



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

If you have not already done so, make your voice heard by voting in this year's city primary election. With a forecast of over 100 degrees on primary election day, Tuesday, June 24, do not wait to cast your ballot! Early voting is going on this weekend through Sunday, June 22.

I was pleased to present a citation in our district to The Mansion Diner on its 80th birthday. Congratulations to the Philips family, and best wishes for continued success in our community.

I was proud to deliver remarks to the graduating classes of 2025 at P.S. 290 Manhattan New School and Eleanor Roosevelt High School. Congratulations, graduates!

This week in the Assembly, we passed several bills, including the Responsible Artificial Intelligence Safety and Education (RAISE) Act, which will put critical safety standards in place for AI frontier models. More information on this and other bills that passed this week is enclosed in this special report.

Our Summer Reading Challenge is underway. We ask students to accept the challenge to read for at least 15 minutes each day throughout the summer for at least 40 days. Those who complete the challenge will be awarded an excellence in reading certificate on behalf of the New York State Assembly.

Please join us for a community event our office is pleased to sponsor:

- **No-Cost Notary Public Service** at the Community Office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, 1485 York Avenue (78th/79th Streets)
 - Mon, Wed, Fri from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
 - Tues, Thurs from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
- Tuesday, July 1, at 3:30 pm: **No-Cost Housing Legal Clinic** at the Community Office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, 1485 York Avenue (78th/79th Streets). To RSVP, please call 212-288-4607.
- Wednesday, July 2, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm: **MetroCard Sales/OMNY Bus** at the Community Office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, 1485 York Avenue (78th/79th Streets). Refill your MetroCard/OMNY card or apply for reduced fare.

As always, please consider our office your resource.

Phone: 212.288.4607

Sincerely,



REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT

Seawright Supports STAR Tax Relief for Senior Citizens

Governor Kathy Hochul announced that nearly three million New Yorkers will receive \$2.2 billion in tax relief this summer and fall through New York's School Tax Relief (STAR) program. STAR provides property tax relief to eligible homeowners and seniors statewide. While some STAR recipients have already received their benefit this year in the form of a tax exemption, many other recipients will receive their benefit as a tax credit and will be sent a check in the mail this summer and fall. Check deliveries will begin next week and will continue statewide throughout the coming months. Most homeowners eligible for a STAR credit will receive a check between \$350 and \$600. Most seniors eligible for an Enhanced STAR credit will receive a check between \$700 and \$1,500. STAR recipients can visit ny.gov/STAR to track their check delivery or enroll in direct deposit.

Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright said, ***“As Chair of the Aging Committee and Assembly Member of the largest cohort of older adults in Manhattan, I am grateful to Governor Hochul for her enduring leadership on affordability in our city and state, particularly for aging New Yorkers. The STAR and Enhanced STAR Credits provide invaluable tax relief to qualifying homeowners and elders. They also enable aging in place for elder New Yorkers—including over sixty thousand constituents in my district—which enhances their health and advances quality of life at significant taxpayer cost savings over institutionalized care. The STAR program is both compassionate and common sense.”***

Statement from the Office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright On the U.S. Supreme Court's Decision Regarding Gender-Affirming Care for Minors

In response to the recent Supreme Court decision allowing Tennessee's restrictive law on gender-affirming medical care for minors to remain in effect, Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright reaffirms her unwavering commitment to protecting the rights, dignity, and well-being of LGBTQ+ youth in New York State. Assembly Member Seawright's commitment is reflected in New York's passage of its own Equal Rights Amendment in 2024, which she proudly led as the sponsor. This amendment explicitly prohibits discrimination based on gender identity and expression.

While this ruling marks a setback for transgender rights at the federal level, it is important to emphasize that access to gender-affirming care remains protected in New York. Our state has consistently led the nation in advancing LGBTQ+ rights and continues to stand as a beacon of inclusion and equality. The Office of Assembly Member Seawright stands firmly with the transgender and nonbinary community and will continue advocating for legislation and policies that ensure access to comprehensive, affirming, and medically necessary care for all individuals, regardless of age.

