

National Prohibitionist



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Prohibition Party Moves Forward

The Prohibition Party has been working to reinvigorate itself and lay the groundwork for future growth over the past year, following the 2024 election. Following the completion of the 2020 election, party leadership took time to analyze and reflect on how the campaign had gone and the election results. We also looked at information regarding the party's membership, membership participation, organizational efforts, and opportunities for growing and developing the party. In January, the Prohibition Party made some steps to move forward.

The Prohibition Party has adopted an intermediate 2025 Platform for the party to use in the years between now and when the party will convene at the national convention to create the 2028 platform. National Chairman Zack Kusnir had worked to gather input from party membership and drafted a set of proposed changes designed with a focus on maintaining continuity between previous platforms, while addressing the main concerns that members have expressed regarding aspects of the 2024 Platform, and seeking to reflect more of a consensus among party membership. Those changes included replacing the 2024 plank titled "Sanctity of Life", with a new plank titled "Right to Life", replacing the 2024 plan titled "Second Amendment Rights" with a plank titled "Constitutional Right to Keep and Bear Arms", and making some changes to the wording of the first paragraph of the "Alcohol, Tobacco, and Recreational Drug Abuse" plank to further emphasize our focus on confronting the harms caused by the alcohol industry. The proposed changes were put to a vote of the party's dues-paying members; with the two plank replacements passing with 77% percent of the vote and the amending of the first paragraph of the "Alcohol, Tobacco, and

Recreational Drug Abuse" plank passing unanimously.

The full 2025 Platform can be read on the Prohibition Party website:
<https://www.prohibitionparty.org/platform>

In this period, there was a noticeable growth in active membership, with both old members returning to active participation and from new members joining. By the end of January, the number of active dues-paying members had increased 76% from a combination of old members returning to paying dues and new members starting to pay dues.

The Prohibition Party conducted a new fundraising effort from February to March. A generous member of the party has offered to match donations to the party until the end of March. We received \$513 in donations, which with an equal amount in matching funds, resulted in \$1,026 raised.

The Prohibition National Committee held a national conference on March 6th. During the conference call, committee members discussed several aspects of party business and plans for efforts going forward.

We have begun some of the work for seeking ballot access for the 2028 presidential election. We contracted a ballot access worker to gather signatures for getting on the ballot in Alaska. They finished gathering over 5,000 signatures for the ballot access petition in July and they were submitted to the state elections authority. We will still need to recruit three eligible people in Alaska to serve as electors in order to get on the ballot for 2028.

The Prohibition National Committee took steps to update its filing status with the IRS and register as a 527 organization. On September 15th, Chairman Kusnir announced to the national committee that the registration process was completed. He stated,

"I am pleased to announce the Prohibition National Committee is now officially recognized as a Section 527 organization (tax-exempt status).

<https://forms.irs.gov/app/pod/basicSearch/details?searchOrgName=prohibition%20national%20committee&searchFormType=Form%208871&ein=&pacId=85954&pacInfoId=85954&fromDate=&toDate=>

This is a foundational step toward revitalizing our movement and promoting the importance of temperance. While the Prohibition National Committee has a long and continuous history, this recognition marks the first time we have formally obtained a 527 designation, which did not exist when the organization was originally founded.

Thank you all for the ongoing commitment to our cause."

The Prohibition Party has made some progress with building and advancing the party's development. We will continue our work to advance the party in the coming months and years, as we seek to advance social reform and grow our impact in national, state, and local politics.

Local Candidates

This year, the Prohibition Party had some members who sought to run for local offices. In New York, Jonathan Makeley ran in his local school board race in Sweet Home School District. He was one of four candidates on the ballot for two seats. He received 177 votes (17.07%) during the non-partisan election on May 20th. This is the largest number of votes that a member of the party has gotten in an election in New York state, since the reestablishment of the New York state branch of the Prohibition Party several years ago.

In New Jersey, Stevenson Malloy sought to run as a Prohibition Party candidate for state legislature in New Jersey's second district. Initially, he and the party were hopeful about the

prospects for getting on the ballot for the election. But then elements within the New Jersey government moved to change the ballot access laws in the middle of the petition signature gathering period to massively increase the signature requirements for third party candidates to get on ballot for a variety of offices. The signature requirements for each office were made 2.5 times higher than what they were before. Mr. Malloy and his supporters still attempted to gather signatures to get on the ballot, but the increased requirements proved too high to overcome, and Mr. Malloy decided to end his campaign after it was clear he would not be able to get on the ballot. We commend Mr. Malloy for seeking to run for state office as a Prohibition Party candidate and condemn the officials in the New Jersey state government who pushed through the anti-democratic ballot access law changes.

