

March 15, 2019

Rebecca Seawright



Dear Neighbor,

In Albany we adopted a resolution on the Executive Budget. A budget is due April 1 and the process this year must accommodate a \$3.8 billion shortfall. Notably, policy items have been left out of the budget to ensure that proper consideration is given to issues, and not passed in a hurry at the expense of passing an on-time budget. Congestion Pricing and Healthcare for all are issues which will be taken up apart from the budget to protect the integrity of public policy and amplify the input of New Yorkers.

*In our community office we hosted a Tax Talk, a Knitting and Conversations group, and a Department of Finance Rent Freeze Clinic. Stay tuned to hear about more events hosted by our office including our Tuesday Housing Legal Clinic, our Women in World War I Series and more! **We will meet you at the Shred-a-thon this Saturday, March 16 at the 82nd Street Greenmarket between 10am and 2pm!***

If our office may be of service, remember that we are just a call, email or visit away!

Sincerely,

Rebecca



[Click to Visit Our Website](#)

In Albany

**East Side Middle School Students and Principal David Getz Visit
Assembly Member Seawright at the Capital**



Middle School Students Visit Albany for Mental Health Advocacy Day!

Students from East Side Middle School joined advocates from throughout New York State to hear stories of those impacted by mental health service delivery and to make their voices heard in shaping the future delivery of mental health services in the public school system.

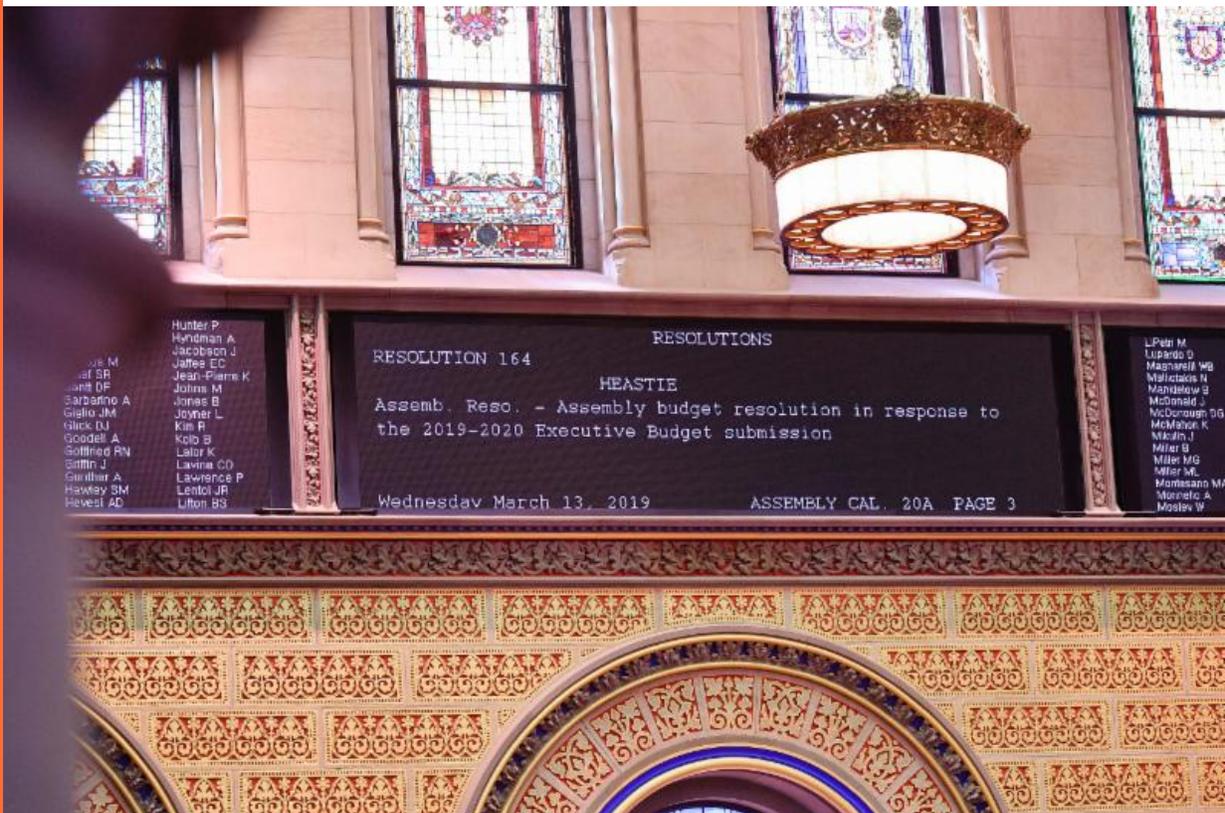


Legislative Women's Caucus Celebrates with Attorney General Letitia James



Attorney General Letitia James and Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright speaking about the passage of the Assembly Resolution on the submission of the Executive Budget

