

# 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.

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"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." Jane Goodall

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## National and State Party News

The Prohibition Party continues to move forward with our efforts on the state and national level. On the national level, the National Secretary reports that the Prohibition Party continues to gain new members nationwide. The Prohibition Trust Fund Association is scheduled to hold its annual meeting in Binghamton, New York, on July 16<sup>th</sup>. They will likely make grants to various organizations engaging in temperance and prohibition activism.

On the state level, the Prohibition Party of New York continues to engage in public activism. There have been some successes in pushing back against misguided pro-alcohol policies in the state. The state government has finally ended the misguided policy which allowed bars and restaurants to sell alcohol to go during the coronavirus pandemic, and a group of politicians that tried to change state laws to make to go sales permanent was defeated in this year's legislative session. We have also worked to help inform local communities about their ability to pass local laws against Marijuana sales. We have begun an email campaign

to help inform people in local communities. So far, emails have been sent to over 100 local officials and community leaders.

## New York Ends State of Emergency

On June 24<sup>th</sup>, the New York State Government ended its official state of emergency related to the Coronavirus Pandemic. The state of emergency was originally declared on March 7, 2020, following the first case of the Coronavirus in New York on March 1<sup>st</sup>. During the state of emergency, the state government enacted various measures to deal with the coronavirus pandemic. The governor was given expanded emergency powers during the pandemic and enacted various policies through executive orders. As the state has managed to gain more control over the coronavirus situation and the rates of infection have significantly decreased, it was decided that the state of emergency would end. The Governor's special emergency powers have come to an end and many of the temporary policies established during the state of emergency have ended. The state will continue to follow policies established by CDC recommendations, including mask requirements for unvaccinated individuals, people on public transit, and people in various medical and government buildings. Overall, the state has begun to transition back to its regular operations.

Source: <https://gothamist.com/news/more-year-after-pandemics-start-cuomo-declares-state-disaster-emergency-end>

## State Ends Misguided Pandemic Era Pro-Alcohol Policies

Last year, the state government made the misguided decision to allow bars and restaurants to sell alcohol to go, despite the fact the problem of alcohol was both exacerbating and exacerbated by the pandemic. It has been announced that later this week, the state will be revoking those changes as part of ending the state of emergency that was declared last year.



It is good to see that the state will be reestablishing its old restrictions on alcohol sales. Though there are still some misguided elements that are trying to make those weakened restrictions permanent. We must do what we can to oppose their efforts and encourage legislators to instead take steps to address alcohol as a public health problem.

Source: [https://twitter.com/NY\\_SLA/status/1407764668043649034/photo/1](https://twitter.com/NY_SLA/status/1407764668043649034/photo/1)

## Some State Politicians Attempting to Revive Pandemic Era Pro-Alcohol Policies

A group of misguided state politicians are trying to resurrect the harmful pro-alcohol policies that the state had during the pandemic. Last week, the state had ended the policies which allowed bars and restaurants to sell alcohol to go. Those policies hurt public health. Increased drinking among segments of the population led to increases in alcohol-related illness, injury, domestic violence, and deaths. Now some Republican state legislators are calling for a special session of the legislature, to try to bring back those weakened restrictions on alcohol sales and make them permanent. They fail to recognize that doing that would hurt public health. They mistakenly believe that favoring alcohol selling businesses would help the economy. In reality, it would hurt the economy. Our state loses more money from the damages caused by alcohol use than it gets from selling alcohol. Alcohol selling businesses hurt their local economies and other businesses. Instead of offering sensible

and robust proposals to help rebuild the state's economy, these politicians are offering small-minded and failed policy proposals and kowtowing to corrupt special interests. The good news is that the leadership of the state legislature will probably reject the idea of holding a special session of the legislature for such an ill-conceived reason. Though these politicians will likely try to push their misguided proposals when the regular legislative session starts again. So, we will need to be vigilant and stand against their misguided agenda.

Source: <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/buffalo/ny-state-of-politics/2021/06/28/republican-lawmakers-call-for-special-session-to-revive-alcohol-to-go>



## Juneteenth Becomes Official National Holiday

On January 17<sup>th</sup>, President Biden signed a bill making Juneteenth an official national holiday. As a result, this year's Juneteenth celebration on June 19<sup>th</sup> was the first time that Juneteenth has been celebrated as a federal holiday. Juneteenth celebrates the end of slavery in the United States. It commemorates the day on which the U.S. military arrived in Galveston Texas in 1865 to announce the enforcement of the emancipation proclamation in Texas. Later that year, slavery was constitutionally abolished by the passage of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment. The holiday started as a local celebration of the abolition of slavery and over time grew to be a holiday celebrated by people across the nation. Some states recognized it as a state holiday. Now, the holiday has officially become a national holiday, serving to remind our nation of an important aspect of our history and how our nation moved to abolished one of the greatest evils that ever plagued our nation.

Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/06/17/politics/biden-juneteenth-bill-signing/index.html>

"You can imprison a man, but not an idea. You can exile a man, but not an idea. You can kill a man, but not an idea." Benazir Bhutto

## Taking Local Action Against Drug Sales

Earlier this year, the state legislature made the misguided decision to legalize the sale of recreational marijuana (to the detriment of public health and community welfare). Though it is possible for local communities to take action to opt out from marijuana sales. This year, it is possible for towns, villages, and cities to vote to establish restrictions on the licensing of marijuana sales in their communities or to ban the licensing of marijuana shops altogether. We would encourage New Yorkers in all communities to consider looking into passing local laws to opt-out of marijuana sales.



From Wikimedia Commons

## Cazenovia is Among the First Communities to Opt-out of Marijuana Sales

The village of Cazenovia is preparing to become one of the first communities to opt-out of recreational marijuana sales in the state. The village board has decided that will move forward with passing a local law banning marijuana dispensaries within the village. Officials in various other communities are reportedly looking into passing their own local bans and various other towns are planning to have local votes later in the year on whether or not recreational marijuana can be sold in their communities. Hopefully, many more communities will make the sensible decision to opt-out of recreational marijuana sales.

Source: [https://www.syracuse.com/marijuana/2021/07/cny-village-is-ready-to-just-say-no-to-retail-marijuana-sales-1-of-the-first-in-ny.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_campaign=syracuse\\_nf&fbclid=IwAR27GFwtgRrMWso3gfl\\_a-7YDrVwCB5ZPEEDXTs10F8n5ZWw2fceebsWpWA](https://www.syracuse.com/marijuana/2021/07/cny-village-is-ready-to-just-say-no-to-retail-marijuana-sales-1-of-the-first-in-ny.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&utm_campaign=syracuse_nf&fbclid=IwAR27GFwtgRrMWso3gfl_a-7YDrVwCB5ZPEEDXTs10F8n5ZWw2fceebsWpWA)

"True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever cost." —Arthur Ashe

## Governor Signs Opioid Lockbox Bill into Law

On June 30, Governor Cuomo signed the opioid lockbox bill into law. The law requires that all funds that the state government receives from settling lawsuits with opioid manufacturers have to be spent on funding on education, prevention, and addiction treatment programs for addressing the opioid problem. This law will help to ensure that the money that the state government gets from suing companies for their role in the opioid crisis will be used to help with fixing the opioid crisis. Recently, the state reached a settlement with Johnson and Johnson, in which the company agreed to pay \$230 million to the state. The passage of this bill should help to ensure that this settlement money will be used for its intended purpose.

Source: <https://www.wgrz.com/article/news/local/new-york-gov-andrew-cuomo-signs-opioid-lockbox-bill-into-law/71-064560de-166e-414c-9ee3-aeb9c8cc8ead>

## State Preparing for Coming School Year

The New York State Department of Education is working to prepare for the coming school year, as the state works to rebuild and return to normal operations following the pandemic. The NYSED has released information as to its priorities for supporting students in the coming school year. THE NYSED has identified its three main focuses as addressing lost instructional time and closing performance gaps, addressing social-emotional learning, and integrating evidence-based interventions into school systems. They also acknowledge a need to focus on helping students who were disproportionately affected by disruptions in education during the pandemic.

The NYSED plans to make grants to local educational agencies to support programs to make up for lost instruction time, such as summer school, after-school programs, extended school day programs, and extended school year programs. The state plans to fund universal access to pre-K education throughout the state. They plan to work on supporting school programs to promote social-emotional learning among students. The NYSED intends to take steps to encourage schools to use evidence-based approaches to address inequities in education and provide greater support to students who

have been underserved. The NYSED is also working with the New York State Department of Children and Families Services to help ensure that children in foster care are receiving proper support.

Time will tell how these efforts will work out. Though hopefully, the NYSED will do well in working to help ensure a quality education for all students in the coming school, and hopefully it will be able to take steps in addressing the inequities that have negatively impacted far too many students in the past.

