

# Rebecca Seawright



*Dear Friends and Neighbors,*

*Wishing those who celebrate a happy and healthy Lunar New Year, the year of the ox!*

*Thank you to those who attended my virtual Swearing-In ceremony on Tuesday. On our next Virtual Town Hall Tuesday, February 23 at 7:00 pm on Facebook Live we are hosting guest experts on Rank Choice voting for the upcoming election.*

*New York State has reached a milestone of 106,017 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine administered 24 hours. New York's health care distribution sites have received 2,002,055 first doses and already administered 89 percent or 1,787,189 first dose vaccinations and 81 percent of first and second doses. The week 9 allocation from the federal government continues being delivered to providers for administration. See our below listings of resources to access a vaccination in New York City.*

*Today, indoor dining restarted with a capacity of 25%, and on Sunday the curfew for diners will be 11:00 pm.*

*[This Sunday is the last day to change your party status to be eligible to vote in the June City primary election.](#)*

*Join us for one of the events that I am pleased to sponsor:*

- *Tuesday, February 16 at 4:00 pm by telephone-**No-Cost Housing Legal Clinic.** [RSVP here.](#)*

- **Thursday, February 18 from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm at the District Office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, 1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets)- *No-Cost Face Covering Giveaway.* [RSVP here.](#)**
- **Thursday, February 18 from 2:00 pm -4:00 pm on Zoom-*Virtual Knitting Social.* [RSVP here.](#)**
- **Tuesday, February 23 at 7:00 pm on Facebook live and Zoom-*Rank Choice Voting Information Session.* [RSVP here.](#)**
- **Wednesday, March 3 from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm on Facebook live and Zoom-*Freeze Your Rent Clinic with the New York City Department of Finance.* [RSVP here.](#)**
- **Wednesday, March 10 from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm on Facebook live and Zoom-*Homeowners Benefits Clinic with the New York City Department of Finance.* [RSVP here.](#)**

As a reminder, our district community office will be closed in observation of Presidents Day Monday, February 15 for a legal State Government holiday. We will re-open on Tuesday, February 16 at 9:30 AM.

Stay safe, wash your hands frequently, keep your social distance, and wear your face-covering! Please don't hesitate to reach out to our community office if we can be of assistance.

**Phone:** 212.288.4607

**Email:** [SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov](mailto:SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov)

Sincerely,



**REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT**

## COVID-19 Vaccination Information

Over seven million New Yorkers are now eligible for the vaccine. Eligible groups include doctors, nurses and health care workers, people age 65 and over, first responders, teachers, public transit workers, grocery store workers, and public safety workers.

Starting Monday, February 15th, vaccine eligibility will be expanded to include individuals who are 16 years old and above, who have underlying health conditions.

The White House announced a 5 percent increase in vaccine allocations to the states for the next three weeks, which is welcome news.

[Visit the New York State Vaccine Site Locator](#)

Call 1-833-NYS-4-VAX (1-833-697-4829)

or [Visit the New York City Vaccine Site Locator](#)

Call 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692)

New York State and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital vaccination site for eligible New

Yorkers in Washington Heights- visit the [connect Online Patient Portal](#).

Veterans 65+ currently enrolled in Veterans Affairs health care can receive their COVID vaccine through the VA New York Harbor Healthcare System. Schedule an appointment at 877-877-9267.

NYC Health & Hospitals - Make an appointment online at any NYC Health + Hospitals location. For appointments by phone, call 1-877-VAX-4NYC or 1-877-829-4692.

To schedule a vaccination appointment at Rite Aid, Duane Reade, or Costco, please follow these links to register and check for appointment availability:

- [Costco](#)
- [Rite Aid](#)
- [Duane Reade](#)

[Sign up here to receive the latest information on the COVID19 vaccine.](#)

## Seawright Swearing-In Ceremony



On Tuesday Assembly Member Seawright was sworn into her fourth term in the Assembly,

representing the neighborhoods of the Upper East Side, Yorkville and Roosevelt Island. She was joined by US Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney, Attorney General Letitia James, and Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer. Carol Jenkins emceed the program that included a special performance by Marilyn Maye and the Pledge of Allegiance by Roosevelt Island Girl Scout Troop 3233. Watch the full Swearing-In [here](#).

