

# New York Prohibitionist



*Think NY Vote Dry*

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## **Building on Our Effort**

This marks the second issue of the New York Prohibitionist as the newsletter for the Prohibition Party of New York. Those of us in the Prohibition Party of New York and the Prohibition Party nationally, continue to work to spread our message, engage people, build up the party, and promote positive policies. To those who believe in government for the people, who believe in a politics based in moral principle, public service, and promoting the wellbeing of people, we encourage you to join with us, and we can work to build a better future for our society.

## **Prohibition Party Candidate Running for State Assembly**

Prohibition Party of New York organizer Jonathan Makeley has announced that he intends to run as a candidate for the New York State Assembly in the 146th district. Makeley is a historian, focusing on 19th century reform movements. He is town historian of Angelica New York, a writer for the Odyssey online, contributor to the Independent Political Report, and editor of the 2017 reprint of Temperance Facts, by W.G. Calderwood. Makeley joined the Prohibition Party in 2016. His party activities have included undertaking an effort to try to get write-in ballot certification for Jim Hedges in New York, joining the Prohibition National Committee in June of 2017, and helping to organize the reestablishment of the Prohibition Party state organization in New York. Makeley is seeking to get on ballot through independent nominating petition. While it will be challenging endeavor to try to get the 1500 signatures needed to get on ballot, this effort is a step in the resurgence of the Prohibition Party in New York, and hopefully will soon be followed by more candidates throwing their hat in the ring.

Those who are interested in helping with the campaign can email Makeley for State Assembly campaign at [makeleyforassembly@outlook.com](mailto:makeleyforassembly@outlook.com) and if you are interested in running as a Prohibition Party candidate in New York, you can email [newyorkprohibition@aol.com](mailto:newyorkprohibition@aol.com)

## **Bill for Stronger Drunk Driving Law Making Headway**

In January, Assembly member Robert Ortiz introduced bill A02302A. The bill would strengthen the state's drunk driving laws, by lowering the blood alcohol limit for DWI's from .08 to .05, and for Aggravated DWI's from .18 to .12. Since its introduction, the bill has gained 9 sponsors in the state assembly. Those assembly members are Ortiz, D'Urso, Simon, Englebright, Colton, Gottfried, Pichardo, Davila, and Williams. Assembly members Simon and Williams are on the Assembly Transportation Committee. Currently, the bill resides with the transportation committee, and will need to pass in the committee before it can proceed to a general vote. If one is interested in helping to get this bill passed, contact members of the state legislature, and encourage them to support it. The contact information for state assembly members can be found on the New York State Assembly website, and the contact information state senate members can be found on the New York State Senate website.

## **Smoking Rate in State Reaches New Low**

The rate of smoking has reached a new low in New York state. The state government reports that the estimated rate of tobacco smokers in 2016 was at 14.2%, which is down from 14.5% in 2015. The smoking rate for 18-34-year-olds is estimated at 11.7% and the high school smoking rate is estimated at 4.3%.



## **Gambling**

The Prohibition Party's national platform includes within it opposition to gambling. In the 2016 Platform section on Public Morality calls to "agitae against all forms of gambling, including state lotteries, which prey on the poor and the poorly educated."

There are various reasons to contend against gambling or 'gaming' as it is often referred to by its proponents in the state.

Gambling helps produce a variety of individual troubles and social ills, including individual financial trouble, gambling addictions, and increased crime.

Proponents of the expansion of the gambling industry often claim that it will stimulate the economy. But in actuality, the gambling industry does not create any new wealth for the economy, does not produce any material contribution, and does not produce any sort of valuable service. It's only conceivable economic use is entertainment, which can be fulfilled by many other, less expensive, things. Rather, the social ills produced end up costing society and the economy.

Furthermore, the gambling industry acts as a form of shadow taxation. Politicians who support the expansion of the gambling industry and the expansion of legalized gambling, have often done so on the basis that the government could make money from taxing gambling operations. Since the gambling industry makes its money from gaming its customers out of their money, those governments are effectively leveling a regressive tax on the people who are drawn into gambling.

## Campaign Statement

Here is a statement made by Makeley in an article announcing his campaign.

