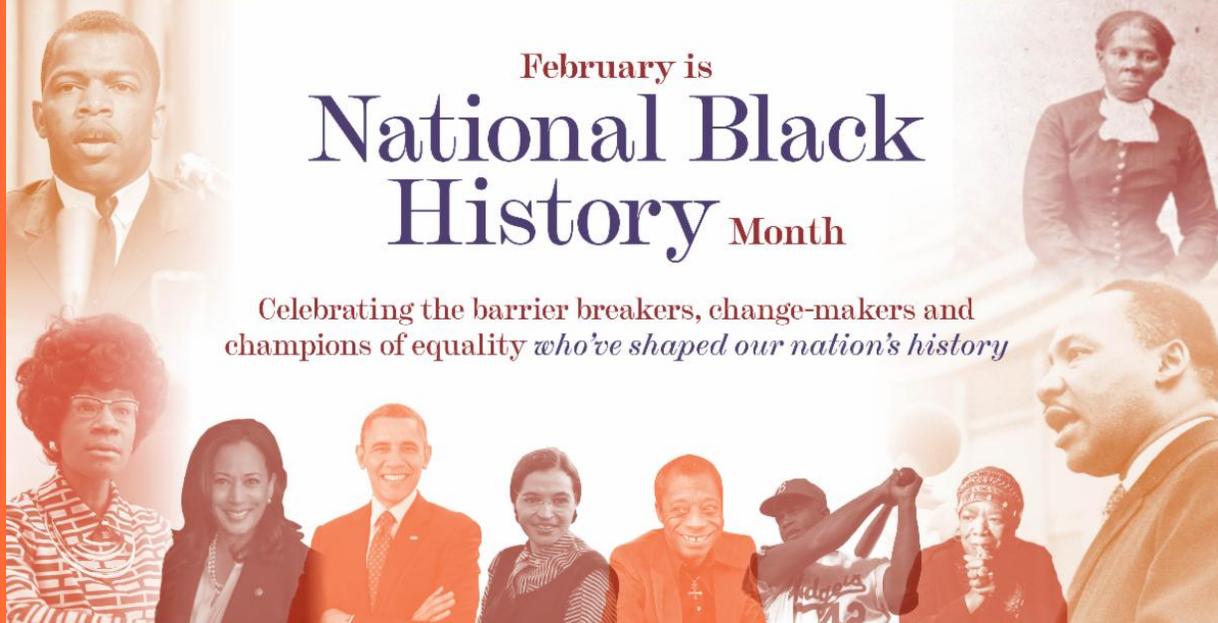


Rebecca Seawright



February is National Black History Month

Celebrating the barrier breakers, change-makers and
champions of equality *who've shaped our nation's history*



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

February is Black History Month, and in 2022 by honoring the theme of Black Health and Wellness, I am proud to be working to support the health and wellness of New Yorkers, especially black and brown communities who suffer health disparities in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases. This year we are pushing for the passage of an access bill to open National Cancer Institute designated cancer centers to engage patients through Medicaid and the Essential Plan in New York State. Additionally, our bill will reauthorize NYSTEM, New York's publicly funded program to make grants for advance scientific discoveries related to stem cell biology possible.

In Albany we continued budget hearings on Workforce Development and Housing. In the Assembly, I am proud to cosponsor and strongly support budgetary housing initiatives such as Good Cause Eviction to prevent illegal harassment and unfair rent hikes, and the Housing Access Voucher program

to help those who are at risk of eviction secure a safe place to live. Tenant's rights and the Homeowner Assistance Fund were the focus of this week's Town Hall Tuesday.

A happy and prosperous Lunar New Year to those ushering in the Year of the Tiger.

Please join us for one of the events we are pleased to sponsor:

- Watch **Rise Up With Rebecca Seawright** on Sunday, February 6th 6:00pm only on MNN1 (Spectrum 34 & 1995, RCN 82, FiOS 33) and MNNHD (Spectrum 1993).
- Wednesday, February 9 at 7:00 pm on Zoom - **Town Hall on Antisemitism.** [RSVP here.](#)
- Thursday, February 10 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 10 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm on Zoom - **Virtual Knitting Social on zoom.** [RSVP here.](#)
- Tuesday, February 15 from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm - **No-Cost Housing Legal Clinic.** RSVP by calling 212-288-4607.