## In Case You Missed It

### Virtual No-Cost Tax Prep and Financial Counseling Presentation

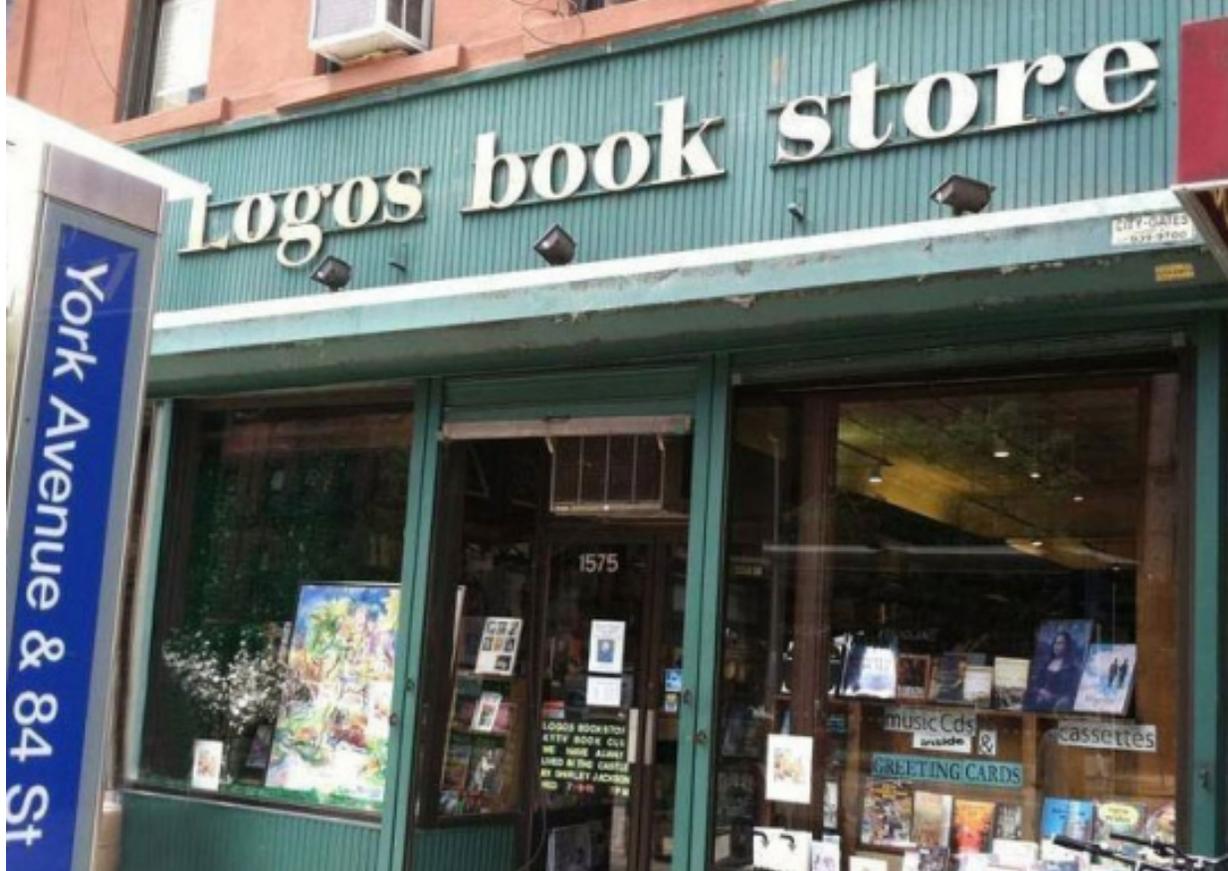


**Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**

The EITC is a federal, state, and New York City tax credit for qualifying families, noncustodial parents, and singles who work full time or part time or are self-employed. **For working families the credit could be worth up to \$8,991.**

## Small Business Spotlight

*Logos Bookstore*



Stop by Logos book store and ask Harris Healy what he recommends for your next good read! They are located at 1575 York Avenue between 83rd and 84th Streets.

*Submit your favorite small business here to be featured in our next e-newsletter!*

## Legislative Updates

### **Seawright Cosponsors Legislation Passed by Assembly Allowing N.Y. to More Safely Conduct Elections During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Legislation passed this week would adjust the petitioning process in order to get on the ballot, so that less person to person contact is required for those wishing to serve in elected office. The first bill would reduce the number of signatures required for an independent nomination petition to 50 percent for elections held in 2021. This will facilitate safer campaigns and will limit potential exposure to COVID-19 as elections are held this coming year. The provision will expire [December 31, 2021](#) ([A.4686](#), Burgos.)

