

New York Prohibitionist



Think NY Vote Dry

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A Growing Voice

The Prohibition Party of New York seeks to positively affect our state's political discourse in the direction of good government and policies to benefit the people. We work to help amplify the voices of citizens who seek want to move our state in a better direction. We are gradually expanding our message to more people and we are becoming a growing voice in the state's political discourse. Each of us can help to build this growing voice; by letting other people know about the Prohibition Party of New York, by reaching out in our communities, and by speaking about important issues. And in doing so, each of us can empower ourselves and others to help shape the future of New York.

"Amid the rampant self-indulgence of 21st-century America, the Prohibition Party speaks for a more restrained, community-oriented vision of life." Barry Alfonso

Update on State Assembly Campaign

In last month's issue, it was mentioned that Prohibition Party of New York organizer Jonathan Makeley had announced that he is running as a candidate for the 146th district of the New York State Assembly and will be seeking to get on ballot via independent nominating petition. Here are some updates on the campaign.

Makeley has established a campaign website
<https://mrhistory956.wixsite.com/makeley-for-new-york>

A well as a Makeley for Assembly Facebook page and twitter account.

Makeley is working on spreading the word of his campaign, finding volunteers, and planning future campaign events.

The campaign has received positive words from 2016 Prohibition Party presidential candidate James Hedges. Hedges wrote, "America needs fresh voices, public officials not associated with the sleaze and corruption of Washington, DC. Jon Makeley is one such person. Let's all give him a hand!"

Percoco and Corruption in State Government

On March 13th, Joseph Percoco, one of governor Cuomo's closest political aids was convicted of corruption. He was found guilty of committing wire fraud and taking 300,000 dollars in bribes from people seeking to profit from state economic development programs. Percoco's conviction is an example of corruption at some of the highest levels of state government. He's not the only one. In recent years, various important figures in state government, including former State Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos and former State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, have been convicted of corruption. Beyond these figures who have been caught, there are quite likely others who have yet to be revealed. And beyond the legal corruption which can be legally prosecuted, there is a broader ethical corruption; where public officials abandon their ethical obligations as public servants, do things which are detrimental to the wellbeing of the people, and misuse their positions to unduly benefit themselves and their wealthy backers. New York state can and should do better. We need stronger ethics laws, more accountability from elected officials, and for the public to elect more decent candidates to office.



The Governor's Race

This year, the state of New York will be having its latest gubernatorial election. Our current governor, Andrew Cuomo will be seeking reelection, though he will be challenged by various other people seeking the governor's office and seeking to affect the state's political condition.

When it comes to the issues, there is much that Governor Cuomo can be criticized on. Governor Cuomo and his associates in the state legislature have weakened state restrictions on the alcohol industry and have used state resources to actively encourage drinking and the growth of the alcohol industry. He is quite likely the worst governor our state has had on alcohol issues since Lehman. Under the Cuomo administration, the state has promoted gambling and weakened state laws against drugs. He spent years overlooking the issue of child sexual abuse in the state. In recent years multiple high-ranking figures in state government, including one of governor Cuomo's closest political aids, have been convicted of corruption. Governor Cuomo as failed to undertake significant reforms to help reduce property taxes and has instead sought to scapegoat and attack local governments. He has failed to fix the systemic problems in state education funding. He has touted his Excelsior program and exaggerated its impact, while failing to undertake significant steps to help make debt-free college

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a reasonable possibility for all students. His economic development programs have only produced relatively few jobs, have had multiple failed ventures, and have been riddled with corruption. And the criticisms can go on.

While the governor's race will undoubtedly have a multitude of contenders, it still remains to be seen whether there will be one who can sufficiently speak to the problems of the present state government, who will speak to issues of the public wellbeing, and advance a strong vision for building a better future for New York.

So far, no members have expressed an interest in running as a Prohibition Party candidate for governor of New York in 2018. Given the state's tough ballot access requirements and the current state of the party, if a member were to run as a Prohibition Party candidate for governor in 2018, they would likely end up doing so as a write in candidate. Though if anyone is interested in seeking to take up the challenge, they can email the Prohibition Party of New York at newyorkprohibition@aol.com, and consult as to the possibility.

But regardless of whether the Prohibition Party has a governor candidate in 2018 or not, we will still be active in the 2018 elections, and will be working to more move the political climate more towards good principles and good policies.

Anti-Drunk Driving Bill Gets 10th Assembly Sponsor

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. The bill has been gradually gaining support within the state assembly. Earlier this month, the bill reached the milestone of gaining its 10th sponsor in the assembly, when assembly member Pamela Harris added her support. While this is a step in the right direction, it will take more effort in order to help get the bill passed. Those who wish to help get the bill passed should spread the word about the bill, contact members of the state legislature and encourage them to join in supporting it.