Going forward, we will continue to look for opportunities to run candidates for local offices in the coming years. If you are a member who is interested in running for local office, feel free to reach out to party leadership at prohibitionists@gmail.com

"First they ignore you. Then they ridicule you. And then they attack you and want to burn you. And then they build monuments to you". Nicholas Klein



Tennessee Organizing Efforts

As the Prohibition Party works to move forward, we are looking into further developing state-level organization in the State of Tennessee. We have been reaching out to and communicating with Prohibition Party members in the state to see who is interested in getting more actively involved with state-level efforts. Developing our state-level organization in Tennessee, along with cultivating and growing active membership, could help improve our chances of getting on the ballot in Tennessee for 2028. Additionally, the relatively low signature requirements for ballot access petitioning in the state could present opportunities to run

candidates for offices such as governor, senate, congress, and state legislature in 2026 and beyond. If you live in Tennessee and are interested in getting involved, feel free to reach out to party leadership at prohibitionists@gmail.com



From Chairman's Corner: Dry Laws Still Deliver

Plenty of towns, counties, and municipalities across the United States still maintain dry laws or tight restrictions on alcohol sales, which are residuals of the Prohibition Era. These places aren't stuck in the past, rather, they've realized the real benefits when it comes to public health, safety, and the prevention of problematic drinking. The evidence points to four key areas where these laws make a difference: cutting down on availability, better health outcomes, less crime and safer communities, and preventing negative alcohol-related behaviors.

Making Alcohol Harder to Get Reduces Problems

When alcohol is more difficult to purchase, whether from dry laws, a limitation of alcohol licenses, or zoning restrictions, it is no surprise that less people will be in possession of alcohol, which results in less alcohol related problems. Although alcohol remains "legal" and can be purchased elsewhere, a 2009 review in the *American Journal of Preventative Medicine* found that places with fewer alcohol outlets consistently see less excessive drinking and fewer related problems such as violence and accidents (Campbell et al. 2009). Additionally, The Community Preventive Services Task Force, after reviewing dozens of studies, now recommends the use of licensing and zoning laws to limit alcohol outlet density as an effective strategy for reducing the issues that alcohol brings with it (Castillo-Carniglia et al. 2019; Fone et al. 2016).

Real Health Benefits in Dry Counties

Research from Texas comparing "wet" and "dry" counties tell a clear story. Wet counties were found to have significantly higher rates of alcohol misuse, liver disease, and heart problems such as atrial

fibrillation. This held true when researchers controlled for factors such as age, race, and gender (Dukes et al. 2016; Fone et al. 2016).

Furthermore, we can observe what happened in areas that switched from dry to wet. These communities saw increases in alcohol-related health problems after alcohol sales became permitted. The removal of restrictions has proven to have a negative impact on health (Dukes et al. 2016; Fone et al. 2016).

Crime Reduction and Safer Communities

A noticeable positive impact of dry or restrictive alcohol laws is the lack of certain types of crimes and safety problems. Multiple studies have demonstrated that more alcohol outlets lead to more assaults, public disturbances, and car accidents (Campbell et al. 2009; Fone et al. 2016).

Drunk driving is a big part of the picture. Areas with dry laws or strict alcohol limits tend to have lower rates of DUI arrests and alcohol-related traffic fatalities. When there are fewer places to purchase alcohol, there is less impulsive drinking, leading to fewer people getting behind the wheel while inebriated (Castillo-Carniglia et al. 2019; Fone et al. 2016).

Behavioral Impacts

Beyond immediate alcohol-related problems, dry and restrictive alcohol laws actually shape how people drink over time. When communities limit exposure, for example, fewer bars and liquor stores, less alcohol advertising, and a normalization of no or lower alcohol consumption, younger individuals are less likely to begin drinking or to binge drink. Studies show a strong connection between more alcohol outlets and higher rates of binge drinking. Policies that reduce the number of outlets help to break this pattern (Castillo-Carniglia et al. 2019; Campbell et al. 2009; Fone et al. 2016).

We can also observe the change in behavioral patterns when dry areas go wet, which cause negative behavioral changes which result in alcohol-related health problems.

Policy Implications

It is evident that residual laws from the Prohibition Era have produced ongoing positive effects for several communities, offering validation and hope. These laws are not simply in place for tradition, but

because they deliver measurable positive impacts.

From a policy standpoint, it is vital that dry and restrictive alcohol laws must be supported and protected. The Prohibition Party and those who sympathize with such legislation must continue to push for the status quo in these areas to be maintained, and demonstrate to other communities, politicians, and the public that these policies can be of great benefit should they be expanded to other communities as well.

