcohol or other drugs as violent crimes, allow for the consecutive sentencing of vehicular crimes that injure or kill multiple people, and expedites the process for obtaining a warrant for a sample when a drunk or drugged driver seriously injures or kills someone. The bill was unfortunately defeated in the State Senate's Committee on Codes, blocking its ability to advance within the State Senate.

There have been efforts to advance bills to address the problem of tobacco. There is Bill A4999/S3196, which if passed, would ban the sale of flavored tobacco products, including menthol. The bill does not appear to have made any further progress. The Bill is currently sitting in the State Senate Committee on Health and the State Assembly Committee on Health.

There is Bill A00077/S5613, which if passed, would ban the sale of flavored smokeless tobacco products within 500 feet of an elementary school. The bill gained another sponsor in the State Assembly, bringing the total to eleven. While it had advanced to a third reading in the Assembly, a vote has not yet been held on it by the Assembly as a whole. On the State Senate side of things, the bill remains in the Senate's Committee on Health.

There is Bill A00273, which if passed, would ban the sale of any electronic cigarette products that have not been given FDA approval. The bill appears not to have advanced any further over the past month, and is still sitting in the State Assembly Committee on Health.

On the other side of things, some members of the State Legislature are continuing to try to push for pro-alcohol policies at the expense of the public.

State Senator Skoufis is continuing his attack on the state's dry and partially dry communities. He had introduced Bill S0348, which would end the ability of towns and cities to enact their own laws restricting or banning the sale of alcohol in their communities. It would get rid of all the current dry and partially dry towns in the state and force these communities to allow the sale of alcohol. As we have said before, this bill is an attack on the ability of local communities to protect their people from the sale of a toxic substance, which causes widespread illness, injury, and death, and that inflicts vast social, medical, and economic costs on communities. It stomps on the will of local communities whose residents have voted time and again for decades to ban or partially restrict alcohol sales. This bill will only serve to hurt local communities, hurt local economies, hurt small businesses, contribute to increased neighborhood crime rates, and overall make New Yorkers sicker, poorer, and more highly taxed. And on top of all that, Skoufis is attempting to do this at a time when alcohol-related deaths are skyrocketing across the state and country, in large part due to weakened restrictions on alcohol sales. Thus, it is important to continue working to oppose this bill. Fortunately, the bill does not appear to have advanced any further in the past month and remains in the State Senate's Committee on Local Government. Though, we must remain vigilant and continue to urge state legislators to reject this bill.

More broadly, pro-alcohol politicians have introduced at least 46 pro-alcohol bills and are trying to make a late push towards seeking to pass several pro-alcohol bills. These bills would weaken state restrictions on alcohol sales, use state agencies, resources, and taxpayer dollars to promote the alcohol industry, give special tax breaks to the alcohol industry, or otherwise support the alcohol industry to the detriment of the health, safety, and wellbeing of New Yorkers.

This Google sheet contains a list of pro-alcohol bills that have been introduced in this year's legislative session, their status, and which politicians are sponsoring them:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1hlivJ5RLfgD1k40YUzUcHMphi9Ba13gGM6N5ZaayA20/edit?usp=sharing>

Several pro-alcohol bills have been passed in the Assembly, passed in the Senate, and returned to the Assembly. These include bills A03922/S7423, A06277/S0567, A07578/S6417, A07579/S6418, A07580/S6416, A08418/S8314, and A08639/S8315. At this point, the main remaining thing that could prevent these bills from passing would be a veto from the governor. Most of these bills are ones that grant special exceptions for alcohol retailers to operate in certain locations that are closer to a school or place of worship than the ordinary minimum distance that the state normally requires them to be. There is also A06277/S0567, which would allow a person with a federal basic permit to apply to the liquor authority for a brand owner's license; allowing them to contract with licensed alcohol manufacturers, sell alcoholic beverages to licensed wholesalers, and appoint a licensed wholesaler to act as an exclusive brand agent within the state. And then there is bill A03922/S7423, which is especially problematic.