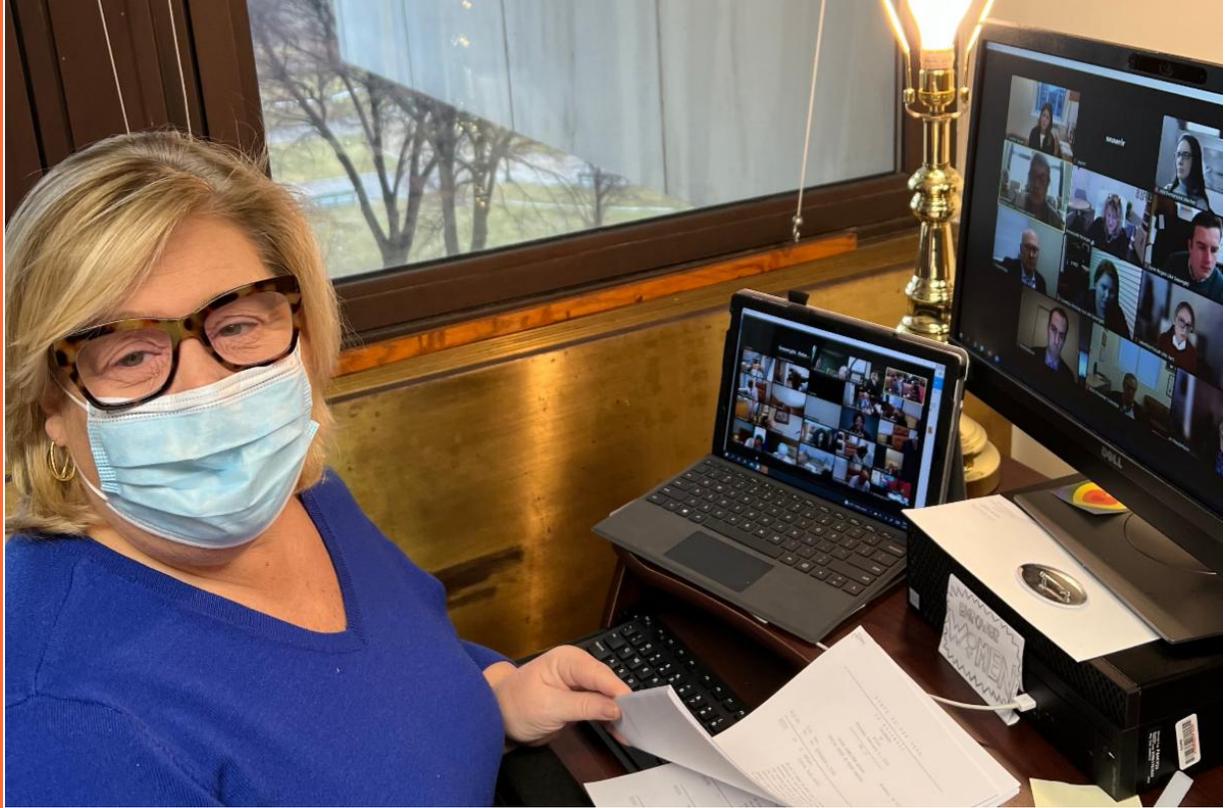
Please don't hesitate to reach out to our community office if we can be of assistance.

Phone: 212.288.4607

Email: SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov

Sincerely,





Assembly Member Seawright zooming on multiple devices from the Capitol in Albany communicating with the district on the State budget.

**Assembly Member Seawright's
"TOWN HALL TUESDAY" Tackles
Housing Evictions, Arrears, Harassment, Heat
Complaints and More**



Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright's 51st Town Hall Tuesday via ZOOM tackled the ongoing housing crisis with vital information and tips for tenants as well as co-op, condominium and homeowners facing financial stress due to the pandemic.

