

New York Prohibitionist



Think NY Vote Dry

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A Vision for the Future

In these trying times, the Prohibition Party of New York continues its work to advocate for positive policies and advance social reform. We offer a vision for a better future for New York. A vision for a new approach to governance focused on moral principle, public service, and advancing the public wellbeing. A vision of a state filled with healthy, prospering communities, and greater opportunity for all New Yorkers. If you are interested in helping to make a positive impact on your state and your community, consider joining the Prohibition Party of New York.

"Politics is not predictions and politics is not observations. Politics is what we do. Politics is what we do, politics is what we create, by what we work for, by what we hope for and what we dare to imagine." Paul Wellstone

State and National Party News

The Prohibition Party continues to move forward on the state and national level. On the national level, the Prohibition National Committee recently completed a set of votes for appointing new members to the committee. Four people had applied for and were accepted to fill vacancies on the national committee. The national party has also been doing some work to try to renovate the Prohibition Party website. Some updates have been made, but the process is still ongoing.

On the state level, the New York Prohibition Party has been active in advocating on state and local issues. On the legislative front, we have been working on a number of efforts, including advocating against Governor Hochul's misguided efforts to try to weaken state restrictions on alcohol sales and advocating for the passage of a bill that would help to improve the state's ballot access laws by largely repealing the anti-democratic changes made to the state's ballot access laws in 2020. The party has

also made updates to the state party website, which will improve its appearance and functionality on mobile devices.

Assemblymen Introduces Bill to Improve Ballot Access Laws

There is an opportunity to help improve ballot access laws in New York. Recently state assemblyman Salka has introduced Bill A08683. This bill would repeal most elements of anti-democratic changes to state ballot access that were passed in 2020, restore the old requirements for minor party and independent candidates to petition to get on ballot for state office, and establish standards for minor parties to gain and retain statewide ballot status that are more similar to the old standards. The passage of this bill would be a significant step toward fixing the damage that was done to our state's electoral process in 2020, and better enabling New Yorkers to be able to vote for the candidates of their choice. If you would like to help get this bill passed, you can email, call, or write your representatives in the state legislature and encourage them to support the bill.

Alcohol-Free Alternatives on the Rise in Rochester and Beyond

Alcohol-free alternative beverages are on the rise in the City of Rochester. CITY News had reported that a pop-up enterprise named AltBar has emerged in Rochester. The business produces a line of alcohol-free beverages that mimic the taste of alcoholic beverages, such as cocktails and beers. These beverages are aimed to provide non-alcoholic alternatives which could be used to replace alcoholic beverages for people in social environments which typically involve alcohol. The business was created by Meg and Bob Hartman, who were inspired to create it after Bob had given up drinking, and they realized that there were few late-night social places without



alcohol. Their business taps into a growing trend, where there is an increasing demand for alcohol-free beverages worldwide. More broadly, the market for alcohol-free spirits has grown significantly in recent years, various bars have moved to expand their menus to include more alcohol-free beverage options, and some alcohol companies have moved to start producing alcohol-free versions of these products. Hopefully, these trends will continue, so that the social areas where non-drinkers can operate in will expand, and businesses that have sold alcohol can start to transition away from their bad practices (and perhaps eventually make the full transition into alcohol-free institutions).

Source: https://www.rochester.citynewspaper.com/rochester/alt-bar-brings-sober-alternatives-to-rochesters-bar-scene/Content?oid=14051094&fclid=1wAR358J_NCAeDQCM1Z5g0v6-15WVscGQAL5nF9H6C0L58mwNCAwBw

Additional Study on the Negative Effects of Marijuana on the Brain

Canadian Researchers have recently published a new review on the long-term negative effects of marijuana on the brain, which found that marijuana use can cause long-term cognitive impairment in several areas of brain function. The review provided a meta-analysis of the combined results of 10 studies, with a total of over 43,000 participants. They found that marijuana use produced "small to moderate cognitive impairments" in areas including making decisions, suppressing inappropriate responses, learning through reading and listening, the ability to remember what one hears, and the time needed to complete a mental task. Researchers stated that their study

Sources: <https://neurosciencenews.com/cannabis-cognition-19945/?fbclid=IwAR2rA0xdR81VAP5xcXjXdk0i7a4ASKgNunXksTefoxjn86lwVmBq6jymRpA>
<https://wnyt.com/health/study-marijuana-related-impairments/6369228/?fbclid=IwAR03jQwEcB8FrdF3X48U9fYz4unaKiCfiP4R7FKqRW5FkGpP3SG8YILVI>