2020 Budget Update



Assembly Releases \$175.6 Billion Spending Proposal

Final Budget To Be Voted on by April 1

The Assembly's 2019-20 state budget proposal invests in vital programs and services that help put hardworking families first, protect our most vulnerable and continue New York's progress (E.164). The \$175.6 billion plan includes \$77.3 billion in General Fund spending, which is \$3.8 billion more than the 2018-19 budget and \$711 million more than the 2019-20 executive budget proposal.

Quality Education

- The Assembly plan provides a total of \$28.4 billion in education funding, an increase of \$1.6 billion – or 6 percent – over the previous year and \$644 million more than the executive proposal. Foundation Aid would be increased by \$1.16 billion for the 2019-20 school year for a total of \$18.9 billion, which is \$823 million more than the executive proposal.

Access to Higher Education

- \$14.8 million for CUNY in increased operating support to help offset the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) gap.
- \$15 million for a new “Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship” to cover non-tuition expenses such as housing, meal plans and books and help close the affordability gap for even more families across the state.
- \$41.4 million for the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP), which is \$5.9 million more than the executive budget proposal;

Strengthening public libraries

The Assembly budget proposal restores \$5 million in aid to public libraries, for a total of \$96.6 million, as well as \$20 million in construction grants for libraries, for a total of \$34 million. The proposal also allows certain high-need libraries to receive capital grants for up to 90 percent of project costs and makes permanent provisions that allow all high-need libraries to receive capital grants for up to 75 percent of project costs.

Ensuring everyone is counted in the 2020 Census

\$40 million to promote the census and to assist with funding for local outreach efforts. Neighborhood organizations not only know their communities best, but their members are trusted and will be better able to motivate people to participate.

Protecting tenants and boosting NYCHA

The Assembly budget proposal provides \$400 million for public housing capital repairs statewide, allocating \$300 million of this funding to the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA),

Ensuring seniors have the resources they need

The Assembly proposal increases or restores funding for a host of programs that provide resources and assistance to seniors, including:

- a \$15 million increase for Expanded In-home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP), which offers non-medical in-home services such as personal care and housekeeping, for a total of \$65.1 million;
- a \$1 million restoration for Community Services for the Elderly (CSE) Program, which helps localities provide seniors with comprehensive care needed to remain in their homes, for a total of \$29.9 million; and
- an \$886,000 restoration in funding for state aging programs.

Helping those who help others

The Assembly's spending plan includes \$25 million to support a minimum wage increase for health and human services workers contracted with the state to ensure those who look after our most vulnerable can provide for their own families. It would also restore cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) for the following agencies:

- \$72 million for the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD);
- \$37 million for the Office of Mental Health (OMH);
- \$15 million for the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS);
- \$12 million for the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS);

- \$5 million for the State Office for the Aging (SOFA); and
- \$100,000 for the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA).

Healthcare

The Assembly budget proposal restores \$691.9 million in Medicaid funding and \$53.8 million to fund public health programs. This includes \$137.8 million to restore cuts to the Indigent Care Pool, \$222 million to restore the 2 percent rate increase for hospitals and the 1.5 percent rate increase for nursing homes, as well as \$190.2 million to restore the 0.8 percent Medicaid claim cuts across the board.

\$26.9 million to restore public health funding for New York City.

Supporting New York workers

The Assembly proposal restores funding to several labor programs, including:

- \$50 million – \$6 million more than the executive proposal – for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), which offers up to six weeks of paid work experience for New Yorkers between the ages of 14 and 24;
- \$1.62 million to the Displaced Homemakers Program, which provides career and job search assistance to unemployed and underemployed New Yorkers to help get them back into their career field;
- \$350,000 for the New York Committee on Occupational Safety and Health (NYCOSH), a coalition of labor groups and safety professionals dedicated to reducing workplace injury; and
- \$150,000 for the Sexual Harassment Prevention Program at the Cornell School of Industrial Labor Relations.

Helping localities cover the cost of early voting

To provide New Yorkers with additional time to make it to the polls, the Assembly passed a law to establish early voting in New York during a nine-day period before any general, primary or special election. The measure would not only make voting more accessible, but would also bring our state up to speed with the 39 other states that currently allow early voting.