Veteran attorney Robert Grimble, a partner in the Manhattan firm of Grimble & LoGuidice and well-known for pro-bono work and expertise in housing law, joined with Noelle Eberts of the non-profit New York Legal Assistance Group, to answer questions on a variety of housing related subjects from Assembly Member Seawright's constituents in the 76th Assembly District encompassing the Upper East Side, Yorkville and Roosevelt Island.

Attorneys Grimble and Eberts offered the following advice:

- Don't panic. Yes, the eviction moratorium expired on January 15, but there is no immediate danger of eviction for rent arrears or any other issue. The city's Housing Courts are dealing with an unprecedented case backlog.
- If you have suffered financial loss or increased expenses due to the pandemic you are eligible for state Housing Assistance Funds (HAF).
- Housing Court judges are generally sympathetic to the needs of apartment dwellers who have suffered financial hardships during the pandemic.
- As long as tenants are aware of their rights and put up some resistance to landlord demands they will be able to delay matters until reasonable compromises can be worked out.
- For tenants in financial distress and who are unable to pay rents, the courts will often approve payment arrangements.
- Organize! One of the best ways for tenants to protect themselves is to form tenants associations. Tenants have a right to meet in the lobby or any other public space to advance their organizing efforts.
- Report harassment or heat and hot water complaints. Call 311 immediately. Do not delay.
- Heating complaints will require proof. Consider placing a thermometer in the middle of the

apartment and maintain an hour by hour temperature log.

- Landlords are obliged to keep an apartment in a state of good repair. Under no circumstances can owners bill the resident for the cost of maintenance repairs in an apartment.

- For co-op and condominium owners, making an application for relief from the Homeowners Assistance Fund (HAF) does not require board approval

“The state eviction moratorium ended on January 15 leaving tenants to rely on funding from the Emergency Rental Assistance program that we established in Albany,” Assembly Member Seawright said.

“Throughout the pandemic we have held emergency sessions voting on legislation to keep New Yorkers in their homes by extending eviction moratorium, prioritizing federal funding to cover rental arrears and homeowners and small landlord relief.

“We clearly can and must do more to protect our financially distressed constituents. With a replenished emergency protection program known as ERAP. I urged Governor Hochul for an extension of the eviction moratorium and for our federal representatives to request additional federal funding to be released for the ERAP program.

“We are encouraging tenants to apply for the Emergency Rental Assistance program which has reopened to prevent evictions until their requests for relief are fulfilled by the federal government. We also encourage co-op and condo owners to apply for HAF if you experienced loss of income as a result of the pandemic.”



Team Seawright in the Assembly Chamber: Legislative Director Kevin Rogers, Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, and session intern Evie Bombard.

New York State Legislative Redistricting Maps Pass Both Houses, Signed By Governor



Above: the redistricted 76th Assembly District.

In 2014, the voters of New York passed a constitutional amendment creating an independent redistricting commission to redraw the boundaries for state legislative and congressional districts following the 2020 census. Disappointingly, the commission was not able to produce agreed upon

maps by the deadline.

That meant the legislature was required to complete the job the independent commission could not and approve fair maps that ensure all New Yorkers have equitable representation in their government.

At every step of the way, it was our goal first and foremost to create fair maps that keep communities together, unite communities that were separated previously and ensure the Voting Rights Act is being followed to ensure fair minority representation.

**Rebecca
Seawright**
ASSEMBLYMEMBER

**NO-COST
THURSDAY
PPE
GIVEAWAY**



12:00PM-2:00PM

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

212-288-4607

**SEAWRIGHTR
@NYASSEMBLY.GOV**

[RSVP Here](#)

No-Cost Tax Prep



Changes to tax credits
mean **more money**
for you when you file.

NYC
FREE
TAX PREP

Changes to tax credits mean more money for YOUR FAMILY when you file! **Earned Income Tax Credit. Child Tax Credit. Child and Dependent Care Credit.** Claiming even one could return thousands of dollars to you in 2022. We'll help you get your money. If you earn \$72,000 or less, file for FREE with an IRS certified VITA/TCE volunteer preparer. [Learn more about NYC Free Tax Prep.](#)

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

NEED HELP FILING YOUR TAXES?