"Destiny is not a matter of chance; it is a matter of choice. It is not a thing to be waited for; it is a thing to be achieved."
William Jennings Bryan

The Road to 2020

In 2016, the Prohibition Party had its best presidential election results since 1988. James Hedges was on ballot in three states and had received over 5,600 votes. These results were part of a reenergizing of the party, which was going in on in the years leading up the election, and which is continuing onward.

Following the election, Jim Hedges stated "With your continued assistance, and with the help of the young people who have been attracted by our campaign, we'll do twice as well in 2020".

It would be good if we could accomplish this in 2020. The last time a Prohibition Party presidential candidate had gotten over 10,000 votes was in 1976, when Benjamin Bubar had gotten 15,932 votes. If we could succeed in getting over 10,000 votes it would be a clear sign to the country that the Prohibition Party is once again on the rise.

There is reason to believe that we could accomplish getting over 10,000 votes in 2020. Many voters are becoming increasingly dissatisfied with the major parties and are looking for an alternative. If the Democratic and Republican parties continue to go down the route of toxic political practices and continue to nominate historically unpopular presidential candidates (like they did in 2016), then even more voters could be driven toward minor parties in 2020.

Then there is the matter of ballot access. In 2016, we got on ballot in three states: Mississippi, Arkansas, and Colorado. We also came close to getting on ballot in four other states: Louisiana, Tennessee, Iowa, and New Jersey. There are also the states of Florida and Utah. Both are states which the Prohibition Party has been able to get on ballot in some elections in past decades. If our campaign for ballot access is as strong in Mississippi, Arkansas, and Colorado and slightly stronger in Louisiana, Tennessee, Iowa, and New Jersey than it was in 2016, then there's a good chance for the Prohibition Party to get on ballot as many as seven states. And if the Prohibition Party can make some significant advances in Florida and Utah, then it's possible that the party could potentially be on ballot in as many as nine

states. The more states we can get on ballot, the more potential voters there are, and more likely it is that we'll get more votes. If we could get on ballot in at least 6 states, then there's a good possibility of getting over 10,000 votes.

We can help improve our chances in those states by expanding our messaging efforts, working to recruit new members in those states, building and strengthening state level organization, and finding people who can act electors in those states.

We can also work to boost our vote totals in other states through write ins. Most states in the country have a process whereby a candidate can arrange to have their write in votes tabulated. While most votes will likely come from states where we can get on ballot, the tabulation of write in votes can help to give a boost to be overall total. And for Prohibition Party members in states with difficult ballot access, it offers us a chance to vote our conscience and to help contribute to the party's electoral success.

For the 2020 election, The Prohibition Party of New York will work to get write-in ballot certification in the state and help to contribute what we can to the vote total.

If we work hard enough in the coming years to spread our message, recruit members, organize, and prepare a strong campaign network, then we have a good chance at making 2020 an even bigger success than 2016.

The Child Victims Act

As we have mentioned in our January issue, the Child Victims Act is a bill that would help to advance justice for the victims of child sexual abuse, by extending the criminal and civil statute of limitations for reporting and prosecuting such crimes, and by creating a one-year window for reviving old cases. For over a decade, people in New York state have been working to pass this bill, and there's a chance that it might get passed through being included in this year's state budget. Budget negotiations are currently going on in the state legislature and it is uncertain whether the Child Victims Act will be included in the end. As such, it will take the continued advocacy of New Yorkers in order to encourage the state senate to do the right thing and pass the Child Victims Act.



David Leigh Colvin:

“Pulverizing Rum Power”

David Leigh Colvin was one of the key Prohibition Party figures associated with New York state. He was born on January 28th, 1880. He would spend most of his life in New York state. He studied at the American Temperance University and Ohio Wesleyan University. He then went on to study University of California and the University of Chicago. And then he capped on his education by getting a PhD in political science from Columbia University in 1913. In 1906, Colvin had married Mamie White, who would become a significant figure in the Prohibition Party and the WCTU. Colvin established himself in New York City, and took up a career as a historian and temperance activist.

David Leigh Colvin became actively involved in the Prohibition Party while in college and would become significant both as a leadership figure and a candidate. He was a leader in the Intercollegiate Prohibition Association for much of the early 1900's. He was vice-president of the World Prohibition Federation 1918-1934 and its treasurer from 1934-1948. And he was involved with various other temperance and prohibition supporting groups.

