

# New York Prohibitionist



*Think NY Vote Dry*

*May 2019*

*Volume 2 #5*

## Make the World A better Place

In the month of May and June, many students graduate from high school and college, to proceed forward in the world. In plenty of cases, it gives occasion for speeches about the potential that young people have to use their knowledge and skills to not only forge their future but to make positive contributions to society. That is indeed true, not only for graduates, but for all of us. We have the potential to act to help make the world a better place. Let us take that potential and work to make it happen.

"Imagination is the only key to the future. Without it none exists - with it all things are possible." Ida Tarbell

## Sign Up For The New York Prohibitionist

Interested in keeping up to date with all the news from the New York Prohibitionist? Well, you can sign up for our email list, and have latest issues emailed to you when they come out. All you have to do is email [newyorkprohibition@aol.com](mailto:newyorkprohibition@aol.com) and let us know you'd to sign up. You can also do so by messaging the New York Prohibition Party Facebook Page or the New York Prohibition Party Twitter Account.

## The Gammon/ Collins 2020 Campaign

C.L. Gammon is the Prohibition Party Presidential candidate for 2020. And Phil Collins the party's vice-presidential candidate. Here is some the latest news for the campaign.

C.L. Gammon is confident that he will be on Ballot in Arkansas in 2020. He has indicated that he plans on personally visiting the state of Arkansas during his campaign. He has also stated that he intends on running radio ads for his campaign, in Memphis, Tennessee. Which is another state where the party is

working to get our presidential ticket on the ballot.

The Gammon Presidential Campaign has set up a youth division for its campaign efforts, Youth For Gammon. The Youth For Gammon effort is headed by Ryan Jenkins of Tennessee. The Youth For Gammon campaign's efforts have so far included setting Youth For Gammon Facebook page and twitter account, printing flyers, and creating a youth for gammon shirt.

Here are links to the Facebook Page, Twitter Account, and the campaign shirt.

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Youth-for-Gammon-1233561366802471/>

Twitter

<https://twitter.com/GammonFor?lang=en>

Shirt

[https://teespring.com/gammon-hoddie?fbclid=IwAR3GFMGIW2iQOxZ2Gd7ZtCallT40WXyWUzaah2zfbz97ayaYW7H4\\_aOZyE#pid=212&cid=5823&sid=front](https://teespring.com/gammon-hoddie?fbclid=IwAR3GFMGIW2iQOxZ2Gd7ZtCallT40WXyWUzaah2zfbz97ayaYW7H4_aOZyE#pid=212&cid=5823&sid=front)

Earlier this month, Gammon was interviewed on the Tom Sumner radio program in Michigan. Here is a link to the recording of the interview

[http://archive.tomsumnerprogram.com/?name=2019-05-08\\_tsumner\\_20190508-090000.mp3](http://archive.tomsumnerprogram.com/?name=2019-05-08_tsumner_20190508-090000.mp3)

## Young Prohibitionists

As the Prohibition Party grows, it is working to build up its organization and outreach efforts. A few years ago, the party worked to resurrect its youth division, the Young Prohibitionists. This effort was initially headed by Andrew Oliver of North Carolina. His work a director of the young prohibitionists included things, such as giving presentations and schools and community events, to spread the word of the party and its cause. In Prohibition National Committee Meeting in April, Jonathan Makeley was selected as the new director of the Young Prohibitionists. The party is working on forming a team of people for the Young Prohibitionists, who will work on promoting the Prohibition Party and the temperance cause to youths and young adults in the country.



## Growing support in state legislature for Anti-Drunk Driving Bill and Prevention Funding Bill

Some attempts have been made in the state legislature this year to advance bills to alleviate the problem of alcohol in our state. As, mentioned in last month's issue: Assembly member Felix Ortiz had introduced a proposed bill in 2018, which would have strengthened the state's drunk driving laws by changing the state BAC limit for DWI 0.08 to 0.05, and for aggravated DWI from 0.18 to 0.12. It has been estimated that such a change could reduce the number of deaths from drunk driving by 16%. The bill didn't pass last year, so assembly member Ortiz introduced the bill again this year, and it has been gaining more traction this year. The bill is Bill A03208/S05177.

Assembly member Michael DenDekker has introduced Bill A06349/S4648. The bill that would raise state taxes on alcohol by 50% and use the revenue to fund addiction prevention and rehabilitation efforts. It is estimated that if passed, it could generate 260 million dollars a year for such programs.

Bill A03208/S05177, currently has 16 sponsors and cosponsors in the state assembly and 1 sponsor in the state senate. It has gained 1 new cosponsor since the report this month: assembly member Crespo (assembly district 85). Currently the bill is in the assembly transportation committee.