Greetings, I am Jonathan Makeley. I am a historian, with a focus on American reform movements. I am communally active and involve myself with policy advocacy in the hopes of helping to improve the conditions of people's lives. I pay attention to New York state politics. While there is plenty of hope and potential for improving things, there are many challenges and problems. For too long, I have seen too many politicians pursue policies that were indifferent or detrimental to the wellbeing of people in New York State. It was on this basis that I decided that I would run for office, in order to help promote good policies and a better politics. I decided that I will run as a candidate for the 146th district of the New York State Assembly, and seek to get on ballot via independent nominating petition.

The key element of my campaign is promoting government for the people; promoting politics and policy based in moral principle, public service, and advancing the wellbeing of people. I support stronger ethics laws for public officials and stronger efforts against corruption. I support stronger efforts to reduce the harms of alcohol and other drugs; including increased prevention efforts, expanded addiction treatment, stronger enforcement, stronger DUI/DWI laws, increased restrictions on the alcohol industry, and ending state support for industries which harm the public health. I support improving our state's education system through educational reform and fixing the state's education financing to ensure that all schools are adequately funded. I support moving our state toward establishing a system where all qualified students have a reasonable opportunity a debt-free education at any of the state's public and private non-profit colleges, universities, and vocational schools. I support reforming our state's finance system to reduce the burden of property taxes and reduce the burden of local mandates by having the state take more responsibility for financing its own expenses. I support ending the forced consolidation of local services and allowing localities to voluntarily

consolidate or maintain distinct services based on what the members of communities think is best. I support passing the child victims act, and I support abolishing the statute of limitations for rape and the sexual abuse of children; because predators should not be able to run free and victims should be denied justice because of some arbitrary deadline. I support working to revitalize out state's infrastructure. I support a holistic approach to economic development, which takes into account comprehensive factors and the interests of communities. I also see the need to reform our state's economic development programs, to root out corruption and toxic business practices which end up damaging the economy and hurting the wellbeing of people. Overall, I support moving the state in a direction in which its people are better off.

Though in order to do this, I will need the help of other people who want to help build a better future for New York and are willing to help in this campaign.

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"Some boast of being friends to government; I am a friend to righteous government, to a government founded upon the principles of reason and justice; but I glory in publicly avowing my eternal enmity to tyranny." John Hancock

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## UB Study Shows Harm of Giving Children Alcohol

A Study was done by the researchers at the University at Buffalo about the effects of parents allowing their children to sip alcohol. The study followed 380 families over a period of seven years. The study showed that children whose parents allowed them to taste alcohol at a young age tended to develop higher levels of drinking problems and tended to drink in larger amounts, than those whose parents didn't. Now it may seem obvious to plenty of people that giving children alcohol is a bad idea, but unfortunately a significant number of parents subscribe to the absurd idea that giving their children permission to drink alcohol would somehow make them 'more responsible drinkers'; when in reality it just

enculturates them into destructive habits and teaches them that its ok to do these things. Hopefully this scientific information will help to convince more parents away from that misguided practice, and hopefully more will realize that teaching teetotalism is the responsible thing to do.

## 400 Breweries and the Disgusting Actions of Cuomo and the Legislature

A terrible event in the history of our state has occurred. Earlier this month, it was announced that the number of breweries in the state has reached 400. This is the largest number of breweries in state history, surpassing the previous record set in 1876. This mark illustrates the negative trend which has been occurring in the state. The alcohol industry has grown in the state, in large part due to the state legislature and governor Cuomo gutting state restrictions on the alcohol industry and using government agencies and resources to openly promote it.

Governor Cuomo's has shown himself to be the worst Governor on alcohol issues since Herbert Lehman. Under his administration, the number of breweries has nearly quadrupled from what they had before he came to office. The actions of Governor Cuomo and the state legislature have undermined the health, safety, and wellbeing of New Yorkers, have damaged our communities, and have contributed to the deaths of New Yorkers.

This need to change, and it is up to the decent people of this state to make change happen. We must elect people who will act as public servants and stand up for the wellbeing of people. We must work to enact policies to promote temperance, reduce drinking, and combat the alcohol industry.

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"The prohibition movement is based upon a deep-seated desire to get rid of whisky in the interest of both races because of its hurtful economic and moral results." Booker T. Washington

"Facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passions, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence." John Adams



## Governor Myron Clark: The Champion of New York's First State Prohibition

Governor Myron Clark was one of the strongest temperance and prohibition advocates to have attained major office in New York.