Bill A03922/S7423, if passed, would require the state commissioner of economic development to promote state policies that will encourage the production and sale of New York labeled beers, ciders, liquors, and mead. It would create annual state awards for liquor, beer, cider, and mead retailers. This is a severely misguided proposal. Alcohol is a public health problem that causes widespread illness, injury, and death in our state, and costs our state over \$16 billion a year in social, medical, and economic damages. The state government should not be using the prestige and resources of the state to celebrate businesses that profit off harming the people of this state, and the state should defiantly not be requiring the state economic commissioner to push for pro-alcohol policies, when there is vast evidence that not only will these policies harm the wellbeing of New Yorkers, but they will also damage our state's economy. Sensible New Yorkers should join us in calling the Governor to veto this bill.

There is Bill A/7662/S0315. This bill, if passed, would establish a temporary New York craft beverage permit for all New York State manufactured liquor, spirits,

wine, beer, cider, and mead for events located in a municipality with a population of less than one million. Weakening restrictions on alcohol sales serves to make alcohol problems worse. Our state and the country overall have seen a surge in alcohol-related deaths in recent years, in large part due to state governments weakening restrictions on alcohol sales. This bill and other bills that weaken restrictions on alcohol sales are the opposite of what our state should be doing to address this problem. Unfortunately, this bill was passed in the State Senate, delivered to the State Assembly, and referred to the Assembly's Committee on Economic Development. The bill was passed in the State Senate with all the State Senators foolishly voting for the bill. The key to opposing this bill now lies in the State Assembly. Sensible New Yorkers should contact members of the State Assembly and urge them to vote against this bill.

Then there is Bill S0365. This bill, if passed, would allow brewery supply stores to sell New York State labeled beer for off-premises consumption. Again, weakening restrictions on alcohol sales will be detrimental to the health and wellbeing of New Yorkers, and is especially foolish to be doing at a time when deaths from alcohol-induced illnesses and injuries are surging. The bill was passed by the State Senate and referred to the State Assembly's Committee on Economic Development. New Yorkers should reach out to the members of the State Senate and urge them to vote against this bill.

There is Bill A05935/S2051. This bill, if passed, would allow bed and breakfasts to sell cider, liquor, beer, and wine. Again, another regressive policy, which would serve to further undermine public health. The bill has passed in the State Senate and was referred to the Assembly Committee on Economic Development. It will be important to encourage members of the State Assembly to reject this bill.

There is Bill A07464A/S409. This bill, if passed, would permit on-premises retail licensees to purchase wine and liquor from off-premises retail licensees and off-premises retail licensees to purchase wine and liquor from on-premises retail licensees. This bill has advanced to the third reading in the State Senate and is in

the State Assembly's Committee on Economic Development. More recently, pro-alcohol politicians have been significantly ramping up their efforts to try to get this bill passed and making it a priority to try to get it passed this year. Dozens of them have joined in co-sponsoring the bill. As such, it is important to push back and urge members of the State Assembly to vote against this bill.

There is Bill A04132/S5396. This bill, if passed, would authorize certain restaurants to sell sealed bottles of private-label wine for off-premises consumption. The bill has advanced to a third reading in the State Senate and is sitting in the Assembly's Committee on Economic Development. New Yorkers should contact their legislators and encourage them to reject this bill.

There is Bill A07457/S3836. This bill is presented as authorizing the sale of non-alcoholic versions of alcoholic beverages. But within its text, it presents a flawed standard that allows lower-level alcoholic beverages to be falsely labeled as non-alcoholic. The bill should be amended to correct this problem and require non-alcoholic labeled versions to actually be non-alcoholic or it should be rejected. The bill has passed the State Senate and is sitting in the Assembly's Committee on Economic Development.

There is Bill A07662/S0315. This bill, if passed, would establish a temporary New York craft beverage permit for all New York state manufactured liquor, spirits, wine, beer, cider, and mead for events located in a municipality with a population of less than one million. The bill has passed the State Senate and is sitting in the Assembly's Committee on Economic Development. The key to opposing this bill now lies in urging members of the State Assembly to reject it.

