



Assembly Member REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT REPORTS TO THE PEOPLE

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Consider our office a resource!

- No-Cost Notary Services
- Tuesday Housing Legal Clinic by appointment
- Apply for State and City benefits like the City's rent freeze program
- No-Cost Face Mask Giveaways - Thursdays 12pm-2pm



Dear Neighbors,

It is my esteemed privilege to represent you in Albany as your Assembly Member, as we keep up the fight for our community, and for the budgetary resources we need for the Upper East Side, Yorkville and Roosevelt Island.

I am honored to have been appointed Chair of the New York State Assembly Task Force on Women's Issues and a Member of the Assembly Ways and Means committee. I accepted both positions in order to pursue the reforms we need for our community and for New York.

New York State faces challenges not seen in more than a generation. This session we stood up for constituents and all New Yorkers in the fight against COVID-19, to rebuild our economy, and to promote social justice and equity in all of our actions.

We witnessed the rise, flattening, and lowering of the curve. As a member of the Ways and Means Committee, we worked to negotiate a \$212 billion budget to address the COVID-19 pandemic, which has not just been a health crisis, but also an economic crisis.

In order to help our communities recover and restart New York's economy, we made historic investments in health care, housing, education, higher education and local governments, including funding for critical transportation projects. We issued \$2.4 billion for rent and homeowner relief and \$1 billion for struggling small businesses.

Our team welcomes you to stop by the office at 1485 York Avenue (between 78th and 79th Streets) and consider our office a resource. We have a no-cost notary service and a Tuesday housing legal clinic.

As always, our office is just a call, email or visit away!

Sincerely,

Rebecca A. Seawright

Welcoming New York's First Female Governor Kathy Hochul!



As a member of the Judiciary Committee of the Assembly and as Chair of the Assembly Task Force on Women's Issues. I took my role in the investigation of the former governor and due diligence seriously, and I strongly commend the brave women witnesses. They came forward at great personal risk to share their experience of humiliation and hostility in the workplace. The details as reported by the Attorney General's report are horrifying.

Following the governor's resignation, we called for a comprehensive and publicly available report prepared by the Assembly Judiciary Committee detailing its findings, recommendations as well as referrals to appropriate law enforcement agencies. We owe this to the eleven brave women whose stories of gubernatorial misconduct were detailed in the devastating report by the Office of the NYS Attorney General.

I stand in strong support of our new Governor Kathy Hochul. She is making history as the first woman to hold the office of governor of New York. We will work with her to advocate in the best interests of the people of our state as the people of New York deserve nothing less.

As Featured in Our Town:

Schumer and Seawright Hear from UES Leaders



Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright held a special district meeting at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House with New York's senior U.S. Senator, Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, for community leaders of the Upper East Side, Yorkville and Roosevelt Island. The meeting covered federal aid for tenants, small businesses, transportation, health and other vital issues of community concern. Attendees included advocates, activists, non-profit representatives, local school leaders, and local hospital healthcare officials.

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright Announced Approval of Historic Investment and Funding Plan

Speaker Carl Heastie appointed Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright to the Ways and Means Committee, which plays a pivotal role in the annual New York State budget process. "I am proud to have fought for this state budget that will launch recovery and growth in the post-pandemic era," said Seawright.

The Enacted Budget:

- Created a \$2.4 billion Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) to ensure New Yorkers can make rent and remain stable in their homes.
- Established COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program: Provides \$800 million in grant funding for small businesses including for-profit arts and cultural institutions impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Provided \$29.5 billion in school aid, a \$3 billion, 11% increase.
- Supported higher education with \$7.7 billion.
- Enhanced nursing home quality of care, including comprehensive nursing home reform legislation to help ensure facilities are prioritizing patient care over profits.

Assembly Passes Seawright Legislation Strengthening Consumer Privacy Protections

Seawright's Sponsored Legislation A1370 prohibits using personal identifying information except for the detection, investigation, or prevention of fraud, theft, identity theft, criminal activity, or the enforcement of terms of sale. Many businesses in New York require personal information such as a ZIP code when consumers complete credit or debit card transactions. Your personal information can be used for the purposes of commercial marketing campaigns to consumers. The data is often sold to other businesses.

Seawright Bill for Approval of Lender Limits on Annual Fees Signed by Governor

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright's legislation that would approve a two-year extension on limits lenders can charge for annual fees associated with certain types of credit cards, home-equity loans, and other forms of revolving credit has been signed by the governor.

Many borrowers favor open-end credit agreements, which can offer more control over the time and amount borrowed. Interest typically changes only for the amount the borrower actually needs, leading to interest savings for the borrower compared to using an installment loan.