Continued page 2

Bill A03208/S05177 currently has 33 sponsors, cosponsors, and multisponsors in the state assembly and 1 sponsor in the state senate. It has gained 10 new cosponsors this month: Assembly members Destefano (district 3), Solages (district 22), Hyndman (district 29), Aubry (district 35), Wright (district 56), Seawright (district 76), Reyes (district 87), Jacobson (district 104), McDonald (district 108), and Steck (district 110). Currently the bill is in the state ways and means committee.

In order for these bills to advance, they will need to gain more supporters in the state legislature, especially among those members who sit on the assembly transportation and ways and means committees. The more that people contact members of the assembly and encourage them to support these bills, the more likely that more assembly members may be convinced to support them.

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"I read, I study, I examine, I listen, I think, and out of all that I try to form an idea into which I put as much common sense as I can." The Marquis De Lafayette

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## Correcting Assembly Member Gottfried's Misguided Statements

Earlier this month, in an article on a group of people trying to legalize prostitution in New York State, it was reported that State Assembly member Richard Gottfried (district 75), made statements comparing the criminalization of prostitution to national prohibition in the 1920's and falsely claimed that crime increased during national prohibition.

In response, the following statement was posted on the New York Prohibition Party Facebook page:

"Assemblyman Gottfried has just shown that he is deeply misinformed and misguided. 1. National Prohibition brought about the largest reduction in drinking in the nation's history and the overall crime rate actually decreased. Gottfried needs to start reading up on accurate historical research, and stop relying on factually inaccurate myths. 2. Prostitution is by nature an inhumane exploitation of human beings for gratification and profit. His proposal would likely serve to make the problem worse."

In addition, Chairman Makeley sent the following email to Mr. Gottfried's office:

*Greetings Assembly member Gottfried and staff,*

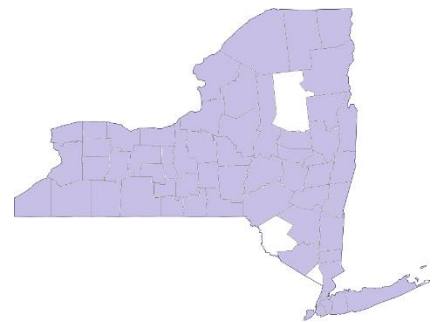
*It was reported in an article about decriminalizing prostitution, that Assemblyman Gottfried compared current laws against prostitution, to national prohibition in the 1920's, and claimed that crime increased during national prohibition. As a historian, who focuses on the history of American temperance and prohibition, I can say such statements are not factually accurate. The overall crime rate in America actually decreased during much of national prohibition, and were there significant decreases in various crimes related to alcohol consumption.*

*For instance, from the year 1910 (before prohibition) to 1923 (during prohibition), the average crime rate, per 100,000 people decreased by 37.7%. Those convicted of drunkenness decreased by 55.3%, disorderly conduct decreased by 51.5%, larceny decreased by 42.3%, and assault decreased by 53.1%. From 1917 to 1921, the number of those to the sent to the Chicago house of corrections decreased by 46.2% and those sent to Chicago city jails decreased by 46.8%. This included a 26% decrease in assault and battery, and a 75% decrease in assault with a deadly weapon. In New York City, the crime rate, even near the end of prohibition was lower than it was before national prohibition. Comparing the average per 100,000 people for 1926-1930 to 1912-1916, there was an 11% decrease in overall felonies, and a 31% decrease in homicides.*

*The notion that national prohibition lead to increased crime is largely a myth, that was peddled by anti-prohibitionists as part of their efforts to discourage anti-alcohol legislation. Historians well versed in the subject are able to realize that national prohibition was actually far more successful than the common myths portray it as being. The historical realities of national prohibition are far more complex, and do not support the oversimplified and factually incorrect claim of prohibition leading to increased crime. I would suggest that you do more to educate yourself on the actual history of prohibition, and refrain from repeating those kind of factually inaccurate claims in the future.*

Jonathan Makeley

Hopefully Assembly member Gottfried will learn from this and take a wiser course in the future. Mr. Gottfried is not alone in his misunderstanding. Unfortunately, many Americans have not been accurately informed about the history of national prohibition, or of the history of the American temperance and prohibition movement. For too often, people have been told a false narrative by wet propagandists, and in absence of accurate information, have been led to mistakenly believe in such false narratives. This is especially concerning when a public official, such as Gottfried believes in such misguided narratives. For this misunderstanding impacts their understanding of present topics, and can lead to errors in judgement on policy issues. And when public officials unwittingly parrot these false narratives in their public statements, they end up further propagating these false narratives, and contribute to further misinforming members of the public. In order to help advance public support for positive prohibitionist policies, it is important that the public be given accurate information on the actual history of national prohibition, and that the wets' misinformation be exposed.



