

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.

"Our American heritage is threatened as much by our own indifference as it is by the most unscrupulous office seeker or by the most powerful foreign threat. The future of this Republic is in the hands of the American voter."
Dwight Eisenhower

State and National News

The Prohibition Party continues to move forward on the state and national level. On the national level, the Prohibition Party continues to move forward with our work to build up the party in 2026 and beyond. The Prohibition Party website has been updated with some new pages regarding our efforts.

On the state level, the Prohibition Party continues to move forward with our legislative activism efforts. As this year's legislative session has opened, we have begun work encouraging legislators to support positive legislation and oppose harmful legislation. An important part of our activism so far this year has been, and will continue to be, opposing Governor Hochul's attempts to gut the state's Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Law regulations. We have started a change.org petition for people to help encourage state legislators to reject the Governor's misguided and harmful pro-alcohol agenda. You can view the petition through this link: <https://c.org/skgWL7KmNs>

Legislative Activism

The 2026 legislative session has started, and with it comes the opportunity to advocate to advancement of legislation to improve the condition of our state. In order to help advance positive legislation and oppose harmful legislation, we would like to highlight some noticeable bills that have been introduced in this year's legislative session.

Governor Hochul is trying to gut the state's Alcohol Beverage Control Laws. In this year's state of the state address, Governor Hochul had stated her intention to push for changes to the state's Alcohol Beverage Control Laws to weaken restrictions on alcohol sales, increase limits on the number of liquor licenses a company can hold, and expand the variety of locations allowed to sell alcohol in the state. She also stated her intention to make New York the "Nation's Hard Cider Capital; to have the state government partner with the New York Cider Association, to use state agencies and taxpayer dollars to promote hard cider consumption and hard cider businesses. We are working to oppose these efforts and encourage the members of the state legislature to reject any bill that would weaken state regulations on alcohol sales, expand liquor licensing limits, expand the types of venues that can sell alcohol, or would use state agencies or taxpayer dollars to support the alcohol industry. We have already begun some efforts to contact legislators and encourage them to vote against Governor Hochul's proposals. We have also begun a petition on Change.org to help people demonstrate their opposition.

On the positive side of things, the effort to advance the Addiction Prevention and Recovery Act (bill A04961/S2506) is ongoing. The bill, if passed, would significantly improve funding for prevention and addiction treatment programs for alcohol and other drugs. The



bill has now been reintroduced in the State Assembly by Assemblymembers Tapia and De Los Santos. The bill has again been sent in this year's legislative session to the Assembly's Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse and the Senate's Committee on Budget and Revenue. More efforts will need to be taken to encourage more state legislators to get on board with supporting and advancing the bill.

There is Bill A02724/S1870. This bill, if passed, would undo many of the anti-democratic changes to state ballot access laws that were made in 2020 and establish fairer standards. The bill has again been sent to the State Assembly's Committee on Election Law and the State Senate's Committee on Elections.

There is Bill A01232/S0053 in January. The bill, if passed, would strengthen drunk driving Page 1 listed as reported for further laws by decreasing the BAC level for DWI offenses from 0.08 BAC to 0.05 BAC and lowering the level for Aggravated DWI from 0.18 BAC to 0.12 BAC; which would help to reduce drinking deaths in the state. The bill has been referred again to the State Senate's Committee on Transportation and the State Assembly's Committee on Transportation.

There is Bill A5699/S1041. This if passed, would aspects of the state's driving laws to classify vehicular assault, manslaughter, and homicide committed under the influence of alcohol or other drugs as violent crimes, allow for the consecutive sentencing of vehicular

crimes that injure or kill multiple people, and expedites the process for obtaining a warrant for a sample when a drunk or drugged driver seriously injures or kills someone. The bill has been referred again to the State Senate's Committee on Codes and the State Assembly's Committee on Codes.

There is Bill A4999/S3196, which if passed, would ban the sale of flavored tobacco products, including menthol. The bill has been referred again to the State Assembly's Committee on Health. It has yet been reported if it will be referred again to the State Senate's Committee on Health.

There is Bill A00077/S5613, which if passed, would ban the sale of flavored smokeless tobacco products within 500 feet of an elementary school. It has been referred again to the State Senate's Committee on Health. In the State Assembly, the bill, which had made it a third reading in last year's legislative session, has already advanced again to a third reading in January. This provides hope that we may see the bill advance to a vote in the State Assembly this year.

There is Bill A00273, which if passed, would ban the sale of any electronic cigarette products that have not been given FDA approval. The bill has been referred again to the State Assembly's Committee on Health.

Overall, we will continue our work to promote the advancement of these bills and other positive legislation that may be introduced in this year's legislative session. We will continue to oppose harmful, regressive policy proposals and the corrupt influence of the alcohol industry in politics. We will continue to reach out to state legislators to encourage them to vote for bills that benefit the public and against bills that would harm the health, safety, and wellbeing of New Yorkers. And we will continue to inform sensible New Yorkers and encourage them to be engaged in state legislative activism.

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"The more advanced the country, the more its citizens insist on a pure water supply, on laws against careless methods of preparing and handling food, and against the making and advertising of harmful drugs. Powerful vested interests with profits at stake compel the public authorities to fight a sustained battle against the assumption that the pursuit of individual profit is the best way to serve the general good." Aneurin Bevan



HHS Dilutes Alcohol Guidelines

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has caved to alcohol industry influence and diluted its health and nutrition guidelines for alcohol. In January, the HHS finally released the 2025-2030 U.S. Dietary Guidelines. These guidelines are supposed to provide information and advice for Americans regarding their diets; including a section regarding alcohol consumption. Rather than updating the section on alcohol consumption to better reflect growing scientific understanding of the risks and harms of alcohol consumption, the current HHS leadership has instead caved to alcohol industry lobbying and watered-down the information and guidance provided.

