

National Prohibitionist



Twenty-First Century Series

October 2024

Volume 14 #1

National Prohibitionist Returns

With this new issue, the National Prohibitionist has begun the process of returning to publication following the passing of James Hedges in March. James Hedges was a long-time figure in the party, who over his decades of involvement in the party has held various leadership positions, including the position of vice-chairman at the time of his passing, had been the Prohibition Party candidate for president in 2016, and served as the editor for the National Prohibitionist for over 11 years. The new editor for the National Prohibitionist is Jonathan Makeley: who is the party's National Secretary and editor of the New York Prohibitionist newspaper. This issue of the National Prohibitionist has been produced in a digital format in preparation for the coming 2024 elections. We are still working on finding a printing service for producing physical issues.

The Presidential Campaign

With Election Day Approaching we are nearing the completion of this year's presidential campaign. Michael Wood is running as the Prohibition Party candidate for President, with John Pietrowski as his running mate.

The presidential ticket will be on the ballot in the state of Arkansas and the territory of Guam. Additionally, voters can cast write-in votes and have the vote totals tabulated in the states of Alabama, Iowa, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wyoming.

During the 2024 campaign season, we had sought to get on the ballot in several other states. The passage of more restrictive ballot access laws in some states, such as Colorado, made it so that we no longer had a reasonable chance at getting on the ballot in those states. Though, there were several states where it initially appeared that we had a chance at getting on the ballot. We had done what

we could to try to rally resources and volunteers in states where it seemed we might be able to get on the ballot, and spoke with figures from other third parties to help look for ways to help our chances at seeking to gain ballot access. We had hired a ballot access contractor to help with gathering signatures and preparing ballot access petitions in several states. But the petitions for those states weren't completed in time for us to be able to get on the ballot.

In this year's campaign, we have managed to gain some news coverage from media outlets. We had interviews and/or articles written about our presidential campaign by media outlets including the Independent Political Report, Ballotpedia, NPR, the American Conservative, the Christian Post, CatholicVote.org, MINDS, and a number of local publications in Arkansas.

In this year, we have also sought to use social media advertising to help spread awareness of our campaign to voters. We are currently running Facebook ads in Arkansas and Guam, as well as Instagram ads in Arkansas. Since beginning significant advertising efforts in August, we have so managed to reach over 120,000 people, and will likely continue to reach more potential voters in the last remaining weeks of the Presidential campaign. Advertising has gone especially well in Guam, where it appears that our ads have been viewed by close to one-third of Guam's adult population.

Election Day is on November 5th. For those who are able to, please consider voting Prohibition on election day.

If you like the place you live in, if you love your family and you want to stay among your friends and still have a good job and a safe – and, of course, sober – community, Vote Prohibition'

James Hedges



Grand Causes: Championing Temperance, Ethical Governance, and National Renewal

In the contentious field of modern politics, the Prohibition Party works to help bring attention to higher principles and grand causes of national reform. The Prohibition Party champions principles of temperance, ethical governance, and the cause of national renewal. The Prohibition Party recognizes that alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs are social and public health problems, which need to be addressed. That a comprehensive strategy, which includes education, prevention efforts, cessation programs, addiction treatment, mental healthcare, and policies that work to restrict and reduce the commercial traffic of these products is needed in order to work towards resolving these issues.

The Prohibition Party stands for principles of ethical governance. We hold that public officials should act as public servants, be held to strong ethical standards, hold themselves to strong ethical standards, and should work to serve the public interest. We support stronger ethics and anti-corruption laws for elected and appointed government officials, improved transparency, protecting public research and regulatory agencies from improper influence, fostering greater citizen engagement, and promoting a spirit of ethical public service among public officials.

The Prohibition Party seeks to advance the cause of national renewal: of working to advance policies to help revitalize the nation and advance the wellbeing and prosperity of the nation. This can be seen in several areas of policy. It can be seen in support for a holistic approach to economic development, which focuses on improving the lives of the public rather than enriching special interests. An approach that is fiscally responsible, advances sound regulation, invests in the development of infrastructure, and promotes the development of important industries. It can be seen in promoting environmental protection, reducing pollution, and the development of renewable energy. It can be seen in promoting sustainable agriculture. It can be seen in promoting policies to ensure that all children can have access to a sound education, promoting policies to ensure that the public can have access to debt-free college and vocational education, and promoting policies to help workers access training for new jobs and industries. It can be seen in working to promote improved access and affordability for healthcare. It can be seen in promoting ballot access reform, so that alternative parties and independent candidates have a fair chance of getting on the ballot and citizens are more able to express their democratic will through voting for the candidate of their choice. Through advancing policy efforts in key areas, we can help produce a safer, healthier, more prosperous, and more democratic nation.