Myron Clark was born on October 23rd 1806 in Naples, New York. He was educated at the Naples District School, and served as a lieutenant colonel in the state militia. He spent two years as Ontario county sheriff and was president of the village of Canandaigua from 1850-1851. He was elected to the New York State Senate and served in it from 1852-1854.

At this time the movement for statewide prohibition was in swing. The state of Maine had established a state prohibition law in 1851, and activists in New York state were actively working to the same. Clark played a significant role in helping to pass a state prohibition law in the legislature. Though this bill ended up being vetoed by Governor Seymour.

Following this Myron Clark ran for governor of New York. He was nominated by four political groups and put together a coalition including Whigs, temperance supporters, and anti-slavery advocates. He was elected governor in the narrowest gubernatorial election in state history.

Once in office, Clark passed the state prohibition law in 1855, and established the first period of statewide prohibition in

New York. Unfortunately, that ended 8 months later, when the law was struck down by the State Court of Appeals in *Wynehamer v People* (1856). None the less, Clark had run a championed a daring campaign and had made a strong challenge to the pro-alcohol establishment.

Following his time as governor, Clark was appointed by President Lincoln, in 1862, to act as collector of internal revenue. He later ran as a Prohibition Party candidate for Governor in 1870 and 1874, receiving 1,459 (0.19%) and 11,768 (1.48%) votes in those races. Myron Clark died on August 23rd 1892.

The Clark Reservation State Park in Dewitt, New York is named after him.

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## Anna Woodbey

Anna R. Woodbey was a prohibitionist and woman's suffrage advocate in Nebraska. She was a member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union and the Women's Suffrage Convention in Lincoln, Nebraska. She was involved in 1890 effort to try to get Nebraska to pass a state prohibition amendment. In 1895, the Prohibition Party nominated her as a candidate for the Nebraska University Board of Regents. She is believed to have been the first African American woman candidate for office in the United States.

Information on Anna Woodbey from the Nebraska State Historical Society Blog

"Your beliefs become your thoughts. Your thoughts become your words. Your words become your actions. Your actions become your habits. Your habits become your values. Your values become your destiny." Mahatma Gandhi

"Always vote for principle, though you may vote alone, and you may cherish the sweetest reflection that your vote is never lost. John Quincy Adams

## John Stearns: A Prohibition Party Founding Father

John N. Stearns was born in New Hampshire in 1829. He was a supporter of temperance from an early age; signing a temperance pledge at the age of seven. He made his way to New York City and spent his life working as a book publisher and religious educator. He was involved with many of New York's temperance societies and efforts. He joined the Good Templars in 1866. He was actively involved with its New York City and state branches, served 24 years a deputy in the city lodge, spent five years as superintendent of the city lodge's Juvenile Temple youth division. He was involved with the National Temperance Society. In 1865, he became a publishing agent for the National Temperance Society, and helped produce various works in support of temperance and prohibition. In 1869, he became Secretary of the organization. He joined the Sons of Temperance, and served as their leader from 1866 to 1868.

When John Russell set out to form the Prohibition Party, he drew upon his Good Templars associates and other significant reform activists. A meeting was held in Oswego, New York, on May 25th-27th, 1869, to move forward with the formation of the party. John Stearns was selected as part of a five-person committee to plan the September 1st, 1869 national convention to form the Prohibition Party.

In 1887, he was part of a group (including Neal Dow and Frances Willard, among others) that helped to produce a proposed federal prohibition amendment.

Stearns died on April 20th, 1895, at his home in Brooklyn.

He was a New Yorker who played a key role in creating the Prohibition Party, and one of many New Yorkers who helped to build this party as a means of helping to build a better future for the people of this state and this country.

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## Reactions to Governor Cuomo's 400 Breweries Announcement

Earlier this month, Governor Cuomo announced that there are now 400 Breweries in the State. Though this event is terrible for the state, there are those in the state who are speaking out against it. Besides us, there were a number of people who spoke out against this.

Here are some of the comments made by people in reaction to governor Cuomo's Facebook post announcing this.

One commenter replied "Andrew, Alcohol Abuse Kills 2.5 Million People Each Year you promoting this is akin to manslaughter. Stop these killings and let's not celebrate them by opening up more places where death can occur."

