



# Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon



## Resources for Older Adults 2025

### Dear Neighbors and Friends,

I'm delighted to invite you to my annual **Older Adult Resource Fair on Friday, May 30th from 10am - 2pm** in Downtown Brooklyn at St. Francis College, 179 Livingston Street.

You can speak with a fabulous array of non-profit groups and government agencies that provide cultural events, legal services, housing resources, social activities, and more.

The resource fair will also feature groups that can provide you with information about public benefits to help you buy groceries, freeze your rent, or reduce your Medicare costs. Too often, older adults miss opportunities to receive public benefits simply because they are unaware of their eligibility. I want to ensure that you know about the benefits you have earned throughout your life.

Many of the groups featured in this newsletter will be at my resource fair.

**The fair will also include a Town Hall at 1pm on "Staying Connected"** to one another and activities that bring us joy. You will hear from various speakers, and there will be time for questions and answers.

I'm spending many of my days in Albany right now for the legislative session. This year, I was appointed Chair of the Mental Health Committee. I'm fighting to ensure that our mental health system implements programs that are proven to work and that provide preventive services so that our state does a better job of helping people who need support before there's a crisis.

My local district office is bustling, as usual. I've partnered with local elected officials to provide a free bus that picks up older adults from Downtown Brooklyn and brings them to Wegmans and back to get groceries (contact my office for details). I've also hosted immigrants rights workshops, mammogram screenings, flu shot events, and clothing drives. I hope you'll join one of my Java with Jo Anne's where we meet at a local coffee shop to discuss community issues and policy priorities.

I'm honored to be your Assemblymember and continue to have the opportunity to serve the residents of Assembly District 52.

Please feel free to contact my office via [simonj@nyassembly.gov](mailto:simonj@nyassembly.gov) or call 718-246-4889. You can also stop by my office in Carroll Gardens at 341 Smith Street.

Very Truly Yours,

Jo Anne Simon  
Member of the Assembly

### Policy Spotlight

I am pleased to report that I passed another major bill on gun violence prevention (**A436**). I'm also fighting for bills to reduce your utility bills (**A4870**), lower the cost of prescription drugs through a wholesale purchase plan with Canada (**A4604**), improve street safety (**A3730**), and increase literacy rates for all of New York's kids (**A1186**).

I'm the lead sponsor of the NY Home Energy Affordable Transition Act (HEAT, **A4870**). NY HEAT will lower our monthly energy bills, reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, and provide New Yorkers with modern cooling and heating and cooking options that work better.

Currently, utility customers are forced to subsidize the expansion of the polluting fracked gas system. Much of the rate hikes that you pay for are used to pay for repairs to leaky, old pipes and build new pipes that we will rely on for decades. The Building Decarbonization Coalition reports that every new mile of gas pipeline costs an average of \$3 to \$6 million – \$60,000 per customer on that line – all subsidized by existing ratepayers.

The NY HEAT Act allows the utility company (along with the NYS Public Service Commission) to explore other options besides gas, such as thermal energy networks (TENS) and electrification, solar, or heat pumps. The public will have many opportunities to comment and engage. If the utility can show that gas is the cheaper option, they can continue to use gas. The status quo is both unaffordable and bad for the environment and the public's health.



Assemblymember Simon and advocates rally for the NY HEAT Act.

## HOUSING

**Rent Freeze: Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE)** helps people 62+ stay in their homes by freezing their rent. Once your rent is frozen, you can keep paying what you were paying even if your landlord increases the rent. The landlord gets a property tax credit that covers the difference between the new and original rent amount. This is for people in rent-regulated units who make \$50k or less per year and spend 1/3 of their income on rent. Call 311 to apply. [nyc.gov/site/rentfreeze/index.page](https://nyc.gov/site/rentfreeze/index.page)

**Rent Freeze: Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE)** is similar to SCRIE, except it is for people 18+ who have a disability.

**Housing Connects** is a portal to find and apply for affordable rental lotteries in NYC. 212-863-7990. <https://housingconnect.nyc.gov/>

**Churches United for Fair Housing** provides assistance navigating NYC's affordable housing lottery application process. 718-360-2906. [cuffh.org](http://cuffh.org)

**Stonewall Community Development Corporation** helps LGBTQ+ elders navigate the city's affordable housing lotteries and access benefits. They also help create housing. 929-209-4070. [stonewallcdc.org](http://stonewallcdc.org)

**NY Foundation for Senior Citizens** helps older adults live healthier lives at home. Their home sharing program connects "hosts" with extra space in their home to appropriate "guests." They also offer affordable home repairs, housing, and social services. 212-962-7559. [nyfsc.org](http://nyfsc.org)