For context of what led up to this, HHS is supposed to release updated dietary guidelines every five years. The previous 2020-2025 U.S. Dietary Guidelines included a section on alcohol consumption. These guidelines recommended that those who don't drink should not start drinking, that men who drink should limit themselves to two drinks per day, that women who drink should limit themselves to one drink per day, and that pregnant women, those under 21, those recovering from alcohol

addiction, and those who take medication that alcohol interferes with should avoid drinking.

In the years following the release of the 2020 guidelines, there has been growing scientific research highlighting that there is no safe level of alcohol consumption and that even light alcohol use can significantly increase risks for cancer and other illnesses. Accompanying this, there were health groups who advocated for the 2025-2030 Guidelines to be updated to include an even lower recommended limit on alcohol consumption to reflect this research. Additional momentum appeared to have been added in January 2025, when the U.S. Surgeon General released a report that highlighted the role that alcohol use plays in causing cancer (including recognizing that alcohol use is a direct cause of several types of cancer and that any level of alcohol use increases cancer risks). In the same month, the HHS released the draft of the 2025 Alcohol Intake & Health Study; one of the major studies for presenting scientific research on alcohol. The study demonstrated growing research showing the negative effects of 'moderate' alcohol consumption on health and that drinking even within the current recommended limits in the U.S. Dietary guidelines increased risks of death. Recommendations were being made to increase public information efforts about the negative effects of alcohol use on health. The Surgeon General voiced support for putting cancer warning labels on alcohol, similar to those on cigarettes.

Though, the alcohol industry retaliated against efforts to establish stronger guidelines on alcohol by launching a large-scale lobbying campaign to gain influence over the HHS. They took advantage of the change in HHS leadership with the new administration to expand industry influence and undercut those who wanted to take greater action to address alcohol as a public health problem. They used that influence to not only halt advancements in addressing alcohol, but also began to get the HHS to move backwards. In late 2025, the pro-alcohol industry elements within HHS were able to get the 2025 Alcohol Intake & Health Study withdrawn from publication by HHS, in favor of a competition report by a NASEM panel.

This panel had multiple members with financial ties to the alcohol industry and has had persistent issues of being affected by the alcohol industry's financial influence. They produced a report that parrots alcohol industry propaganda (including false claims of moderate alcohol use benefiting longevity, based on old, debunked studies based on severely flawed methodologies) and downplays the connection between alcohol use and cancer.

The alcohol industry further sought to use its influence to shape the new U.S. Dietary Guidelines. They sought to have the guidelines changed to remove the recommended limits on drinking entirely. They also sought to try to have language added encouraging drinking and promoting myths that "moderate" alcohol use is healthy. The release of the 2025-2030 U.S. Dietary Guidelines, which were supposed to come out in 2025, were delayed until early 2026.

In January 2026, the 2025-2030 U.S. Dietary Guidelines were finally released. Health advocates read them to find that alcohol industry influence had won out to a significant extent and that the guidelines on alcohol were watered down.

The new guidelines on alcohol now only read,

"+ Consume less alcohol for better overall health.

+ People who should completely avoid alcohol include pregnant women, people who are recovering from alcohol use disorder or are unable to control the amount they drink, and people taking medications or with medical conditions that can interact with alcohol. For those with a family history of alcoholism, be mindful of alcohol consumption and associated addictive behaviors."

They removed any recommended limits on drinking and replaced it with a vague statement about drinking less, without any guidance as to the amount to reduce it by or any information on the risks of different levels of consumption. They removed the language recognizing that those who do not drink should not start for any reason. They removed any language detailing the negative effects that alcohol can have on health.

There is some silver lining that the guidelines still include language saying

that people in general should drink less to benefit their health and that the alcohol industry failed to get language added encouraging alcohol use. But it still overall represents a weakening of the guidelines, rather than the strengthening of guidelines based on scientific evidence.

The changes in the guidelines have been met with criticism from a variety of scientists and public health groups.

Project Extra Mile Executive Director Chris Wagner stated, *"The entire point of the dietary guidelines is to keep citizens informed about what they can do to improve their health and reduce the chronic disease epidemic facing our nation... What does 'consume less' mean if you're drinking 30 standard drinks per week? The alcohol industry appears to have the ear of Trump administration officials who appear willing to sacrifice the nation's health to line industry pockets -- that's not making America healthy again."*

A statement from the group Alcohol Justice said,

"An impactful and effective set of behavioral guidelines for alcohol consumption must, at minimum, include three elements:

- *A clear description of the risks*
- *Concise actions that one can take to reduce those risks*
- *Thorough and easy-to-find documentation of the data used to make the recommendations*

Unfortunately, the most recent DGA guidelines contain none of those. Instead, the agency pared previous editions' page of information down to bullet points."

They further stated that,

"the final language does clearly establish that, no matter how much you drink, you are healthier if you drink less. But a truly strong and effective message would frame that truth into an understandable, motivational, and transformational behavioral target."

Some public health groups have responded by issuing their own recommendations. The Center for Science in the Public Interest released their own guidelines document based on the recommendations of the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee, titled "2025-2030 Uncompromised DGA".

Their section on recommendations for alcohol included,

"Do not begin to drink alcohol or purposefully continue to drink because you think it will make you healthier.

If you drink alcohol, at all levels of consumption, drinking less is generally better for health than drinking more.

For those who drink alcohol, recommended limits are up to 1 drink per day for both women and men."

The U.S. Alcohol Policy Alliance released their own recommended guidelines on alcohol consumption. Their recommendations included,

"If you do not drink alcohol, do not start.

If you do drink, cutting back — or stopping — reduces the risk of harm to your health.