## 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 296 communities across the state, in 59 out of 62 counties. We also reached people in 48 other states, and over 50 countries. The New York Prohibition Party twitter account has reached over 800,000 cumulative views.

"knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged" The Northwest Ordinance of 1787.



## Statue of Liberty Museum Opens

Earlier this month, the Statue of Liberty Museum was opened on Liberty Island. The museum focuses on the history and influence of the Statue of Liberty. The museum displays artifacts and pictures connected to the statue of liberty. The museum was in part created to help add to the experiences of visitors to Liberty Island, and is open to the public.

Sources: [https://newyork.cbslocal.com/2019/05/16/statue-of-liberty-museum-opens/?fbclid=IwAR189v7Kbh6EbNlcBdl086d\\_Ql4UONQpbomkqT0piU4WYyDuXnIAI0s7Z3w#.XN2NR5GFAX4.facebook](https://newyork.cbslocal.com/2019/05/16/statue-of-liberty-museum-opens/?fbclid=IwAR189v7Kbh6EbNlcBdl086d_Ql4UONQpbomkqT0piU4WYyDuXnIAI0s7Z3w#.XN2NR5GFAX4.facebook)

<https://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/statueoflibertymuseum/>

## Proposed Amendment to State Constitution to Allow Some 17 Year Olds to Participate in Presidential Primaries

In the state, there is an effort underway to try to amend the state constitution to allow 17-year-olds, who will be 18 at the time of the general election, to vote in presidential primaries. Advocates of this change, hope to help raise voter participation among younger voters. The proposed amendment, Bill A00950/S03822, is currently waiting to be voted on the state assembly and state senate. In order for it to pass, the proposed amendment would need to be passed by two consecutive sessions of the state legislature, and then receive a majority in favor of passage in a statewide public vote on the proposed amendment.

Sources: [https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default\\_fld=&leg\\_video=&bn=S03822&term=2019&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Committee=Y&26nbspsVotes=Y](https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=S03822&term=2019&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Committee=Y&26nbspsVotes=Y)

<https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?bn=A00950&term=2019>



## Bill Introduced To Strip Corrupt Politicians of Their Campaign Accounts

A bill has been introduced in the state legislature, which would strip the campaign accounts of elected officials, who had been convicted of felonies. It would require that within two years the campaign accounts would have to be closed, and the money in them would have to either be returned to donors or donated to charity. The Bill, A03645/S00093, is sponsored by Assembly member Judy Griffon and State Senator Todd Kaminsky. It has 13 sponsors/cosponsors in the state assembly, and 17 sponsors/cosponsors in the state senate. The bill is still waiting to be voted on the state assembly and state senate.

Sources: [https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/rochester/politics/2019/05/07/bill-would-strip-corrupt-politicians-of-their-campaign-accounts?cid=share\\_fb&fbclid=IwAR2pwcVXCA1TdO-lxBTICKh-KSpR1RdgY59C4I3EE01n6ulbV-TEXv2w7x0](https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/rochester/politics/2019/05/07/bill-would-strip-corrupt-politicians-of-their-campaign-accounts?cid=share_fb&fbclid=IwAR2pwcVXCA1TdO-lxBTICKh-KSpR1RdgY59C4I3EE01n6ulbV-TEXv2w7x0)  
<https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?bn=A03645&term=2019>

## Walmart Raises Minimum Age to Buy Tobacco to 21

Walmart announced that it will be raising its minimum age requirements for tobacco sales to 21. This will take effect in July. Previously, Walmart generally sold Tobacco to customers 18 and older, except for those areas which set higher age requirements. It seems that Walmart may have seen the growing number of cities, counties, and states that have raised the age for tobacco sales to 21, anticipated that 21 will likely become the general standard, and decided to act in preparation for this.