**NYC's Tenant Helpline** assists people at risk of eviction or facing a housing-related issue. To learn about tenants' rights and get help, call 311 and say "Tenant Helpline." [nyc.gov/site/mayorspeu/resources/resources.page](https://nyc.gov/site/mayorspeu/resources/resources.page)

## TRANSPORTATION

**Access-A-Ride** provides transportation on an "as needed" basis for people who cannot use public transportation. One-way fare is the same as full fare on mass transit. To apply, call 877-337-2017. [mta.info/accessibility/access-a-ride](http://mta.info/accessibility/access-a-ride)

**Reduced-Fare OMNY Cards** offer lower fares, \$1.45, for riders 65+. Apply by mail or in person at the MTA Customer Service Center at 3 Stone Street in lower Manhattan. You will need a valid photo ID with your date of birth, or a Medicare card and another form of photo ID. 877-789-6669. [mta.info/fares-tolls/subway-bus/reduced-fare/omny](http://mta.info/fares-tolls/subway-bus/reduced-fare/omny)

**Jewish Community Council of Greater Coney Island** provides transportation services. They offer individual car, shuttle, and ambulette services to people 60+. 718-449-5000 ext 1. [www.jccgci.org](http://www.jccgci.org)



*Assemblymember Simon and community rallying for transit improvements.*

## COMMUNITY FOOD RESOURCES

**Camp Friendship** in Park Slope provides a food pantry. 718-965-3695. [campfriendshipbrooklyn.org](http://campfriendshipbrooklyn.org)

**Citymeals on Wheels** delivers meals to people 60+ who are homebound and unable to prepare their own meals. Even if you receive homecare, you may still receive meals. Apply through our local agency, COPO: 718-434-3266. <https://copo.org/> / [www.citymeals.org](http://www.citymeals.org)

**CHiPS** has a soup kitchen that provides breakfast & lunch, and a food pantry. 718-237-2962. <https://chipsonline.org>

**Food Help NYC** is a government website that helps you find food pantries, community kitchens, & greenmarkets. [finder.nyc.gov/foodhelp](http://finder.nyc.gov/foodhelp)

**God's Love We Deliver** provides home-delivered meals to people living with HIV/AIDS, cancer, & certain illnesses. 212-294-8100. [glwd.org/get-meals/for-you-or-your-loved-ones](http://glwd.org/get-meals/for-you-or-your-loved-ones)



*Assemblymember Simon and community members providing Thanksgiving meals at YWCA Brooklyn.*

## OLDER ADULT CENTERS

**Eileen Dugan Older Adult Center** in Carroll Gardens offers community, meals, case management, and various classes. 378 Court St., between President & Carroll St. 718-596-1956.

**GRIOT Circle** is a multigenerational organization serving LGBTQ elders of color. They provide health, wellness, advocacy, and leadership activities to remove isolation and build community. 25 Flatbush Ave. 718-246-2775. [griotcircle.org](http://griotcircle.org)

**Heights and Hills** in Park Slope provides case management, meals, social activities, and family events. 463A 7th Street (at 7th Ave). 718-596-8789. [www.heightsandhills.org](http://www.heightsandhills.org)

**SAGE Center at Stonewall House** enables LGBTQ+ elders to live as their best selves surrounded by joy. Open to all 60+ regardless of sexual orientation, gender. They offer meals, a CyberCenter, local outings, exercise and more. 271 Myrtle Ave by Ft. Greene Park. 646-518-9744. [sageserves.org](http://sageserves.org)

**Spanish Speaking Elderly Council-RAICES Senior Center** provides meals, health and wellness activities, case management, educational classes, and social activities. 460 Atlantic Ave (at Nevins). 718-643-0232. [raices.us](http://raices.us)

**St. Charles Jubilee Older Adult Center** provides meals, social services, exercise classes, games, art classes, & events. 55 Pierrepont St. (at Hicks Street). 718-722-6001.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

**Brooklyn Lifelong Learning** through CUNY Brooklyn College offers classes and lectures, plus access to concerts, the Brooklyn College Library, bus trips, and museum tours. 718-951-5647. [brooklyn.edu/blil](http://brooklyn.edu/blil)

**Brooklyn Public Library - Technology for All.** If you need help navigating computers, cell phones, social media, or the internet, this program is for you. Work one-on-one with an expert who will teach you how to use common forms of technology. 718-968-7275. [bklynlibrary.org](http://bklynlibrary.org)

## HEALTH CARE & NURSING HOMES

**NYC Dept. for the Aging (DFTA)** provides services for older adults. Contact DFTA's Aging Connect Hotline to access the City's resources. 212-244-6469. [www.nyc.gov/site/dfta/index.page](http://www.nyc.gov/site/dfta/index.page)

**DFTA's Health Insurance Information, Counseling & Assistance Program (HIICAP)** can answer your health care questions and help you determine which plan is right for you. 212-244-6469.