The second bill relating to the petitioning process would remove the option to file an opportunity to ballot petition for the [June 2021](#) primary election. Under New York State law, if only one candidate files petitions for a party nomination, they are assumed to have the nomination and the race does not appear on the primary ballot. Opportunity to ballot petitioning collects signatures, not for a candidate, but for the ability to write someone else's name in, which requires the primary to appear on the ballot. Eliminating this process will avoid unnecessary petitioning as well as the need for boards of elections across the state to hold a primary, including nine days of early voting, for a primary with only one candidate ([A.4447](#), Gallagher).

Current election law does not allow nominations and designations to be made using video conferencing. Legislation passed [today](#) would allow video conferencing to be used in the process of party designations and nominations, except for those made at a primary election. It allows for up to 10 proxies to be carried by an eligible person at such a party meeting unless a committee's rules provide for more ([A.4364](#), Lupardo).

Another bill the Assembly passed would allow members of a county committee whose terms are expiring in 2021 to remain in office for an additional one year term. This would require them to run in 2022 for a one year term, and resume two year terms in 2023 ([A.4357](#), Sillitti).

## Seawright To NYC Mayor During Budget Hearing on Local Government: We Need UES Vaccination Sites!



Seawright also asked for an update on the work being done on the East River Esplanade.

We received the response regarding the esplanade that work is ongoing for the following:

- In the City FY22 preliminary budget, Mayor de Blasio allocated \$284 million for critical repairs along the East River Esplanade. The funding adds to more than \$327 million previously allocated under this administration for the rehabilitation of the East River Esplanade and the addition of waterfront open space in East Harlem

- Active projects:
  - In design – E. 114th-117th streets. Parks is currently working to obtain final permit approval from NYSDEC for environmental mitigation. The \$34.7 million project will stabilize and reconstruct this portion of the esplanade.
  - In design – E. 62nd-63rd streets. The \$20.9 million project will structurally rehabilitate the area.
  - In design – E. 90th-94th streets. The \$31.5 million project will structurally rehabilitate the area.

Our office is setting up a meeting with the Commissioner of the New York City Parks Department to find out more details on the project status.

## Seawright Asks NYC Comptroller For Accountability Of Organizations Providing Services to Those In Need



The former CEO of the Bronx Parent Housing Network is being investigated following accusations of sexual misconduct, intimidation, and abuse of power. The allegations were revealed in a New York Times investigation. The investigation found that for years, Rivera engaged in financial and sexual abuse as the head of one of the largest shelter providers in the city.

Seawright asked, "One of the locations Loving Arms Soup Kitchen is in my district serving

as a food pantry on First Avenue, between 85th and 86th Streets. With reports of this kind of abuse of government resources, how can we ensure that this and other resources including soup kitchens, drop-in centers, and shelters are operating efficiently and performing the service that it intends to provide?"

Seawright also asked how we can strengthen the MWBE program.

## Assembly Announces Post-COVID Mass Transit Working Group

The Assembly has created an internal working group to focus on the recovery and future of the state's mass transit systems as they mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The working group will examine challenges that transit systems across the state are facing as a result of the public health crisis, which includes a dramatic drop in ridership. The Metropolitan Transit Authority's (MTA) ridership dropped 63 percent from 2019 to 2020, and non-MTA transit systems also experienced ridership losses, some at levels of 50 percent or more. This has left these systems struggling, and many have been forced to reduce services as a result. Additionally, the working group will look at transit systems capital investment and operating needs, transit's impact on the economy and jobs, transit deserts in rural areas of the state, social equity and addressing climate change, and ways to help cities and local governments provide efficient transit services.

## COVID-19 Updates and Resources

### Restaurants and Bars

The Governor extended the closing time for eateries to 11 p.m. effective Sunday. Indoor dining reopened Friday in New York City after a months-long closure. Cuomo similarly cited the state's declining COVID-19 levels in his decision to reopen restaurants.

### Renters Hardship Declaration

As a result of the rent relief legislation, cosponsored by Seawright and signed into law, renters who have lost income, are unable to pay increased costs or are unable to move without significant risk to their health or the health of a family member, can declare hardship and protect themselves against eviction until May 1, 2021. Tenants should sign and deliver their hardship declaration form to their landlord.

*If you're behind on rent or at increased health risk from COVID-19, fill out the hardship declaration form and get protected from eviction.*

## Legal Resources

**City Bar Justice Center Legal Hotline.** The CBJC Legal Hotline is fully staffed remotely by attorneys to assist low-income callers on a range of civil legal issues including COVID-19 related matters touching on relief programs, mortgage and student loan relief, housing law, employment law, visitation, statute of limitations questions and consumer law. Staff includes bilingual attorneys (English and Spanish) and can accept calls in any language through interpreting services. **Call 212-626-7383**

**City Bar Legal Referral Service.** Our Legal Referral Service remains fully operational, with

all attorney referral counselors and participating lawyers working remotely. Due to the pandemic, the Legal Referral Service has *waived* its initial consultation fee for all legal issues until further notice. Call 212-626-7373 (212-626-7374 en español) or submit a lawyer referral request *online*.