There is Bill A07535/S0663. This bill, if passed, would remove partisan composition rules for the state's liquor authority, which state that its board can't have more than two members of the same political party. Such a change would then allow the Governor and State Senate to pack the state liquor authority board with members of their party and enable them to further push the state's liquor board in their preferred direction. The bill has advanced to a third reading in the

Senate and is in the State Assembly's Committee on Economic Development.

It is important to continue the work of opposing these regressive pro-alcohol bills, working to encourage state legislators to vote against these bills, and encouraging the governor to veto the ones that make it through the legislature.

Overall, there is much work to be done to promote the advancement of positive legislation and oppose bills that would harm the wellbeing of New Yorkers. The Prohibition Party of New York will continue to work on its legislative efforts for this year's legislative session and continue encouraging sensible New Yorkers to get involved in legislative activism.

Sources: https://615c4beb-b241-4f4a-a6b4-a074dc02ce34.filesusr.com/ugd/2cc7be_ed448747cbc2421794be987bfe181154.pdf

<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/politics/2025/05/28/wine-in-supermarkets-bill-amended-as-n-y-polis-push-alcohol-laws-tweaks>

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1hivj5RlfD1k40YUzUcHMph9BA13gGM6N5ZaayA20/edit?usp=sharing>



BODY OF WEALTH

Letter to Editor: No Menthol Buffalo Launches "Heart of the City" Initiative with Memorial Day Wellness Event

Buffalo, NY — May 26, 2025 — On Memorial Day, No Menthol Buffalo honored the legacy of our fallen heroes with action by launching its **Heart of the City initiative**, a new program focused on supporting the health and wellness of residents on the East Side of Buffalo. This initiative aims to combat hypertension (high blood pressure), stroke, and cardiovascular disease (CVD) — chronic conditions that disproportionately affect the local community and are worsened by tobacco use.

Recognizing the strong link between tobacco use and CVD, **No Menthol Buffalo** partnered with **The Body of Wealth** to host a **free physical fitness and nutrition "Boot Camp"**, encouraging community members to embrace

healthier lifestyles through exercise, proper diet, and tobacco cessation.

The Memorial Day event attracted over 100 participants and served a dual purpose: to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country, and to address a historical health legacy. During wartime, particularly in World War II and the Vietnam War, soldiers were often issued cigarettes in their daily rations. Brands like **Old Gold, Chesterfield, Lucky Strike, Camel, Marlboro, Pall Mall, Winston, Kools, Salem, and Parliament** were frequently included a practice that contributed to generations of tobacco addiction and its associated health consequences.

“This event is not only about honoring our heroes but also about breaking harmful cycles that have impacted our community for decades,” said Stan Martin, spokesperson for No Menthol Buffalo. “We’re reclaiming our health and rewriting our future, one step, one meal, and one breath at a time.”

In addition to physical activities, the event provided resources for **tobacco cessation, blood pressure screening, and wellness education**, empowering residents to take control of their health.

The Heart of the City initiative will continue throughout the summer and beyond, offering a series of community-based health and wellness events designed to create lasting impact on Buffalo’s East Side.

For more information about upcoming events and how to get involved, visit www.stanmartinconsulting.com

Stan Martin

Supreme Court Refuses to Hear Ballot Access Case

The U.S. Supreme Court has decided not to hear the case of Meadors vs. Erie County Board of Elections, 24-684. This continues a 34 year trend of the Supreme Court declining to hear cases involving ballot access requirements for third party and independent candidates. The case of Meadors vs. Erie County Board of Elections challenged the May deadline for independent nominating petitions used by independent candidates and candidates of minor parties without statewide ballot access status to get on the ballot for offices. In 2019, the state had changed the

independent petition deadline from August to May; before the major parties even had their primaries for nominating candidates, and with the effect of this change making it so that it would be harder for third party and independent candidates to gather the required signatures and they would have to start their preparations even earlier in the year.

