



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Happy New Year!

New state laws are taking effect at the start of 2025 including the New York Equal Rights Amendment of which I was proud to be lead sponsor. This new year, we also ring in vitally important new statutes including the new prenatal leave law for pregnant New Yorkers and the Climate Change Superfund Act to hold corporate polluters accountable.

In response to the overwhelming lines at the Roosevelt Island tramway, I sent a strong letter to the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation's Chief Operating Officer Mary Cuneen calling for the implementation of a plan to prioritize boarding access for Roosevelt Island residents who rely on the tram.

I am proud to continue our support I obtained with a new request to the Governor for \$2 Million in the Executive Budget proposal for the Simon Wiesenthal Center and its Mobile Museum of Tolerance.

As always, please consider our office your resource.

Phone: 212.288.4607

Email: SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov

Sincerely,

REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT

**New York's New Constitutional Amendment for Equal Rights
Takes Effect**

TIMES UNION

“This is critical to ensuring that our rights remain stable regardless of who is in power,”
said Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright

New state laws taking effect in 2025...

The Equal Rights Amendment passed by over a million votes on New York ballots this November. When it takes effect on Jan. 1, it will officially expand the state constitution’s discrimination protections for the first time since 1938.

“In a moment in time when we are seeing federal courts turn the clock back on civil and human rights, we need to make sure New York’s Constitution includes robust protections against discrimination that effectively work to hold our state and its institutions accountable,” said Assemblywoman Rebecca Seawright, who sponsored the bill in the Assembly. ***“This is critical to ensuring that our rights remain stable regardless of who is in power.”***

The amendment will expand the list of constitutionally protected categories to include ethnicity, disability, age, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, pregnancy or pregnancy outcomes, reproductive health care, and autonomy. All of these categories are already protected from discrimination under state law.

[Read More](#)

Seawright Sends Letter to Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation to Adopt Action Plan Addressing Tramway Lines



Seawright stated in her letter to Chief Operation Officer Mary Cuneen, "I strongly favor RIOC adopting an action plan that prioritizes access to residents of Roosevelt Island. The Tram is essential to the transportation needs of the community. There are numerous categories of people who rely on the Tram, including those with disabilities, senior citizens, workers in all fields, parents, and school-age children. Whether it is used for transportation to a medical appointment or a place of business, the Tram is a vital mode of transportation. While we welcome visitors to enjoy the vibrant life and attractions of Roosevelt Island, a plan is needed to reduce wait time and an improved schedule that recognizes residents' usage. In the past, we have successfully advocated for ways to address transportation issues, including expanding RIOC's Red Bus service to ameliorate sharp service reductions. Similarly, we fought hard to ensure access to an F train shuttle during the Direct Track Fixation repairs last year. Therefore, I respectfully request that RIOC present an action plan for public comment that fully prioritizes resident use of the Tram."

Seawright Leads Sign On Letter to Urge Funding for Simon Wiesenthal Center Mobile Museum of Tolerance in Governor's Executive Budget



Seawright led a sign-on letter with Assembly colleagues calling for Governor Hochul to include \$2 million in capital funding for the operation of the Mobile Museum of Tolerance (MMOT).

The MMOT provides context for the historical issues of genocide and racism to contemporary issues of diversity and bullying. It will deliver a message of tolerance, hope, and empowerment to communities of all sizes and types across NYS that lack access to these messages of respect, justice, and human rights.

Community Board 8 Chair Valerie Mason, East 86 Street Association President Elaine Walsh, and Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright Discuss the Upcoming Legislative Session, Health and Safety Priorities for Our Community



Seawright Honors Leadership of the New York Women's Foundation



Jean Shafiroff, Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, Margarita Rosa, Camille Emeagwali, Devika Gopal Agge and Gloria Pitagorsky

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright presented citations to Ana L. Oliveira, President and CEO of New York Women's Foundation (NYWF), and long-time Board member Jean Shafiroff for the Foundation's commitment to advancing gender equity and supporting women and girls across New York. Margarita Rosa, a long-standing board member of NYWF who accepted the award on behalf of Ana L. Oliveira

Seawright Cosponsored New Law for Prenatal Leave Benefit



Effective Jan. 1, 2025, any privately employed pregnant New Yorker is now able to receive an additional 20 hours of paid leave for prenatal care. The New York State Department of Labor estimates that about 130,000 pregnant women per year will be eligible for this benefit, with about 65,800 of those being hourly workers.