He ran as a Prohibition Party candidate for several offices. In 1913, He ran for the 23rd district of the New York State Assembly, receiving 22 votes (.09% of the vote). In 1914, he for New York's 15th district of the House of Representatives; receiving 90 votes (0.42% of the vote) and coming in 4th place. In 1916, he was the Prohibition Party candidate for senator. He received 19,302 votes (1.25%) and came in 4th place. In 1917, he ran for mayor of New

York City; receiving 897 votes (0.13% of the vote) and coming in 5th place.

The 1920 Prohibition Party convention selected Colvin as its vice-presidential candidate. The 1920 Prohibition Party ticket of Aaron Watkins and D. Leigh Colvin received 188,787 votes. In 1922, Colvin ran for the New York's 11th district of the House of Representatives; receiving 291 votes (0.68% of the vote) and came in 4th place.

In 1926, Colvin was selected to become national chairman of the Prohibition Party. He would act as chairman from 1926 to 1932 and led the party in its efforts to defend the national prohibition of alcohol. In 1932, he made another run for U.S. senate as the Law Preservation candidate (during this period some state branches of the Prohibition Party, including the New York Prohibition Party temporarily renamed themselves under the title Law Preservation to highlight their support for the strong enforcement of national prohibition). He received 74,611 votes (1.64% of the vote) and came in 4th place.

Following the end of national prohibition, the Prohibition Party worked to restrengthen its efforts. In 1936, David Leigh Colvin was selected to the Prohibition Party's first presidential candidate after the end of national prohibition. He campaigned on the theme of “Pulverizing Rum Power”; that is, on reestablishing the 18th Amendment and restoring national prohibition. He received 37,659 votes (0.08% of the vote). This helped to set the stage for a surge in Prohibition Party activism in the two decades following national prohibition. The Prohibition Party's presidential results increased in each subsequent election, until it peaked with Claude Watson receiving over 103,000 votes in 1948. David Leigh Colvin would die in 1959. Though he was unable to restore national prohibition, he was able to help build a future for the Prohibition Party and the broader temperance movement, in the hope for eventual future victory.

Sources: "Candidate D. Leigh Colvin." Our Campaigns. Accessed March 28, 2018. <https://www.ourcampaigns.com/CandidateDetail.html?CandidateID=4207>. "David Leigh Colvin." Prohibitionists.org. Accessed March 28, 2018. <http://www.prohibitionists.org/History/votes/votes.html>. Hanson, David J. "Biography: D. Leigh Colvin." Alcohol Problems & Solutions. February 19, 2014. Accessed March 28, 2018. <https://www.alcoholproblemsandsolutions.org/Controversies/Biography-D-Leigh-Colvin.html>. "Prohibition Party." Wikipedia. Accessed March 28, 2018. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prohibition_Party.



The Cuba Temperance Meeting Camp

The town of Cuba, New York has a rich history in temperance and prohibitionism. In the late 19th and early 20th century, the Cuba Temperance Meeting Camp was a regional center for temperance and prohibitionism, as well as intellectual and cultural engagement.

The Cuba Temperance Meeting Camp was founded in 1881, by local temperance reformers. By 1887, it had become an incorporated group and had acquired its own event grounds a mile outside of the Cuba village. Its main event was the annual Cuba Temperance Assembly, which drew together people for discussions, lectures, and activist planning. At its height, they event attracted thousands of visitors, and included renowned speakers, such as Booker T. Washington. The events were also a place for prohibitionist politics. In 1884, the Cuba Temperance Assembly was visited by former Kansas governor John St. John, who had helped establish statewide prohibition in Kansas. It was reported that while at the event he received notification that the Prohibition Party had nominated him as its 1884 candidate for president. In 1900, Prohibition Party national chairman Oliver Stewart gave two speeches at the Cuba Temperance Assembly.

While the Cuba Temperance Meeting Camp eventually fell out of operation, later on in the 20th century, it still had played its part in the advancement of temperance in America. Hopefully one day something similar may once again rise in Cuba.

Sources: Description of attendance levels Cuba Temperance Assembly. 1999. Temperance and Cuba Meeting Grounds Collection. Cuba Historical Society. Minard, John S. *Allegany County and its People: A Centennial Memorial History of Allegany County New York*. Alfred New York: University Press, Sun Publishing Association, 1896. <http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=loc.ark:/13960/t55d8zx2j;view=1up;seq=853> Program, Twentieth Annual Session: Cuba Temperance Assembly. Cuba: Cuba Temperance Society, 1881. Temperance and Cuba Meeting Grounds Collection. Cuba Historical Society. United States of America. Department of Commerce and Labor. Bureau of the Census. *Census of Manufactures: 1905, Earning of Wage Earners*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1908.

