



COMMUNITY BULLETIN

from Assembly Member

REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT

DISTRICT OFFICE: 1485 York Avenue (Between 78 & 79 Streets) • New York, NY 10075 • 212-288-4607

ALBANY OFFICE: Room 650, Legislative Office Building • Albany, NY 12248 • 518-455-5676

EMAIL: seawrightr@nyassembly.gov • **WEBSITE:** <http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Rebecca-A-Seawright>

Dear Neighbor,

As your voice in the New York State Assembly, and as a public servant in our community, I am committed to preserving and enhancing the quality of life in our neighborhood and advocating for the enactment of more equitable state resources.

In the Assembly, I work to pass legislation and a budget that addresses our community needs. Since assuming office, I have secured 6 million dollars in capital funding for the district, including for our parks with a \$500,000 grant for the improvement to the East River Esplanade. Please take advantage of our beautiful open spaces on the Upper East Side and Roosevelt Island which are getting better every day!

This year I obtained passage of legislation requiring the New York State Department of Health to conduct a study on the high incidence of asthma in Manhattan and to prepare a remediation plan. This bill passed both houses and was delivered to the Governor. I received a score of 100% from the New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV) on the 2017 State Environmental Scorecard, which highlights the performance of every State Legislator on this year's key environmental issues. Recently, my Election Reform Website bill, A.5740A was signed into law by Governor Cuomo requiring the New York State Board of Elections to publish the websites of candidates running for State office to the Board of Elections website. My bill protecting consumers from overpaying annual fees on personal loans was signed into law earlier this year. In response to national concerns, I am proud to have sponsored a bill which was signed into law on November 30 to expand access to breast cancer screenings without cost sharing, to include breast tomosynthesis screenings also known as 3-D mammography. Additionally, I am proud to have passed the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) resolution and introduced ERA Legislation to ensure full equality for women in the New York State Constitution.

I am proud of what we have accomplished together for our community. Please continue to voice your concerns and ideas with our district community office. We are located at 1485 York Avenue, between 78th and 79th Streets. You can always stop by, call 212.288.4607 or email SeawrightR@nyassembly.gov. We are here to serve you!

Sincerely,

Rebecca A. Seawright
Member of Assembly 76th District

GOVERNOR CUOMO SIGNS SEAWRIGHT'S 3-D MAMMOGRAPHY BILL



On November 30, 2017, Governor Cuomo signed A.5677/S.4150, Seawright's legislation which would expand access to breast cancer screenings without cost sharing, to include breast tomosynthesis screenings also known as 3-D mammography. In March 2017, Seawright obtained passage of this bill in the Assembly and in June 2017 the bill was passed in the Senate by Senator Joseph Griffo.

Breast tomosynthesis or 3-D mammography uses x-rays to collect multiple images of the breast from several angles and creates a 3-D image of the breast. Studies have shown it is more effective in detecting cancer in dense breast tissue. Dense breast tissue is one of the strongest predictors of risk for breast cancer.

On Monday, November 6, Seawright spoke at the American Public Health Association Conference in Atlanta, Georgia featuring 3D Mammogram Legislation. ***"The centerpiece of this legislation guaranteed that in any state-sponsored health plan mammography coverage was to be provided without a deductible or co-payment. Thanks to a constituent, we noticed that the implementation of an existing law resulted in some large insurers denying coverage to 3-D mammography or requiring proof that it was medically necessary. That is when I stepped in,"*** said Seawright.



New York City Ferry

Assembly Member Seawright, Senator Serrano and RIOC President Susan Rosenthal welcome the New York City Ferry to Roosevelt Island before an Economic Development Corporation (EDC) information session for the community. Call our office for a ferry reduced-fare application!

"New York City Ferry has served more than 1.4 million riders and now it is serving Roosevelt Island, which is greatly benefiting from an additional mode of transportation," said Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright.

SEAWRIGHT PASSES ERA RESOLUTION IN THE STATE ASSEMBLY CALLING ON 115TH CONGRESS TO PASS THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT IN A CONTINUED FIGHT FOR EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN

This year, Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright announced that her resolution calling on Congress to pass the Equal Rights Amendment passed the Assembly with bipartisan support.

Assembly Member Seawright is building on that initiative and continuing the fight for equal rights for women by introducing a New York State Constitutional Amendment, A.7990, to guarantee equal rights for women. While New York State is one of the most progressive states in the nation and has tackled issues such as paid family leave, equal rights are not explicitly provided for in the State's constitution.

"It is unacceptable that the New York Constitution does not prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex," Assembly Member Seawright said. "With the federal political atmosphere changing, there is a renewed call to ensure that basic equal rights are guaranteed for women. It may seem like a fundamental American value, but we cannot simply hope that we are treated equally, it must be guaranteed."



