As it became apparent that Prohibition was not working, agitations for its repeal mounted in the early 1930s. A national Association Against the Prohibition Amendment developed around 1930 and a Lexington chapter formed the following year. Members spoke to civic clubs and community groups and put pressure on candidates for office. The drys began counter-efforts and a local chapter of the Society for the Support of the 18th Amendment formed and held rallies in November 1931.

The 1932 Democratic Party platform called for outright repeal. With the election of Franklin D. Roosevelt as president and huge Democratic majorities in the House and Senate, Congress passed a repeal amendment in February 1933, and sent it to the states for ratification. The 21st Amendment was ratified by three-fourths of the states on December 5, 1933. Kentucky was one of the states ratifying it, but Utah, ironically, was the last state. (Beer was sold in Lexington for 15 cents a bottle beginning April 7, 1933, however, after Congress redefined what constituted an intoxicating beverage.)

Kentucky’s statewide ban on alcoholic beverages remained in effect. In January 1934, the General Assembly proposed an amendment to the state constitution repealing state prohibition, but it would not be ratified by voters until November 1935. The Legislature also repealed the state’s statutes for previously there was little Lexington. Several bars, and retail were up and running of 1934. The old time did not return.