The Second Circuit Court had declined to rule on the constitutionality of the May deadline and the case was appealed to the Supreme Court. With the Supreme Court declining to hear the case, it is likely that a new challenge will be filed in lower courts by the Green and Libertarian Parties, ahead of the state’s 2026 elections.

Source: <https://ballot-access.org/2025/06/02/u-s-supreme-court-refuses-to-hear-new-york-ballot-access-case-2/>

Study Links Alcohol Use to Increased Pancreatic Cancer Risk

A new study has provided further insight into the connection between alcohol use and risks for pancreatic cancer. Researchers from 30 studies around the world, looking at the relationship between alcohol consumption rates and pancreatic cancer. The study looked at 2.5 million patients across Asia, Australia, Europe, and North America, over the course of 16 years. They adjusted their analysis to account for demographic factors and other factors that could affect health such as smoking habits, weight, physical activity, and diabetes status. They found that moderate drinkers (defined by them at 30-60 grams per day for men and 15-30 grams per day for women) had a higher risk for pancreatic cancer compared to lighter drinkers. They found that for every increase of 10 grams of alcohol per day was associated with a 3% increase in pancreatic cancer risk. Women drinking 15-30 grams of alcohol per day had a 12% greater risk of pancreatic cancer compared to women who drank 0.1-5 grams per day. Men who drank 30-60 grams per day had a 15% increase in risks for pancreatic cancer. While those drinking more than 60 grams per day saw a 36% increase in pancreatic cancer risk. The study overall indicates that alcohol consumption is an independent risk factor.

The study does have some limitations. The study’s data mainly came from

respondents’ self-reported alcohol use over the past year. More research would be needed to study how long-term alcohol use, drinking at an early age, and binge drinking affect risk factors for pancreatic cancer risk. And more research would be needed to confirm whether there is a direct causal link between alcohol use and pancreatic cancer, similar to how alcohol has been confirmed to be a direct cause for several other types of cancer, and what mechanics may be involved in it.

Sources: https://www.yahoo.com/news/scientists-just-linked-alcohol-consumption-040000778.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2x1LmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAHILcWYxG-e0ee8kF3cWHL14-vfDD-ZfpXIBQ7/Ba793Qz4_vY_XN8mDiBTPQL59-Y6cplZ3bKHG3KeiwSuaXfo1d9-cgrnIU13K03_40xZqgX8oIRYM_4zekMZRPZmJsWQ6ZN16cIoKlIA6svK-2UeB-b4OPFWK2KWoyx8

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/05/1163686>

New York Prohibition Party History 1873 Statewide Ticket

In 1873, the New York Prohibition Party put forward a ticket for statewide offices. The party held its 1873 convention in Syracuse on September 17th. They nominated Dwight Williams of Madison County for New York Secretary of State, Simeon Brownell of Washington County for State Treasurer, David Eliot of Rensselaer County for State Comptroller, Walter Farrington of Dutchess County for State Attorney General, Jonas C.B. Wallace of Onondaga County for State Engineer, Thomas Edgerly of Suffolk County for State Canal Commissioner, and Isaac Harris of Tompkins County for State Prisons Commissioner.

Williams received 3,238 votes (0.48%) for Secretary of State, Brownell received 2,571 votes (0.38%) for State Treasurer, Eliot received 2,563 votes (0.38%) for State Comptroller, Farrington received 3,281 votes (0.49%) for State Attorney General, Wallace received 2,450 votes (0.36%) State Engineer, Edgerly received 3,214 votes (0.48%) for State Canal Commissioner, and Harris received 2,767 (0.41%) for State Prisons Commissioner. Each came in third place in their respective races. Farrington was the strongest performing candidate on the ticket, though each candidate managed to receive significantly more votes compared to the 1,719-1,826 votes (0.23-0.24%) received by the party’s 1871 ticket.

Sources: <https://prohibitionists.org/Candidates/candidates.html>

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1048113769/?match=1&terms=prohibition%20williams%20secretary%20farrington>

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/20565272/?match=1&terms=prohibition%20williams%20secretary%20farrington>