Seawright with Gloria Steinem for the street naming of Ms. Magazine Way, East 32nd Street and Third Avenue.

AS FEATURED IN THE WALL STREET JOURNAL...



Seawright, Chair of Subcommittee on Consumer Fraud Protection holds a press conference in District Office on York Avenue.

Beware of Hurricane Charity Scammers, N.Y. Officials Warn

Assembly Member Seawright held a press conference at the district community office with ABC7, Wall Street Journal, Newsday and AM NY. She warned those who are making donations to hurricane victims to 'care with care!' She was joined by Community Leader Jean Shafiroff who informed us of the ways we can safely donate to ensure that our efforts are impacting those who need help. Helene Goldfarb, a constituent, testified to receiving several scam calls per day and let others know that she often asks callers to send her the information so she can fully vet the organization or cause before making a donation.

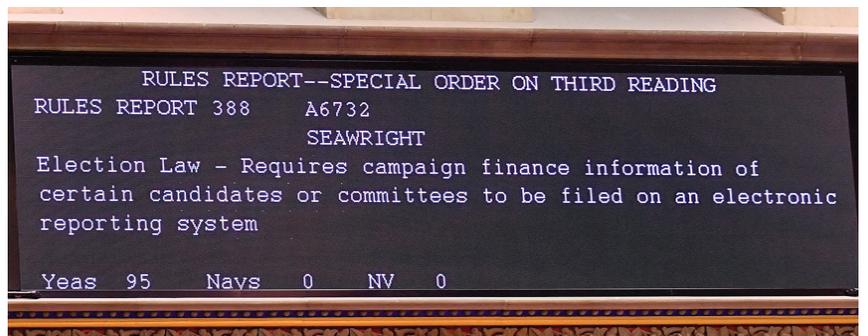
NEW YORK'S PAID FAMILY LEAVE BEGINS IN JANUARY

Family always comes first. It is a mantra we live by. We drop what we are doing to be by a loved one's side in a time of need and make sacrifices for them in an instant; but unfortunately, selfless actions like those can come with a harsh price tag for far too many people. It can be the difference between food on the table and an empty fridge, because for so many New Yorkers, paid leave from work simply is not an option. That is about to change, though, when the state's new paid family leave program begins on Jan. 1. *"We must not continue putting families in the position of choosing work over the care of a loved one, a young infant or an elderly parent," said Seawright.*

2017 SCORECARD RATES SEAWRIGHT 100% ON KEY ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV) released its **2017 State Environmental Scorecard**. The scorecard highlights the performance of every State Legislator on this year's key environmental issues. Assembly Member Seawright scored a 100% on the key issues set forth by the NYLCV.

"It is critical that we give a voice to the environmental issues impacting my district of the Upper East Side, Yorkville, Roosevelt Island and beyond. I understand the critical importance of advocating for the preservation of our environment through legislation and I will continue to fight for environmentally friendly legislation for our community, city and state," said Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright.



SEAWRIGHT'S ELECTION REFORM BILL SIGNED INTO LAW

First Bill of Seawright's Five Point Election Reform Package to Increase Government Transparency for Candidates Running for Statewide Office

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright's State Board of Elections Website bill, A.5740A was signed into law by Governor Cuomo. The new law will require candidates running for statewide office in New York State to provide candidate website information on the State Board of Elections website.

"This change in the law will provide voters with access to information about candidates who are running to represent them, simply by including a link to their information on the State Board of Elections website. This is a win-win for voters and candidates in New York State. Knowledge is power in the voting booth and I am pleased that the Governor signed my election reform bill into law," said Seawright.

The bill would publish campaign websites for candidates running for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, Senate and Assembly. Candidates who do not provide their campaign website when they file to run will be listed on the webpage as not having declared a website. This is just one bill of Seawright's 2017 five point election law reform package, sponsored in the 2017 legislative session. The package includes bills to provide a safe harbor for military, special and absentee ballots, a streamlining for the filing of campaign disclosure reports and providing resources to Boards of Elections for training purposes.

"I will continue to sponsor and support bills like this one that demonstrate a commitment to public transparency for my constituents and voters across the State of New York," said Seawright.

CONSUMER ALERT!

Equifax Data Security Breach: What You Need To Know

Equifax, one of the three major credit reporting agencies, reported that hackers had infiltrated its systems and gained access to sensitive information of 143 million consumers. According to Equifax, it discovered the unauthorized access on July 29, 2017. Information accessed by the hackers includes consumers' names, birthdates, Social Security numbers, driver's license numbers, credit card numbers, and "dispute documents" containing personal information. Equifax is posting updates on its website. Equifax has established a website, www.equifaxsecurity2017.com, and a call center, 866-447-7559. Equifax has stated that it is sending direct mail notices to consumers whose credit card numbers or dispute documents with personal identifying information were breached.

