

# New York Prohibitionist



*Think NY Vote Dry*

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## The New York Prohibitionist

Welcome readers,

This is the first issue of our new newsletter for the Prohibition Party of New York. It will cover the Prohibition Party of New York, our activities and effort, information and commentary on various issues related to the wellbeing of the people of New York, relevant news, and ways for people to get involved in helping build a better future for New York.

## The Prohibition Party of New York is Here

In recent years, the Prohibition Party has been seeing increased attention, political presence, and growth. This has included a new wave of Prohibition Party activism and organization in New York state. In 2017, members in New York state began the process of reestablishing a state level Prohibition Party group in New York. The Prohibition Party of New York is currently in its early stages of development and organization building. We are working to expand our messaging in the state, recruit new members, and form connections with individuals and groups who we share common issues with. We are engaging in issue advocacy and working to organize people in efforts to promote policies that will benefit the wellbeing of New Yorkers.

Those who are interested in joining the Prohibition Party of New York, working with us, or in learning more about us can email [newyorkprohibition@aol.com](mailto:newyorkprohibition@aol.com).

You can also check us out at our website <https://newyorkprohibition.wixsite.com/new-york-prohibition>

We are also on Twitter

<https://twitter.com/nyprohibition>,

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/New-York-Prohibition-Party-1864593657192574/>,

and YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtuWVwdwFLrLPvpYK5sVijQ>

"Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable. Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals." Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

## State Chairman Appointed

The Prohibition Party of New York has taken a step forward in its organization. On January 14th, Prohibition Party national chairman Rick Knox appointed Prohibition National Committee member and Prohibition Party of New York organizer, Jonathan Makeley, to act as state chairman in New York. With this step taken, we will continue to move forward in our efforts to establish a full state committee, by spreading our message, recruiting new members, finding people to act as officers, and organization. As we move forward, we will also work to bring people together in efforts to promote positive policies, and to put forward candidates, who will act as public servants and promote good policies.

## Dry Towns

Before there was national prohibition, many local communities and states had established their own prohibition laws, as part of the grassroots movements which grew into a nationwide prohibition movement. After the end of national prohibition, most states created laws which allowed some form of local communities to establish local restrictions against alcohol. New York's Alcohol Beverage Control Laws allow for towns and cities to establish laws banning or restricting the sale of alcohol within their jurisdiction. At last check there are 8 fully dry towns (which have completely banned alcohol) and 3 dozen partially dry towns (which have established restrictions on the sale of alcohol, but have not completely banned it). These local dry laws help to protect communities and reduce the amount of harm done by alcohol. They reduce the ability of the predatory alcohol



industry to supply alcohol and reduce its ability to interfere with community efforts to combat the harms of drinking. They offer the opportunity to help foster a culture of sobriety and set local government in the direction of protecting and promoting the public welfare.

Given the importance and usefulness of dry towns, it is important that the Prohibition Party of New York work to support them. We must work to form connections and recruit people within existing dry towns, so that we can defend them against any attempts to take down their dry laws. Last year, we lost the partially dry town of Barrington, in its November vote on whether to keep its restrictions on premise consumption. Although we did what we could to encourage the town to vote dry, our limited membership and lack of organized presence in the community meant that our ability to reach and convince voters was limited. But we should not only defend existing dry communities, we should work to help create new ones.

Towns and cities can establish dry laws through a referendum process. This can be done by producing a petition which meets state regulations. The petition must be signed by a number of eligible town/city citizen's equivalent to 25% of the number of voters in the last gubernatorial election. City petitions have some additional requirements for filing the petition, such as establishing a petition committee.

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After the petition is accepted and filed, the issue will be placed on the next town ballot. If a majority of voter's side with not allowing a certain form of alcohol business in the town/city then the referendum succeeds and the restriction will be enacted into local law. Businesses which were given licenses to sell alcohol before the restriction will be allowed to continue until their license expires, but no further licenses of the type restricted will be added once the law is in effect.

In order to help advance this, we must work to spread our message to communities across the state. We must work to recruit members and form connections with people in these communities. We must do what we can to organize within these areas and support the efforts of people in these communities to petition and campaign for local dry laws. There are plenty of opportunities to encourage communities to become dry, especially in small towns in the state (where a few active people can have a fair chance to fulfill the petition requirement and convince voters without having to a lot of money on a campaign). If we can start getting new towns to vote dry, then we can show people that there is a future for dry efforts and can work more strongly to move in the state in a positive direction.