Source: [https://www.wenx.com/story/40443138/walmart-raises-minimum-age-to-buy-tobacco-to-21?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=facebook\\_WENY\\_TV\\_News&fbclid=IwAR2qH\\_D1\\_dDN9tufQVa3cWpJkXYAbYP6gKB67kgIYp\\_ClsEpuRl5Pw2Z7nQ](https://www.wenx.com/story/40443138/walmart-raises-minimum-age-to-buy-tobacco-to-21?utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook_WENY_TV_News&fbclid=IwAR2qH_D1_dDN9tufQVa3cWpJkXYAbYP6gKB67kgIYp_ClsEpuRl5Pw2Z7nQ)

## Statewide Crackdown on Underage Drinking

The latest round of state efforts to combat underage alcohol sales has revealed hundreds of stores illegally selling alcohol to minors. In April, state investigators visited 851 liquor selling businesses, and 186 were caught selling alcohol to underage agents. A full list of the businesses caught selling to minors can be found by this link:

[https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/NYS\\_Businesses\\_Selling\\_to\\_Minors.pdf](https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/NYS_Businesses_Selling_to_Minors.pdf)

Source: <https://www.whcc.com/news/statewide-underage-drinking-crackdowns-find-186-violations/5354635/?cat=565&fbclid=IwAR3H2KWYpNj1JjaMQ9z3sNxsSwjz7IKtXyT4iURiQBIL7ZwF49H-auNDU>

## Norway's Largest Pension Fund Devests From Alcohol and Gambling Companies

Norway's Largest Pension Fund, KLP, has announced that it will no longer invest in alcohol producers and gambling companies. It has already sold off all stocks and bonds, which it previously held in such companies, and they have added them to their list of companies that are excluded from their investments. The KLP pension fund had previously divested from tobacco companies, pornography companies, coal companies, and some weapon producing companies. KLP administrators explained that they no longer wanted to invest money in companies that harm people through addictions. Hopefully more investors and investing institutions will follow this example and divest themselves from alcohol, tobacco, and gambling companies.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-norway-klp-investment/norways-pension-fund-klp-bans-investment-in-alcohol-gambling-firms-idUSKCN15Y0E6>

## Smoking Banned at Seneca Park Zoo

The Monroe County government has banned smoking at the Seneca Park Zoo. The smoke free designation took effect on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

Sources: <https://www.democratandchronicle.com/restricted/?return=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.democratandchronicle.com%2Fstory%2Fnews%2Flocal%2Fcolumnists%2Fandrea%2F2019%2F05%2F10%2Fmonroe-county-seneca-park-zoo-smoking-smokers-smoke-free-andrea%2F1155423001%2F>  
<https://www.wxixnews.org/post/seneca-park-zoo-go-smoke-free>

## Tenants Rally at State Capital For Rent Protections

Earlier this month, tenants and activists gathered in the state capital to rally for renewing state rent control laws for New York City and some adjacent areas. State rent control laws for the city would need to be renewed by the state legislature, or else they would expire next month. In addition, there are tenants advocates who are advocating for expanding these rent control laws statewide. It remains to be seen how things will turn out on this matter.

Source: [https://wbng.com/news/top-stories/2019/05/12/tenants-to-rally-for-rental-protections-at-ny-capitol-2/7utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=facebook\\_WBNG\\_12\\_News&fbclid=IwAR3rVaasf3eiz-L7Fhl2puP53oqCW-eM4DvyjE5XCYt3O95qVUw8ZEm1-s](https://wbng.com/news/top-stories/2019/05/12/tenants-to-rally-for-rental-protections-at-ny-capitol-2/7utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook_WBNG_12_News&fbclid=IwAR3rVaasf3eiz-L7Fhl2puP53oqCW-eM4DvyjE5XCYt3O95qVUw8ZEm1-s)





## Memorial Day

On May 27<sup>th</sup>, we had this year's Memorial Day. Memorial Day is the holiday dedicated to honoring those soldiers who died in service to our nation. As such, we recognize and offer our gratitude to those who gave their last full measure of devotion.

## PPAC 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Partners For Prevention in Allegany County held a celebration for its 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, in Wellsville, New York. PPAC has spent the last 15 years working on youth prevention and health efforts, including efforts to reduce underage drinking, tobacco use, and other drug use. These efforts have had some successes. Rob Lillis of Evalumetrics Research reports that from 2009 to 2019 alcohol use among 10<sup>th</sup> graders decreased from 31.4% to 17.9%, and alcohol use among 12<sup>th</sup> graders decreased from 41.2% to 29.2%.