We urge our constituents and community partners to remain vigilant and engaged as we work to protect these essential freedoms and support every New Yorker's right to live as their authentic self.

Governor Hochul Commemorates the Stonewall Uprising and LGBTQ+ Rights Movement with State Legislators at Executive Mansion PRIDE Month Celebration



Assembly Members Seawright, Cunningham, Simone, Governor Kathy Hochul, Assembly Members Eachus, González-Rojas, Pheffer Amato, and McMahon.

Happy 80th Birthday to The Mansion Diner



The Office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, represented by Courtney Ferrissey, presented a citation to John Phillips, owner of this historic business, on the occasion of its 80th birthday. We wish The Mansion many more years of neighborhood success!

Seawright Delivers Remarks to Graduating Classes of 2025 at PS 290 Manhattan New School and Eleanor Roosevelt High School

Graduation Times

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Graduation

COMMENCEMENT



MANHATTAN NEW SCHOOL

JUNE 20, 2025

Congratulations Class of 2025!



ELEANOR ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL

COMMENCEMENT

AT
92Y

THE KAUFMANN CONCERT HALL
1395 LEXINGTON AVE.
NEW YORK, NY 10128

June 20, 2025
1pm



(bottom left) Presenting Principal Doreen Esposito with a citation saluting her dedication to PS 290. Principal Esposito is retiring after 25 years of service to the school, 11 of them as principal, leading the MNS to prestigious recognition and during the COVID epidemic.

Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright encouraged the graduates, ***"yes, celebrate, but also remember this moment and know you have what it takes."***

Seawright Cosponsors FAIR Business Practices Act Passing Both Houses

Protecting consumers, cracking down on deceptive business practices



Our economic system works best when the playing field is level for workers, entrepreneurs, and consumers. Unfortunately, current state law doesn't go far enough in protecting all businesses, non-profits, and consumers from unfair, deceptive, and abusive business practices. As one of the world's largest and most dynamic economies, we must ensure that regulations targeting deceptive practices apply to everyone.

That's why Assembly Member Seawright helped pass the Fostering Affordability and Integrity through Reasonable (FAIR) Business Practices Act (A.8427-A). This law will help shield New Yorkers from harms like predatory lending, phishing scams, aggressive debt collection, data breaches, and hard-to-cancel subscriptions.

While current law only prohibits deceptive acts, the FAIR Business Practices Act expands the definition to prohibit any unfair or abusive acts, helping to close loopholes that prevented protections from such schemes. And in response to the federal government's rollback of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), which protected New Yorkers from abusive business practices, the legislation also grants the state Attorney General additional enforcement powers to better protect consumers and businesses.

Vigilance and know-how remain powerful tools against unfair and unjust business practices, yet they are not enough. The FAIR Business Practices Act will strengthen New York's consumer protection laws, ensuring businesses and consumers alike are protected from bad actors.

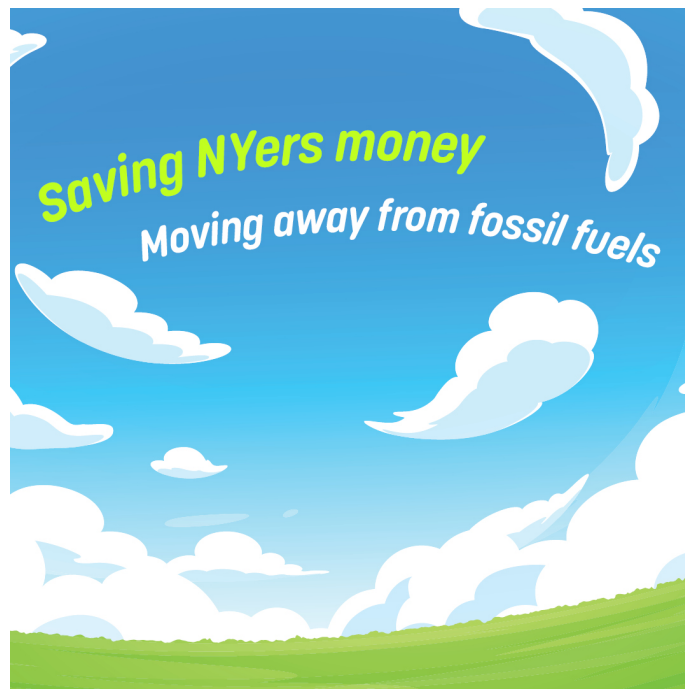
RAISE Act Will Help Ensure Safety Protocols for AI Technology