We encourage anybody who is interested in working to make their community dry to contact us at [newyorkprohibition@aol.com](mailto:newyorkprohibition@aol.com). We will do what we can to help support your effort and to provide you with information to help you in the endeavor.

### **Turn the Tides**

There comes the question of what direction our state will go; of what principles it will be guided by. Will it be based in moral principle, the wellbeing of people, and public service? Or will the forces of selfishness, capriciousness, and greed distort our government to their destructive ends? The future of our state depends upon the actions and efforts of those in it. We can work to build a better future of the state.

We can work to help turn the tides in the state. We can work to end state support for the alcohol industry, restrengthen the ABC laws, increase restrictions on the

alcohol industry, promote teetotalism, expand prevention efforts and addiction treatment, and move toward the abolition of the alcohol industry. We can work to promote good government, promote policies based in moral principle and wellbeing of people, and promote the election of ethical officials who act as public servants.

### **Looking to Run**

Are you a supporter of temperance and policies to promote the public good? Want to help your community or state? Interested in running for office? Then consider running as a candidate with the Prohibition Party. The Prohibition Party is looking to run candidates for various offices, and our state group is seeking to once again have Prohibition Party candidates running in New York State. Though the Prohibition Party currently does not have statewide ballot access, Prohibition Party candidates can seek to get on ballot with an independent nominating petition (which allows candidates to get on ballot and select a name for their ballot line). The number of petition signatures required varies depending on the office. If one is interested in running as a Prohibition Party candidate, contact the state group at [newyorkprohibition@aol.com](mailto:newyorkprohibition@aol.com) and the national party at [prohibitionists@hotmail.com](mailto:prohibitionists@hotmail.com).

### **Assemblymen Proposes Bill to Lower DWI Limit**

Assemblymen Felix Ortiz has proposed a bill that would lower the state's blood alcohol limit for DWIs from .08 to .05. This bill would likely help to reduce the presence of drunk driving. As such, we hope that the legislature will pass this. If one is interested in helping this happen, then contact your state senator and assemblyman and encourage them to support it. Inform other people about the effort, and encourage them to promote it as well.

### **Opportunity for Party Activism and Candidates**

In the midst of growing public dissatisfaction, there has been an increased willingness among many voters to consider political alternatives to the

Democratic and Republican Parties. In 2016, the percent of voters who voted for a minor party or independent presidential candidate was 6% (triple the 2% that did so in 2012). The Prohibition Party had its largest vote result since 1988. The 2017 elections in New York state showed that this trend has continued and is present in New York state. An increasing number of candidates ran as minor party or independent candidates. Notably, Ben Walsh, who was the candidate of the Upstate Jobs, Reform, and Independence parties was elected mayor of Syracuse (the fifth largest city in the state); defeating both the Democrat and Republican candidates. Given these trends, and our work to build up the Prohibition Party in New York, there are opportunities for us to run candidates in coming elections, and potentially do well in them.

### **The Child Victims Act**

The Child Victims Act has been included as part of the governor's proposed 2018-2019 budget. This marks a significant step in the effort to get the Child victims act passed, and hopefully will help it get passed soon. This marks an accomplishment for the many dedicated activists who have spent far too many years seeking to get this passed. Those advocates who have worked to see this passed, who have worked to advance justice and the protection of children, deserve to be commended. We look forward to seeing the Child Victims Act be passed. The statute of limitations is an unjust an arbitrary deadline, which denies justice and allows sexual predators to run free, and it should be abolished. The passage of Child Victims Act will be significant step toward ending the statute of limitations, and toward making New York a more just state, which defends its children.

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"What reasonable, conscientious man will deliberately deny the fundamental positions assumed by the most ultra of the temperance reformers! Does Anyone need arguments in addition to his own observations, and the deductions of common sense, to convince him that intemperance is a curse to the individual, to society, and to the state?" Austin Flint



### John Russell, Father of the Prohibition Party

John Russell was one of the founders of the Prohibition Party. John Russell was born on September 22nd, 1822, in Livingston County, New York. In 1838, his family moved to Michigan, where Russell would live for most of his life. He was a Methodist minister and was a prominent activist in the temperance movement (advocating for teetotalism and the establishment of laws banning the alcohol traffic). He was involved in the order of Good Templars (a fraternal society which supported temperance), eventually becoming its leader. He is widely regarded as the "father of the Prohibition Party" due to his advocacy for creating a distinct political party for the prohibitionist movement and the years of effort he undertook to bring together prohibition advocates to create the party. John Russell would become the Prohibition Party's first national chairman at the national organizing convention in 1869, and in was the party's first vice-presidential candidate in 1872.