The **VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA)** and **TAX COUNSELING FOR THE ELDERLY (TCE)** programs offer free basic tax return preparation for qualified individuals at a number of different sites across New York.

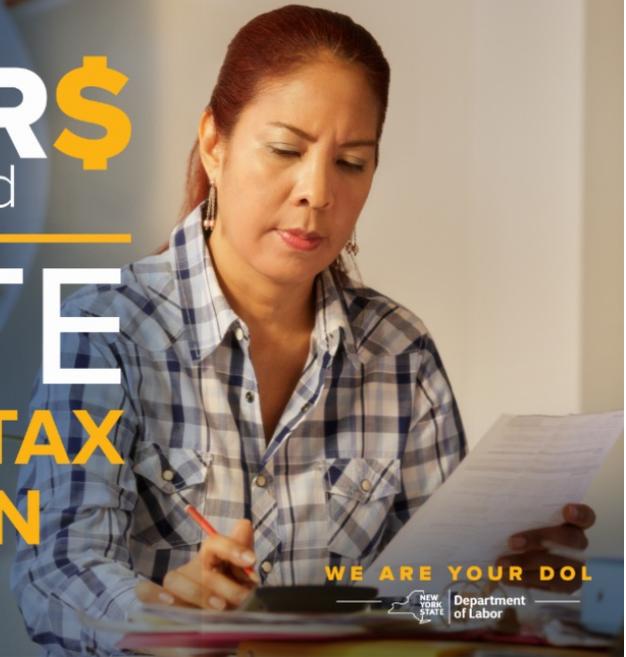
It's tax season. VITA and TCE sites can help you prepare and file your tax return. To learn more about eligibility requirements or to find a site near you, visit: www.irs.gov/individuals/free-tax-return-preparation-for-qualifying-taxpayers

Excluded Workers Fund Update

excluded
WORKER\$
fund

UPDATE

IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION



WE ARE YOUR DOL

NEW YORK STATE
Department
of Labor

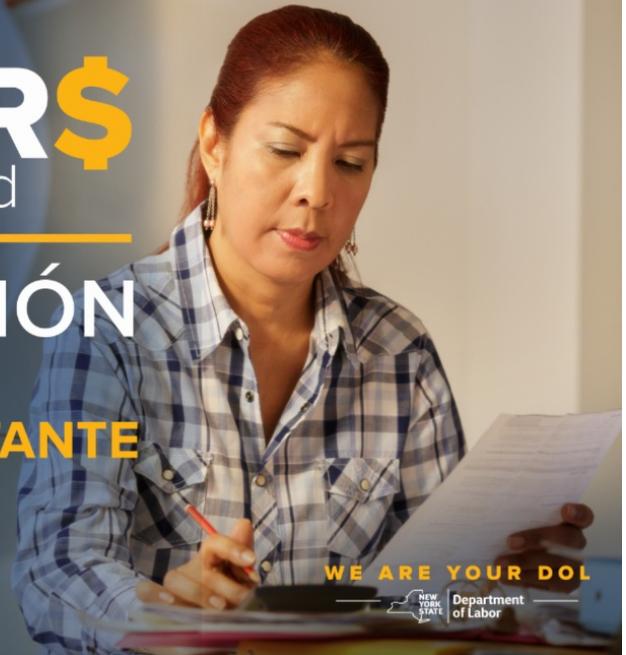
Important: The NYS Department of Labor will mail 1099-G tax forms to all Excluded Workers Fund (EWF) recipients to the address listed on their EWF application. The information from this form must be included in tax filings for the 2021 calendar year.