Sources: <https://www.silive.com/education/2021/06/how-new-york-state-will-use-9b-in-federal-funds-to-support-students-as-schools-reopen-in-fall.html>

## **State Lawmaker Proposes THC Limits on Marijuana**

State Assemblymember Mike Lawler has proposed a bill to limit the level of THC in marijuana products. Bill A.8123 would limit the concentration of THC to 15% in marijuana flowers and 60% for solid concentrates and edibles. This proposed bill is designed to partially mitigate the damaging effects of marijuana sales on public health. It is based on a recognition that higher concentrations of THC in marijuana products have been associated with a higher likelihood of developing various marijuana-induced illnesses. This comes at a time when the state of Colorado has passed two bills restricting marijuana sales and various other states are considering bills for limiting THC.

Sources: <https://www.post-journal.com/news/page-one/2021/06/lawmaker-proposes-thc-limits-in-legal-marijuana/?fbclid=IwAR1LC8RR4HawTortVbpgQLqKongJfnNxdLxC-8vtcluuwORD4Fb8dZ0zbM>  
<https://www.westword.com/marijuana/colorado-governor-signs-bill-adding-new-medical-marijuana-restrictions-12017266>  
<https://www.denverpost.com/2021/06/24/colorado-marijuana-pot-thc-restrictions-new-law/>

## **Rebuilding the State Economy**

As New York State recovers from the pandemic, we face the challenges of working to rebuild the state economy. The pandemic significantly disrupted many areas of our economy. It led to the closure or disruption of various businesses, produced significant unemployment, and produced financial hardships for many New Yorkers. In addition, our state's economy was already facing various issues prior to the pandemic, which continued during it; such as the stagnation and decline of the local economies in many towns throughout our state, population loss in many communities, the underfunding of many schools throughout

the state, the decline of various industrial and retail businesses, the mismanagement of state economic development programs, and state politicians supporting businesses that profit of selling harmful products that sicken and kill New Yorkers (while also damaging the state economy), based on the false belief that these businesses would help the economy. New Yorkers face not only the challenge of rebuilding the state economy, but the opportunity to potentially rebuild it in a better state than it was before. Towards this end, we have compiled a list of various actions that could be taken to help rebuild the state economy.

Have the state government adopt a holistic approach to economic development. That is, the state government should learn to consider its economic development efforts in relation to the broader economy and society, and look beyond immediate appearances, to see cumulative and long-term effects. Economic development efforts should be responsible, sustainable, ensure adequate protection for public health and wellbeing, and take into consideration the needs of the community. The state should take steps to improve transparency and ensure that monetary investments are being done efficiently. The state should not support any business which causes significant harm to the lives and vital wellbeing of the public, or whose operations produce a greater cost to the economy than they generate.

The state government must end support for the alcohol, tobacco, and other recreational drug industries. The commercial sale of alcohol, tobacco, and other harmful recreational drugs cause vast harm to the lives and wellbeing of New Yorkers. The costs of the vast social, medical, and economic damages that these substances cause are greater than the amount of revenue that the state generates from them. These industries make our state sicker, poorer, and more highly taxed, so that they can profit at the expense of others. Too often, state politicians have foolishly supported these industries based on the false belief that they help the economy or generate revenue for the state. We must all state support for the alcohol industry and other industries which sell harmful drugs. That includes strengthening state restrictions

on the sale of alcohol and other harmful products. It includes getting rid of any special tax breaks that were given to any company that manufactures or sells these products, no longer using state agencies to advertise their products, and no longer giving any state money to support their businesses. Any company that manufactures or sells alcohol, tobacco, or the like should be made ineligible to receive funding from economic development programs, unless they agree to stop manufacturing or selling them. The state should work to develop programs that help companies to transition to new business models where they no longer sell harmful products.

Local Governments should also end any support to alcohol and tobacco businesses. They should get rid of any special local tax breaks they may have given, establish policies that make businesses that sell such products ineligible for local government aid, and support businesses working to transition to new business models. Local communities should also look into using ABC laws to restrict or ban the sale of alcohol in their town/city.

The state should work to support and expand programs to address the problem of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. As stated, alcohol, tobacco, and other harmful drugs cause significant damage to both public health and the economy. Working to address and alleviate these problems will help to reduce the costs of these problems in the long run. Money that was previously wasted on alcohol and other harmful products would be used to purchase other products and services, new businesses and jobs would be created to reflect this shift in consumption. Money that state and local governments previously had to spend to deal with problems caused by alcohol could be used to support new or existing programs and services for our communities. Worker productivity would improve, more people would free to pursue their potential (unfettered from the debilitating effects of harmful drugs), and more people would live longer and contribute to the local economy. In order to help achieve this, state and local governments should expand support for programs that educate the public about the harmful effects of alcohol and other drugs, prevention programs which encourage people to

avoid using those substances in the first place, cessation programs which help current users to quit, and addiction treatment programs to help those who have developed addictions to these substances.