Certain groups should avoid alcohol entirely, including:

People who are pregnant or may become pregnant,

Anyone under 21,

People with certain medical conditions or taking medications that interact with alcohol,

People recovering from alcohol use disorder, or who struggle to limit drinking, and

Individuals with a family history of alcohol-related cancers."

They also included details regarding risks for certain levels of alcohol consumption,

"Alcohol use increases the risk of liver disease, heart disease, several cancers, injuries, and addiction. It is also a major driver of gun violence, suicide, crime, and incarceration. Even moderate drinking can carry significant risk:

More than 7 drinks per week = 1 in 1,000 risk of alcohol-related death..

More than 9 drinks per week = 1 in 100 risk of alcohol-related death.

For men averaging 2 drinks per day = 1 in 25 risk of alcohol-related death."

By contrast, the alcohol industry is celebrating the weakening of dietary guidelines on alcohol. A coalition of alcohol industry groups put out a statement saying,

“The Dietary Guidelines’ longstanding, overarching advice is that if alcohol is consumed, it should be done in moderation. These updated guidelines, underpinned by the preponderance of scientific evidence, reaffirm this important guidance.”

The American Craft Spirits Association further stated,

“As you know, ACSA and the broader spirits industry have worked diligently to advocate reliance on scientific evidence that demonstrates alcohol in moderation can be part of a healthy lifestyle. ACSA has continued to champion that notion, while working to discredit sensationalized neoprohibitionist news reports and biased science. ACSA will continue to advocate for moderation with overall responsible drinking.”

The alcohol industry is happy that they were able to weaken the guidelines and think that they can use this to further their propaganda efforts to promote the false narrative that “moderate” drinking is healthy. The ACSA admits to their (and other alcohol industry groups’) lobbying efforts to try to shape the guidelines and to try to get HHS messaging to conform to the alcohol industry’s preferred narrative.

While they attempt to try to paint their campaign as supporting scientific evidence, what they are actually advocating for is that scientific claims of moderate alcohol use being healthy (despite being overwhelmingly based on flawed, outdated studies, which were often paid for by the alcohol industry) should be accepted as true without question by government agencies and in public opinion. At the same time, they seek to suppress public knowledge and acceptance of any sort of independent scientific research that goes against and disproves their pro-alcohol claims. They seek to suppress scientific evidence showing that any level of alcohol use is harmful and seek to prevent public health advocates from spreading awareness of that information. They seek to bend scientific institutions and public information providers to the will of their industry, they seek to misrepresent public health advocates as extremists, and seek to paint any independent scientific research challenging them as “biased science”, when it is them who are seeking to push biased science.

They try to claim that they support “responsible drinking”, when what they are really seeking to promote is the myth that so-called “moderate” drinking is safe. They do this so that they can continue to normalize widespread regular, habitual alcohol consumption, so that more people will continue to be less mindful of how much they drink and the effects their drinking has on them, so that more people will become drinkers in the future, and so that they can try to deny responsibility for the habitual and addicted users their industry profits off and exploits. The myth of moderation helps the alcohol industry lure people into becoming users and helps to keep people stuck as users.

The alcohol industry relies on misinformation and a lack of public awareness of the risks and harms of alcohol to keep their industry afloat. If the true extent of the harms of alcohol use became widely known and the myth of moderation were broken, then there would be a massive decrease in alcohol use, and the alcohol industry would lose much of its profits. This can be seen with what happened to the tobacco industry. Decades ago, the tobacco industry also tried to suppress public awareness of scientific research demonstrating the harms of their products and financed studies designed to claim that smoking was healthy. When scientific information on the harms of tobacco use became widely known and government agencies and public health groups launched mass public awareness and prevention efforts, there was a massive decrease in tobacco use over the following decades and tobacco use became denormalized for the average American. The tobacco industry became increasingly subject to stronger restrictions on sales, has had to take some financial responsibility for the health effects of their products, and has struggled to hold onto its dwindling base of remaining customers. The alcohol industry is seeking to prevent the same thing from happening to them.

The weakening of recommendations in the 2025-2030 Dietary Guidelines is a step backwards for public information efforts in the near term. But this fight is far from over. Public health groups and advocates can continue to share information about the risks and harms of alcohol use. They can continue to promote awareness of

guidelines from other sources that better reflect scientific evidence and promote healthier practices. They can continue to speak out against the alcohol industry’s attempts to influence government agencies and suppress information. They can advocate for future changes to HHS leadership that elevate those committed to independent scientific research, strong public information efforts, and treating alcohol like the public health problem it is. There will be another fight in the coming years for shaping the 2030-2035 U.S. Dietary Guidelines. Hopefully, by then public health advocates will regain the upper hand and convince future HHS leadership to adopt better guidelines.

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Letter to Editor: Justice too long delayed is justice denied

Stan Martin, a Buffalo anti-tobacco activist and representative of No Menthol Buffalo, has submitted a letter to the editor of the New York Prohibitionist on the issue of menthol tobacco products. The letter reads as follows:

*To the Editor,
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. made it plain in his *Letter from Birmingham Jail*: “Justice too long delayed is justice denied.” Those words should haunt the ongoing failure of Buffalo’s leadership to ban the sale of flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes.*

For generations, Big Tobacco has deliberately targeted Black communities with menthols saturating our neighborhoods with ads, price discounts, and addiction while fully aware of the deadly consequences. Higher rates of cancer, heart disease, and asthma in Black communities are not accidental. They are the predictable outcome of corporate exploitation rooted in racism and greed. Dr. King spent his life confronting exactly this kind of injustice.