Tips for consumers in the wake of the Equifax breach:

- Watch out for "phishing" scams and attempts to profit from the breach
- Consider taking action to protect yourself with a credit freeze or a fraud alert
- Monitor your credit report, statements and disclosures
- Be wary of tax identity theft

Seawright Cosponsors Bills to Protect Consumers in Wake of Equifax Data Breach

Seawright is taking a stand for consumers who have been impacted by the unprecedented Equifax data breach by cosponsoring new legislation that will establish requirements for credit reporting agencies (CRAs) to protect consumers in the instance of a data breach. One bill, A.8695, would require that a CRA provide free lifetime identity theft protection monitoring and mitigation services for the lifetime of their consumer credit report after any data breach that involves Social Security numbers. Furthermore, the bill would also prohibit fees to freeze and unfreeze a consumer credit report that has been impacted by the breach for the lifetime of that report.

Another bill A.8672, cosponsored by Seawright requires the credit reporting agency experiencing a data breach to ensure that consumers do not face any costs for freezing and unfreezing credit reports, at all credit bureaus, for a period of five years. The legislation thereby strengthens consumer protections by ensuring that individuals do not bear the cost of the many security freeze transactions, across all CRAs that they are likely to undertake in the wake of the Equifax data breach.

"After the massive Equifax breach, I stand with my colleagues to support enhanced consumer protections against breaches of Credit Reporting Agencies. Personal information of millions of people was put in jeopardy, and we as lawmakers have the duty to safeguard people's privacy, identity and other personal information. As the Chair of the Subcommittee on Consumer Fraud Protection, I am committed to further investigating ways we can improve how we prevent, identify and handle consumer fraud cases," said Seawright.

CONSUMER CORNER

Governor Signs Seawright Bill Protecting Consumers from Overpaying Annual Fees on Personal Loans

The Governor signed a series of bills into laws that would extend important consumer and patient provisions. Assembly Bill 6284, introduced by Seawright was among those signed and effective on June 29, 2017. This law will protect consumers from paying extra yearly fees on open-end personal loans. The purpose of this law is to continue for two years the existing statutory authority for licensed lenders to charge annual fees on open-end personal loans. It recognized that annual fees are a commonly used feature in the pricing of open-end loan products such as credit cards, home equity loans, and personal loans. This type of fee reflects the fact that additional costs are incurred in the administration of revolving loans, such as the preparation and mailing of monthly billing statements, the processing of transactions, and increased monitoring costs.

For these reasons, banking institutions have long had the ability to charge annual fees in open-end loan products. Licensed lenders have also had the ability to charge annual fees on certain open-end products, such as credit cards and home equity loans. However, prior to 1996, they did not have authority to charge annual fees on open-end personal loans. Chapter 223 gave licensed lenders the same pricing flexibility as banking institutions in regard to charging annual fees on open-end personal loans. Licensed lenders should continue to have this flexibility in pricing their loan products. Therefore, this law will extend the provisions of the 1996 law for another two years.

WASTE TRANSFER STATION UPDATE

Seawright obtained passage of A.7214, legislation requiring the New York State Department of Health to conduct a study on the high incidence of asthma in Manhattan and to prepare a remediation plan. This bill also passed in the Senate and has been delivered to the Governor.

In addition to requiring that the study and the plan be conducted within twelve months of the effective date of becoming law, this legislation



requires that the results of the remedial plan be provided to the Governor and the Legislature no later than 18 months from the beginning of the study. *"The construction of the 91st Street Waste Transfer Station in our residential community is a looming threat to public health and quality of life for Yorkville residents. Air quality continues to be one of our most important concerns. According to the New York City Department of Health, the community surrounding the 91st Street Marine Transfer Station has disproportionately higher rates of asthma.*

Health and environmental policy are at the epicenter of discussions across the country, state and in our community

with the arrival of a waste transfer station. I am proud to have fought for passage of this critical legislation which is a beacon of hope for those who are at risk or people who are living with chronic respiratory illnesses like asthma," said Assembly Member Seawright.