Social Media Reach and Growth

The month of March has been productive for expanding our reach on social media. The number of people liking and following the New York Prohibition Party Facebook page has more than doubled. In addition, our posts are reaching an ever-growing number of communities in the state. Available data indicates that our Facebook messaging has reached people in at least 48 different towns and cities in the state.

Alabama Prohibition Party

The Prohibition Party is growing in membership and political activity across the country. One notable place for this growth, is in the state of Alabama. State chairman R.T. Cooper reports that since its reestablishment in 2017, the Alabama Prohibition Party has recruited over 100 members. This is an impressive increase. In addition, the Alabama Prohibition Party has begun efforts to increase the number of dry communities in the state. They are working to begin the process of petitioning to make the city of Warrior legally dry.

Campaigns Across the Nation

Prohibition Party members across the country as taking up the task of running for public office; helping to advance the presence of the party and to influence the political discourse.

Here are some notable instances of Prohibition Party candidates.

In New York, Jonathan Makeley is running for the 146th district of the state assembly and is seeking to get on ballot via independent nominating petition.

In Alabama, state chairman R. T. Cooper is running for city council in Warrior. Cooper believes that he has a good chance at getting elected.

In Mississippi, 2016 Prohibition Party vice-presidential candidate, Bill Bayes is running for the House of Representatives, in Mississippi's 4th congressional district. Given Mississippi's ballot access laws, there is a chance that Bayes may become the first Prohibition Party candidate to be on ballot for congress since the 1980's.

There are also people associated with the Prohibition Party who are seeking office through the ballot line of other parties.

In Georgia, national chairman Rick Knox is seeking the Republican nomination for Lieutenant Governor.

In West Virginia, Michael Hess, who was one of the party's social media managers during the 2016 campaign, is running as a Libertarian party candidate for the West Virginia House of Delegates.

"After all is said that can be said upon the liquor traffic, its influence is degrading upon the individual, the family, politics and business, and upon everything that you touch in this old world." Billy Sunday

An Appeal to New York Farmers

March 20th was National Agriculture Day. Agriculture and the people to undertake this work are an essential part of our society. Since it is through agriculture that we derive the source of most of our food, as well as other important materials.

In the spirit of the day, we had made some comments pointing out what the Prohibition Party of New York's vision has to offer for New York farmers.

The benefits of our vision include:

Reforming the state's fiscal system to reduce the burden of property taxes. A holistic economic approach, which would integrate New York farmers with the markets of New York communities. A balanced environmental approach, to help ensure clean water and fertile soil for the future. Taking on the exploitive alcohol industry (which gobbles up and wastes vast amounts of our state's land, and natural resources) so that more of our state's production can go to feeding people. Improving quality of life through reducing the harms of alcohol and other drugs, improving educational opportunities, and fostering safer and healthier communities.

"The Prohibition Party basically is life support for every person and is most in line with the US Constitution and the Declaration of Independence and the desires of the Founding Fathers." Billy Joe Parker

Founding Principles

The permissivist supporters of the alcohol industry try to make the absurd argument that the government doesn't have a legitimate interest in protecting the lives and wellbeing of people. But the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence say otherwise.

The Declaration of Independence states that one of the essential functions of any legitimate government is to protect the inalienable right to life. It further states that if a government fails to do this, that the people have the right and duty to change this and establish a governing order which does protect life.

The preamble of the Constitution, which lists the purpose of our nation's government, includes promoting the general welfare.

Prohibitionism is in line with these foundational principles, while the supporters of the alcohol industry are in opposition with these principles.

Women's Rights Vs. the Alcohol Industry

Earlier this month, the New York Times published an article by Elaine Weiss, titled "Women, Booze, and the Vote". The article calls out the alcohol industry for attempting to falsely portray itself as a champion of women's rights, when in reality the alcohol industry was a major opponent of women's suffrage in the United States. The alcohol industry largely opposed women's suffrage due to the tendency of women's suffragists to support temperance and prohibitionist policies, and the fear that women voters would pave the way for the destruction of their industry. The article helps to show how while the Prohibition Party has supported progress both on temperance and women's suffrage, the alcohol industry has tended to oppose any progress which would get in the way of their profits.

The National Prohibitionist

Did you know that there is a national Prohibition Party newspaper? The National Prohibitionist is a roughly quarterly publication by the Prohibition Party, which gives information on the party's activities, issues, commentary, and related news. Subscriptions cost \$5 a year, and you can email prohibitionists@hotmail.com in order to get signed up.