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Alcohol Industry Seeks to Suppress Study on Alcohol Harms and Rewrite Federal Dietary Guidelines

Officials at the HHS have caved to the alcohol industry and its lobbyists' demands. They have retracted the 2025 Alcohol Intake and Health Study and denied it from receiving full publication. This study pointed out that consuming as little as one drink a day increased risks for various illnesses and injuries and presented risks of leading to alcohol related death. It acknowledged that drinking alcohol at any level increases risks for seven types of cancer.

An archived version of the study can be found online at this link:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20250406145211/https://www.stopalcoholabuse.gov/media/pdf/Report-on-Alcohol-Intake-and-Health.pdf>

They sidelined the study in favor of a different study produced by a NASEM (National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine) panel. This panel has multiple members with significant financial ties to the alcohol industry and has had persistent issues of being affected by the alcohol industry's financial influence. The report that they created parrots alcohol industry

propaganda claiming that moderate alcohol use increases longevity, based on alcohol industry-funded studies using severely flawed and debunked methodologies. It downplays the proven connections between alcohol use and cancer and growing research showing that even light alcohol use increases cancer risks.

This is being done as the alcohol industry is trying to change U.S. Dietary guidelines to remove recommended limits for alcohol consumption. This is part of the alcohol industry's ongoing efforts to suppress information and mislead the public about the dangers of their products.

This should not be allowed to stand. Come join in sending a message to the HHS to stand up against the alcohol industry's censorship attempts; publish the 2025 Alcohol Intake and Health Study, keep recommended limits in the U.S. Dietary guidelines, and update to those recommended limits to lower levels, in recognition of what sound independent scientific research is showing us. Contact your representatives and urge them to take action.

The group Alcohol Justice has provided a page on its website that people can use to quickly send a message to their congress members and senators:

<https://www.votervoice.net/AlcoholJustice/Campaigns/129884/Respond>

Otherwise, you can find the contact information for your congressmember on the House of Representatives website:

<https://www.house.gov/>

And the contact information for your Senators at the US Senate website:

<https://www.senate.gov/>

Initiative Seeks to Ban Recreational Marijuana Sales in Massachusetts

Activists in Massachusetts are seeking to advance an initiative that would ban the sale of recreational sale of marijuana in the state. The initiative, titled "An Act to Restore A Sensible Marijuana Policy", would repeal the sections of state laws which legalize commercial recreational marijuana sales, place limitations on the amount of recreational marijuana individuals over 21 may possess, and require those under 21 found in possession of marijuana and those above 21 found in possession of 1-2 ounces of marijuana to complete a drug awareness program. Medical marijuana would continue to be legal under the proposed initiative.

In September, the Massachusetts Attorney General had certified the language of two proposed versions of the initiative, as part of a group of 44 proposed initiatives that were approved to continue to the next stage of the state's initiative and referendum process. Version A of the proposed initiative differs from Version B, in that it also proposes placing caps on the THC potency levels for medical marijuana products at 30% for flowers and 60% for concentrates.

The initiative effort has now progressed to the first petition signature gathering stage. They will need to gather at least 74,574 valid signatures by November 19th, in order to advance forward. If they are successful, then the proposal will go to the state legislature, which may consider whether to pass the proposed statute. If the legislature doesn't pass it by May 6th, 2026, then organizers may gather an additional 12,429 additional valid signatures by June 17th, 2026, to have the proposal placed on the ballot as a statewide referendum in the 2026 election. If it does advance as a statewide referendum then it will require a majority of voters to approve the initiative.

If this initiative is able to advance, it would present an opportunity for Massachusetts to become the first state in modern times to abandon the failed policy of legalizing recreational marijuana sales, reject the marijuana industry, and hopefully move towards comprehensive efforts to address recreational marijuana as a public health problem.

Federal and Texas Lawmakers Aiming to Act Against THC Sales

Momentum is rising among Texas legislators and some members of the US Congress to remove legal loopholes that have allowed various THC-based products to flood into commercial markets. For context, THC is the main psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, which causes people to get high. Research has found THC to have damaging effects on the brain, in some cases causing drug-induced psychosis, and increases risks of heart and cardiovascular disease. In 2018, Congress passed a farm bill that had contained provisions legalizing various hemp-based THC and CBD products nationwide; including THC-infused products under 0.3% potency. The Texas state legislature would then pass its own bill legalizing various THC-based products at the state level. Following this, a variety of THC-

based products flooded into shops throughout the country and in the state of Texas.

In more recent years, legislators in Texas have been seeking to pass legislation to end the sale of THC-based products in their state. Earlier this year, they passed a bill in the state legislature which would have banned the sale of products with a quantifiable amount of THC in them, but it was unfortunately vetoed by Texas Governor Greg Abbott. Supporters of banning THC products, including Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, have vowed to continue efforts to pass a law banning the sale of all THC products in the state. We may see legislators attempt to pass a bill again in the 2026 legislative session.