With technology advancing at a rapid pace, we face an entirely new realm of threats that demand legislative attention and protections. In this age of continuously evolving artificial intelligence (AI), current laws and safeguards don't keep up with the major security risks the technology encompasses. The Assembly has taken several steps in recent years to ensure online safety, from protecting our children on social media platforms to combating deepfakes. In response to the growth of AI, Seawright helped pass the Responsible Artificial Intelligence Safety and Education (RAISE) Act, which will put critical safety standards in place for AI frontier models (A.6453-B).

AI has driven groundbreaking improvements throughout society, including advances in medicine, faster data analysis, and automating mundane tasks for increased efficiency. However, AI could also be used to conduct devastating cyberattacks and aid in the production of dangerous weapons. Heeding the calls of experts in the field, the RAISE Act would require that AI developers create a safety plan, reviewed by a third party, and disclose major security incidents to the state Attorney General and the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. Such safety protocols are commonsense initiatives that will allow for continued technological advancements while also helping to prevent potentially devastating incidents from occurring in the future.

Legislation Removes Gas Line Subsidy, Saving Utility Consumers Money While Encouraging Green Energy



As we transition to cleaner, greener energy sources, we must find common-sense solutions to reduce our natural gas dependency and keep utilities affordable for ratepayers. That's why Assembly Member Seawright supported legislation removing the '100-foot rule' for gas utility companies, providing flexibility and savings to residential customers while reducing unnecessary gas infrastructure subsidies (A.8888).

Under current law, the cost of the first 100 feet of gas line for new customers is divided among existing customers. This means we're all footing the bill for hundreds of millions of dollars in new gas hookups each year. Additionally, these subsidized connections continue our natural gas dependence instead of encouraging more sustainable solutions. Gas used for heating, hot water, and cooking is responsible for roughly a third of New York's greenhouse gas emissions. Under this bill, new hookups would still be permitted, but the customer requesting it would be required to pay for the new line themselves instead of having it subsidized by everyone else.

This legislation is an effective way to help millions of New Yorkers keep more of their hard-earned money while putting alternative energy solutions on an even footing. Together, we can ensure a cleaner, safer future for our state and our planet.

The Summer Reading Challenge is Underway!



In cooperation with the 2025 Summer Reading at New York Libraries program

COLOR OUR WORLD

collaborative
summer library program™
© CSLP 2025 • Artwork by Michael Mullan



Participate in the New York State Assembly's 2025 Summer Reading Challenge and receive a **New York State Assembly Excellence in Reading certificate!** Simply read 15 minutes a day for 40 or more days during July and August, then send a completed form to my office:

Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright

1485 York Avenue • New York, NY 10075
212-288-4607 • seawright@nyassembly.gov

Contact my office or see your teacher or librarian for more details!

