

# Rebecca Seawright



*Dear Friends and Neighbors,*

*I am proud to announce the passage of our Equality Amendment during a special session of the New York State Legislature, thanks to the support of our Governor Kathy Hochul, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins, Senator Liz Krueger and advocates. A constitutional amendment requires passage in two successive sessions of the Legislature before it can be on the ballot for New Yorkers to vote on the proposal. I am honored to serve as the lead sponsor in the Assembly.*

*The Equality Amendment is the most meaningful action the legislature can take as the fight over abortion rights rages across the country along with growing threats to LGBTQ individuals and the continued impacts of racism and racial violence.*

*Included in the amendment is language to provide for "Reproductive autonomy," the power to decide and control one's own contraceptive use, pregnancy, and childbearing. For example, people with reproductive autonomy can control whether and when to become pregnant, whether and when to use contraception, which method to use, whether and when to continue a pregnancy, and decisions in childbirth.*

*I dedicated my vote to my mentor and former employer, Sarah Weddington, who died late last year and was the lead attorney in Roe vs Wade. I had the great honor of speaking at her funeral in Austin, Texas earlier this year.*

*In the fortieth anniversary edition of Sarah's book, "A Question of Choice," Sarah made clear that the only way to avoid the horrors of illegal abortion is to keep it legal. She specifically cited the importance of state constitutions as the vehicle. We can and must protect all New Yorkers.*

*In the special session, we also conferenced and passed legislation to assure New Yorkers that despite the dangerous and disturbing decision by the Supreme Court to dismantle our more than 100-year-old sensible concealed carry law, we will not accept tragedies like the racist shooting in Buffalo as the cost of access to firearms. Another mass shooting in Highland Park, Illinois at a Fourth of July Parade yesterday makes the need for national gun reform even more pressing. Our deepest sympathies go out to the families and friends of the victims.*

*Consider joining us for one of our upcoming events:*

- **Wednesday, July 6 at 7:00 pm at PS77, the Lower Lab School - Upper East Side Gun Violence Town Hall. [RSVP here.](#)**
- **Thursday, July 7 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, July 7 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm on Zoom - Virtual Knitting Social on zoom. [RSVP here.](#)**

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

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**Email:** [SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov](mailto:SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov)

*Sincerely,*



**REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT**

## Lead Sponsor Assembly Member Seawright Hails Passage of Equal Rights Amendment to Enshrine Reproductive Rights Into the New York State Constitution



Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, the lead sponsor of a landmark

equal rights amendment to enshrine reproductive rights into the New York State Constitution, hailed its historic passage today in the state Legislature.

*“When we began this historic battle by introducing an equality amendment to the New York Constitution, we stood on the shoulders of the women suffragists and civil rights leaders of many generations passed,”* said Seawright.

*“With the enduring support of Speaker Heastie, Governor Hochul, Assembly colleagues, Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, Senator Liz Krueger and numerous advocates, we are closer than ever to enshrining a woman’s rights to choose and equality protections against discrimination in the most important governing document of our state,”* Seawright said.

*“The bright beaming light of New York State’s leadership will shine through the dark, gloomy days of the United States Supreme Court.”*

The language of the amendment declares that no person shall be subjected to any discrimination in their civil rights by the state or other person, firm, corporation, or institution, or any agency or subdivision of the state *“because of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, creed, religion, or sex, including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive healthcare and autonomy...”*

Seawright began fighting for an equal rights amendment as the lead sponsor of proposed legislation five years ago. Today’s breakthrough achievement marks a turning point and places the amendment on track for the three-step approval process. A second legislative approval is required as early as 2023, followed by statewide referendum placing the issue before the voters.

*“The fundamental right of every woman to reproductive health care choice is the guiding principle embedded into the legislation,”* said Seawright. *“The need is ever more evident following the disastrous Supreme Court decision that abolished Roe v. Wade. We need a proper legislative response that will be a national model for rectifying the erroneous and misguided Supreme Court ruling.”*

*“We are now closer to achieving our goal of an equal rights amendment to the New York Constitution.”*

Seawright thanked the following activists who supported the legislation:

The New York Civil Liberties Union

Planned Parenthood of New York

The ERA Coalition

PowHerNY

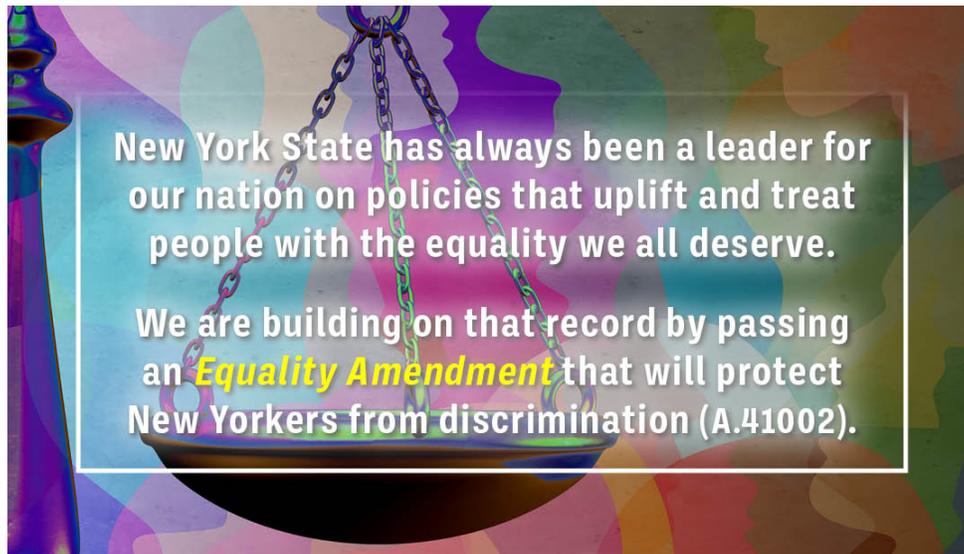
The National Institute for Reproductive Health

Columbia Law School ERA Project

Evan Davis, former counsel to Governor Mario Cuomo

Liz Holtzman, former member of Congress

Julie Suk, Professor of Law, Fordham University



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## Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright Passed Concealed Carry Legislation To Address Fallout Of Supreme Court Decision

*"To keep New Yorkers safe and address the havoc wrought by the recent Supreme Court decision on concealed carry permits, we passed legislation to establish sensitive places where guns are not permitted, such as mass transit, schools, hospitals, government buildings and establishments that serve alcohol. It also allows private business owners to decide whether to allow guns on their property. The legislation will also implement new live-training requirements as part of the concealed carry licensing process and expands the list of crimes that would preclude a person from being eligible for a concealed carry permit. These new safety standards establish a uniform statewide policy for obtaining a handgun license. The bill also requires safe storage of firearms in households that include a person under 18 years of age (A.41001).*

*"With the conservative Court's recent decisions demonstrating a clear and present threat to democracy, New York will fight to protect our communities and uphold human rights. Justices who actively seek to undermine the legitimacy of the Court are deplorable."*

**Join Us For A Town Hall!**

# Upper East Side Gun Violence Town Hall

**7:00 PM, Wednesday July 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**PS 77: Lower Lab School, E 95th St**

Join Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, State Senator Liz Krueger, Assemblymembers Rebecca Seawright and Eddie Gibbs, Councilmembers Julie Menin and Keith Powers, and Representatives from Brady NYC, Carnegie Hill Neighbors, Gays Against Guns and the 19th Precinct for a community town hall on gun violence and safety.

RSVP: [bit.ly/UESGVTownHall](https://bit.ly/UESGVTownHall)



## Notices



### Alternate Side Parking (ASP) Update

Beginning July 5, 2022 alternate side parking regulations for street cleaning will be restored to pre-pandemic frequency as posted on the signage throughout the City. We are excited to be getting more of the tools we need to do our job of keeping the city healthy, safe, and clean.

#### When do I move my vehicle?

When ASP is in effect, you can't park on the side of the street that is being cleaned. Move your vehicle during the posted street cleaning regulations. The rules apply for the entire time posted on the sign, even if a street sweeper has passed.

### When is street cleaning on my street?

You can look up the ASP rules on street cleaning signs on specific streets by using the *Parking Sign Locator map*.

### Need more information?

Learn more about ASP on the *City's 311 information page*.

### What are the benefits of street cleaning?

Environmental justice begins at the street level, and clean streets are vital to vibrant neighborhoods and our city's economic recovery. Mechanical sweeping is the most cost-effective and efficient means of street cleaning! Mechanical brooms pick up several thousand pounds of litter and debris each day and are key components of a comprehensive public health and environmental justice program. Without this brief period of curb access, litter and debris build up causing a cleanliness problem and polluting our waterways.

## Construction Updates

### York Avenue Combined Sewer and Water Main Replacement

At this [link](#) you will find the updated 2022 Third Quarter Newsletter for the Reconstruction of York Ave. Combined Sewers and Water Mains Project.

If you have any questions or inquiries for Con Edison work operations please contact : E-mail: [ManhattanRCA@coned.com](mailto:ManhattanRCA@coned.com).

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