There was a commenter who stated "Breweries, something to be proud of, or ashamed of? Have you looked at the drunk driving statistics? How many alcoholics do we have? Domestic abuse due to alcohol consumption? Harm to children? It would be really nice if we could be the state that produced the most of something actually beneficial rather than harmful to society."

Another commenter exclaimed "Yup... brag about how you are helping New Yorkers to get drunk, then need drugs to really get high - and then, kill people driving drunk, not being able to support their families, abusing others and ...just so you can BRAG about your SUCCESS!!! I don't get it?!?!? How about putting your efforts into preventing drug use and strengthening family units? ...or maybe you cannot think of what the people really need!!!"

One commenter contended that the growth of bars and liquor licenses is ruining neighborhoods in the state, driving out businesses, and creating an

environment which enculturates children into believing that "over-drinking and partying is an acceptable norm".

One woman stated "The most breweries...something to get excited about? I hardly think so. More drunk drivers and deaths. Do you think before you speak? You certainly do not know how to measure success". She then continued "My husband is a recovered alcoholic. We know firsthand about the evils of breweries. I do not want our state to glory in such conduct"

One commenter stated that the state's support for breweries and gambling casinos "sounds more like organized crime than government".

Another commenter stated "promote breweries and wineries and then set up the DWI traps . Promote gambling and offer support for gambling addiction. What's wrong with this picture". They then continued "I just don't think the state should be promoting breweries wineries and gambling. Promote something that can help, gardens and farms to feed people, etc."

In a response to a comment our Facebook page contending that the governor's support for the alcohol industry was harming New Yorkers, one person replied "I couldn't agree with you more."

## The Opioid Crisis

The Opioid Crisis is a significant public health and social problem in our state and country. The U.S. Health Department reports that the over 42,000 people in this country were killed by opioids in 2016. The New York State Department of Health's 2017 report states that the rate of opioid deaths has roughly doubled from 2010 to 2015, and that over 2,000 New Yorkers were killed in 2015.

While we have seen a rise in state, local, and organizational efforts to help address the opioid crisis, further actions need to be taken in order to help solve this problem. We must work to end recreational drug use and prescription misuse, we must expand education and prevention efforts, we must expand treatment for the addicted, we must strengthen law enforcement efforts to combat the traffic of illegal opioids, we must hold pharmaceutical and medical companies responsible in those cases where their malpractice contributed to

this problem, and must counter pro-drug forces who will try to prevent or pervert efforts to address this problem.

## Legislation on Gambling

This legislative session has seen the passage of a number of bills related to gambling. The legislature passed the Charitable Gaming Act of 2017, which loosened restrictions and expanded payment options for raffles held by groups designated as charitable organizations. The bill passed the assembly 113 Yay to 24 Nay. It passed the Senate 58 Yay to 4 Nay. Those who voted against it were assembly members Abinanti, Barron, Buchwald, Castorina, Dinowitz, Fitzpatrick, Friend, Galef, Glick, Goodell, Jaffee, Kavanagh, Niou, Nolan, Paulin, Quart, Rosenthal, Ryan, Sepulveda, Simon, Titus, Walsh, Weinstein, and Williams, and senators Hoylman, Kreuger, LaValle, and Sanders. The bill was signed by Governor Cuomo.

The legislature also passed a bill requiring that investigations for the approval, denial, or renewal of employee licenses and registrations be conducted by the state police, and that the cost of such investigations will be paid by the gambling institution. It passed the state assembly 134 Yay to 3 Nay; with the 3 Nays coming from Assembly members Friend, Lupardo, and Sepulveda. It passed the state legislature unanimously. Then it was vetoed by Governor Cuomo.

## Argyle Outreach

In order for the Prohibition Party to grow in New York, we must work to reach out to people across the state and seek to convince people. We have worked to do this. Earlier this month, we began to engage in outreach to the people of Argyle New York (one of the dry communities of the state) through Facebook. Our messaging was able to reach some of the people in Argyle and neighboring communities. Some people were interested in getting information about us and our arguments for the benefits of stronger policies against alcohol. Others mocked or argued. But it takes outreach in order to reach sympathetic people and to convince people to embrace positive policies. And if we continue to our efforts, then in time we will reap what we sow.