Update from the Chair of the Women's Task Force

A longtime advocate for women's rights and sponsor of the Equal Rights Amendment to our New York State Constitution, Seawright was named the Chair of the New York State Assembly Task Force on Women's Issues and has been appointed to the Assembly Workgroup on Sexual Harassment to review issues of sexual discrimination in the workplace and strengthen employee safety. To that end, Seawright passed an Assembly resolution calling for the ratification of an Equal Rights Amendment.

Every 73 seconds another American is sexually assaulted. One out of every six American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime. Sexual violence affects millions of people each year in the United States. Everyone knows someone impacted by sexual violence. This session, we proclaimed April 2021 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the State of New York.

We are making progress in the fight against sex crimes. We've taken the bold step to introduce language that would, for the first time, define the meaning of "consent" in the state penal law. The measure would provide clarity for all involved and end the uncertainty that juries often face as they struggle to reach a verdict

"As a lifelong advocate for women's equality, I understand the importance of this legislation to sexual assault victims being afforded justice in the court room. Our legislation would replace the current practice at criminal trials of leaving juries to deliberate over the meaning of consent without any guidance from statute and make it possible to hold sexual predators accountable," said Seawright.

A separate proposal would hold state legislators and state employees subject to criminal penalties for sexual harassment convictions. New York must be a national leader and set a high standard in the fight against workplace misconduct.



Standing beside survivors including Harvey Weinstein trial witnesses and Joyce Short, President of the Consent Awareness Network at a press conference to introduce the legislation.

Seawright Featured in Our Town: Fighting the Shadow Pandemic



Assembly Member Seawright at a press conference in front of the community office to announce the renewed push for passage of an Equal Rights Amendment to the New York State Constitution.

New York State Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright called domestic violence "a shadow pandemic" and spoke about how the New York State domestic and sexual violence hotline "reported a 33% increase in calls for April 2020, compared to April 2019."

Assembly Member Seawright was guest speaker at Community Board 8's Women and Families Committee meeting to discuss domestic violence which is often referred to as the shadow pandemic. The meeting was organized by the committee's co-chairs Peggy Price and Gayle Baron. In the Assembly, Seawright is the lead sponsor of legislation to mandate counseling for domestic violence offenders, and she passed a resolution proclaiming October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the State of New York.

Seawright Defends Intersex Community

Assembly Member Seawright is introducing legislation to require the New York State Department of Health to conduct a public information and outreach campaign on medically unnecessary treatments on people born with intersex traits or variations in sex characteristics. Currently the bill is in the Health Committee. We look forward to continuing our advocacy with your support to get this bill out of committee and to the floor for passage and ensure that the human rights abuses experienced by the intersex community are put to an end. This session, Seawright passed a resolution proclaiming October 26, 2021 as Intersex Awareness Day in the State of New York.

Proclaiming Transgender Day of Visibility, Seawright Amplifies LGBTQ+ Voices

Seawright passed an Assembly resolution proclaiming March 31, 2021 as Transgender Day of Visibility in the State of New York. New York is home to a vibrant history for the movement for full equality for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer individuals. It was in June 1969 at the Stonewall Inn that sparked a movement, and we strive to live up to the promise to stand by the community during the triumphs in the path set out by trailblazers like Edie Windsor and Marsha P. Johnson.

Historic Gender Recognition Act, Sponsored by Seawright Signed Into Law

The Gender Recognition Act, cosponsored by Seawright, has been signed into law allowing applicants for a driver's license to designate their sex as female, male or x, which can indicate nonbinary, intersex, undesignated or other. This will ensure that New Yorkers' identities are accurately and truly reflected on government documents.

Seawright Fights for Expanded Voting Sites, Election Reform

Assembly Member Seawright continues her fight in the state Assembly to expand ballot access, increase polling locations, and end the multi-day gridlock that plagued voters in the 2020 presidential election on the Upper East Side, Yorkville, and Roosevelt Island.

Seawright personally secured additional early voting sites for the district including a new location at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and rallied support in the Assembly for the sweeping package of "common-sense" measures.

"We are voting to strengthen our democracy, to end voter suppression, and to wipe away antiquated rules and restrictions proven to keep eligible voters from exercising their right," she said.

The Make Voting Easy Act, cosponsored and strongly supported by Seawright, requires the New York State Board of Elections to guarantee that New York City maintains at least one early voting poll site for every 40,000 registered voters. This legislation also increases the number of hours early voting polling places must be open on weekends and legal holidays from five hours to eight hours.



Seawright held a press conference to address anti-Asian hate crimes and to announce legislation to combat hate.