To help offset the costs of additional poll hours for financially strained local governments, the Assembly's 2019-20 state budget proposal includes \$7 million for localities. Additionally, the Assembly budget provides capital funds for county boards of elections to purchase electronic poll books and on-demand ballot printers to help modernize their operations.

Fixing our subways and buses

The Assembly remains committed to discussing an MTA financing package and will be guided by principles that include recognizing that the MTA requires a long-term sustainable funding source to bring the system into a state of good repair, meaningfully reducing congestion in the Central Business District (CBD) – including offsets for New York residents paying a toll before entering the CBD – and addressing transit inequities in New York City and the suburbs.

Protecting the environment now, and for our children

The Assembly is committed to protecting and preserving the environment so all the natural beauty New York has to offer remains vibrant and healthy for generations to come. That's why the Assembly proposal maintains \$300 million in funding for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF).

\$240 million for water projects administered by New York City.

Investing in vital legal services

The Assembly budget proposal restores \$2.83 million to the Legal Services Assistance Fund (LSAF), for total funding of \$13.63 million, to support civil and criminal legal services grants. Additionally, the budget proposal provides \$8.8 million to support a number of legal assistance services, including:

Helping our veterans get ahead

The Assembly Majority remains committed to honoring the immense sacrifices made by

our veterans by restoring \$850,000 to various programs that will help these heroes begin new chapters of their lives. These vital programs help veterans use their diverse skills to find gainful employment, connect them to needed resources and provide legal and other services to low-income active-duty members so that veterans and their families are supported in their transition back to civilian life.



Columbia University Associate Vice President, Government Relations Loftin Flowers and Assistant Director, Government Relations Tricia Shimamura



Bradley Hershenson lobbies Assembly Member Fahy in support of SUNY Students in the Assembly Budget Proposal



Seawright at her desk in the chamber with her son Bradley



Constituent Nurse practitioner Dennis Hawkins visits the capital to advocate for fellow nurse practitioners.



Nurse practitioners in support of the Nurse Practitioners Modernization Act

In Our Community

Roosevelt Island Neighbors Gather in Seawright's District Office for a Meeting Regarding the Future of Roosevelt Island's Play Fields



Seawright convenes Meeting with members of RI's Fields Committee to address issues of concern regarding permitting practices and proposed fencing at RI fields. Representatives from Senator Serrano and Council member Kallos' offices were in attendance. All three elected representatives pledged to continue to work together with the residents and have already sent a letter to the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation.

[Click to Read the Letter Regarding Roosevelt Island Field](#)

Seawright Fights for Better Bus Service in the State Budget



A press conference was held today at 96th Street and Second Avenue with Riders Alliance. Local elected officials were joined by local bus riders to demand better bus service and increase enforcement in all bus-only lanes.

"The Select Bus Service network and features



including dedicated bus lanes, needs to be protected with the expansion of the bus lane camera program. Along with my colleagues in the Assembly, I am fighting for automated bus camera enforcement for every mile of bus-only lanes in New York City in this year's State budget. Bus ridership is in decline, resulting in

a 7.4% decrease in rides between 2016 and 2017, to the tune of almost 9.5 million less rides in Manhattan alone. As we face a congestion crisis, we must act to improve our transportation infrastructure, and keep New Yorkers moving forward quickly and efficiently," said Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright.

Seawright Joins Continued Effort to Stop Supertall Towers: City Council Leads Public Hearing This Week

This week, Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright joined her Eastside colleagues in signing onto testimony delivered to the City Planning Chair Lago and the members of the City Planning Commission in support of the Residential Tower Mechanical Voids Text Amendment.

Residents of the Upper East Side and Community Board 8 have long been voicing their disapproval for loopholes misused by developers who aim to build as tall as possible at the expense of our skylines. The testimony supports the improvements suggested by all Manhattan Community Boards:

- Lower the height allowed for mechanical floors that are exempt from using floor area from **25 feet to 14 feet**
- Increase the height between mechanicals from **75 feet to 200 feet**
- Cover all mechanical voids whether **enclosed or unenclosed**

Not in the scope of the text amendment, we request that the Department of City Planning investigate the following:

- Expand geography to all of Billionaires' Row
- Exempt mechanical floors to no more than 40 vertical feet within a building
- Limit exempt mechanical space to a small percentage of the building gross floor area
- Expand coverage from buildings that are 75% residential to apply to all buildings that include residences
- Limit excessively tall common spaces and accessory uses
- Limit zoning lot mergers

[Click to Read Full Testimony](#)

Community Office Hosts...