Source: [https://www.wellsvilledaily.com/news/20190523/ppac-celebrates-15-years-of-service?utm\\_source=SFMC&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=GHM\\_Daily\\_Newsletter&utm\\_content=NOMX\\_WD&utm\\_term=052419](https://www.wellsvilledaily.com/news/20190523/ppac-celebrates-15-years-of-service?utm_source=SFMC&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=GHM_Daily_Newsletter&utm_content=NOMX_WD&utm_term=052419)

## Junk Science

Earlier this month, writer Brandon Dorfman published an article titled, "How cannabis advocates are turning bad science into the next anti-vaccination movement". The link to it can be found here:

<https://www.potnetwork.com/news/how-cannabis-advocates-are-turning-bad-science-next-anti-vaccination-movement>

The article focuses on the tendency of pro-marijuana advocates to embrace faulty research to make dubious claims about the possible medical uses of marijuana. In plenty of cases, members of the pro-marijuana crowd will embrace and propagate claims of medical uses for

marijuana, which either lack scientific research to support it, or are based on studies that are flawed or not scientifically rigorous.

The point of the article is strongly expressed in the following quote:

"Cannabis advocates have a science problem, or, perhaps, an anti-science one; a cognitive dissonance on par with climate-change deniers, anti-vaxxers, flat-earthers, and the folks who think Jesus rode on dinosaurs.

It's not that they don't believe the science, it's that they pick and choose which science to accept.

A comprehensive report published by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine in 2017 reviewed over 10,000 studies on medical cannabis to attempt to determine what science has conclusively learned about the drug. In the end, researchers determined that there's not much hard data to back up many of the claims being made today"

## New York Joins Multi-State Lawsuit Against Pharmaceutical Price Inflation

The New York State Attorney General's office has joined with other states in a multi-state lawsuit against 20 pharmaceutical companies. The lawsuit charges that these companies engaged in a conspiracy to artificially raise the prices of over 100 types of medications (including medications for treating cancer, diabetes, HIV, and various other conditions). IN some cases, prices were increased by as much as 1000%. This resulted in increased costs for patients, insurance companies, Medicare, and Medicaid. The lawsuit is currently ongoing.

Source: <https://13wham.com/news/state/new-york-joins-multi-state-lawsuit-against-generic-drug-makers?fbclid=IwAR0biOxbBIMqudR8sa8g6fascftwil-HmOUIMaAN6KibQu8H99XPfjeYac>

## State on Track to End Coal Fired Power Plant Emissions by 2020

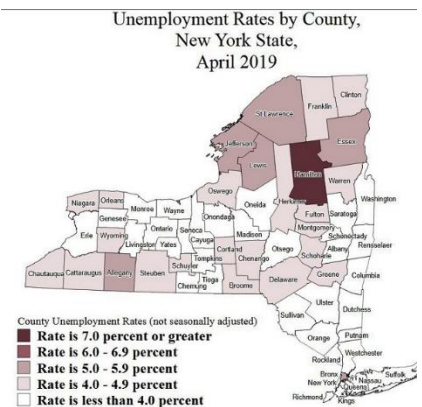
The New York state government is entering into the final phase of a plan to eliminate carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants by 2020. New York state currently has 2 coal based power plants. The plants will be required to either by upgraded with emissions capture technology, or switch to being

powered by some other form of fuel. Beowolf Energy, the company that owns the two plants, has indicated that it will switch the plant to other energy sources, and should do so by 2020.

Source: <https://www.syracuse.com/state/2019/05/ny-on-track-to-end-emissions-from-coal-plants-by-end-of-2020.html?fbclid=IwAR0gdcGdmigbQZKMEAX6kcPPTaYwDLxKbzF5KrHumepebF5XFaUyOMkjYeMA>

## State Employment Numbers

New information has come out about employment levels in the state. Preliminary job numbers from the Department of labor indicate that the state added about 25,000 jobs in April, and that the state's unemployment rate is currently at 3.9%. The Finger Lakes Daily news has put out a map for county level unemployment rates, which is pictured below.



Sources: [https://www.wenyc.com/story/40488669/ny-state-posts-job-gains-while-unemployment-remains-at-39?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=facebook](https://www.wenyc.com/story/40488669/ny-state-posts-job-gains-while-unemployment-remains-at-39?utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook) WENY TV News & [https://www.fingerlakesdailynews.com/2019/05/23/cayuga-county-jobless-numbers-continue-to-fall/?fbclid=IwAR0DloBtaNX5ovKwE-uWSe3oa-XtGZycmmAJuO-94FbnZwZau4tk8gZIE#XObGzhj\\_nPc.facebook](https://www.fingerlakesdailynews.com/2019/05/23/cayuga-county-jobless-numbers-continue-to-fall/?fbclid=IwAR0DloBtaNX5ovKwE-uWSe3oa-XtGZycmmAJuO-94FbnZwZau4tk8gZIE#XObGzhj_nPc.facebook)

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Source: <https://www.syracuse.com/state/2019/05/ny-on-track-to-end-emissions-from-coal-plants-by-end-of-2020.html?fbclid=IwAR0gdcGdmigbQZKMEAX6kcPPTaYwDLxKbzF5KrHumepebF5XFaUyOMkjYeMA>

## State Creates Panel to Study the Future of the Erie Canal

The state government has created a new taskforce to study the future of the remains of the Erie Canal. The task force will look into possible ways to further use the Erie Canal for tourism, recreation, transportation, and irrigation, and how to handle potential challenges, such as flooding and ice jams.