No Menthol Buffalo is carrying forward that legacy by demanding an end to the sale of all flavored tobacco products. This is not about individual choice it is about stopping an industry that profits by shortening Black lives. Ending menthol sales is a matter of racial justice, public health, and human dignity. Yet the City of Buffalo, Corporate Counsel and the Buffalo Common Council continue to delay our progress to build a healthier city.

More studies. More conversations. More excuses. All while Big Tobacco keeps cashing checks and Black families keep burying loved ones. Dr. King warned us about the false comfort of gradualism and the harm caused by leaders who value order over justice. Buffalo is living that warning right now. The truth today is simple: delaying a menthol ban is siding with Big Tobacco. We need moral courage, not more process!

*Regards,
Stan "The Man" Martin
(He/Him)*

"True democracy focuses on the public interest; it defends the common good and protects its citizens - especially the weak and the vulnerable. We maintain that no democracy can survive without the powerful notions of compassion and public service." Tavis Smiley

Over 8,000 A Year

Over 8,050 a year. That is the number that of New Yorkers who die as a result of excessive drinking each year according to the New York State Department of Health.

On their website, the NYDOH states that "More than 8,050 New Yorkers die each year due to excessive alcohol use, shortening the lives of those who die by an average of 24 years."

They further acknowledge that acknowledge that it can led to a variety of short and long term health problems, including "heart disease, liver disease, digestive problems, and several types of cancer" and can lead to "motor vehicle injuries or drowning; violence including homicide, suicide, sexual assault, and intimate partner violence."

Unfortunately, the Governor and far too many members of the state legislature do not recognize this problem in any sufficiently meaningful sense and are instead working to make the problem worse.

"Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or in the darkness of destructive selfishness." Martin Luther King, Jr



The Prohibition Party of New York Response to Governor Kathy Hochul's 2026 State of the State Address

January 22, 2026

On January 13th, 2026, 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 for what she would like to see in the coming year. In the interest of advancing a productive discourse as to the condition and future of the state of New York, we put forward a response to Governor Hochul's address; in which, we evaluate his statements and proposals, and counter by articulating our own vision and proposals for the state.

In her address, Governor Hochul stated that "government can and must be a force for good". That principle is correct. Government can and must be a force for good. It should act as a means for the people to protect their lives, rights, and vital wellbeing, and serve to enable the uplifting of humanity. Our state government should actually seek to live up to that principle. But, our state government under the leadership of Governor Hochul has not lived up to that principle in some important respects. Rather, her administration and figures in the state legislature have taken actions that go against this; that have gutted protections for the public and have served to enable those who seek to exploit and harm New Yorkers for their own selfish gain. While trying to profess high ideals, the details of her plan include proposals aimed at further harming the people of this state and moving further into regression.

Governor Hochul seeks to continue to push forward regressive pro-alcohol policies that will harm the people of New York. Governor Hochul has pushed pro-alcohol policies, weakening restrictions on alcohol sales, giving special tax breaks to the alcohol industry, and using state agencies and taxpayer money to promote the growth of the alcohol industry. She fails to recognize that alcohol is a social and public health problem, which causes widespread illness, injury, and death for New Yorkers, that damages our economy and communities, and costs our state over 16 billion dollars a year in social, medical, and economic damages. She fails to recognize how deaths from alcohol induced deaths across the nation have surged over the years, in significant part due to states weakening restrictions on alcohol sales.

Governor Hochul wants to go even further down the wrong path. She wants to gut the state's Alcohol Beverage Control laws; removing important safeguards designed to limit the alcohol industry's ability to harm communities. She wants to triple the number of liquor licenses and locations a single alcohol producer can have. She wants to expand alcohol sales into a variety of locations, including sports bars, cafes, airport lounges, hotels, and movie theaters. She wants to remove the separation between bars and dancing establishments. She wants to make New York the "Nation's Hard Cider Capital". She wants the state government to partner with the New York Cider Association, and use state agencies and taxpayer dollars to promote hard cider consumption and hard cider businesses.

Governor Hochul has bought into a dangerous delusion that promoting the alcohol industry will somehow help grow the state's economy. That is false. The alcohol industry does not help the economy; it harms it. It profits off its harmful products, while the costs of the damages caused are mostly passed onto the rest of society. Expanding the alcohol industry will only make our state sicker, poorer, and more highly taxed, and using the state government to help it fundamentally violates the ethical duties of government to protect the lives, rights, and vital wellbeing of its citizens.

The lives of New Yorkers should not be sacrificed on a slaughter bench of greed. As such, the Prohibition Party of New York stands in opposition to Kathy Hochul's regressive pro-alcohol agenda, will encourage all sensible New Yorkers to join in opposing it, and will encourage members of the state legislature to remember their duty to the people and reject her proposals.

Governor Hochul is also seeking to continue to push regressive pro-drug policies for marijuana. Instead of recognizing the failure of legalization for recreational marijuana sales, Governor Hochul wants to use state agencies and taxpayer dollars to further promote the growth of the marijuana industry. She wants to use the state's SUNY and CUNY college systems to help the marijuana industry. Such misguided policies would only serve to further damage public health and would misuse our public institutions to drag down the public in service of marijuana industry profit. This is yet another area in which Hochul goes against principles of good governance.

In her address, Governor Hochul claimed to want to help protect consumers in New York. But she will not take action to protect New Yorkers from the sale of harmful and toxic products. And instead, she is actively working to harm New York consumers.