Meanwhile, some members of Congress have been looking to pass legislation that would remove the THC loophole created by the 2018 farm bill. Some members of congressional leadership may seek to include provisions banning the sale of consumable THC products as part of a minibus package of bills they plan on voting on after the end of the current government shutdown. It remains to be seen how these legislative efforts will turn out. But if they are successful, they could remove the legal loopholes which allowed for a variety of intoxicating products to be sold with little regulation or safeguards.

The Continuing Toll

Alcohol continues to be a significant social and public health problem in the United States. Alcohol use kills over 178,000 Americans a year and the number of those dying has increased significantly in recent years. Many more are harmed by alcohol-induced illnesses, injuries, and addiction. It is estimated that nearly 1 in 7 American adults suffer from alcohol use disorders. Alcohol use is a direct cause of several different forms of cancer. Drunk driving kills over 13,000 and injures hundreds of thousands of Americans a year. The United States loses over 249 billion dollars a year from the social, medical, and economic damages caused by the harmful effects of alcohol use. Alcohol use is a factor in many instances of crime, including over 40% of homicides, 45% of physical assaults, 37% of sexual assaults, and 63% of intimate partner violence. Alcohol use plays a contributing role in many cases of abuse and neglect of children. Research has shown that the presence of alcohol outlets in

neighborhoods can have negative effects on quality of life, hurt local small businesses, contribute to increased local crime rates, and lead to increased costs for local law enforcement. All the while, the alcohol industry has routinely misinformed people about the negative effects of alcohol. Alcohol and the alcohol industry harms many families and communities in the United States.



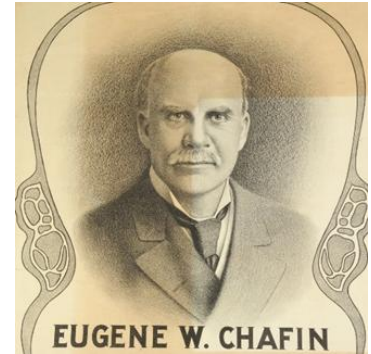
Chafin and Springfield

On August 14-16, 1908, the city of Springfield, Illinois, experienced the Springfield Race Riot. In which, an angry mob of racists rioted, went around attacking the city's African American population, killed 9 African-Americans, and destroyed part of the city. During this time, 1908 Prohibition Party presidential candidate Eugene Chafin was in the city, delivering a speech at a campaign rally. During the event, an African American man fleeing members of the mob took refuge on the rally stage with Chafin. This man was identified in a 1908 New York Times article as Wesley L. Edwards, a black employee of the Illinois Secretary of State's office. Shortly after arriving to seek refuge, several dozen members of the mob showed up. Eugene Chafin stepped in front of the mob and stated that he would defend the man. Newspaper reports indicate that he said something along the lines, "I will shoot the first man who attempts to take this colored man", or "Stand back gentleman or I will shoot every one of you who touches this man". Despite not actually having a gun, he placed his hands in his pockets to try to trick the mob into thinking he did. A member of the mob then threw a brick at Chafin, hitting him in the head, and knocking him down. Chafin's supporters, as well as Mr. Edwards, then entered into a melee to fight off members of the mob. In the midst of this terrible event, Chafin and others acted to protect the lives of people.

In the aftermath of this event, Chafin would recover from his injuries and continued his presidential campaign. Wesley L. Edwards was reported to have later joined the Prohibition Party and

became a speaker for Chafin's campaign; delivering speeches as part of a campaign tour through northern cities. Chafin would go on to receive 254,087 votes (1.71%) in the 1908 presidential election.

The horrors of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot would serve to be a catalyst for supporters of civil rights to organize. In 1909, the NAACP was formed. It would go on to become one of the major organizations for advancing civil rights in the 20th century.



"Recognizing that 'God created of one blood all nations to dwell upon the face of the earth,' we declare in favor of full justice and equal opportunity for all people, whatever their religion, or racial or national origin." 1948 Prohibition Party Platform

Get Involved and Help Support the Party

As the Prohibition Party moves forward, our progress will be driven by the active work and support of our members. If you are someone who is interested in signing up to join the Prohibition Party, you can do so online on our website: <https://www.prohibitionparty.org/>

If you are a member who is interested in getting more involved with party projects and organizing efforts, feel free to email us at prohibitionists@gmail.com

If you are interested in donating to help support the Prohibition Party, you do so through the donation page of our website: <https://www.prohibitionparty.org/donate>

Or by mail at:

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"Prohibition, as viewed by Prohibitionists, with its relation to the solution of many other social and economic problems, with its economic outreaches, with its view of government as an agency for the promotion of the public good, provides an issue, a platform, a tendency and a new spirit in politics around which to build a party for the present crisis."

David Leigh Colvin