Voter Registration Deadlines and Important Information for the Upcoming Primary

Last Day of Early Voting	June 22

Election Day	June 24 (Polls are open from 6am to 9pm)
Deadline to request an absentee or early mail ballot (online)	June 14
Deadline to request an absentee or early mail ballot (in person)	June 23
Deadline to return an absentee or early mail ballot	June 24

Check your voter registration

Request a mail-in ballot

Track your mail-in ballot

Find your poll site and see a sample ballot

Consider Our Office Your Resource

Spotlight on Aging: Senior Job Seekers

How can I find a job as a Senior Citizen? [The NYC Department for the Aging](#) has a variety of Older Adult Workforce Programs to help you with just that! The Older Adult Employment Program, Silver Stars, and Foster Grandparent Program are intended to assist older adults in finding employment.

Older Adult Employment Program: In this program, participants have the opportunity to take classes on vital workforce skills and are assigned an internship at a City or nonprofit agency. Throughout the program, participants will be able to attend job fairs and workshops. If you are a NYC resident 55 or above, have a family income of no more than 125% of the national poverty level, and are currently unemployed, you may be eligible to participate in this program. Email jobs@aging.nyc.gov with questions.

Silver Stars program: The Silver Stars is a program that helps NYC retirees find income through part-time job opportunities at City agencies. Job positions within this program are typically 15-29 hours a week, with wages dependent on the individual agency and the scope of the job. If you are a City resident aged 55 or above and are currently unemployed or retired, you may be eligible to participate in this program. Visit the ReServe website (reserveinc.org) to learn more about the Silver Stars.

Foster Grandparent Program: If you are interested in helping special-needs children ages 3-12 years old with social, emotional, and academic skills, this is the

program for you! While the program is considered a volunteer program, you receive a stipend (\$4.00/hour) while you volunteer and attend training and orientation events and will be reimbursed for meals and transportation. If you are a NYC resident aged 55 or older, meet income eligibility requirements, and are willing to volunteer a minimum of 15 hours per week, you are eligible for this program. Email fgp@aging.nyc.gov with questions.

For questions on any of the three programs above, call (212) 244-6469.



NO-COST NOTARY PUBLIC SCHEDULE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
10AM-1PM	10AM-12PM	10AM-1PM	10AM-12PM	10AM-1PM

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

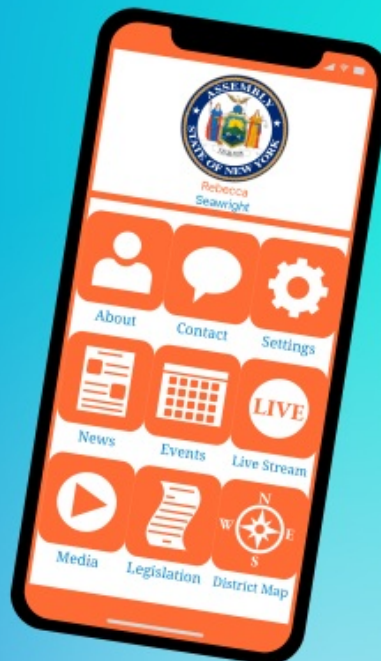
*The legal clinic is solely to provide guidance and advice from attorney's experienced in landlord- tenant law.
The clinic does not guarantee a desired outcome and does not establish an attorney- client relationship.
Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright does not represent or advise
constituents in any legal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

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright's App is Live!

Stay Up-To-Date with the latest:

- News
- Events
- Legislation
- Livestream
- Media

Available on iPhone and iPad



Resources

At GoodCauseNYC.org, a brand-new website, NYC tenants can enter their address and answer a short set of questions to determine if their apartment unit is eligible for protections, and access resources to fight back against an unjust rent hike or lease nonrenewal. The site also includes a rent increase calculator to help renters determine if their rent hike is considered "unreasonable" by the law.

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) can cover the cost of fans and air conditioners for eligible New Yorkers. To find out if you qualify, visit: otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/#cooling-assistance.