Governor Hochul has provided some proposals for dealing with aspects of some drug-related public health problems. Governor Hochul has proposed increasing enforcement against the sale of illegal vape products, establishing a youth-led substance use prevention symposium, using the GRACE program to help support non-profits working to help prevent overdoses and help for those struggling with drug addiction, initiatives for expanding prevention and addiction treatment efforts for opioid abuse, and advancing policies to allow for integrated services that provide combined mental health and substance abuse treatment. These proposals could help with alleviating some aspects of these problems. Though, the positives that could come from these would be contradicted and overshadowed if her other pro-drug policies were to be advanced. Our state needs policies that are focused on recognizing alcohol,

tobacco, and other drugs as a public health program; on advancing education, prevention, cessation, mental health, and addiction treatment, and increased restrictions aimed at progressively reducing the commercial availability of harmful substances.

In this year's address, we have seen Governor Hochul has again continued to remain silent on the anti-democratic changes to state ballot access that were made in 2020 under then-governor Cuomo. These changes were an act of electoral suppression; which have made it vastly harder for alternative parties and candidates to even have the chance to be on the ballot and have deprived voters of many of the options they once had on the ballot. In 2022, New York only had the two major party candidates on the ballot for the first time in several decades. In 2024, New York was the only state to have the two major party presidential candidates on the ballot. Even worse, in the 2024 elections, roughly one-third of state legislative districts had only one candidate on the ballot. That is disgraceful to the democratic heritage of our state and our state's past legacy of being host to a variety of alternative parties in elections. Despite her past claims of wanting to restore trust and integrity in state government, Governor Hochul has not spoken up on the issue and has not taken action to help remedy the problem. These repressive ballot access laws are a blight upon the electoral system of our state. We should be establishing election laws that enhance the ability of voters to vote for the candidates of their choice, that allow for freer participation in the electoral process, and provide fairer ballot access standards for independent candidates and alternative parties.

Governor Hochul devoted a significant portion of this year's address talking about regulatory reform. She proposed making changes to the State Environmental Quality Review Act to seek to expedite environmental reviews for prioritized building and infrastructure projects (while maintaining broader environmental regulations) and establishing a standard timeline for completing environmental reviews for projects within two-years. Hochul also claims to want to advance regulatory changes more broadly in the name of

efficiency and getting rid of what she terms to be "outdated and burdensome regulations".

Now, in general, it is good to review and update regulations to help ensure their efficiency and balance interests. But the effectiveness of this relies on sound analysis and judgement of those engaging in the review and amendment of regulations. We must be vigilant to ensure that updated regulations continue to serve their core functions for advancing public interests. To ensure that regulations that protect the health, safety, and wellbeing of New Yorkers are not gutted to make it easier for business interests to enrich themselves to the public's detriment. Hochul's description of Alcohol Beverage Control regulations as "out-of-date, Prohibition-era rules" exposes that she is, on some level, trying to use regulatory reform as a smokescreen for gutting public protections. As such, New Yorkers must be vigilant on the details of proposed regulatory reforms, to distinguish changes that would actually improve efficiency, versus changes that would be harmful to the public.

Governor Hochul made a number of proposals in regards to education. These proposals included expanding towards universal pre-k education availability across the state, expanding school programs for two- and three-year-olds in New York City, expanding support for educating and training for early childhood educators, expanding efforts for recruiting, educating, and training future teachers to reduce teacher shortages in the state, and seeking to update math education practices, and expanding support for youth mental health efforts. These proposals could help to benefit general education in the state. There were also proposals for expanding programs to provide tuition free education at SUNY and CUNY schools for high demand fields, expanding the studies covered under those programs to include more fields such as logistics, air traffic control, and emergency management, having SUNY and CUNY schools expand the amount of internship and work experience opportunities for students, investments in expanding skills training programs, efforts to improve accessibility and support at SUNY and CUNY for disabled students,

expanding support for programs to help disabled high school students transition to college, increasingly transparency requirements for student loan refinancing, and expanding methods of emergency aid to help students facing emergencies to be able to remain enrolled in college. These proposals could have some benefits for improving college affordability, accessibility, and workforce preparation.

Governor Hochul devoted part of her address to discussing criminal justice matters. As part of it, she made proposals including expanding crime analysis centers across the state, investing in updating state crime labs, and establishing more standard training for police academies. Those proposals may help to improve the quality and effectiveness of law enforcement. The Governor also proposed changing state law to remove a loophole that allows people with orders of protection against them to get out of it by not showing up to court hearings for extending the order and having the court order lapse. She also proposed reforming sexual assault evidence kit procedures to extend retention periods for survivors assaulted as children and ensure that evidence cannot be destroyed without a survivor's consent; as well as increasing support for victim assistance programs. The governor also proposed expanding enforcement against wage theft. These proposals could help to improve the provision of justice and alleviate gaps in our legal system.

The governor spent part of her address talking about matters of infrastructure, development, and energy. The governor proposed making investments in updating and expanding the state's water infrastructure, expanding efforts to replace lead pipes, expanding support for county infrastructure programs, and supporting further development of flood protection infrastructure. These could help to improve aspects of the state's infrastructure.

The governor proposed expanding the caps on land banks in the state, expanding eligibility for downtown revitalization programs to include the centers of small towns and villages, and increasing oversight of local industrial development agencies. These proposals could have benefits for local economic development in the state.

Governor Hochul noted successes in the growth of solar energy in the state and has proposed further efforts to promote the growth of solar energy. Advancing the development of solar energy could help to provide more energy for the state, with less environmental impact, and expand economic opportunities in our state.

The governor proposed expanding support for state parks, expanding access to state parks for New Yorkers, increasing support for community centers, increasing support for food banks, and programs to help renovate food banks in the state. These could provide benefits and aid for local communities.

Governor Hochul spent part of her address focusing on support for disabled New Yorkers. She made proposals, including expanding support for New York children born deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing, efforts to make state parks more accessible, efforts to make SUNY and CUNY colleges more accessible for disabled students, and efforts to expand the availability of ASL translation. These efforts could help to expand inclusivity and opportunity for disabled New Yorkers.