**Medicare** is the federal health insurance program for people 65+. If you are under 65, you may be eligible if you have a disability or a certain disease. Medicare has four parts:

Part A is insurance for hospitalization, home or skilled nursing, & hospice.

Part B is medical insurance.

Part C (Medicare Advantage Plans) is a private insurance option that covers part A, B, and often D. Plans have different prices and cover different services.

Part D covers prescription medications. 1-800-633-4227. [ssa.gov/medicare](http://ssa.gov/medicare)

**Medicare Rights Center** is a non-profit that helps you understand Medicare, make enrollment decisions, coordinate Medicare with other insurance, appeal denials of care, and determine eligibility for Medicare cost-saving programs. 1-800-333-4114. [www.medicarerights.org](http://www.medicarerights.org)



*Assemblymember Simon and NYU Langone staff offering health services.*



*Assemblymember Simon and colleagues rallying against hospital closures and for her LICH Act (A6004).*

**NYS Dept. of Health's Nursing Home & Adult Care Abuse.** To file a complaint regarding adult care facilities, including abuse, call:

Adult Home Complaints: 1-866-893-6772

Home Care/Hospice: 1-800-628-5972

Nursing Home Ombudsman: 518-417-6587

Nursing Home Abuse: 1-888-201-4563

## EMPLOYMENT & VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

**NYC Department for the Aging (DFTA) Employment Services** offers workshops, career advice, skills and job training. 212-602-6958 or 311. [www.nyc.gov/site/dfta/index.page](http://www.nyc.gov/site/dfta/index.page)

**ReServe** matches educated adults 55+ with paying jobs in non-profit and government agencies, including part-time and temporary jobs. They provide jobs in areas like strategic planning, education, administration, event planning, IT, cultural centers, and more. 212-727-4389. [reserveinc.org](http://reserveinc.org)

**AmeriCorps Volunteer Program for Seniors (RSVP)** connects adults 55+ with volunteer opportunities in their communities that match their interests and availability. Volunteers serve in areas such as food support, health care, education, community building, and culture. 212-254-8900. [cssny.org/pages/rsvp-volunteer-form](http://cssny.org/pages/rsvp-volunteer-form)

**Gowanus Mutual Aid** creates solidarity among community members by supporting each other's needs. They provide food, clothing, and other essentials. To give or get help, email [gowanusmutualaid@gmail.com](mailto:gowanusmutualaid@gmail.com). [gowanusmutualaid.org](http://gowanusmutualaid.org)

### 2025 Older Adult Resource Fair

Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

ST. FRANCIS COLLEGE  
179 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, 11201  
(between Hoyt and Smith Streets)



## LEGAL SERVICES

**Brooklyn Bar Association** is Brooklyn's oldest and largest attorney referral service on a variety of issues. 718-624-0843. <https://lrs.brooklynbar.org>

**Brooklyn Defender Services** represents people facing loss of freedom, family separation, housing, benefits, employment, consumer debt, immigration & more. 718-254-0700. [bds.org](http://bds.org)

**Brooklyn Legal Services** provides free legal services to help people obtain housing, economic security, family and immigration stability, education, health care, and elder law. Call 917-661-4500, Mon-Fri, 9:30am-4pm. [legalservicesnyc.org](http://legalservicesnyc.org)

**Access Justice Brooklyn** provides free civil legal services in areas like aging, deed theft, advance directives, personal finances, housing & more. Free help is based on income. Complete an online intake form or call them Mon-Thurs, 10am-4pm. 718-624-3894. [www.accessjusticebrooklyn.org](http://www.accessjusticebrooklyn.org)

**Legal Aid Society** helps in a areas including foreclosure assistance, government benefits, arrests, employment, domestic violence & more. 212-577-3300 <https://legallaidnyc.org>

## PROTECTION FROM SCAMS & FRAUDS

**Brooklyn District Attorney Fraud Bureau** investigates and prosecutes a variety of white-collar crimes, from scams targeting seniors, immigrants, and homeowners, to wage theft, to healthcare schemes that divert resources from people. 718-250-2340. [brooklynda.org/frauds](http://brooklynda.org/frauds)

**NYC Dept. of Consumer & Worker Protection** helps residents who may have been tricked by unfair selling or renting of goods or services. They use mediation to help resolve complaints against a business. File a complaint: 311. [www1.nyc.gov/site/dca/index.page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/dca/index.page)