Information from the Meader, J.R. and N.H. Dalton. *Cyclopedia of Temperance and Prohibition: A Reference Book of Facts*. New York: Funk and Wagnalls, 1891.

### Prohibition Park

Did you know that the neighborhood of Westerleigh in Staten Island was named Prohibition Park back in the 1800's? According to the Staten Island Museum "It was a temperance town and park used as a summer colony", and at one time was home to a Prohibition Party national headquarters building.

"Never be afraid to stand with the minority when the minority is right, for the minority which is right will one day be the majority." William Jennings Bryan

## Research on State Legislature Votes

Given the tendency of the state legislature to pass bills to favor the alcohol industry at the expense of the people of New York, we did some research looking into how particularly the legislators have been voting. In December, we looked into how they have voted on alcohol related bills so far in the 2017-2018 legislative session.

The results for the state senate are abysmal. As far we could see, every single member votes in favor of pro-alcohol bills. They only time any particular state legislator didn't vote in favor of a pro-alcohol bill was when they were absent.

The results for the state assembly were somewhat better. While most of them still voted in favor of every pro-alcohol bill they were presented with, some members managed to have some sense.

Most Notably, Charles Barron, of district 60, who has consistently voted against every pro-alcohol bill this session and had sponsored a bill to restrict alcohol advertising (which got stopped at the committee level). Three other members of the assembly, Helene Weinstein (district 41), Deborah Glick (district 66), and Jeffrey Dinowitz (district 81), voted against alcohol bills half the time. Eight other members of the assembly, Rodneyse Bichotte (district 42), William Colton (district 47), Jo Anne Simon (district 52), Erik Dillan (district 54), Linda Rosenthal (district 67), Luis Sepulveda (district 87), Ellen Jaffee (district 97), and Phillip Steck (district 110) have voted against an alcohol bill at least one time this session.

### Calling Out Congress

We have some bad news in regards to the recently passed tax bill. The producers of the bill had quietly snuck into the bill a section which gives a massive tax cut specifically to the alcohol industry. Whatever one may think of the bill in general, it is clear that this portion of it is a terrible element. Alcohol is a poison to the mind and body of users, and brings vast social, medical, and economic damages to society. Those companies which are involved in the manufacture or sale of alcohol are profiting off harming



other people. By giving these tax cuts to the alcohol industry, they are not only giving an undue reward to an industry, they are encouraging its growth. The growth of the alcohol industry implicitly involves encouraging increased drinking, and as a result involves increasing the harms. caused by alcohol use.

The following is a list of New York congressman who supported this provision: Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, Rep. Chris Collins NY-27, Rep. Daniel Donovan NY-11, Rep. Elliot Engel NY-16, Rep. Adriano Espallat NY-13, Rep. John Faso NY-19, Rep. Brian Higgins NY-26, Rep. John Katko NY-24, Rep. Peter King NY-2, Rep. Carolyn Maloney NY-12, Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney NY-18, Rep. Gregory Meeks NY-5, Rep. Tom Reed NY-23, Rep. Kathleen Rice NY-4, Rep. Jose Serrano NY-15, Rep. Louise Slaughter NY-25, Rep. Elise Stefanick NY-21, Rep. Thomas Suozzi NY-3, Rep. Claudia Tenney NY-22, Rep. Paul Tonko NY-20, Rep. Nydia Velasquez NY-7, and Rep. Lee Zeldin NY-1.

These congressmen have failed their duty as public servants and have shown that they will side with capricious and greedy special interests at the expense of the people's wellbeing. We'd encourage you in the coming election to vote for candidates who will stand up to the alcohol industry, and who favor promoting the wellbeing of people over greedy special interests.