The State Legislature has recently voted to approve a plan for the outlines of new congressional districts in the state. The State Legislature had taken over the process of drawing congressional districts after the state's Independent Redistricting Commission had become deadlocked on selecting a proposed map. The congressional maps passed the Assembly 103 Yes to 45 No and passed the Senate 43 Yes to 20 No. The changes to the congressional districts are expected to favor the Democratic Party, with some estimating that it could potentially shift the state's congressional delegation from 18 Democrats and 9 Republicans to possibly 22 Democrats and 4 Republicans. State Republican politicians have criticized the planned districts as being an act of partisan gerrymandering, while Democratic proponents claim that their proposed districts make sense in terms of population distribution and territorial continuity. The congressional district plan will go on to Governor Hochul, who will decide whether or not to sign off on the new map. The state legislature is also working on designing new districts for the state assembly and senate, which are expected to be voted on sometime in February.

Sources: <https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2022/02/02/nv-legislature-approves-redistricting-maps-kathy-hochul-review/9316071002/>
<https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2022/02/02/new-york-state-redistricting-map-help-democrats-midterms-push/9288966002/>
<https://www.cnn.com/2022/02/03/politics/democrats-redistricting-map-advantage/index.html>

improved quality of sleep, helping with weight loss, and helping to give the liver time to repair damage from alcohol use. The article also included resources for students to contact to help with dealing with drinking problems. It is somewhat encouraging that a university is taking some action to encourage abstinence from alcohol. Even if it falls short of promoting total abstinence, promoting Dry January could provide an opportunity for drinkers to start taking steps towards potentially adopting teetotalism in the future.

Source:https://www.pew.edu/pittwire/features/articles/what-you-need-know-about-dry-january?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Fri%202014%20Public%20Health%20Program%203%20Mopm%20DryJan%20Atke%20Over%20Announcements%20CMRO%20Accolades%20Events&utm_content=Fri%202014%20Public%20Health%20Program%203%20Mopm%20DryJan%20Atke%20Over%20Announcements%20CMRO%20Accolades%20Events+CD1_b1f9e6c594b725715815d907479a62f18
utm_source=CMP20Pittwire&utm_term=What%20you%20Need%20to%20Know%20About%20Dry%20January

During the coronavirus pandemic, we have seen increased rates of drinking among segments of the population. A new study published in the *Journal of Hepatology*, looks into what the long-term negative effects of this spike in drinking will be. Researchers from Massachusetts General Hospital project that increased drinking among segments of the population during the pandemic will result in an additional 8,000 deaths from alcohol-induced illnesses by 2040. They also project that it will lead to an additional 18,700 cases of liver failure and 1,000 additional cases of cancer. In regards to the study, Jovian Julien (the head analyst of the study) stated,

Hopefully, this research will help to encourage more people to take alcohol seriously as a public health problem and to take steps to help address the issue.

Sources: <https://thehill.com/changing-america/well-being/mental-health/592162-pandemic-drinking-could-lead-to-8000-additional?fbclid=IwAR1pPfyfUg2XhrrkzDvhsbEPzGY5ei3DTxvprESpHN18vtzvlvly-icPQc>
<https://aasldpubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/hep.32272>

On January 5th, 2022, Governor Kathy Hochul delivered her annual state of the state address, laying forth her own understanding of the condition of the state, and her proposals of what he would like to see in the coming year. This marks her first time presenting the state of the state address as Governor, following the resignation of disgraced former governor Andrew Cuomo earlier this year. In the interest of advancing a productive discourse as to the condition and future of the state of New York, we of the Prohibition Party of New York will put forward a response to Governor Hochul's address; in which, we will evaluate his statements and proposals, and counter by articulating our own vision and proposals for the state.

Governor Hochul fails to properly recognize alcohol for the social and public health problem it is. Alcohol is a toxic substance, which causes widespread illness and injury, costs our state over 16 billion dollars a year in social, medical, and economic damages, and kills thousands of New Yorkers each year. During the

coronavirus pandemic, the problems of alcohol use served to exacerbate the problems of the coronavirus, while the pandemic worked to increase alcohol use and its damaging effects among segments of our state's population. While governments in other places recognized this dynamic and enacted restrictions on alcohol sales to curb the coronavirus, the Cuomo administration continued to pursue pro-alcohol policies and weakened restrictions on alcohol sales at the expense of public health and wellbeing. After becoming Governor, Kathy Hochul had the chance to recognize this, help end state support for the alcohol industry, and take action to address alcohol as a public health problem. Instead, her speech shows that she intends to continue to pursue policies to support the alcohol industry, to the detriment of the health, safety, and lives of New Yorkers.