Cash Assistance Benefits Skimming Alert

Beware of attempts to steal your EBT benefits electronically through skimming or phishing. To learn more and file an online claim for stolen Cash Assistance benefits, go to nyc.gov/site/hra/help/benefitreplacement.page

New York's Paid Family Leave Program

Since first launching in 2018, New York State Paid Family Leave has provided critical benefits to improve the lives of tens of thousands of working New Yorkers and their families. In addition to ongoing enhancements, the wage replacement benefits continue to increase in line with the New York State Average Weekly Wage. Click here to learn how Paid Family Leave may be able to help you and your family in 2025. Visit: paidfamilyleave.ny.gov/2025

Empire State Child Credit

The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance is issuing supplemental Empire State Child Credit payments to over 1.5 million low- and moderate-income New Yorkers. The 2024–2025 New York State budget provides for an additional payment to eligible taxpayers based on the Empire State child credit. If you qualify for a payment, you don't need to do anything; we will automatically calculate and send you a check for the amount you're entitled to. For more details, visit [the Additional Empire State Child Credit Payments](#).

Energy Affordability Programs

The NYS Energy Affordability Program provides income-eligible consumers with a discount on their monthly electric and/or gas bills. You may be enrolled automatically if you receive benefits from a government assistance program. For more information, visit [this ConEd webpage](#) and click the "download form" button in the Energy Affordability Program box (or click [this link directly to download the pdf](#)). Or call 800-752-6633; the seniors-only direct line is 800-404-9097, M-F, 8:30 am–5 pm.

Regular HEAP Benefit

The 2024-25 Regular HEAP benefit reopened January 25, 2025. Find out if you may be

eligible to apply for programs and services. If you are eligible, you may receive one regular HEAP benefit per program year to help you pay for heating your home. Visit: otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/

Health Insurance

New Yorkers can enroll in a Qualified Health Plan by the 15th of the month for coverage starting the 1st of the following month and benefit from new cost-sharing reductions for additional savings. Visit nyc.gov/health/healthcoverage or call 347-665-0214 to connect with an enrollment counselor and get more information.

HIICAP

Approximately 500 trained HIICAP counselors located in local offices for the aging across the state are available to answer New Yorkers' questions about Medicare, Medicare Advantage programs (managed care), Medicare prescription drug coverage, Medigap, and other health and long-term care insurance. Counseling is also available through a toll-free HIICAP helpline at 1-800-701-0501. Visit: aging.ny.gov/health-insurance-information-counseling-and-assistance-program-hiicap

Renters Rights

In New York City, tenants have many rights relating to the safety and quality of their housing. Tenants should expect to live in safe, well-maintained buildings that are free from vermin, leaks, and hazardous conditions. [Laws protect tenants from harassment and discrimination](#). For more information on tenants' rights, please see the [Tenant Bill of Rights](#).

Homeowner Handbook

Homeowner Help NY offers a comprehensive guide to help New York homeowners navigate the responsibilities of homeownership and access available resources in their time of need. To view the handbook, visit homeownerhelpny.org/handbook.

Property Tax Exemptions

It's time to renew property tax exemptions, including SCHE, DHE, and the Clergy Exemption, for the 2025-26 tax year. The deadline to renew is March 15, 2025. Visit nyc.gov/contactdof or call 311 for details.

Mental Health Hotline

There's a three-digit phone hotline, 988, for mental health. Call 911 for mental health emergencies.

Mobile ID

Ever forget your wallet and wish you had your ID on you? Now you can with New York Mobile ID! Just download the app, and a highly secure digital version of a state-issued driver's license, learner's permit, or ID will be on your smartphone whenever you need it. [More info here](#).

NYCDOT Street Work Permit Maps

The NYC DOT provides a street work permit map for our district so New Yorkers can have access to any active street work information in real time. You can view the map here: <https://nycdot.info/>

Attention MTA Reduced-Fare customers

Your half-fare benefit is moving to OMNY! Look for your new Reduced-Fare OMNY card in the mail soon, and [check this page for updates](#). Continue to use your Reduced-Fare MetroCard in the meantime.