Source:[https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/rochester/news/2019/05/18/cuomo-creates-new-panel-to-study-future-of-erie-canal?fbclid=IwAR3C98aMYJmPnyPE351r2WkzVAqeY05uqXU\\_7qxH7Jeknle1ZE\\_0SM39k](https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/rochester/news/2019/05/18/cuomo-creates-new-panel-to-study-future-of-erie-canal?fbclid=IwAR3C98aMYJmPnyPE351r2WkzVAqeY05uqXU_7qxH7Jeknle1ZE_0SM39k)

## Bill in Congress to Make Student Loans Eligible for Bankruptcy Relief

An effort is underway by some members of congress to change the provisions of our nation's laws regarding student loan debt and bankruptcy. Currently student loan debt is one of the few types of debt which are not eligible for relief through filing for bankruptcy. A group of representatives, including Congressman John Katko of New York, Congressman Joe Neguse of Colorado, Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, and Senator Richard Durbin of Illinois have introduced a bill called the "Student Borrower Bankruptcy Relief Act of 2019". If passed, the bill would amend the U.S. Bankruptcy code to make student loan debt eligible for bankruptcy relief.

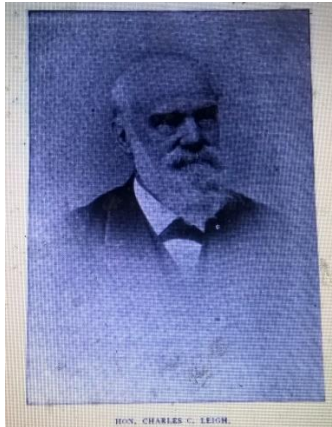
Source:<https://www.syracuse.com/news/2019/05/katko-democrats-student-loan-debt-should-be-eligible-for-bankruptcy-relief.html>

## Advocates Campaign for State Registry for Violent Felons

In past issues, we have reported on the effort to pass Brittany's Law. Brittany's Law would establish a state registry for those convicted of violent crimes, similar to the state's sex offender registry, and make such information available to the public. The bill has previously passed in the state senate in each of the past 8 years. But the bill has not been voted in the state assembly. This year, activists are once again seeking to urge the state legislature to pass Brittany's law. If you are interested in helping to get this bill passed, contact members of the state assembly and encourage them to bring Brittany's Law up for a vote.

Source:[https://www.recordonline.com/news/20190514/advocates-push-for-registry-for-violent-felons?fbclid=IwAR0vDVF3jXsAWkrLXyGowmeflMBF2V\\_7MOWdtynhxH0y015\\_zMDexAslMk](https://www.recordonline.com/news/20190514/advocates-push-for-registry-for-violent-felons?fbclid=IwAR0vDVF3jXsAWkrLXyGowmeflMBF2V_7MOWdtynhxH0y015_zMDexAslMk)

"A lot of people feel that if they don't vote a Republican, or they don't vote for a Democrat they're wasting their vote. But I would argue if you don't vote for somebody that is pushing what you believe in you're wasting your vote. If you add your voice to other voices to a candidate that feels the same way or to a party that feels the same way as you do eventually it gets big enough that it gets heard. And that's what you should be using your voice and your vote for." Tom Sumner



**Charles C. Leigh: A Prohibitionist Pioneer**

Charles Christian (C.C.) Leigh was one of the pioneering activists who helped advance the prohibitionist movement in New York State. He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on December 25<sup>th</sup>, 1812. His parents moved the family to New York State when he was an infant, and both died by the time he was 12. In 1832, he moved to the city of Brooklyn (and he would spend the remainder of his life living in Brooklyn and New York City). He opened a glass and China Shop, and spent the following decades engaging in various business and mercantile ventures. In 1833, he joined the Sands Street Methodist Episcopal Church, and became a deacon in 1835. He acted as a lay preacher over the following decades, helped to form a local preachers' association, and helped in forming the National Association of Local Preachers.