Governor Hochul has proposed expanding enforcement against youths participating in online sports betting. It would be good to improve enforcement and better protect youth from falling into gambling. Though the rising problem of gambling in the state has been facilitated by increasingly weak restrictions on gambling and the expansion of gambling outlets. Greater steps will need to be taken to seriously address the overall negative effects of the gambling industry in our state.

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 work to address alcohol and other drugs as the social and public health problems that they are. We should work to 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 (save for support in helping them to transition into alcohol-free businesses), and restrengthen state restrictions on the alcohol industry.

We should adopt a comprehensive approach to address the harm of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. This includes developing and expanding education programs, to educate the public on the harms of alcohol and other drugs, spread awareness of the benefits of teetotalism, and help prevent people from using alcohol and other drugs in the first place. It includes expanding addiction treatment programs to help those seeking to overcome addiction, as well as developing and expanding cessation programs to help users in general who are seeking help to quit alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. It involves working to expand supports that help to deal with problems that exacerbate and/or are exacerbated by the use of alcohol and other drugs. Such as working to improve mental healthcare. It also involves addressing the commercial aspect of this problem. We should work to enact policies that will progressively increase restrictions on the sale of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. We should enact policies that will work to transition communities and businesses away from the sale of intoxicants and towards products and services that do not harm public health. We should work to build a culture of sobriety and work towards dismantling the alcohol, tobacco, and other recreational drug industries. By embracing a comprehensive approach, our state could make great progress

New York should stand for the principles of democracy and free participation in our elections. We urge the state legislature 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. And even after those damages are fixed, we must continue to move towards further progress. Our state should move in the direction of establishing fair ballot access rules, which would better allow for New Yorkers of all affiliations to

participate in the electoral process and vote for the candidates of their choice.

In order for our state to progress, 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 improve transparency and accountability within our state government. We should work to improve our system of law enforcement so that it may better provide equal justice for all New Yorkers. We should work to reform our state's institutions to be more effective and better serve the public.

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 should also enact policies to take stronger actions to combat and prevent sexual violence, domestic violence, and child abuse.

Our state should adopt a sensible and holistic approach to economics. We should work to rebuild our economy in a sensible way, that deals with the challenges imposed by the pandemic and international inflation, meets the needs of New Yorkers, and that supports honest productive businesses. The state government should not fall into misguided efforts to support greedy companies at the expense of the public wellbeing or promote social ills in the name of revenue, as they have done in the past, and continuing to do in the present. Rather the state should pursue opportunities for positive economic growth. We should look to ensure that economic development efforts are well thought out, that economic development efforts are connected to efforts develop infrastructure, education, healthy public spaces, and solid public services, and that economic development help improve the opportunities and prosperity available to New Yorkers. We should look to help build up and strengthen communities throughout the state. Especially the communities that have been underserved and neglected by state government policies in past decades.

We should take further actions to protect the environment and advance renewable energy. So that New Yorkers

can live and prosper in a healthier environment for generations to come.

We should work to expand opportunities and improve services for those in the state for disabled New Yorkers. So that we may better advance equality and the ability of New Yorkers to live fulfilling lives.

We should reform our education system to improve the quality of education and ensure adequate funding for all schools. We should work restrengthen the teaching of key subjects in schools, advance informational literacy, promote intellectual and ethical development, promote critical thinking, and foster civic engagement. We should further 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.

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." As John St. John said, "Some people say our party, that it has not got money nor uniforms nor 80,000 torchbearers. Very True. But we are lighting a torch that will burn forever."

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. We welcome sensible New Yorkers, who care about good governance and the wellbeing of their communities, to join us. Let us work to build a better future for the people of New York State.

"Prohibition is everywhere except in the liquor traffic, because people foolishly vote and support politicians, who profit by the sale of rum. I urge the working men of this city to vote only with a party 'that declares against the greatest monopoly in this country—the liquor traffic'." J. H. Hector



New York Prohibition Party History

Some Examples of Local Conventions in the Early 1900s

The Prohibition Party had an extensive presence throughout New York State in the early 1900s. The New York State Prohibition Party organization fielded candidates for statewide offices and supported national campaigns within the state. Though beyond the statewide organization, there were various local party organizations which held local conventions, ran candidates for local office, and supported broader Prohibition Party campaigns within their communities.

To help give some sense of what these local conventions were like, here are some excerpts from news reports on some local conventions.

1; Report on a New York City Prohibition Party convention in 1901, titled "Prohibitionists Name a Ticket" by the *New York Tribune*, September 11, 1901.

"PROHIBITIONISTS NAME A TICKET."

At a meeting of the Prohibition party, held last night at One-hundred-and-nineteenth-St. and Second-Ave., the following nominations were made:

For Mayor—ALFRED L. MANIERRE.

For Controller—FRANCIS CRAWFORD.

For President of the Board of Aldermen—JOHN M'KEE.

The delegates from The Bronx made the following nominations:

For President of Bronx Borough—C. F. JEWELL. For Coroners—Dr. GEORGE F. SHERMAN and Dr. D. P. SMAGG.

A resolution, in part as follows, was adopted:

No great evil has ever been righted except by defiance. When the Republican party said "No further" to slavery, slavery was doomed; when polygamy was defied, polygamy died. If the saloon is defied by the law abiding citizens of New-York, the saloon will cease its political domination here, and Tammany's power will be fatally crippled. The man or citizens league or party that is not against the saloon is giving aid and comfort to Tammany. Not for its life dare the

Citizens Union league say, "We believe in the enforcement of law." Not for its life dare the Citizens Union league say, "We believe in the closing of the saloons on Sundays, on election days, or after midnight," as required by law. Not for its life dare the Citizen's Union league say, "If we elect our candidate for Mayor we will refuse our consent to the legislation of the opening of the saloons on Sunday in Greater New-York."