Get Involved

Want to get more involved in the Prohibition Party?

Feel free to reach out to us through our website:

<https://www.prohibitionparty.org/>

Or by emailing us at:

Prohibitionists@gmail.com

You can follow us on Twitter at:

<https://x.com/ProhibitionUS>

Follow us on Facebook at:

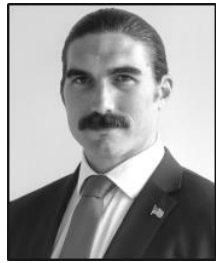
<https://www.facebook.com/ProhibitionPartyUSA>

Join the party Facebook Group at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/245199922787592>

And can donate to the Prohibition Party online at:

<https://www.prohibitionparty.org/donate>



From Chairman's Corner: The Success of Prohibition, A Reevaluation

Prohibition in the United States, lasting from 1920 to 1933, is often portrayed as a failed social experiment that led to increased crime, with much of it attributed to the rise of organized crime syndicates. However, a closer examination of historical data and societal trends during this period reveals a different story. Contrary to popular belief, Prohibition achieved many of its intended goals and had several positive impacts on American society.

SIGNIFICANT DECLINE IN ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

One of the primary objectives of Prohibition was to reduce alcohol consumption, and in this regard, it was remarkably successful. Estimates suggest that alcohol consumption declined by 30% to 50% during the Prohibition era. This substantial decrease demonstrates that the law did have a significant impact on drinking habits across the nation.

Now of course, this objective was obvious, and reducing alcohol consumption was not an end in itself, but a means to achieve broader positive effects on society, which is expanded upon in some of the following text.

IMPROVED PUBLIC HEALTH OUTCOMES

The reduction in alcohol consumption led to notable improvements in public health.

- **Cirrhosis Deaths:** One of the most striking statistics is the dramatic decline in deaths from cirrhosis, a liver disease often associated with alcohol abuse. In 1911, before Prohibition, the cirrhosis death rate was 29.5 per 100,000 people. By 1929, near the end of Prohibition, this rate had plummeted to 10.7 per 100,000 - a reduction of nearly 64%.

- **Mental Health Improvements:** Admissions to state mental hospitals for alcohol-induced psychosis also saw a significant decrease. In 1919, just before Prohibition took effect, the rate was 10.1 per 100,000. By 1928, it had dropped to 4.7 per 100,000 - a reduction of over 53%.

These statistics clearly demonstrate that Prohibition had a positive impact on alcohol-related health issues, potentially saving thousands of lives and improving the quality of life for many Americans.

STABLE CRIME RATES AND REDUCED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Contrary to the popular narrative that Prohibition led to a surge in crime, historical data suggests that the overall crime rate remained relatively steady during this period. While there was an increase in organized crime related to the illegal production and distribution of alcohol, this did not translate into a significant rise in overall criminal activity.

Moreover, one of the lesser-known benefits of Prohibition was a decline in domestic violence rates. With reduced alcohol consumption, many households experienced less alcohol-fueled conflict and abuse, leading to safer home environments for women and children.

NUANCED LEGISLATION

It's important to note that federal Prohibition laws were more nuanced than commonly believed. While they prohibited the commercial sale and production of alcohol, they did not outlaw its use or production for personal consumption. This aspect of the law allowed for a degree of personal freedom while still targeting the larger-scale production and distribution networks.

LONG-TERM CULTURAL SHIFT

While Prohibition was eventually repealed, its impact on American drinking culture lasted well beyond its 13-year span. The per capita alcohol consumption did not return to pre-Prohibition levels until the 1970s, nearly four decades after Repeal. This suggests that Prohibition contributed to a long-term shift in societal attitudes towards excessive alcohol consumption.

When evaluated objectively, Prohibition achieved many of its intended goals. It significantly reduced alcohol consumption, improved public health, and contributed to a decrease in domestic violence without causing the widespread crime wave often attributed to it. While it's true that Prohibition faced challenges and ultimately ended in repeal, its positive impacts on American society should not be overlooked.

The success of Prohibition serves as a reminder that social policies can have complex and sometimes unexpected outcomes. It challenges us to look beyond popular narratives and examine historical events from a more critical perspective.



Marie C. Brehm: A Century of Leadership and Inspiration

In 1924, the Prohibition Party made history by nominating Marie Caroline Brehm as its candidate for Vice President, marking the first time a woman was nominated for this office by a political party. Though her name may not be as widely recognized today, Brehm's contributions to the Prohibition movement, women's rights, and the political landscape of her time are monumental, and her legacy continues to inspire the modern Prohibition Party.

