



Assemblymember  
**Jo Anne Simon**  
52nd District



**Announcements & Upcoming Events**

**January 2020**

**A Message from Jo Anne...**

This month, we return to Albany for the start of the 2020 state legislative session. While the 2019 session was the most productive session in recent New York legislative history, we still have much to do this year. I will be focused on ending solitary confinement, education and my bills on dyslexia, automatic voter registration, my bill to increase community input and Department of Health oversight in hospital closures, ensuring a more reliable and sustainable transit system, and a bill to study fake “crisis” pregnancy centers that don’t actually provide women’s health care.

I also would like to announce that Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie has entrusted me with the job of chairing the Assembly Committee on Ethics and Guidance. I will work hard to live up to this awesome responsibility and to safeguard the trust of my colleagues and the public as I transition to this new role.

Sincerely,

Jo Anne Simon

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**Census Bureau is Hiring for the 2020 Census.** Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau works to count every person residing in the country. The information collected helps inform important political, economic and social decisions, including the allocation of funding, legislative redistricting and congressional representation. In previous census counts, New York State -- *and particularly Brooklyn* -- has been undercounted, resulting in the loss of billions in federal funding for hospitals, public schools, transportation, emergency services and more. I am working with community partners and government agencies to make sure New York gets counted!

The U.S. Census Bureau is hiring 20,000 temporary, part-time workers in New York. The positions offer competitive pay, flexible hours, paid training, and weekly paychecks. During the last census, New York had to recruit workers from out of state. New Yorkers know our streets and our neighbors; let’s give New York jobs to New Yorkers and make sure we have an accurate count! The selection process begins this month, with paid training occurring in March and April (Census Day is April 1, 2020). After paid training, most positions work between May and early July. For more details and to apply for jobs, visit [2020census.gov/jobs](https://2020census.gov/jobs).

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**Voter Registration Changes:** People who are 16 and older can now pre-register to vote! A recently enacted state law allows people who are 16 and older to pre-register to vote (though they cannot vote until they are 18). Stop by my office for voter registration forms, or go to <https://www.elections.ny.gov/votingregister.html>.

Note the Date: change of party enrollment for any 2020 primary election must be received by the Board of Elections by February 14, 2020. This is a new date as a result of our recently enacted state law that gives people more time to change their party enrollment.

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**Save the Date: Dyslexia Awareness Day in Albany, 3/4/20.** You are cordially invited to attend the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Dyslexia Awareness Day on Wed., March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the New York State Capitol in Albany. This extraordinary event brings together students, parents, advocates, and experts from across the state who care about this issue. You will have an opportunity to network with others, meet with legislators to share your experiences, and advocate for legislative solutions, such as early screening and teacher training.

**Still Time to Enroll in Health Care for 2020.** New York’s Healthcare Marketplace, NY State of Health, is a way for individuals, families, and small businesses to find quality health insurance, including stand-alone dental plans (Note: the Marketplace is not for people who have Medicare).

**Need Financial Help?** Financial aid to buy insurance is available for most consumers. You may qualify for an even more affordable option through the state’s new Essential Plan (EP), which covers key health benefits for a \$20 monthly premium or nothing, depending on income (ex. EP is available for a household of one with an annual income of \$24,980). You may also be eligible for Medicaid or Child Health Plus (CHIP).

**How Do I Apply?** Apply online at [www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov](http://www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov), or call the Marketplace at 1-855-355-5777.

**Need Free Help Applying?** Trained in-person assistors, or navigators, are available to walk you through the application process. To find a navigator near you and set up an appointment, call the Marketplace or go to: <https://info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/ipanavigatorsitelocations>

**When Do I Apply?** **Apply by Jan. 15, 2020 for coverage effective Feb. 1, 2020. Open enrollment for 2020 ends on Jan. 31, 2020** (Note: NYS has a longer enrollment period than the federal government). After that time, you may only apply if you experience a qualifying event, such as loss of your current coverage, pregnancy, job loss, marriage or divorce, or other event.

**Note:** You may apply for Medicaid, CHIP, or the Essential Plan at any time of year.

**Provider Look-up:** <https://pndlookup.health.ny.gov/>. Find out which plans your doctor accepts, which plans a facility accepts, and which doctors are in each plan.

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**Heat Laws Reminder.** We’re into heat season, and it’s important that tenants and landlords know their rights and responsibilities. “Heat Season” is October 1<sup>st</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup> and heat must be provided:

- Between 6am and 10pm, if the outside temperature is below 55 degrees, inside temperature must be 68 degrees or higher.
- Between 10pm and 6am, inside temperature must be 62 degrees or higher, no matter the outside temperature.

It is NYC law that landlords provide hot water to tenants 365 days a year. If you are a tenant experiencing problems with your heat or hot water, notify the owner of your building. If problems persist, call 311, or my office.

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**Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), Equipment Repair, & Clean and Tune Benefits.** HEAP helps New Yorkers with lower incomes pay to heat their homes. The HEAP benefit application period is now open (apply ASAP). Eligibility and benefit amounts are based on household size and income, primary heating source, and if a household member is younger than 6 or older than 60, or permanently disabled. You may also be eligible if you receive certain public benefits like SNAP, TA or SSI. Emergency HEAP can also assist in a heat-related emergency. You may also be eligible for other benefits like the “Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement” benefit or the “Clean and Tune” benefit, which includes the cleaning of primary heating equipment, but may also include chimney cleaning, minor repairs, installation of carbon monoxide detectors or programmable thermostats. To find out if you’re eligible and to apply for these benefits, contact HEAP at 1-800-342-3009 or go to: <https://www.ny.gov/services/apply-heating-and-cooling-assistance-heap>.

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**Citizen Squirrel’s Youth Civic Engagement Workshop, 1/14/20.** I’m co-sponsoring this event with Citizen Squirrel & others, which invites our youngest community members to be civically engaged, focusing on elementary-school aged children. Tues., 1/14, 4-5pm, Park Slope Library, 431 6<sup>th</sup> Ave/9<sup>th</sup> St. RSVP to [CitizenSquirrelNYC@gmail.com](mailto:CitizenSquirrelNYC@gmail.com).

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**Sign up for my Email Alerts.** Email [simonj@nyassembly.gov](mailto:simonj@nyassembly.gov) to stay informed of community events & policy issues!  
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