"We maintain that all American citizens, regardless of race, religion or national origin, are equal before the law and are entitled to equality of treatment under the laws of our land." 1960 Prohibition Party Platform

## Alcohol use linked to Cancer

For decades, medical research has indicated that the use of alcohol is a carcinogen (cancer causing substance). In 1988, the World Health Organization's cancer research division had concluded that alcohol was a direct cause of cancer. For decades the alcohol industry has been trying to suppress information about this and mislead the public about health risks (not unlike how the tobacco industry tried to cover up the fact that their products were carcinogenic). Though the release of more recent studies has helped reveal the link between alcohol and cancer, and hopefully will help increase public awareness of this. The American Society of Clinical Oncology reports that using alcohol in any amount increases a person's likelihood of developing several forms of cancer. Researchers have linked alcohol use to several forms of cancer, including breast, colon, esophagus, larynx, liver, mouth, throat, pancreatic, prostate, skin, and stomach cancer. Data reported at the World Cancer Congress in Paris stated that alcohol is responsible for 5% of new cancer diagnoses and 4.5% of cancer deaths in the world. Alcohol was attributed for causing over a quarter of breast cancer cases and 23% of colorectal cancers. The presence of alcohol caused cancers was highest in parts of the world with high rates of alcohol use, such as the United States, Canada, Australia, and Europe. According to American Society of Clinical Oncology, 70% of people in the country do not realize that consuming alcohol is a risk factor for cancer. As such, it is important to educate people on the matter, and to encourage them to adopt teetotalism.

## Lithuania Bans Alcohol Advertising

Last June, the nation of Lithuania passed new measures to reduce the harms of alcohol. This included a ban on alcohol advertising in billboards, television, radio, newspapers, magazines, and the internet, which took effect this January. Lithuania has also raised their country's the legal drinking age from 18 to 20, increased excise taxes, and reduced hours that alcohol can be sold. Hopefully more governments will take initiative and pass laws to help their people.

## Making College Affordable

The Prohibition Party recognizes the importance of college and other forms of post-secondary education. The Prohibition Party's 2016 platform includes support for encouraging states to establish free tertiary education for all qualified citizens. Likewise, the Prohibition Party of New York encourages the state of New York to move toward creating a system in which all qualified students have the opportunity to a debt free education at any of the states public or private non-profit colleges or vocational schools. Here are some proposals to help advance our state toward such a situation.

Increase funding for the state's Tuition Assistance Program (TAP). Raise TAP eligibility and increase the maximum amount of funding for students to a level that would assure a reasonably sufficient amount of funding for any qualified student attending a public or private non-profit college, university, or vocational school in the state of New York. Expand eligibility for TAP funding to graduate students as it had once been. Expand funding opportunities for part time students, so that more people who do not have the time to be full time students can have the opportunity to get an education. Expand support for work training programs to help prepare workers with the skills and certification to be better prepared for attaining available jobs. These steps would help to move us further toward making a debt free college education possible, and toward allowing more people to attain the benefits of post-secondary education.

## M.T.A. Bans Alcohol Advertising on Transportation

In October, New York City's Metropolitan Transit Authority decided to ban alcohol advertising in all of its properties; including its buses, trains, and subway stations. The M.T.A. finished removing the ads on January 1st. This marks a victory for pro-wellbeing advocates in the state. The Building an Alcohol Ad Free Transit coalition (BAAFT) was able to convince the M.T.A. board of the negative effects of alcohol advertising on public transit, as well as how such ads disproportionality target children, minority, and lower income residents of the city. In addition,

the M.T.A. board regarded this as a logical continuation of their decision to ban tobacco ads on their transits in 1992. Thanks to the M.T.A.'s decision, New York City has taken a step to foster a healthier culture, and to limit the ability of the predatory alcohol industry to inflict propaganda on our nation's largest city.

Information from: Barone, Vincent. "MTA bans alcohol advertising on trains, buses and at all rail stations". amNewYork.com. October 25th, 2017.

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"Arbitrary power is most easily established on the ruins of liberty abused to licentiousness" George Washington

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## Suffrage and Candidates

The Prohibition Party has a long history of supporting women's suffrage and participation in politics. We were first national political party to admit women as full members, and the first to support women's suffrage. Support for women's suffrage was written into our first party platform in 1872; decades before the major parties got around to supporting it. We were the first party to endorse equal pay for women in 1892. We elected Susanna Salter, the first women mayor in the U.S. in 1887, nominated Anna Woodbey for University of Nebraska Board of Regents (as the first African American women nominated for a statewide office) in 1895, and nominated Marie Brehm as the first legally recognized women candidate for vice-president in 1924. In its history, the Prohibition Party has had hundreds of women run for office as Prohibition Party candidates.

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"Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith let us, to the end dare to do our duty as we understand it"  
Abraham Lincoln