As you may know, payments from the EWF are considered taxable income. Although payments were mailed with state taxes already taken out, they may still be subject to federal income tax. For more information, visit dol.ny.gov/ewf.

excluded
WORKER\$
fund

ACTUALIZACIÓN

INFORMACIÓN DE IMPUESTOS IMPORTANTE



WE ARE YOUR DOL

NEW YORK STATE
Department
of Labor



NEW YORK STATE HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE FUND (NYSHAF)

UP TO \$50,000 IN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO QUALIFYING CONDO AND COOP OWNERS!

**APPLY NOW
WHILE FUNDS ARE
AVAILABLE!**

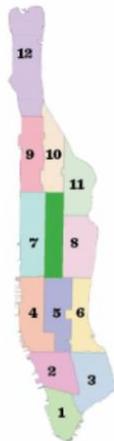
**Call: 1-844-776-9423 or
Visit: nyhomeownerfund.org**



Office of Assembly Member
Rebecca Seawright
1485 York Avenue, NY NY 10075
Call 212.288.4607 or Email
SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov



Get Involved



Ready to make a difference?
**Join your local
Community Board!**

APPLY NOW! Deadline is March 1st.

Manhattan's 12 Community Boards are the independent and representative voices of their communities – **the most grass-roots form of local government**. The Boards are pivotal in shaping their communities and work to enhance and preserve the character of the city's many unique neighborhoods. Manhattan's 12 Community Boards are composed of 50 volunteer members serving staggered two-year terms– thus, 25 members are appointed (or reappointed) each year.



THE OFFICE OF
MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT
MARK LEVINE

Learn more: manhattanbp.nyc.gov/communityboards



**ASSEMBLY MEMBER
REBECCA SEAWRIGHT**



INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

**OUR OFFICE IS SEEKING STUDENTS INTERESTED
IN LEARNING ABOUT GOVERNMENT AND
PUBLIC SERVICE FOR AN INTERNSHIP IN OUR
DISTRICT OFFICE.**

**THE POSITION PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH AN
EXCITING OPPORTUNITY FOR PERSONAL AND
PROFESSIONAL GROWTH.**

**WE ACCEPT INTERNS ON A ROLLING BASIS
UNTIL ALL POSITIONS ARE FILLED. PLEASE
DON'T HESITATE TO CALL OUR OFFICE WITH
ANY QUESTIONS.**

**SUBMIT YOUR RESUME AND COVER LETTER TO
THE OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER
REBECCA SEAWRIGHT
PHONE: 212.288.4607
EMAIL: SEAWRIGHTR@NYASSEMBLY.GOV**

SCAN TO APPLY



APPLY HERE FOR OUR INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Upcoming Events



COUNCIL MEMBER

JULIE

MENIN

Town Hall on Antisemitism

**WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 9**

7:00 PM

Last year, NYS had the most antisemitic incidents out of any state in the country. Both Manhattan and Brooklyn each had almost 100 antisemitic incidents.

Register to
view at:

https://museumoftolerance.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tHWZ20f3S0iYDly8G24m3Q

Topic of Discussion



In the light of multiple recent antisemitic incidents in our community and the frightening hostage situation in Colleyville, Texas, we invite the community to a discussion on how to prevent and report hate crimes and antisemitism.

Panelists



Julie Menin
City Council Member for District 5



Rick Sawyer
Special Counsel on Hate Crimes at the Office of New York State Attorney General



Michael Cohen
Eastern Director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center



Jonah Boyarin
Jewish Community Liaison from the NYC Human Rights Commissioner



Inspector Jessica Corey
Commanding Officer of NYPD Hate Crimes Task Force



Alexander Roseberg
Deputy Director of ADL New York/New Jersey Region

Inspector Melissa Eger
Commanding Officer of NYPD 19th Precinct



Rebecca Seawright
Assemblymember for the 76th District



RSVP Here



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

RSVP for the Virtual Knitting Social



METROCARD BUS

STOPS HERE (79/York):

WED. 2/2, 2/16

10:00AM- 12:00PM

REFILL YOUR
METROCARD

APPLY FOR
REDUCED FARE

CASH ONLY



NO-COST NOTARY

1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets)



[View as Webpage](#)



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facebook.com/RebeccaASeawright/



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