TEMPERANCE CRUSADER AND WOMEN'S ADVOCATE

Marie C. Brehm was born in 1859 in Ohio, during a period when both the temperance and women's suffrage movements were gaining momentum in the United States. Brehm quickly rose through the ranks of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), one of the most powerful organizations advocating for the prohibition of alcohol. She viewed alcohol not only as a social issue but as a moral one, contributing to domestic violence, poverty, and the degradation of family life—issues that disproportionately harmed women and children.

At the same time, Brehm was deeply committed to the suffrage movement. Like many women in the temperance cause, she saw the right to vote as a crucial tool for advancing social reforms. Suffragists and temperance advocates believed that if women had the vote, they could help bring about prohibition and other moral reforms. This dual commitment led Brehm to become one of the foremost advocates for both women's suffrage and prohibition, culminating in her being the first woman appointed to the Illinois State Board of Administration.

THE 1924 VICE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION: A WATERSHED MOMENT

By 1924, women had gained the right to vote through the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920, just four years earlier. With women newly enfranchised, the Prohibition Party saw an opportunity to broaden its appeal by embracing women leaders like Brehm, who had long been allies in the temperance fight. Brehm's nomination for Vice President came at a crucial time for the party, which was seeking to remain relevant in a rapidly changing political landscape.

Brehm was a rising star within the Prohibition Party. In 1916, members at the Prohibition Party's national convention in St. Paul, Minnesota had considered Brehm as a possible vice-presidential candidate. Other prominent women in the party, such as Mary Harris Armor and Ella A. Boole were also considered as potential vice-presidential nominees. Brehm declined to seek the nomination in favor of supporting the nomination of Ira Landrith, who she thought was the strongest option for the 1916 ticket.

In 1920, Brehm was selected as the permanent chairman for the Prohibition Party's 1920 National Convention in Lincoln Nebraska; making her the first woman to chair a party's national convention. In the same year, she was nominated by the Prohibition and Democratic parties for California State Senate in the 33rd district. She ran on a platform complete abolition of alcohol trafficking and supporting legislation to protect women and children. She received support from many of the women's clubs in Los Angeles, who wished to see a woman elected to the state legislature. She would end up coming in second to Republican incumbent Joseph Rominger.

During the Prohibition Party's 1924 National Convention in Columbus, Ohio, Brehm sought the vice-presidential nomination. During the initial round of voting, Brehm came in second place to Dr. A.P. Gouthey. Dr. Gouthey opted to withdraw himself from consideration and Marie Brehm was nominated by a vote of acclamation. The party's 1924 presidential nominee, Herman P. Faris, praised her worthiness as a candidate, stating that,

"[Miss Brehm] is the peer of any candidate now running, although she doesn't wear a skull cap or smoke an upside down pipe."

Herman P. Faris and Marie Brehm would go on to receive 55,951 in the 1924 presidential election.

Ultimately, her nomination was a nod to the party's recognition that the future of the Prohibition cause required the active involvement and leadership of women.

LEGACY AND INFLUENCE ON THE PROHIBITION PARTY TODAY

Marie C. Brehm's leadership and passion for social reform continue to resonate with the Prohibition Party today. Her belief in the transformative power of prohibition, her advocacy for women's rights, and her dedication to ethical governance are values that still underpin the party's mission. Brehm's candidacy not only highlighted the critical role women played in the temperance movement but also paved the way for future female political leaders.

The 1924 election, although unsuccessful for the Prohibition Party, was a milestone in American political history. It marked the first time a woman was on a major political ticket, serving as a powerful statement about the party's commitment to progress and equality. As we reflect on her nomination 100 years ago, we are reminded of the enduring importance of strong moral leadership in American politics.

Her pioneering spirit paved the way for future generations of women in politics, and her legacy serves as a reminder that change often begins with those who are willing to challenge the status quo. As the Prohibition Party moves forward in 2024, Brehm's example inspires us to continue advocating for a better, more just society.

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

The Public Toll

Alcohol and tobacco are major public health problems. They are some of the leading causes of preventable death and produce an immense toll on human life, public health, and the prosperity of our society.

Alcohol kills over 178,000 Americans/year. Deaths from alcohol have been surging in recent years and are likely to grow larger unless action is taken to reverse the trend. Many more people develop illnesses or injuries as a result of alcohol use, including brain damage, liver and kidney disease, and several forms of cancer. It is estimated that nearly 1/7 of adults are affected by alcohol-use disorders. 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. Drunk driving kills over 10,000 Americans/year and injures over 300,000/year. Our nation loses over 240 dollars a year from the costs of the social, medical, and economic damages caused by alcohol abuse.