**Rebecca  
Seawright**



## Freeze Your Rent Clinic

Wed., March 3  
2:00pm–3:00pm

The NYC Rent Freeze Program, which includes the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) Program and the Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) Program, helps those eligible stay in affordable housing by freezing their rent.

## Homeowners Benefits Clinic

Wed., March 10  
2:00pm–3:00pm

The City of New York offers tax exemptions and abatements for seniors, veterans, clergy members, people with disabilities, and other homeowners. These benefits can lower your property tax bill.

**Email [SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov](mailto:SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov) or call 212-288-4607 to RSVP**



[RSVP Here](#)

# Unemployment Updates

**1099-G Update (2/1/2021):** The 1099-G tax form is available now. If you received unemployment or pandemic benefits in the calendar year 2020, you will need this form to file your taxes. To access your form online, log in to [labor.ny.gov/signin](https://labor.ny.gov/signin), click 'Unemployment Services,' select '2020' from the dropdown menu, and click 'View/Print Your 1099-G.' If you do not have an online account with NYS DOL, you may call 1-888-209-8124 to request a 1099-G form through our automated phone service. For more information, visit [on.ny.gov/1099-G](https://on.ny.gov/1099-G).

**PUA Update – 1/30/2020:** New Yorkers who are enrolled in the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program do not need to reapply for benefits if they continue to be unemployed when they reach the end of their initial benefit year. Instead, PUA claimants should continue to certify weekly while unemployed to continue receiving the benefits for which they are eligible. Claimants who are receiving traditional Unemployment Insurance (UI), should reapply if they continue to be unemployed when their benefit year has ended. For more information about extended benefits, visit [on.ny.gov/cauwa](https://on.ny.gov/cauwa).

**Partial Unemployment Update:** As of January 18, 2021, New York State has modified the rules for partial unemployment eligibility so that New Yorkers can take on part-time work without losing disproportionate unemployment and pandemic benefits. For information on how this impacts weekly certifications and guidance for claiming partial benefits, refer to the [Partial Unemployment Eligibility](#) web page, social media platforms, and emails and text messages sent directly to claimants.

## Aid for Small Businesses

The graphic features a stylized illustration of a person in an apron working behind a counter in a coffee shop. The shop has a sign that says "coffee house" and is decorated with plants and hanging lights. The background is a solid orange color.

# Small Business Relief

New York State is offering grant and loan programs and other assistance for small businesses affected by COVID-19.

Visit [esd.ny.gov/covid-19-business-resources](https://esd.ny.gov/covid-19-business-resources) to learn more.

Your business could very well be eligible for COVID-19 relief funding. View our recent [COVID-19 Relief Updates blog post](#) to understand the latest round of revisions to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program, and the New York Forward Loan Fund (NYFLF) program.

### SBA Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)

Through the Economic Aid Act, you may qualify for 2.5x to 3.5x your average monthly payroll in a 100% forgivable, zero-fee loan.

SBA funding is one of the preeminent SBA loan packagers in the country. Over the prior ten-year period, we've facilitated over \$2 billion in loans, helped thousands of clients during the first round of the Paycheck Protection Program ("PPP"), and have facilitated many thousands more in the first 10 days of the second round.

You have access to PPP funds through SBA funding's exclusive partnership with a service provider offering the most streamlined solution available. This portal will also make it easier for you when you're ready to apply for forgiveness.

- Program Highlights: Receive 2.5x your average monthly payroll costs in the one year prior to the loan or the calendar year (up to \$2 million). Hospitality businesses may qualify for 3.5x
- PPP is a 100% forgivable loan if you follow the guidelines
- Borrowers pay no fees

[Click here, add your basic contact information and be directed to the application.](#)

### **New York Forward Loan Fund (NYFLF)**

The New York Forward Loan Fund (NYFLF) is a new economic recovery loan program aimed at supporting New York State small businesses, nonprofits, and small residential landlords as they reopen after the COVID-19 outbreak and NYS on "PAUSE." The NYFLF targets the state's small businesses with 50 or fewer full-time equivalent (FTE) employees (90% of all businesses), nonprofits and small residential landlords who have seen a loss of rental income. The NYFLF is specifically timed to support businesses and organizations as they proceed to reopen and have upfront expenses to comply with guidelines (e.g., inventory, marketing, refitting for new social distancing guidelines) under the New York Forward Plan.