Seawright inspected the site of the East 91st Street waste transfer station after a fire in October. *"I visited the site after hearing from nearby constituents concerned about both the fire and the air quality surrounding the construction area. We are of course grateful that no one was harmed. Nevertheless, there should be a full investigation by the appropriate governmental agencies responsible for safety oversight," said Assembly Member Seawright, who chairs the Subcommittee on Consumer Fraud Protection. "We remain deeply concerned about the impact of the Waste Transfer Station being constructed adjacent to Asphalt Green, in a residential neighborhood with public housing and parks which serve many families with young children," said Seawright.*



Seawright hosted a forum with Community Board 8's Senior, Health and Social Services Committee on November 28 at the Ramaz School. Thank you to Co-Chairs Barbara Rudder and Jacqueline Ludorf, Environmental Planning Consultant Valerie Rifkin, and Metropolitan Hospital Pulmonary Specialist Dr. Thomas Newman for joining the forum to discuss the high incidence of asthma in our community and its impacts in response to the waste transfer station.

SEAWRIGHT VOTES FOR PASSAGE OF THE NEW YORK HEALTH ACT

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright helped pass the New York Health Act, legislation that would create a universal single-payer plan to provide health coverage to every New York resident (A.4738). *"Each session, there is a bill that overwhelmingly resonates with our constituents," Seawright said. "This year, that bill was the NY Health Act. Good quality and affordable health care is a basic necessity that should be available to all."* The Senate needs one more vote to pass this legislation essential to the health and well-being of all New Yorkers.

SEAWRIGHT NAMED TO EDUCATION COMMITTEE

New York State Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright has been appointed to the Committee on Education by Speaker Carl Heastie. Assembly Education Committee considers legislation relating to more than 700 school districts across the state and allocations totaling almost \$25 billion in the 2016/2017 state budget.

“As the mother of two children educated in public elementary, middle, and high schools, I am especially aware of the importance of helping to ensure that adequate resources are available for quality educational opportunities at all levels. As a PTA member, former Community Board Member, and as an attorney committed to the public interest, I intend to bring my perspective to the important work of the Assembly Committee on Education. By working closely with our esteemed Committee Chair Cathy Nolan and other Assembly colleagues, I will fight to assure that New York City gets its fair share of the new state budget,” said Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright. In her first term, Seawright allocated \$1,775,000 in capital and state and municipal grants, and \$25,000 in priority project grants for renovations, enrichment programming and services to public schools on the Upper East Side and Roosevelt Island.



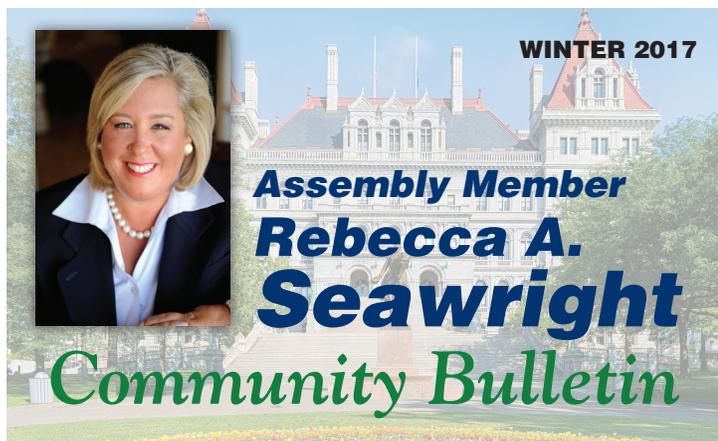
PS 290 teacher Steven Jaffee, Principal Doreen Esposito and Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright meet to discuss a \$500,000 grant to the school for a green roof project.

SEAWRIGHT VOTED TO PASS HISTORIC INCREASE IN MINIMUM WAGE TAKING EFFECT DECEMBER 31

Hardworking New Yorkers should not have to worry about whether they will have enough money to put food on the table or if they will be able to pay the rent or mortgage at the end of the month. Everyone who puts in an honest day’s work should be able to provide for themselves and their family. That is why Assembly Member Seawright voted to pass changes to the state’s minimum wage laws to help lift working families up – because far too many people are struggling just to get by.

As the minimum wage increases continue at the end of this year, many New Yorkers can expect to see a bump in their pay. On Dec. 31, the minimum wage in New York City will increase to \$13, and for workers employed by small businesses with 10 or fewer employees, it will increase to \$12. That is not the last of it – workers will continue to see increases for the next few years.

New York State Assembly • Albany, New York 12248



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NOTICES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

District Community Office Hours:
Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Mobile Office Hours:

We come to you! Once a month our office comes to **Roosevelt Island** from **10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** at the **Senior Center**. Sign up for our email newsletter or call the community office for details.

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Seawright met with Community Board 8 Parks Committee Co-Chairs Susan Evans and Peggy Price to discuss the future of the East River Esplanade and the plan for Seawright’s \$500,000 grant for improvements.

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