While our nation has made progress in reducing the prevalence of tobacco use, tobacco use is still taking a large toll on our country. Over 480,000 Americans/year die as a result of tobacco-related illnesses; including around 41,000 from illnesses caused by second hand smoke. Smoking causes and contributes to numerous illnesses including lung disease, heart disease, stroke, gum disease, eye disease, stroke, and several forms of cancer. Second hand smoke can cause various diseases including lung disease, lung cancer, heart disease, and stroke. In 2018, the CDC calculated that our nation loses over 600 billion dollars from tobacco, including over 240 billion in healthcare costs and 185 billion in lost productivity from smoking-related illnesses and conditions.

Cancer Awareness and the Lack of Information

Alcohol is a direct cause of several forms of cancer. This includes breast, liver, colorectal, mouth, throat, larynx, and esophageal cancer. All types of alcohol increase the risk of developing cancer. The risks tend to increase in proportion to the amount, frequency, and amount of time spent consuming alcohol; with even light alcohol use contributing to increased cancer risks.

This has long been known by scientific researchers and global health organizations. The World Health Organization had designated alcohol as a group one carcinogen (their highest category of cancer risks) back in 1988. Over the decades, medical research has continued to not only confirm the connection between alcohol use and cancer, but has highlighted its significant impacts on public health. Alcohol use accounts for around 6% of new cancer cases and 4% of cancer deaths in the United States.

Despite this, public awareness of the connection between alcohol and cancer has been rather low. Studies have found that most Americans were unaware that there was a link between alcohol use and cancer. Researchers with the National Cancer Institute found that less than 40% of Americans were aware that drinking liquor increased cancer risk and only

around 20% were aware that drinking wine increased cancer risk. Concerningly around 10% of respondents had the mistaken belief that drinking wine reduced cancer risks.

The lack of public awareness about the connection between alcohol use and cancer is a problem, which serves to exacerbate both of these public health problems. It is clear that more work needs to be done to inform the public that alcohol is a direct cause of several cancers and that its consumption increases cancer risks. There are actions that can be taken to help spread awareness. Public health organizations, prevention organizations, and organizations focused on cancer prevention, should work to help inform the public about the link between alcohol and cancer as part of their work. Government health departments on the national, state, and local levels should also work to inform the public as part of their public information efforts. Schools should update their health class segments on the risks of alcohol to include information about cancer risks. By increasing the amount of messaging to the public about the connection between alcohol and cancer, public awareness can increase, helping to lead to reduced alcohol consumption, and helping to reduce the amount of cancer cases and cancer deaths caused by alcohol.

Community Outreach and Legislative Activism

Over the past decade, the Prohibition Party has made some strides towards growth. In 2016, our presidential ticket received over 5,600 votes and in 2020 our ticket received over 4,800 votes, despite the challenges faced by third party candidates in that election. We have seen new generations of members help to revitalize and advance the party. We have had some members run for local offices. Even having one come in second place in the 2018 Las Vegas Mayoral election. The New York branch of the Prohibition Party has helped to pioneer methods of state-level legislative activism and local networking for the party in modern times.

As the Prohibition Party moves forward, it is important to work to advance our positive growth and our capacity to effect change. We should look for ways to further expand our messaging and recruitment efforts, so that we can continue to grow our base of active members. An important aspect of this will be working to reach out to more people who are already involved with or inclined towards reform activism. To people in

prevention groups, anti-tobacco groups, and other health-focused groups. As well as to open-minded people in academia, media, and other fields that help to spread awareness. It's important to look for opportunities to form connections with more local activist groups, to help advance policy efforts for addressing the harms of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. In the process, we can expand our networking, develop a greater base of support, and advance change. Additionally, we should look for opportunities where members can work to promote awareness of the Prohibition Party in their local communities and possibly attract more interested people for developing state and local level organization.

Similarly, it is important that we look for opportunities to ramp up our legislative activism on the national, state, and local level. That we look for opportunities to help promote the advancement of bills and policies that will affect positive change, work to build relations with more activist groups that share common goals, and work to help educate elected officials on important issues. In doing so, we can simultaneously work to both build the party and advance social reform in our country.

Additionally, as we work to build the party going forward, we should look for opportunities to run more candidates for state and local elections. The more members that we can have running for elections, the greater public awareness of the party can grow, and the more chances we have at getting prohibition party candidates elected to local offices.

The next few years could provide a good opportunity for working to grow the party, engage in legislative activism, and work towards stronger performances in future elections.

“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