The majority of the members of the Citizens Union league would be in panic if tomorrow morning they should read in the papers that the Prohibition party of Greater New-York, in convention assembled, had resolved to support at the coming election the candidate for Mayor of the Citizens Union league. On the other hand, they would greatly rejoice should they read that the united saloon organizations of the city had resolved to support the same candidate of the Citizens Union league.

After the reading of the resolution it was voted: "That we hold the Republican party jointly guilty with Tammany in the political corruption of New-York."

2; Report on a Meeting of the Prohibition Party of Westchester County in 1902, titled "Prohibition Party Holds Convention", by the *Herald Statesman*, July 25, 1902.

"PROHIBITION PARTY HOLDS CONVENTION.

The members of the Prohibition Party of Westchester County called a convention at New Rochelle, Wednesday, July 23, to place in nomination candidates for county offices. After attending to such business as was properly brought before the meeting, they listened to several addresses, made by men of national reputation in the Prohibition cause. The principal speaker of the day was the Rev. J. H. Hector. Those present showed great enthusiasm and the party looks forward to an exceptionally strong vote this Fall.

In the evening, the Rev. Mr. Hector, who, by his force of manner and devotion to the cause of temperance has been styled the "Black Knight of Prohibition," journeyed to Yonkers and spoke in Getty Square. He said in part:

"The license system, like slavery, is one law in opposition to another law. The Constitution guaranteed liberty to all, while slavery unchained four and a half millions. The Constitution now guarantees domestic tranquility, and then by law permits 'grog' shops to destroy domestic tranquility. No reform can be complete and successful while the saloon remains. The Prohibitionists are

not the only ones who believe in prohibiting; the railroad company fines and imprisons for spitting on the floor or out of the windows of their cars; they even prohibit their employes from frequenting saloons. Prohibition is everywhere except in the liquor traffic, because people foolishly vote and support politicians, who profit by the sale of rum. I urge the working men of this city to vote only with a party 'that declares against the greatest monopoly in this country—the liquor traffic'."

Over 500 men listened to this address. It is expected that Mr. Hector will be secured to make another speech here as meetings on the Square are to be held each week during the summer.

Rev. J. H. Hector was born at Harper's Ferry, Va., of slave parents. He served in the Union Army during the war, in company with his three brothers, who were killed at the battle of Shiloh. After the war he came North and obtained employment on the Fitchburgh Railroad, first as fireman and afterwards as engineer. He left this employment to take up temperance work. He has made a tour of the world lecturing in the cause of temperance."

3; Report of a meeting of local Prohibitionists in Yonkers in 1903, titled "Six at Prohibition Meeting", by the *Yonkers Statesman*, September 4, 1903.

"SIX AT PROHIBITION MEETING.

A meeting of the Prohibition Party electors residing in the several wards of the city was held in the Swedish Mission Hall, 23 North Broadway, last evening. There were six persons present, among them being Thomas W. Organ, who represents the Prohibitory Educational Union of Westchester County. Benjamin R. Gilmour was elected Temporary Chairman; and Charles B. Hall, Temporary Secretary.

The following nominations of candidates for city offices were made:

For Mayor—Charles B. Hall.

For Justice of the Peace—August Carlson.

For Aldermen—J. Corbin Rawson, First Ward; James H. Hoag, Second; Henry L. Huntington, Third; Alsi M. Owen, Fifth; James W. Beacom, Sixth; Charles Thorne, Seventh.

For Supervisors—Henry F. Burke, First Ward; A. O. Kirkwood, Second; George W. Pohl, Third; James W. Nickels, Fifth; James W. Main, Sixth.

There being no Prohibition lawyer in the city, no candidate for the office of City Judge was named.

A Prohibition Party Convention, an Assembly District and a Senatorial Convention will be held in White Plains, at 1 o'clock on Monday afternoon; and the following delegates were elected to attend: Messrs. Rawson, Kirkwood, Hall, Gilmour, Owen, Beacom and Organ, John Ihmer and John Hudson.

The following City Committee was chosen to conduct the campaign work, and issue convention calls: Messrs. Burke, Hoag, Ihmer, Carlson, Carr and Organ. Finance Committee—Messrs. Carlson, Huntington and Hall."

4; Report on 1903 New York City Prohibition Party convention, titled "Prohibition's City Ticket", by the *New York Times*,

"PROHIBITION'S CITY TICKET.

Party Convention Hears Denunciation of Mayor Low for Liberal Excise Policy.

While the band in attendance played "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow" the City Convention of the Prohibition Party met last night in Lyric Hall, at Sixth Avenue and Forty-second Street, and placed in nomination a full city ticket, to be voted for at the next November election. Announcement was made that the Prohibitionists "are not afraid of a Summer campaign to produce the Winter of the gin mill's discontent." There were nearly 200 persons present at the convention, and "the slate," as previously agreed upon, went through without a hitch.

John McKee, a Brooklyn builder, was named for Mayor, and Levi Hoag, manager of the Total Abstinence Department of the Security Mutual Life Insurance Company, for Controller, while Dr. W. H. Draper, a Harlem dentist, was named for President of the Board of Aldermen.

The platform declared against "the public, legalized grogshop," and demanded the prohibition of the manufacture, importation, transportation, and sale of intoxicating liquor for beverage purposes. The belief is expressed that corporations enjoying public franchises should be made to serve the people, and it is declared that "right administration of municipal government will be able to correct the abuses which exist under the present management of our public utilities."

The Raines law was denounced and "the prospective sale of liquor on Sunday" was bitterly opposed. The overthrow of the "weekday saloon is invoked as the only sure way of overthrowing the Sunday saloon."

