

# Prohibition in Nebraska

In January 1920, the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution went into effect, initiating the decade-long period known as Prohibition where the manufacture, transport, and sale of alcohol was illegal. However, Prohibition in Nebraska started two and half years earlier on May 1, 1917, largely due to the efforts of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. But the decision to enact



Prohibition was not made unanimously. The large German immigrant population in Nebraska protested the amendment on cultural grounds and others had their own social, cultural, and political objections. Despite Prohibition, illegal speakeasies and stills were rampant and bootleggers were commonplace. Local, state, and national law enforcement could do little to prosecute offenders. The so-called “Noble Experiment” ended in 1934 with the passage of the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment and the repeal of the 1917 amendment to the state constitution.

Primary Source

<https://history.nebraska.gov/collections/womans-christian-temperance-union-neb-rg1072am>

Secondary Source

[https://theindependent.com/life/prohibition-in-g-i/article\\_3a83ef93-173b-5a89-8252-269fc6069464.html#:~:text=The%20beginning%20days%20of%20Prohibition%20in%20Nebraska%20and,went%20into%20effect%20in%20Nebraska%20May%201%2C%201917](https://theindependent.com/life/prohibition-in-g-i/article_3a83ef93-173b-5a89-8252-269fc6069464.html#:~:text=The%20beginning%20days%20of%20Prohibition%20in%20Nebraska%20and,went%20into%20effect%20in%20Nebraska%20May%201%2C%201917)