**NYS Attorney General's Office, Medicaid & Consumer Frauds Bureau** investigates fraud, price gouging, stolen personal information and more. If you are a victim of a scam or fraud, file a complaint: 1-800-771-7755. <https://ag.ny.gov>

## Get Help Obtaining Public Benefits

**Community Service Society** is a nonprofit that provides screening for over 60 government benefit programs (ex. SCRIE, SNAP, SSI, Medicaid), helps fill out applications and recertification forms, and advocates for those having difficulty accessing benefits. 212-614-5552. [cssny.org](http://cssny.org)

**NY Benefits Center** provides assistance determining eligibility and applying for many benefits. Help is available in multiple languages, Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm. 1-800-829-7005. [mybenefits.ny.gov/mybenefits/begin](http://mybenefits.ny.gov/mybenefits/begin)

## ADVOCACY

**AARP New York** is a non-profit organization that advocates for the interests of people aged 50 and older. AARP works to protect Social Security, improve health care and Medicare, fight age discrimination, and advocate for helpful state-level policies. 1-888-687-2277. [states.aarp.org/new-york](http://states.aarp.org/new-york)

**LiveOn** is a coalition of service organizations that improves the lives of older adults. Through advocacy, they advance systemic change to ensure that New York is an equitable place to age regardless of wealth, racial disparities and other barriers. 212-398-6565. [liveon-ny.org](http://liveon-ny.org)

**Long-Term Care Ombudsman** is a resource for people who live in nursing homes and adult care facilities, funded through the NYS Office for the Aging. The ombudsman helps residents understand their rights to quality care in an environment that protects their dignity and quality of life. Brooklyn's ombudsman

is the Center for Independence of the Disabled. 1-888-855-9807. Email [pgoolcharan@cidny.org](mailto:pgoolcharan@cidny.org)

**NY StateWide Senior Action Council** works to enhance the quality of life for older adults. They help you access benefits, report Medicare fraud, navigate health care, prescription costs and more. 1-800-333-4374. [nysenior.org](http://nysenior.org)

## PUBLIC BENEFITS

**Cooling Assistance Program** helps eligible households buy and install an air conditioner or fan. 718-557-1399. [access.nyc.gov/programs/cooling-assistance-benefit/#determine-your-eligibility](http://access.nyc.gov/programs/cooling-assistance-benefit/#determine-your-eligibility)

**Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)** helps people heat their homes. The benefit can pay for fuel, your utility source, and heating equipment repairs. Eligibility is based on income. 718-557-1399. [otda.ny.gov/programs/heap](http://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap)

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** helps people buy food, including working people & older adults. You will receive a card, like a credit card, that you can use to purchase groceries. Eligibility and benefit levels are based on household size, income and other factors. 1-800-342-3009. <https://www.nyc.gov/site/hra/index.page>

**Social Security** is a federal program that provides monthly income to qualifying recipients. Most jobs take Social Security taxes out of your paycheck so you can get the benefit in your 60s. You are eligible if you are 62+ and if you have worked and paid Social Security taxes for 10 years or more. 1-800-772-1213. <https://secure.ssa.gov/iClaim/rib>

**Supplemental Security Income (SSI)** helps older people, blind and disabled people, who have little or no income. It provides cash to meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter.

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248



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**Jo Anne  
Simon**

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Albany, New York  
Permit No. 75

## CULTURAL PROGRAMS

**BRIC** supports artists, students, and media makers, and ignites learning in people of all ages, while centering diverse voices that drive culture forward. They host performances and classes. 718-683-5600. [bricartsmedia.org](http://bricartsmedia.org)

**Brooklyn Academy of Music** is a multi-arts center that hosts avant-garde performances with theater, dance, music, & film programming. They offer dedicated senior programming and discounts. 718-636-4100 ext 1. [bam.org/seniors-at-bam](http://bam.org/seniors-at-bam)

Brooklyn Conservatory of Music offers accessible music classes to individuals of all ages and hosts over 150 performances every year. These performances are often offered at little to no costs

with discounts for seniors. 718-622-3300. [bkcm.org](http://bkcm.org)

**Brooklyn Museum** offers pay what you wish admission (exhibits that require tickets have a reduced fee for adults 65+). Wednesday-Sunday, 11am-6pm. 718-638-5000. [brooklynmuseum.org](http://brooklynmuseum.org)

**Old Stone House** in Park Slope is dedicated to preserving local and national history. They feature a variety of events and exhibits in their space. 718-768-3195. [theoldstonehouse.org](http://theoldstonehouse.org)