[More information can be found here.](#)

## **Arts and Entertainment Grants**

The U.S. Small Business Administration released an [FAQ for the Shuttered Venue Operators Grants](#) (formerly known as Save Our Stages). The Grant Program, which passed as part of the third stimulus package, includes \$15 billion for grants of up to \$10 million to qualified live venue operators and promoters, performing arts organizations, theatrical producers, talent representatives, movie theater operators, and non-profit museums that have auditoriums.

**Immediately prepare for the application:** The application section on page 5 explains how applicants should begin preparing immediately: [Register for a DUNS number](#) and then register in the federal government's SAM at [www.SAM.gov](http://www.SAM.gov). It can take two weeks to get a SAM registration, so start the process now. The SBA also says, "Gather documents that demonstrate your number of employees and monthly revenues so you can calculate the average number of qualifying employees you had over the prior 12 months. Lastly, determine the extent of gross earned revenue loss you experienced between 2019 and 2020. This and additional information such as floor plans, contract copies and other evidence will be needed to apply for an SVOG."

**Question re: fixed seating:** The SBA confirmed that only movie theaters and museums must have fixed seating and the fixed seating requirement does not apply to other venues. Multi-use performance venues, music venues, comedy clubs, black box theaters, and similar venues may apply so long as they have a "defined performance and audience space."

The SBA will be refreshing the FAQ as new information becomes available and additional program details are finalized. When the application is available, we will alert you. Please sign up to receive updates and information about help from our colleagues at the NYC Department of Small Business Services [on the form here](#).

# Health Insurance Open Enrollment

Open enrollment for uninsured New Yorkers is extended through March 31. As part of the State's ongoing response to the pandemic, the open enrollment period for uninsured New Yorkers is extended through March 31, 2021. New Yorkers can apply for coverage through the NY State of Health, New York's Official Health Plan Marketplace, or directly through insurers. Learn more [here](#).

## Upcoming Events



Assembly  
Member  
Rebecca  
Seawright

**VIRTUAL  
KNITTING  
SOCIAL**

JOIN NEIGHBORHOOD  
KNITTERS FOR CRAFTING  
AND CONVERSATION

EVERY THURSDAY ON  
ZOOM  
**2PM-4PM**

ALL SKILL LEVELS  
WELCOME

Contact the Office of Assembly  
Member Rebecca Seawright  
Call: 212.288.4607  
Email: [SeawrightReNYAssembly.gov](mailto:SeawrightReNYAssembly.gov)

**ASSEMBLY MEMBER**  
**REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT**



# HOUSING LEGAL CLINIC

**TUES. FEBRUARY 16**

Get help navigating the housing court process, responding to notices, dealing with threat of eviction, getting repairs from negligent landlords, and advocating for your rights as a tenant in New York City!

**EVERY OTHER TUESDAY  
AT 4:00 PM ATTORNEYS FROM  
THE LAW OFFICES OF GRIMBLE  
& LOGUIDICE, LLC WILL  
PROVIDE ADVICE ON HOUSING-  
RELATED MATTERS AT NO-COST  
FOR CONSTITUENTS OF THE  
76TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT**

**DUE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS, A  
VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY WILL  
HOST A ONE -ON-ONE PHONE  
SESSION WITH ATTENDEES.**



**SCAN ME TO  
RSVP!**

**RSVP REQUIRED:  
CALL: 212-288-4607  
EMAIL: SEAWRIGHTR@NYASSEMBLY.GOV**

*The legal clinic is solely to provide guidance and advice from attorney's experienced in landlord-tenant law. The clinic does not guarantee a desired outcome and does not establish an attorney-client relationship. Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright does not represent or advise constituents in any legal matters.*

**RSVP to the Legal Clinic on 2/16**

**ASSEMBLY MEMBER  
REBECCA SEAWRIGHT**



**PROTECTIVE  
FACE MASK  
GIVEAWAY**



**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021  
12:00PM-2:00PM**

**COMMUNITY OFFICE  
1485 YORK AVENUE  
(78/79 STREET)**

**SCAN ME TO RSVP!**

**OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER  
REBECCA SEAWRIGHT**  
PHONE: 212.288.4607  
EMAIL:  
SEAWRIGHTR@NYASSEMBLY.GOV



**RSVP to the Face Covering Giveaway on 2/18**

[View as Webpage](#)



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