



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

This week in Albany, Governor Hochul addressed the Legislature with her State of the State, outlining proposals that will guide our budgetary and legislative work this session. In this special report, I share my response to the Governor's proposal to expand rent freeze protections for New York City seniors and people with disabilities—a critical step toward helping more New Yorkers remain safely in their homes. We also include key takeaways from the Governor's 2026 State of the State address, highlighting priorities that affect affordability, public safety, education, energy, and the protection of our communities.

This past weekend, we saw an incredible turnout at our paper Shred-A-Thon, where neighbors safely disposed of nearly three tons of sensitive documents. Due to the overwhelming demand, we are committed to planning additional shredding events in the future.

It was also a pleasure to present a citation recognizing Coach Ryan Martin, head coach of the CUNY Adaptive Sports Wheelchair Basketball team. His dedication to creating inclusive opportunities for all New Yorkers is truly commendable.

We have heard from many constituents seeking information about how to respond to and resist illegal ICE actions in our community. Hands Off NYC, a grassroots coalition working to protect immigrant communities, is hosting Upper East Side trainings to help neighbors stay informed, prepared, and connected during these uncertain times.

On Monday, January 19, we honor the life, legacy, and vision of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a tireless advocate for justice, equality, and opportunity for all. Dr. King's courage reminds us that progress is achieved through action—by standing up for the marginalized, lifting our communities, and working toward a more just and inclusive society. As we reflect on his enduring message, let us recommit to carrying forward his dream and building a New York where every person can live with dignity, safety, and hope. Please note that our district community office will be closed on Monday, January 19, in observance of this federal holiday and will reopen on Tuesday, January 20 at 9:30 a.m.

As always, my office is here to assist you.

Phone: 212.288.4607
Email: SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov

Sincerely,

REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT

2.97 Tons Shredded at Upper East Side Shred-a-thon
Stay Tuned for Future Shredding Opportunities



Our office hosted a Shred-A-Thon this past Saturday at the 82nd Street Greenmarket, and the response was incredible!

The truck stayed busy until it was completely full.

Due to high demand, we're planning additional events—stay tuned to our weekly e-news for updates.

**Statement on State of the State Proposal Expanding Rent Freeze
Protections for New York City Seniors and People with
Disabilities**

Raising NYC's SCRIE & DRIE income limit to \$75,000

More seniors and people
with disabilities will stay in
their homes and avoid
displacement



Governor Hochul has proposed raising the income eligibility for New York City's rent freeze programs to \$75,000, expanding access to the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE). This long-overdue update will help more seniors and people with disabilities stay in their homes amid rising housing costs.

Nearly 1.5 million older adults live in New York City, and many face economic insecurity. Updating the income cap from \$50,000 to \$75,000 reflects today's cost of living, allowing thousands more to age in place with dignity.

"Rent freeze programs are often the only thing standing between New York City's most vulnerable residents and homelessness," said Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, Chair of the Assembly Aging Committee.

Governor Hochul's State of the State also includes investments in NORCs, in-home services, the CAPABLE program, hospice and palliative care, and protections against elder abuse, scams, and fraud—helping seniors live safely and independently in their own homes.

**Governor Delivers 2026 State of the State: "The State of Our
State is Strong"**



Governor Kathy Hochul delivered the 2026 State of the State address, highlighting New York's resilience, growth, and bold vision for the future. Reflecting on the state's 250-year history, the Governor celebrated New Yorkers' enduring strength and commitment to liberty while outlining achievements and priorities for the year ahead.

Key highlights include:

- Affordable Living & Families: Expanding child care, capping insulin costs, launching the nation's first paid prenatal leave, and investing in housing to help families put down roots.
- Public Safety & Crime: Record-low crime rates, strengthened gun laws, enhanced police patrols, and new protections against 3-D printed ghost guns.
- Education & Workforce: Free community college for adult learners, new math and reading initiatives, and workforce development in high-demand fields.
- Economic Growth & Jobs: Historic investments in clean energy, advanced technology, and manufacturing; major projects including Micron, GlobalFoundries, and the Interborough Express.
- Energy & Sustainability: Expanding clean energy, nuclear power, and utility assistance programs to make energy affordable and reliable.
- Protecting Rights & Communities: Safeguarding reproductive rights, combating antisemitism and Islamophobia, regulating social media for youth, and holding federal ICE accountable.

The Governor emphasized that, despite federal challenges and rising costs, New Yorkers' determination and ingenuity will continue to drive progress. "The State of our State is strong, and we're just getting started," the Governor declared.