MTA Mobile Sales

Services offered at mobile sales vehicles

- Get help with a Reduced-Fare application
- Get more information about OMNY and sign up
- Transfer MetroCard balances (full-fare and Reduced-Fare to OMNY account)
- Report a lost/stolen Reduced-Fare MetroCard
- Ask our team about any OMNY-related issues

Note: Mobile sales buses and vans are making credit card transactions for OMNY only. You can still buy a MetroCard using cash. Check this site for the sales bus schedule:

www.mta.info/fares/mobile-sales

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits

New changes include providing a simplified one-page application form, allowing older New Yorkers to recertify their benefits for 36 months instead of 24 months, and eliminating the interview requirement for recertification. To learn more about SNAP and apply for benefits,

[click here.](#)

Unclaimed Funds

Check to see if you or someone you know may have unclaimed funds via this tracker by NYS Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli: osc.ny.gov/unclaimed-funds?fbclid=IwAR2JRsjGd4zt7CdT5aw5NQiBqIoud2O141dOUbqPWOjooIlaO8Qi7xxTFw

Community Service Society of New York

Need healthcare assistance or an advocate on your side when dealing with a medical bill, insurance denial, or a confusing notice? Call the Community Health Advocates hotline at 1-888-614-5400 and receive help today!

Congestion Pricing Discounts and Exemptions

Vehicles entering Manhattan streets at or below 60th St. will be tolled. Most E-ZPass users will pay \$9 during peak hours or \$2.25 overnight, once daily. Discounts and exemptions, such as the Low-Income Discount or Disability Exemption plans, are available—learn more at mta.info/discounts. Update your E-ZPass account to ensure accurate toll rates and credits. For details, visit congestionreliefzone.mta.info.

Animal Care Centers of NYC needs your help!

Due to a temporary suspension of dog intake, they're calling on the community to step up and adopt. If you're ready to welcome a furry friend into your home, visit a local ACC Center or [check out their website for more details](#).

Emergency Preparedness

NYC Emergency Management (NYCEM) will keep you informed and prepared during emergencies through the Notify NYC alert system. Sign up at nyc.gov/notify or by calling 311.

Curbside Composting

Curbside Composting service is now available to ALL NYC residents citywide. Compost is picked up every week on your recycling day.

Visit: www.nyc.gov/site/dsny/collection/residents/curbside-composting.page

Upcoming Events

Ruppert Park Greenmarket (formerly 92nd Street)

Opens June 22

Abre el 22 de junio

Every Sunday until November

Todos los domingos hasta noviembre

**It's farmers market season in NYC!
Keep farmers farming, shop at your local
GrowNYC Greenmarket!**

*¡Es temporada de mercados agrícolas en
Nueva York! Para que los agricultores sigan
cultivando, ¡compra en tu GrowNYC
Greenmarket local!*



**HSS****Register today!**

Program is free of charge.

**Greenberg Academy
for Successful Aging**

Protecting Your Health: Aging & Your Eyes

Thursday, June 26, 2025
10:30–11:30 am

WEBINAR



An Online Event

Register online at: bit.ly/hss-aging-and-your-eyesFor more information: call **212.774.7622** or email us at communityed@hss.edu

As we age, our eyes naturally change, which can affect vision and quality of life. Join us to:

- Learn about common eye conditions like cataracts, glaucoma and floaters
- Recognize key warning signs and when to get screened
- Get tips to protect and maintain healthy vision

Join our print mailing list to be notified of future programming by calling **212.774.7622**.

Or sign up for our email list at hss.edu/registration.

This program is designed to give general information and does not provide individual medical advice.

INSTRUCTOR**Weijie Violet Lin, MD**Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
Weill Cornell MedicineScan QR code for
more information**HSS Education Institute**[Community Update: June 13, 2025](#)[Community Update: June 6, 2025](#)[Community Update: May 30, 2025](#)[Community Update: May 23, 2025](#)**Did someone forward this email to you?****[Sign up for our e-news here.](#)**



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