Knitting and conversations



The Offices of the Taxpayer



continues. They meet every other Tuesday. If you are interested in joining the group, call 212-288-4607 for the schedule in March and April.

Advocate for New York City and the Internal Revenue Service partner with the Office of Assembly Member Seawright to hold a Tax Time Talk. The goals of the advocates offices are to empower and enable all taxpayers to meet their tax obligations while being informed of their rights and protections.

On Monday, March 11 at the Webster Library with the East Side WWI Commemoration Committee for The Story of Dr. Anna Tjomsland, the first woman intern at Bellevue Hospital. She served on the battlefields of Vichy, France with Base Unit 1, treating over 60,000 Allies. This is the first event of a series highlighting the women of World War I at the Webster Library.

News You Can Use

As Featured In...



Jan Hus buys soccer shop

"There is a 1773 poem by William Cowper which begins with the line, 'God moves in a mysterious way,'" Seawright said.

"In this spirit, it is possible that the physical move north may well provide new opportunities for more people to become familiar with the congregation, and its good works, even as it continues to serve its loyal parishioners," she added.

"After 131 years of worship on East 74th Street, Jan Hus Presbyterian Church is purchasing a building 16 blocks to the north and will move into the new space by the spring of 2020, Our Town has learned.

The neighborhood stalwart that once anchored "Little Bohemia" — and provided a spiritual base for legions of Czech parishioners — is buying the Home of Soccer Building on First Avenue just above East 90th Street.

It plans to convert the four-story commercial property into a multi-use, ADA-accessible, social-justice jewel box that will minister to the flock — while also tending to the elderly, hungry,

homeless and impoverished.

A sanctuary for prayer will grace the ground floor, and one level below, the church's Urban Outreach Center will offer one-stop, social services, like the first supermarket-style food pantry on the Upper East Side.

Plans aren't finalized, but among the options Jan Hus is considering for the space is a church-based, pre-school in an area where overcrowding is rife and demand for local school seats far outstrips capacity.

Also on tap for the second, third and fourth floors: A retreat center, an incubator space for a social justice-oriented nonprofit, and even a café-like setting for 12-step recovery programs, of which the church hosts 54."

[Read Full Article Here](#)



Jan Hus Presbyterian Church is buying the longtime Home of Soccer Building on First Avenue and vacating its home on East 74th Street. Photo: Jim Nedelka / Jan Hus

JAN HUS BUYS SOCCER SHOP

EXCLUSIVE

A fabled Yorkville church, forced to sell its ancestral home to remain solvent, uses the proceeds to secure new quarters for its congregation and social-justice mission

BY DOUGLAS FEIDEN

Our Town: How your bus measures up



Congresswoman Maloney presents State of the District at Hunter College. Assembly Member Seawright spoke on the State budget and in support of the MTA.



Scenes from an announcement today from Governor Cuomo to issue a pardon to Baba Sillah, a Bronx father of five minor children, who has been subject to deportation by the Federal Government. He is an active member of 32BJ SEIU and Seawright commends Gov. Cuomo for issuing a pardon allowing him to pursue naturalization through his wife, who is a US citizen.



Rep. Carolyn Maloney, Anderson Cooper and Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright at the opening of Hudson Yards

Upcoming Events

SHRED-A-THON

ERIN GO BRAGH 2019 EDITION



Assembly Member
Rebecca Seawright



Council Member
Keith Powers



Council Member
Ben Kallos



SATURDAY, MARCH 16

10:00AM-2:00PM

82ND STREET GREENMARKET

(82ND ST. / FIRST & YORK AVE.)



Office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, 212-288-4607

Office of Council Member Keith Powers, 212-818-0580

Office of Council Member Ben Kallos, 212-860-1950



**Join Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney
Comptroller Scott Stringer, State Senator Liz
Krueger, Assemblymembers Dan Quart, Linda
Rosenthal and Rebecca Seawright, Councilman
Ben Kallos, religious and community leaders to
speak out at a rally against Anti-Semitism**

Where: In front of Asphalt Green,
1750 York Avenue at 91st Street

When: Sunday March 17, 2019 at 2 pm

There has been a sharp spike in anti-Semitic hate crimes
in New York City in 2019, including one at Asphalt Green
last week.



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JOHN BLOUGH PHOTO VIA FLICKR

Is congestion pricing the solution to this?

The congestion pricing plan now under consideration in Albany has the potential to change the way Manhattan works in a major way. For example, equalizing the tolls on all bridges and tunnels would reduce the incentive to cross Manhattan via Canal St. to reach New Jersey.

But what do Manhattanites think?

Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer wants to know! Attend this public hearing, learn more about the proposal from the experts —and make your voice heard!

PUBLIC HEARING

6:00 pm Thursday,
March 21, 2019
Cooper Union
41 Cooper Square
(bet. 6th and 7th St.)

(Please bring written testimony to submit for the record, and prepare a two-minute synopsis for delivery at the hearing. For those who cannot attend in person, please email written testimony to info@manhattanbp.nyc.gov with the phrase "Congestion Testimony" in the subject line.)



Gale A. Brewer
Manhattan Borough President

[@galeabrewer](#) www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov (212) 669-8300

**MUSEUM
OF THE
CITY
OF NEW YORK**

Kids These Days: The Criminalization of Youth in New York

Museum of the City of New York
[1220 Fifth Ave at 103rd St.](#)

When: Wednesday, March 27, 5:30pm –
7:00pm

Price: Free. Registration required.

<https://www.mcny.org/>



**NEW YORK CITY COMPTROLLER
SCOTT M. STRINGER**

cordially invites you to celebrate

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



HONOREES

Jessica González-Rojas

Executive Director, National Latina Institute
for Reproductive Health

Reshma Saujani

Founder and CEO of Girls Who Code

Ann Tripp

Journalist and Legendary Radio personality

WEDNESDAY

MARCH 27, 2019

Doors open at 5:30pm
Program from 6pm to 8pm

NEW YORK

PUBLIC LIBRARY

Stephen A.
Schwarzman Building
3rd Floor, Salomon Room
476 5th Avenue
New York, NY 10018

To RSVP, please email RSVP@comptroller.nyc.gov or call (212) 669-4466. If you need language translation services or other special accommodations, please call (212) 669-4315.

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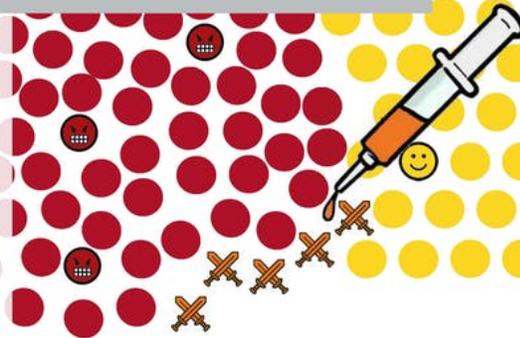
Medical Research Pub Talk

Critical Mass: Cancer Progression and Treatment Progress

Enjoy general audience discussion
with Weill Cornell postdoctoral
researchers about their work over a drink.

March 26, 2019
7:30pm

at
Nisi Kitchen
549 Main street
on Roosevelt Island



The Weill Cornell Medicine Postdoctoral Association presents: the Postdoc "Pub Talk" Series

Tue, March 26, 2019
7:30 PM – 10:00 PM EDT
[Add to Calendar](#)

Nisi Kitchen
549 Main Street
New York, NY 10044
[View Map](#)

Postdoctalks.com



Cancer Care Support Groups

Free, professional support services
reach 186,700 people each year in all
50 states. To learn more, visit
www.cancercaresupport.org or call 800-813-
HOPE (4673).

Roosevelt Island Concerts

Saturday March 23rd at 7:30pm
Good Shepherd Church
543 Main Street, Roosevelt Island

All Mozart: One Overture, Two Piano Concertos

The newly redesigned website is at riconcerts.org.



Liz Krueger

STATE SENATOR | 28th District



Roundtable for Boomers & Seniors



Everyone has opinions about older people and what getting older means. We invite you to dispel myths about aging, change the conversation about older people, and learn strategies to make positive changes in your community so that you can live well into older age.

Myths, Facts and Possibilities: Five-Part Boomer & Senior Roundtable Series

Thursday, April 4th, 2019

8:30am – 10:30 am

**Lenox Hill Neighborhood House
331 East 70th Street (btwn 1st & 2nd)**

Session IV: Meeting the Needs of a Growing Community

The number of older adults across New York State — residents aged 65 and over — increased by 26 percent over the past decade, while the state's under-65 population actually declined by 1 percent during the same period. There are now more older adults in New York than the entire population of 21 states. A new report from the Center for an Urban Future explores what older New Yorkers need to live, and live well in the City.

- **Maria Alvarez**, Executive Director
NY StateWide Senior Action Council, Inc.
- **Christian González-Rivera**, Senior Researcher
Center for an Urban Future

'18-'19 Roundtable Calendar:

- **Organizing for Change**
Thursday, May 9th

RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/MeetingTheNeeds> or by phone at 212-490-9535.