The state should end support for the gambling industry. The gambling industry is harmful to the economy. It does not provide any useful product or service. It does not add to the wealth of our economy. Instead, it siphons wealth from the productive parts of our economy, while contributing to various social and economic problems, which harm New Yorkers and weaken our economy. The state should work to dismantle its state-sponsored gambling systems, end state support to private gambling companies, and work to reestablish previous restrictions on gambling.

The state should work to reinvigorate its educational system and work to better ensure that all students have access to a decent education. A quality education is important to producing an informed and active citizenry (which is crucial to achieving better policies and social advancements). Education is also important to fostering knowledge and skills which can help people to be able to pursue careers and contribute to the success of businesses, non-profit organizations, and public institutions. Our state should not only work to restore the normal operations of schools, but should take steps to improve the quality of education and to end the systemic underfunding of many school districts, so that all students can have access to a decent education. We should work to expand access to affordable post-secondary education, including colleges, vocational schools, and job training programs. Expanding the state's TAP program could go a long way in improving the affordability of post-secondary education.

Our state should take advantage of the opportunities provided by green energy. Our state has seen the solar and wind energy industries expand in recent years. There is still plenty of potential for these industries to grow and provide our state with more energy and jobs.

Our state should work to improve its physical and digital infrastructure. There is plenty of physical infrastructure in the

state which could be repaired or expanded, in order to better facilitate transportation, travel, and tourism. Expanding the availability of high-quality internet can help local businesses to benefit from online commerce.

Businesses can look to utilize new possibilities for remote working. Adjustments during the pandemic have shown that there are various types of work that can be done remotely. Businesses which can smartly make use of remote work can make themselves more flexible. The increased availability of remote work can help improve the job prospects for disabled New Yorkers and can help more people to acquire jobs, while still being able to live in their local communities (thus helping small towns to be better able to retain their populations).

The state government should work to reform its finances to alleviate the property tax burden on New Yorkers. The state government has tended to require local governments to pay for a significant portion of the state's budget through financial mandates. This has contributed significantly to high property tax rates in New York. By having the state government take greater responsibility for paying for its own expenses, localities could better afford to reduce property taxes and make it cheaper to live in the state.

The state government should work to foster a better economic environment for small towns, villages, and cities. The state government in the past has too often overlooked the economic needs of small communities, at a time when many small communities in the state have been struggling. The state should work to develop policies aimed at fostering the growth of honest businesses and industries in local communities, helping local communities retain and attract residents, and supporting community members in working to develop community services and infrastructure.

Members of local communities can engage in various actions to help develop their local economies. This can include working to promote sound local policies, working to start honest local businesses, supporting honest local businesses, supporting or developing good community organizations, supporting efforts to develop infrastructure in their community,

and various other actions. Local government officials, businessmen, community leaders, and activists take initiative to help promote efforts on the local effort and to promote better policies on the state level.

Overall, it will take a combination of individual and group efforts on the local and state level to help improve our state's economy. It will need smart approaches from those who are able to see the big picture and understand that the success of an economy is based in its ability to support the needs and interests of the people who live in a society.

## **New York Prohibition Party History**

### **Over 60 Prohibition Party Candidates Elected to Local Offices 1886-1888**

Earlier this month, a new historical paper, *Prohibition Party Candidates Elected to Local Offices in New York, 1886-1888*, by Jonathan Makeley, was released. The paper can be accessed from the historical section of the New York Prohibition Party website and can be directly accessed by this link: [https://615c4beb-b241-4f4a-a6b4-a074dc02ce34.filesusr.com/ugd/2cc7be\\_b4f96ee113a24dfbaeafe0223fb7a03c.pdf](https://615c4beb-b241-4f4a-a6b4-a074dc02ce34.filesusr.com/ugd/2cc7be_b4f96ee113a24dfbaeafe0223fb7a03c.pdf)

The Prohibition Party was significantly involved in the state and local politics of New York in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Prohibition Party ran candidates for local elections in many communities and in some cases successfully elected candidates. The paper provides a list of candidates that were identified to have been elected. It shows that the Prohibition Party elected over 60 candidates in local elections, across dozens of different communities in New York state between 1886 and 1888. Most of these elected candidates were elected in the western and central parts of New York state. This corresponds with the relative strength of the party in these areas in statewide and presidential elections in the 1880s.

The paper also contains a series of short biographies on 13 of those Prohibition Party candidates that were elected to local offices in 1886-1888. These articles help to provide information on the lives of these people, their connections to their communities and the party, and how these local officials were able to have an impact on their communities.