Pregnancy-related health care includes:

- Physical examinations
- Medical procedures
- Monitoring
- Testing
- Discussions with a health care provider needed to ensure a healthy pregnancy
- Fertility treatment
- End of pregnancy care

The paid prenatal leave benefits are in addition to New York State Paid Family Leave, existing employer-provided leave and existing sick leave benefits, ensuring workers can receive the health care needed to address all pregnancy related care to create healthy outcomes without jeopardizing their employment or finances. The law applies to all private employers in New York State, with no minimum employee threshold, and is applicable to both full-time and part-time employees.

Climate Change Superfund Act Now Law



We cannot wait to address our climate crisis – the devastating effects are already here. Assembly Member Seawright cosponsored several innovative solutions over the past few years to curb greenhouse gas emissions and help preserve our great state for future generations. However, while preparing for our climate future, we should not overlook the enterprises that contributed to the crisis threatening New Yorkers' lives and livelihoods. A handful of giant oil companies are responsible for most greenhouse gas emissions, so it makes sense that they should bear some of the financial burden of climate adaptation. That's why I helped enact the Climate Change Superfund Act. This law establishes a climate change adaptation cost recovery program to ensure big polluters pay their fair share of climate adaptation and mitigation costs (Ch. 679 of 2024).

Intense heat waves impact our infrastructure while catastrophic flooding from frequent superstorms continues to create dangerous situations statewide. These extreme weather events are undeniably caused in part by human-caused climate change. The Climate Change Superfund Act helps cover the costs of much-needed climate adaptation infrastructure, including energy-efficient cooling systems and stormwater drainage systems, by allowing the state to seek compensation for damages from the past actions of polluters. By allocating at least 35% of program spending to disadvantaged communities, we are protecting the neighborhoods disproportionately affected by climate change. We are always working on ways to address the climate crisis, but the burden should not be placed solely on everyday New Yorkers. Programs remediating environmental damage at the expense of the entities responsible have been in place for decades in New York with a long history of positive results. This law ensures companies that make enormous profits from fossil fuels are held accountable for damage to our communities.

Consider Our Office Your Resource!

Using the Fair Fares NYC Metrocard, eligible low-income NYC residents receive a half-price discount on subway and eligible bus fares



Fair Fares is open to eligible low-income New Yorkers who don't have discounted transportation from the MTA or the city.

Fair Fares has expanded access by increasing the income threshold to qualify for the program. Now eligible New York City residents ages 18 to 64 with incomes up to 120% of federal poverty levels may enroll.

[Click here for more information](#)



METROCARD BUS

STOPS HERE (79/York):

WED. 1/15

10:00AM- 12:00PM

REFILL YOUR
METROCARD

APPLY FOR
REDUCED FARE

CASH ONLY

Rebecca
Seawright
ASSEMBLYMEMBER

NO-COST NOTARY

Monday - Friday

10am-12pm

1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets)



**ASSEMBLY MEMBER
REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT**



HOUSING LEGAL CLINIC

EVERY OTHER TUESDAY

**EVERY OTHER TUESDAY
AT 3:30 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**

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!



**SCAN ME TO
RSVP!**

**A VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY WILL
HOST A ONE -ON-ONE SESSION
WITH ATTENDEES.**

**RSVP REQUIRED:
CALL: 212-288-4607**

EMAIL: SEAWRIGHTR@NYASSEMBLY.GOV

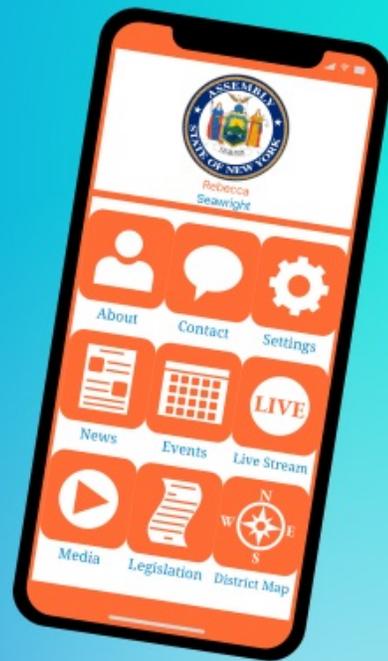
*The legal clinic is solely to provide guidance and advice from attorney's experienced in landlord- tenant law.
The clinic does not guarantee a desired outcome and does not establish an attorney- client relationship.
Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright does not represent or advise constituents in any legal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

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright's App is Live!

Stay Up-To-Date with the latest:

- News
- Events
- Legislation
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Available on iPhone and iPad



[Community Update: A Year in Review December 31, 2024](#)

[Community Update: December 20, 2024](#)

[Community Update: December 13, 2024](#)

[Community Update: December 6, 2024](#)

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