Governor Hochul said that bars and restaurants are the souls of our communities. She couldn't be more wrong. Bars are not the souls of our communities; they are cancers to our communities. Bars, liquor stores, and alcohol businesses profit off selling toxic products, which sicken, injure, and kill people in our communities. They undermine public health, siphon wealth into their pockets, and fuel violence and crime. They grow by sucking the life out of the communities they operate in. The heart and soul of our communities lies in the good and decent people that live in them - in the people and institutions which work to do good, help others, and benefit the quality of life for those in their communities.

Governor Hochul proposes restoring the misguided policies which allowed bars and restaurants to sell alcoholic beverages to-go. The return of such policies would damage public health communities and undermine efforts to combat the coronavirus. The Prohibition Party of New York will do everything in its power to oppose this and other misguide pro-alcohol policies.

Governor Hochul did not address the state government's misguided decision to legalize the sale of recreational marijuana and the damaging effects that this will have on public health. Nor did she address how her administration would handle regulation of its sale. While we wait for the state legislature to come to its senses

and end this failed policy of legalization, the state should at least aim to restrict the sale of recreational marijuana as much as possible. While the state allowed local communities last year to opt-out of local sales of recreational marijuana for the time being, insidious provisions were included for communities to be later opted into allowing sales, but not for any community to choose to opt-out. The law should be amended to eliminate the deadline for opting-out and allow any municipality to vote to opt-out of local sales going forward.

Governor Hochul spoke of the challenge of the coronavirus pandemic for our state. For the sake of New Yorkers, we hope that her administration will be effective in dealing with the pandemic and working to bring the situation under control.

Governor Hochul made several regarding state offices and public ethics laws. The governor proposed passing a state constitutional amendment limiting a person to only being able to serve two terms in a statewide office (Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller). If this were passed it would help to allow more new people to hold positions in state government. The governor proposed establishing new laws restricting the ability of state officials to make money from outside sources while in office. If these are well-crafted, they could help to combat corruption in state government. The governor has also called for replacing JCOPE with a more independent public ethics body that would have more power to enforce ethics laws on our state's public officials. This would be a welcome change.

One thing that was unfortunately missing from the governor's speech was any statements about repealing the anti-democratic changes to state ballot access laws that were passed in 2020 under her predecessor. Governor Cuomo and his coconspirators in the state legislature passed a set of blatantly anti-democratic changes to state ballot access laws, which made it vastly harder for minor party and independent candidates to get on the ballot for statewide offices, made it almost impossible for minor parties to gain and retain statewide ballot access recognition, and as a result of their implementation resulted in four parties losing statewide ballot access. These

changes infringe the ability of minor parties and independent candidates to participate in elections and reduce the ability of New Yorkers to vote for the candidate of their choice. The Prohibition Party of New York calls for these ballot access changes to be repealed and for every party that had its statewide ballot status unjustly stripped from them restored.

Governor Hochul made a series of proposals regarding education and workforce training. She called for expanding workforce training efforts and coordinating efforts among state agencies, educational institutions, and businesses to help focus workforce training towards meeting the needs of local industries. This is something we would generally agree with, as we have long stated that expanding and improving workforce training and vocational education should be part of an overall strategy for post-secondary education. Governor Hochul also called for expanding the state's TAP program to allow for part-time students to be eligible and called for expanding educational programs for incarcerated New Yorkers. We have long said that expanding the TAP program is one of the major ways that our state could help to make college education more affordable and accessible for New Yorkers and it is good that Governor Hochul is looking to help expand TAP. As for the incarcerated, expanding educational programs can help to reduce the number of people that end up returning to prison and increase the number that will be able to return being working members of society. Overall, the Governor has put forward several proposals that could be useful for improving education and job training opportunities for New Yorkers.

The Governor's speech also touched on important issues regarding infrastructure. Having more projects to develop our state's infrastructure can aid in our state's economic development. Investing in projects to strengthen our state's infrastructure against natural disasters could help to reduce the damages that future disasters may bring. Expanding digital infrastructure and internet access can help more New Yorkers to participate in an increasingly online economy. And working to develop the wind industry in our state could help to create both energy and jobs for the state.