At some point in the 1830's, Charles Leigh had married his first wife, Catherine L. Tearance Leigh. They had two children, Marie Ann (sometime between 1837 and 1839), and Catherine C. in 1844. His first wife passed at some point in the mid to late 1840's. He married his second wife Josephine Leigh, and had two children: his third daughter Juliana in 1849, and son Newell in 1852.

By 1846, Leigh had moved to New York City. He was involved in temperance and prohibition activism, and became the New York City Temperance Alliance. He was involved with the Temperance Party: a political organization in New York State, in the 1850's, which focused on passing a statewide prohibition law in New York. In 1853, he was elected to the New York

State Assembly, for New York County's 7<sup>th</sup> district. He served two terms, in 1854 and 1855. In the assembly, he was a leading figure in the assembly's committee on temperance. He worked to help pass a statewide prohibition bill in 1854. This bill was vetoed by then Governor Horatio Seymour. In 1854, Myron Clark, a champion of statewide prohibition was elected governor. In 1855, Leigh once again helped pass a statewide prohibition bill in the legislature. An Act for the Suppression of Intemperance, Pauperism, and Crime was passed, and signed into law by Governor Clark: establishing the first period of statewide prohibition in New York. The law was struck down in 1856, by the anti-prohibitionist dominated state Court of Appeals.

Leigh was also involved in antislavery political activism. In the late 1850's he joined the emerging Republican Party. He became chairman of the general committee of the Republican Party in New York City. He was a delegate for New York in the convention which formally absorbed the remainder of the Whig Party in the Republican Party. He was also a delegate at the 1856 Republican National Convention, which nominated John C. Fremont for President.

During the Civil War, Leigh was one of the figures who worked to establish the National Freedman's Relief Society in the City of New York and the Freedman's Aid Society (organizations which worked to provide charitable aid, work opportunities, and education to newly freed former slaves). For a time, Leigh acted as chairman of the executive committee of the National Freedman's Relief Society. He visited North Carolina to help with the organization's projects in the Roanoke Islands. He then made visits to various countries in Europe to help raise money for the organization.

While in England he learned of the construction of a transatlantic telegraph cable between the U.S. and England, and saw opportunity in the expansion of transatlantic telegraph lines. In 1867, he returned to New York State, formed a company, and convinced the New York State government to grant the company a contract to build a transatlantic telegraph line between New York State and France. The telegraph line to France was successfully constructed.

By the late 1860's and 1870's, Leigh increasingly turned his focus back toward prohibitionist activism and politics. He became a leading figure in the New York State Temperance Society. He had attempted to convince the Republican Party to get firmly behind supporting prohibitionist legislation. But he was unsuccessful.

In 1869, the Prohibition Party was formed, with the focus of establishing national prohibition and advancing other reforms in American society. Leigh joined the Prohibition

Party at least early as 1870. He quickly became a leading figure in the Prohibition Party in New York State.

In 1870, the state Prohibition Party selected former Governor Myron Clark as its candidate for Governor, and selected Charles C. Leigh for Lieutenant Governor. Clark received 1,459 (0.19%) votes. It's not currently known how many votes Leigh got. During the 1870's Governor's election, the Republican candidate for Governor, Lieutenant Governor Stewart Woodford, was accused by Democratic opponents of having took bribes to try to influence the awarding of transatlantic telegraph contacts to the French Cable company. Leigh, who was familiar with the situation, wrote a public letter defending Woodford against these accusations. The *Brooklyn Union* newspaper praised his actions, stating,

"Such courtesy and manliness as Mr. Leigh has thus exhibited demand hearty recognition, and we commend his example to all our opponents".

In 1871, Leigh presided over that year's state party convention. During the convention, Leigh gave a speech stating that if the problem of drunkenness, and political corruption fueled by alcohol industry money, continued, then it would threaten the future of the republic. He contended that both major parties were too corrupted by the alcohol industry, and that separate political action, in the form of the Prohibition Party, was central to bringing about victory for the temperance cause. In the same year, he was the party's candidate for New York Secretary of State. He received 1,824 (0.24%) votes.

In 1872, Leigh left his position the State Temperance Society to more heavily focus on his work in the state Prohibition Party. In 1872, Leigh presided over a state party meeting, which concurred with the national Prohibition Party's nomination of James Black and John Russel as its first presidential ticket. In the same year, Leigh was nominated as the party's candidate for governor of New York. He campaigned on a platform of moving the state towards ending the sale of alcoholic beverages. With beginning step including requiring local licensing boards to calculate the costs of the damages caused by alcohol in their area, and charge licensing fees proportional to such costs. As well as making establishments that sell alcohol liable for the damages caused by the alcohol they sell, and allow citizens to sue sellers for damages done to themselves, their spouses, or children. And in later step transition away from the licensing system towards statewide prohibition. Leigh received 177 (0.02) votes.