Alfred L. Manierre, recent candidate of the party for Governor, acted as Chairman of

the convention, with George MacEachron as Secretary, the convention being opened with prayer by J. H. Durkee of Rochester, the State Chairman of the party.

Addresses were made by Dr. Charles H. Mead, who said, "Mayor Low has kept his promise to the saloon keepers to give a liberal enforcement of the liquor law, instead of keeping his oath of office to enforce all the laws," and by Dr. Samuel Dickie, President of Albion College, Michigan, and ex-Chairman of the National Committee of the Prohibition Party. He said:

"I believe I am a splendid specimen of the voting men, and I take pleasure in saying that I have been voting for thirty years and never yet have cast a ballot for a candidate for Governor or Congress who has been elected."

Before the convention adjourned Dr. Mead undertook the work of raising \$100 to pay the expenses of the convention, including the hall. He raised the money in a few minutes, starting in with Mr. Manierre, the Chairman, and securing a ten-dollar contribution from him."

5; Report on the 1903 Local Convention for the Prohibition Party in Rome, N.Y., titled "Party Nominations: The City Convention Selects Candidates", by the Rome Daily Sentinel, September 30, 1903.

"PROHIBITION NOMINATIONS

THE CITY CONVENTION SELECTS CANDIDATES. A. P. Root Named for Mayor After an Interesting Discussion Regarding Endorsement—Candidates Praised—George D. Harger for Assemblyman.

The Prohibition city convention held at the City Hall on Tuesday evening was a remarkable one in several respects. An unusually large number of the members of the party were present and extraordinary interest was taken in the question of whether it was better to endorse the candidate of one of the old parties and assist in his election or name a strict Prohibition party man to head the ticket.

George D. Harger called the meeting to order and on motion was chosen to preside over its deliberation. Howard E. Tiffany was made secretary. The chairman said he was glad to see so many present and went on to tell about the inception of the party back in the '70s, when failing to get its rights from the Republicans the new party was launched. He related his experience in attempting to secure the conviction of liquor sellers in Camden recently and scored the district attorney's office. Mr. Harger said it had been suggested by some that the party could with

credit place the name of Dr. T. G. Nock at the head of the Prohibition ticket for mayor, and asked what was the pleasure of the convention regarding the nomination for mayor.

T. S. Griffin moved that the name of Dr. Nock be so placed, as the nominee of the party. He was a temperance man and an honest citizen. The motion was seconded.

John R. Foot said that so far as any candidate of the old party standing for the principles of the Prohibition party was concerned one was as good as the other. He believed that Mr. Grogan, the Democratic candidate for mayor, was a temperance man, lived up to the law, and was well qualified to successfully conduct the affairs of the city in a business-like manner.

William H. Engle said that he had a right to vote as he pleased, and he was a member and believer in the Prohibition party. By endorsing a candidate not a member of the party his right to vote as he desired was taken away from him. Name a party man, and then if there are any who desire to support either of the old party men they have the opportunity to do so.

Dr. George E. Cheney said that a stream can not rise higher than its source; neither can a political office-holder rise above his party. Either Mr. Grogan or Dr. Nock would make conscientious mayors, and there is not any choice between them politically. What we want is a Prohibitionist, that we may be able to vote for the principles for which our party stands. It has been argued that we should endorse the Republican nominee because we can not elect our candidate. If that is so why name any candidates? Let us pick out the best men in the two parties and help elect them.

Roselle Reader moved that a Prohibitionist be named for mayor on the ticket or that the office be left blank. Not seconded.

Mr. Harger called Mr. Reader to the chair and took the floor. He said: I understand Mr. Grogan is a temperance man, although in the saloon business. His business is a legitimate one, made so by law. He is a successful business man and while in the council looked after the interests of his ward in a capable manner. I have failed to find a breath of suspicion against him as a grafter. I honor and respect Dr. Nock and believe that as mayor of Rome he would be all that could be desired. He would be careful and painstaking in his administration, but be no more than Mr. Grogan would represent the interests of the Prohibition party. Last year Mr. Caswell was endorsed by the party and

what did he do for the cause of prohibition? Whatever you do here tonight, men, stand by your action.

The motion to place Dr. Nock's name at the head of the ticket was defeated by a vote of 17 to 5.

Mr. Harger placed in nomination as a candidate for mayor Almon P. Root. He said he was a Christian, an active business man, and one whom all could look up to with respect, one who would make the appointments for the best interest of the city.

By a unanimous rising vote Mr. Root was named.

Mr. Root said that he desired to have someone better known to be named, as he was practically a stranger here. He had the best interests of the party at heart when he made the request.

For justice of the peace Louis W. M. Wilson was named unanimously. He accepted the nomination because he felt it incumbent to accept and perform every duty placed upon him by the principles and party he upheld.

The following constables were named: Roselle Reader, P. A. Villodas, Dr. George E. Cheney and Charles H. Wengatz.

For chairman of the city committee George D. Harger was chosen with Howard E. Tiffany secretary and John E. Drake treasurer. The city convention then adjourned.

The third Assembly district convention was immediately called to order and George D. Harger named as candidate for member of Assembly.

A. P. Root and H. E. Tiffany were named a committee to fill any vacancies that may arise on the Prohibition ticket. Adjourned."

From these examples, we can see some aspects of how local conventions could be like. Members of local Prohibition Party candidates would gather at available locations to discuss local party business, nominate local candidates, and work to support broader party efforts. Sometimes they would host speeches major Prohibition Party and prohibition supporting figures. Sometimes local conventions would select delegates for larger district and statewide conventions, shaping the selection of statewide and state legislative candidates. Local party organizations helped to grow the party, support campaigns, promote social reform, and have an impact on the communities they existed in.