Special Guests at the Capitol for the State of the State Address



Jay Hershenson, Vice President for Communications and Marketing and Senior Advisor to the President of Queens College; Patti Kenner; Former Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney; Council Member Virginia Maloney; Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright; and Sandra Wilkin, Vice Chair of the CUNY Board of Trustees.

Assembly Member Seawright Presents Assembly Citation to CUNY Adaptive Sports Wheelchair Basketball Coach Ryan Martin



What a weekend! Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright was proud to attend the CUNY Adaptive Sports Wheelchair Basketball game on campus. The event showcased incredible skill, determination, and teamwork from the athletes, and the energy in the arena was electric.

Seawright joined Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez in cheering on the players, presenting a citation to Coach Ryan Martin and celebrating their talent and the importance of adaptive sports in creating inclusive opportunities for all New Yorkers.



Welcoming Interns to the Assembly Chamber!



Nataliya Yakovleva Appointed CEO of Coler Skilled Nursing Facility



NYC Health + Hospitals has named Nataliya Yakovleva, LNHA, LMSW, as the new Chief Executive Officer of Coler Skilled Nursing Facility on Roosevelt Island. Yakovleva brings 25 years of experience in long-term care and is the first female CEO at Coler in over 40 years. Coler, an 815-bed facility, is nationally recognized for excellence, ranking #10 in New York State in Newsweek's 2026 Best Nursing Homes and high-performing in long-term care and short-term rehabilitation by U.S. News & World Report.

"I welcome Nataliya Yakovleva to this role and look forward to working closely with her, staff, residents, and families to continue strengthening Coler as a cornerstone of post-acute care on Roosevelt Island," said Assemblymember Rebecca Seawright, Chair of the Assembly Aging Committee.

Yakovleva will assume her new role effective January 20, 2026, leading Coler into its next chapter of high-quality, patient-centered care.

ICE Resistance on the UES



Hands Off NYC Upper East Side is hosting an in-person training on educating local small businesses about their rights regarding ICE raids.

- Date & Time: Sunday, January 18 at 1:00 PM
- Location: Unitarian Church of All Souls, Ware Room, 1157 Lexington Avenue
- RSVP: [Click here to RSVP](#)

Stay connected and involved:

- Join the Hands Off NYC UES Signal Chat – Led by State Committee member Erica Vladimir to receive updates on future trainings and organizing opportunities. [Click here to join](#)
- Sign up for Small-Business Know Your Rights outreach – Access a pre-recorded training and get weekly updates on upcoming outreach dates. [Sign up here](#)

Empower your community by learning how to protect local businesses and stay informed.



Community members rallied in Albany in support of the New York for All Act (S2235/A3506), urging local law enforcement to stop collaborating with ICE. The legislation would strengthen protections for sensitive locations like schools and shelters. Advocates also called on the Mayor to fully implement sanctuary policies, safeguard immigrant residents, and ensure public institutions are ICE-free.

Consider Our Office *YOUR* Resource

BENEFITS SCREENING & APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

LiveOn NY

Making New York a better place to age

**Rebecca
Seawright**

 ASSEMBLYMEMBER

Wednesday, February 11th, 2026

10:00am-1:00pm

at

The Office of AM Rebecca Seawright

1485 York Avenue

By appointment only!

Please call 212-288-4607 or

seawright@nyassembly.gov to register

In order to be screened for benefits,

please bring the following

documents, if possible:

- ID, Social Security card & Medicare card
- Proof of current monthly income (2026 Social Security award letter, pension statement, paystubs)
- Rent/maintenance/mortgage statement
- Current and previous leases (for SCRIE/DRIE)
- Utility bills
- Medical bills within the last 3 months (if applicable)



METROCARD/OMNY BUS

**STOPS HERE
(79/YORK):**

WED. 1/21, 2/4

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

REFILL YOUR
METROCARD/OMNY
CARD

APPLY FOR
REDUCED FARE

2026 New York City Parking Calendar



Compliments of:
**Assembly Member
Rebecca A. Seawright**

[Download the NYC Parking Calendar](#)

**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!

**A VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY WILL
HOST A ONE -ON-ONE 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.

Upcoming Events

NYC BATTLE OF THE BOROUGH MINECRAFT CHALLENGE

REINVENTING PIER 6 SUNSET PARK

APPLY NOW!!



DEADLINE EXTENDED

MINECRAFT
EDUCATION

NYC
Public
Schools

NYC
Media &
Entertainment

NYC / EDC

In Case You Missed It: Past Editions of the Community Report

[Community Update: January 9, 2026](#)

[Community Update: A year in Review](#)

[Community Update: December 19, 2025](#)

[Community Update: December 12, 2025](#)

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