In 1874, Leigh again presided over the Prohibition Party's state convention. The state party adopted resolutions condemning the state liquor traffic and the Democratic and

Republican parties for supporting it, calling for an amendment to the state constitution to establish statewide prohibition, and supporting women's suffrage. Leigh was one of four contenders for the party's nomination for governor. The others were Myron Clark, Horace V. Howland, and Rev. B.I. Ives. Myron Clark won the nomination for governor by 81 votes, to Howland's 27 votes, and Leigh's 9 votes. Howland was nominated for Judge for the State Court of Appeals. Leigh was selected as state party chairman, and he served for an unknown period of time in the 1870s.

In 1876, Leigh was appointed to represent New York as one its members on the Prohibition Party National Committee, and he served until 1880. By the 1880's, the Prohibition Party was starting to experience significant growth throughout the state and the country. In 1882, the party's gubernatorial ticket of Alphonso Hopkins and William had attracted over 25,000 votes, and disaffected, prohibition supporting, voters were increasingly leaving the major parties to join the Prohibition Party. In the early 1880's, Leigh was president of the Kings County Prohibition Party. The Kings County Prohibition Party had initially sought to get William Boole to run for mayor of Brooklyn. After Boole turned them down, the party selected Leigh as its nominee for mayor.

In the mayoral election, Leigh challenged incumbent Republican Mayor Seth Low. Seth Low was criticized by Leigh and other Prohibitionists for changing local laws to allow the sale of alcohol on Sundays, for allowing the sale of alcohol to minors, and the increased number of places selling alcohol in the city under his leadership. Leigh campaigned on a platform which included support for establishing local prohibition in the city, support for expanding the city's public education system, support for expanding education opportunities for lower income residents, support for home rule "so far as it indicates a practical, substantial, wisely economical government for the benefit of all the people", and support for expanding the city's road and public transit systems. He decry'd the fact the number of places selling alcohol in Brooklyn outnumbered the city's churches and schools, and denounced saloons as "schools of ignorance and vice". He sought to appeal to working class Brooklynites and to women activists (who while they couldn't vote yet, could still be involved in campaign work and work to encourage men to vote for certain parties/candidates). Mayor Seth Low managed to limit prohibitionist votes against him by promising to end Sunday alcohol and end the sale of alcohol to minors (and then later broke those promises). Leigh managed to get 349 votes.

While Leigh's vote results were limited, his campaign was still seen by some commenters at the time as part of the party's growing prominence and its potential threat to the

electoral future of Republicans. In the following 1884 presidential election, Prohibition Party candidate received over 25,000 votes in New York (over 15 times its result in 1880), and 148,000 votes nationwide.

In addition to his Prohibition Party activism, Leigh was also involved in local community associations and activism. He was highly involved in a local civic group called the Old Brooklynites in the 1880's and 1890's. In 1885, Leigh was president of the board of the Brooklyn Sanitarian Hospital and Dispensary. In 1887, there were controversies over the managing board of the Brooklyn Bridge and over a proposal for expanding the Brooklyn Bridge. Leigh criticized the managing board for mismanaging revenue, and he opposed the proposed expansion of the Brooklyn bridge as impractical and out of touch with the public's transportation needs. In 188, he was involved with the centennial celebration of the Sands Street Methodist Episcopal Church.

In this period, Leigh also continued with his prohibition party activism. In 1887, the Kings County Prohibition Party worked to up it's electoral efforts. Leigh helped to lead in organizational efforts. These efforts had some successes. The party's 1887 candidate for mayor of Brooklyn, Samuel Utter, received 1,971 votes.

In 1891, Leigh was one of the guests that attended a prohibitionist mass meeting, hosted by the Young Man's Prohibition Club, at Criterion Theater. The event was attended by various important state and national Prohibition Party figures, such as 1882 candidate for governor, Alphonso Hopkins, and 1884 presidential candidate, John St. John.

On January 14<sup>th</sup>, 1895, Charles C. Leigh died from an acute coughing fit in his home. He was buried at Green-Wood Cemetery. In 1887, the Standard Union newspaper published an article which described Leigh and life. In it they described him as a "courteous, pleasant featured, white haired gentleman of the type commonly termed as "solid, business-like," has the happy faculty of giving out his views on public questions in a clear-headed manner and without fear or favor". Throughout his life, Leigh worked to move forward the prohibitionist movement in New York State, and helped to pioneer the establishment of the Prohibition Party in New York.

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