Seawright Stands With Hate Crime Victims Against Scourge of Hate-Fueled Crimes

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright is calling for stricter state hate crime laws that would enhance prosecutions and require judges to order special "anti-hate" training for every person convicted of a hate crime. The Seawright proposal would plug a loophole in the current law and would make "anti-hate" counseling mandatory (A1202).

"Education is one important key to tolerance and respect for others and is essential to keeping the community safe from hateful acts and violence," said Seawright.

Our legislation to require those convicted of hate crimes to complete anti-hate training has passed the Assembly, and gained Senator Toby Stavisky as Senate sponsor. We look forward to pushing for the passage of this critical legislation to promote tolerance in our communities.

Landmark Law Signed to End Child Marriage in New York State

As a member of the Assembly Judiciary Committee, Seawright cosponsored Assembly Bill 3891, now law, making progress to increase the age of consent to marry 18 years of age in New York with no exceptions. Child marriage has been deemed a human rights violation by the United Nations, and we have made a huge step to ensuring that children are not subjected to sexual violence.

Seawright Holds Parks Accountable for \$80M Renovation Coming to East River Esplanade on Upper East Side

\$80 million has been allocated to repair and rejuvenate our promenade between 81st to 90th Street. This essential work is a safety measure for pedestrians, eliminating uneven walking surfaces, improving drainage, replacing railings, street lighting, and benches.

Advocating for the Most Vulnerable Nursing Home Residents Throughout the COVID-19 Health Crisis

As a strong advocate for the health and safety of the residents and patients of the city-run Coler Hospital, Seawright is proud to have cosponsored and voted to pass sweeping nursing home reforms. She strongly supported the passage of Assembly Bill 3397 to repeal Article 30-D of the Public Health Law to hold facilities and their administrators accountable for harm to patients and residents. Additionally, Seawright supports the compassionate care visitation bill A1052-B to authorize the Department of Health to allow exemptions for personal care visitors and enhanced compassionate care visitation during declared local or state health emergencies.

Seawright Rallies and Testifies to STOP THE TOWER!



Seawright testifies against proposal at Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer's hearing, the next step in the Universal Land Use Review Process (ULURP).

On July 12, as part of the official Universal Land Use Review Process (ULURP), Assembly Member Seawright delivered testimony before the Office of Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer at a public hearing on the New York Blood Center's application for a rezoning of its property on East 67th Street at Hunter College's Assembly Hall.

"Undermining existing zoning will set a dangerous precedent and will open the door to further overdevelopment. The current midblock zoning was established in 1985, led by Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts, and our neighbors who successfully argued before the City Planning Commission to preserve the mid-block. Hailed by the New York Times as "the most sweeping zoning change in the area since 1961," R8B has been the most reliable and successful mechanisms to preserve the low-rise neighborhood character of our side streets. But these guidelines for livable neighborhoods are now under threat by the New York Blood Center as they callously put profits over people," was written in the testimony she submitted.

Assembly Member Seawright's "Town Hall Tuesday" Surpasses 50th Episode: Live Stream Offers Essential Information for Residents of the Upper East Side, Yorkville and Roosevelt Island



Assembly Member Seawright launched the first Town Hall Tuesday in March 2020 in response to the community's urgent needs as outbreaks from the COVID-19 pandemic brought New York City and State to a standstill.

We have tackled such topics as public safety, services for the homeless, special education, and maintaining healthy practice from experts at the top medical and research centers in the city.

Access to the video archive can be found here:
<https://www.facebook.com/RebeccaASeawright/live>

Town Hall Tuesday featuring Higher Education speakers: Vice Chancellor Dr. Denise Maybank (not pictured), Higher Education Services Corporation President Dr. Guillermo Linares, CUNY Executive Director of Admissions and Recruitment Mark Ciolli, SUNY Director of Enrollment Meylin Andares, SUNY Student Trustee Brad Hershenson, CUNY Student Trustee Juvanie Piquant, and Marymount Manhattan College Vice President for Student Success and Engagement Todd Heilman.



Thousands of Pounds Shredded and Counting at Seawright-Sponsored Shredding!

Our office has hosted three successful no-cost community shredding events this spring and summer at John Jay Park, on Roosevelt Island, and with Upper Green Side at the 92nd Street Greenmarket. Hundreds of neighbors took advantage of these no-cost, environmentally conscious paper shredding events. Contact our office if you would like to be notified about the next no-cost paper shredding.

Community Office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright
 1485 York Avenue, New York, NY 10075

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Assembly Member **REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT** *Reports to the People*

Do you have any quality of life concerns you would like to address? Assembly Member Seawright wants to hear from you!



Fill out the form below and return it to the Community Office - 1485 York Avenue, New York, NY 10075.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Issues concerning you as a resident of AD-76: _____
