

Jonathan Makeley Announces Campaign for New York Governor as Prohibition Party Candidate

May 30, 2026

I am Jonathan Makeley, and I am announcing that I am running as the Prohibition Party candidate for Governor of New York. I am a lifelong resident of New York State. I am a historian, with a focus on the history of American reform movements. I have spent my adult life involved in my local communities, promoting social reform, and advocating for policies to advance the public welfare. I am the state chairman of the Prohibition Party of New York. Given New York's restrictive ballot access laws, which make it almost impossible for alternative parties to get on the ballot, I will be running as a write-in candidate.

I am running because I believe in the principles of good governance and ethical public service. Because I believe that the state government should work to protect the lives, rights, and vital wellbeing of New Yorkers. That the policies of our state should work to uplift the public, rather than support those that seek to exploit and harm New Yorkers.

I am running because I believe that New Yorkers deserve to have a positive alternative to the failed approaches of the major parties. To have someone who will speak on the important issues affecting the lives, health, and wellbeing of New Yorkers, and speak for policies to help move our state forward.

Governor Hochul has failed to stand for the wellbeing of New Yorkers. She has supported harmful and regressive pro-alcohol policies, while the death tolls from alcohol in the state have surged and the costs of the social, medical, and economic damages caused by alcohol have continued to rise. She has continued to use state agencies and taxpayer dollars to promote the growth of the alcohol industry. She has continued to move forward with misguided pro-drug policies, despite mounting evidence of their detrimental effects. Hochul has failed to take action to repeal the anti-democratic changes to state ballot access laws that were forced through by her predecessor, Andrew Cuomo. We have continued to see issues with mismanagement of state economic development programs, the continued underfunding of many of our state's schools, the failure to advance important ethics reforms, and so many other issues failing to be properly addressed.

We have a state legislature where so many of our legislators, in both major parties, too often fail to stand for the wellbeing of New Yorkers. Far too often, state legislators not only neglect the health and wellbeing of New Yorkers, but instead support policies that undermine and harm public health and wellbeing. Far too many legislators prioritize serving the interests of the alcohol industry, tobacco industry, and other businesses that profit off harming and exploiting

New Yorkers, over the lives of New Yorkers, the wellbeing of communities, and the interest of honest businesses. Far too many of them have stood by and allowed anti-democratic ballot access restrictions, corruption and mismanagement in state programs, and other problems to continue.

The problems that our state faces and the failure of state officials to address them have left many New Yorkers feeling demoralized and worrying about the future of themselves and their families. But I am here to say that things do not have to stay this way. They can be changed. Our state has a long history of reform activism. New Yorkers helped to advance the causes of abolition, women's suffrage, and so many other important reforms that took on problems many once thought insurmountable. Who made change happen and built a better future for coming generations.

New Yorkers today can work to make change happen. It will take time and a lot of effort, but it can be done if enough sensible New Yorkers stand up and dedicate themselves to making it happen. We must stand up and send a message to the officials; that it is time that they uphold their obligations as public servants and stand for the lives and wellbeing of New Yorkers. That they be convinced to fulfill their ethical duties to the public, or they should be replaced by those who will.

In my campaign, I will work to speak on the important issues facing New Yorkers, advocate for positive policies to address the problems affecting our state, and promote good governance in our state government. If you are a New Yorker who cares about public health and wellbeing, who wants a state government that serves the people of the state, and who wants a better future for your community, then consider joining the Prohibition Party of New York and supporting our campaign.