As for the economy, the Governor's proposals are overall of mixed quality. While some of her proposals would be useful, her plan still includes dangerously misguided proposals that would benefit the alcohol industry and businesses which profit off exploiting and harming New Yorkers. While she proposes some measures aimed at relieving the burden of property taxes, she did not address the state's tendency to force local governments to pay for a significant part of the state's budget, which is largely responsible for driving up property tax rates in the state. While she spoke of trying to help support the development of new businesses and industries in the state, she did not give much focus on reforming the state's economic development programs, to avoid the corruption and inefficiency which plagued economic development efforts under the Cuomo administration. While the Governor presented various ideas aimed at addressing the economy, her proposals fell short of providing a holistic approach to economic development focused on improving the quality of life of New Yorkers.

Governor Hochul spoke of trying to usher in a new era for New Yorkers. She spoke of wanting to live up to the state's heritage of reform activism and bold governance and wanting to restore public trust. Though it seems that she fails to recognize that certain flawed ideas and approaches are holding her back from putting forward an agenda that can better match those ideals. Allowing businesses to harm and exploit New Yorkers for profit is damaging our state and holding it back. A failure to accurately recognize what is helpful and harmful to the wellbeing of New Yorkers holds us back. The failure to center moral principle, ethical public service, and the protection of life and public wellbeing as guiding principles of public policy holds us back. Hopefully, Governor Hochul and other state officials will come to better understand this, so that they can take actions that would help to create a new era that is better for New Yorkers.

Having responded to the governor's statements, let us turn to our own vision and proposals.

The Prohibition Party of New York puts forward a vision of good government, based in moral principle, ethical public

service, and advancing the public wellbeing. To this end, we put forward the following proposals.

We must stand for the principles of democracy and free participation in our elections. We must work to repeal the anti-democratic changes to state ballot access laws passed in 2020, so that we may help to heal the damage done to our electoral system. We must move in a direction of establishing fair ballot access rules, which better allow for New Yorkers of all affiliations to participate in the electoral process and vote for the candidates of their choice.

We must work to further advance the principles of equality, justice, and the protection of public wellbeing in our society. We should work to enact stronger state ethics laws and increase anticorruption efforts. We should work to improve our system of law enforcement so that it may better provide equal justice for all New Yorkers.

We must work to address alcohol and other drugs as social and public health problems. We must end any and all state support for the alcohol industry and other such harmful industries. That includes prohibiting state agencies from being used to support the alcohol industry or its products, eliminating all special tax cuts that were given to the alcohol industry, prohibiting state money from being used to support any alcohol manufacturing or selling business, and restrengthen state restrictions on the alcohol industry. We must expand education, prevention, cessation, and addiction treatment programs for alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. We must work to increase restrictions on the sale of alcohol and other harmful substances, and work towards the eventual abolition of the alcohol, tobacco, and other recreational drug industries.

We must work to reduce the spread of the coronavirus, to improve our healthcare response to it, improve our state's vaccination efforts, work to minimize death and serious injury from the virus, and work toward putting an end to this pandemic.

We should work to rebuild our economy in a sensible way, that deals with the challenges imposed by the virus, meets the needs of New Yorkers, and supports honest productive businesses.

An approach that does fall into misguided efforts to support greedy companies at the expense of the public wellbeing or promote social ills in the name of revenue. We must adopt a holistic approach to economic growth and embrace opportunities for seeking positive economic growth. Whether that be through expanding our physical and digital, further developing our green energy industries, expanding education and job training opportunities, or various other efforts.

We should take further actions to protect the environment and advance renewable energy.

We should work to expand opportunities and improve services for those in the state living with disabilities.

We should reform our education system to improve the quality of education and ensure adequate funding for all schools. We should expand TAP and other financial aid efforts, and work towards a system where all New Yorkers have a reasonable opportunity to a debt-free education at any of the state's public and non-profit independent colleges, universities, and vocational schools.

Our state should work to take stronger actions to combat sexual predators. We should work towards abolishing the statute of limitations for rape and the sexual abuse of children. We must also take stronger actions to prevent and combat domestic violence by enacting measures such as passing Britany's law.

We welcome those who wish to help build a better future for New York to join us in our effort to seek positive reforms for our state, and to stand for moral principle, public wellbeing, and progress, against the regressive forces of greed and permissivism, who seek to drag down our state for their own selfish gain. As William Jennings Bryan had said, "The humblest citizen of all the land, when clad in the armor of a righteous cause, is stronger than all the hosts of error." Today, we may not have a large army of torchbearers, but we will light a torch that will burn on as we come together and march towards our destination. Let us work to build a better future for the people of New York state.