



Assembly Member **REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT** *Reports To The People*



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- During periods of extreme heat our office serves as a cooling center and we are pet friendly!
- No-cost notary services, **Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**
- Biweekly Tuesday no-cost housing legal clinic. Call **212-288-4607** for more information.
- Apply for State and City benefits like the City's rent freeze (SCRIE/DRIE)

ERA Update: Flip your ballot in November to vote on Proposition 1

Assembly Member Seawright, lead sponsor of the Equal Rights Amendment to the New York State Constitution, asks you to flip your ballot in November as there is an important ballot initiative. The Equal Rights Amendment will prohibit discrimination by the government based on a person's ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, and sex — including their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes. It would also protect against any government actions that would curtail a person's reproductive autonomy or their access to reproductive health care. The ERA would, for the first time, explicitly include language to clarify that discrimination based on a person's pregnancy or pregnancy outcome is sex discrimination.

Queer Big Apple Corps, The Largest LGBTQIA+ Identified Marching and Symphonic Band in the Country Introduced on Assembly Floor by Assembly Member Seawright



Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright welcomed members of The Queer Big Apple Corps Marching and Symphonic Bands, including artistic director Marita Begley, artistic director Henco Espag, and executive director Jason Cannon to the Assembly Chamber. The band presented Seawright with a stained glass big apple for her support of their programs.

Seawright Awards Neighborhood Organizations State-Funded Grants for Community Enrichment

Funding the Office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright helped secure has been awarded to the following organizations for community enrichment:

- East 86th Street Merchants and Residents Association for neighborhood beautification
- Upper Green Side for local sustainability projects like the no-cost shred-a-thons
- Bottomless closet to empower New York City women in need to enter the workforce and achieve success
- GrowNYC Lenox Hill Neighborhood House Fresh Food Box Program
- Queer Big Apple Corps. Musical Instruments
- Health Advocates for Older People for healthy aging programs
- New York Foundation for Senior Citizens
- Search and Care for programs to help older New Yorkers age in their own homes
- Friends of the East River Esplanade for concerts and community programming
- Roosevelt Island Historical Society



Seawright presented Eleanor Roosevelt High School Students \$200,000 in state funding for needed renovations to its auditorium.

Seawright Cosponsored and Strongly Supported Legislation Signed into Law to Protect New Yorkers from Lithium -Ion Batteries and E-bikes

Seawright cosponsored and strongly supported a package of legislation¹ signed into law to strengthen consumer protections against rechargeable lithium-ion batteries found in many popular electric vehicles and devices. This set of bills comes as fire departments across the state have reported a concerning rise in fires caused by the batteries, with New York City reporting 250 battery-related fires and 18 deaths last year alone.

No one should fear navigating their own neighborhoods. The enactment of these laws will secure these growing technologies and require accountable use for all New Yorkers.

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright is the lead sponsor of legislation (A09048) to increase the penalties for leaving the scene of an accident involving an electric scooter without reporting in the second degree and leaving the scene of an accident involving an electric scooter without reporting in the first degree. The bill provides increased penalties for leaving the scene of an accident involving a bicycle with an electric assist system.

¹ A.4938-D; A.9338; A.9337; A.1910-B; A.7628-A; A.8450-B; A.8102-A; A.8310-C

Young Environmental Advocate Makes Waves at PS183

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright honored Chloe King York, a second grader at PS 183 in Manhattan's Upper East Side, who created a petition advocating for the inclusion of younger students in the Green Team. Her efforts paid off and she collected enough signatures and now second and third graders at PS 183 are allowed to join the Green Team, thanks to her initiative.



Seawright Received Ellen Hermanson Foundation Honor for Leading on Breast Cancer Screening Legislation

Over 15,000 women receive breast cancer diagnoses in New York each year and those whose cancer is detected at an early stage have a 93% or higher survival in the first five years of a diagnosis.

Assembly Member Seawright authored and passed legislation (A5677 of 2017) signed into law expanding access to 3D screenings without co-pays or deductibles. Now this legislation serves as a model, being replicated around the country.

As she continues her work to expand access to early detection breast cancer screenings, another bill she sponsors (A8387) will extend insurance coverage for screenings for those with a "second-degree" family health history of breast cancer, including, for example, one's grandmothers and aunts.

Assembly Member Seawright said, **"I am proud to be the Lead Sponsor in the Assembly on legislation to expand eligibility for breast cancer screenings to more New Yorkers with a family history of breast cancer. Over 15,000 women across New York will be diagnosed with this terrible disease this year. It is the most diagnosed cancer in women. Early detection is key. Women whose breast cancer is detected at an early stage have a 93% or higher survival rate in the first five years."**



Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, event co-chair Jean Shafiroff, and co-founder and chairwoman of The Ellen Hermanson Foundation Julie Ratner.

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright Nominated Amy J. Schwartz for Special Distinction by Legislative Women's Caucus at the Governor's Mansion in Albany

In recognition of March as Women's History Month, the Legislative Women's Caucus celebrated at the Governor's Mansion inviting legislators to honor a woman from their district who advocates for diversity, equity, and inclusion. Amy J. Schwartz has been a policy and legislative advocate and program organizer for improvements to the social welfare and well-being of New Yorkers for 30 years. Focusing on public health, climate change, and education, Amy consults on campaigns for community groups, policy organizations, and public schools.



Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, Governor Kathy Hochul, and Amy J. Schwartz

Chair of People with Disabilities Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright's Blue Ribbon Commission Bill Passes Assembly 146-0 on Legislative Disabilities Awareness Day



Seawright rallied with students from across the state for \$15 Million in higher education funding for students with disabilities.

Assembly Bill 9553, sponsored by Chair Seawright and passed by the Assembly 146-0, establishes a Blue-Ribbon Commission to make recommendations for systemic reforms to the developmental disabilities service system, ensuring a sustainable set of supports and services are available in the future to meet the evolving needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Seawright said, "Establishing a Blue-Ribbon Commission to examine the current service delivery system for New Yorkers with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities is vital to identifying the appropriate recommendations for person-centered decision making and, ultimately, a sustainable future system."



NYC Fair's Meri Krassner, Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright and Mary McGuire Weafer.

New York State Budget Update

Protecting our environment, combating climate change

Assembly Member Seawright supported to passage the Climate Change Superfund Act to hold big polluters accountable (A.3351-B)

- ☑ Companies that significantly contributed to the buildup of greenhouse gas emissions would pay into the climate change adaptation cost recovery program.
- ☑ The Climate Change Adaptation Fund would help cover costs for new or upgraded infrastructure to help mitigate the damage of climate change.
- ☑ Requires that disadvantaged communities, often the most affected by climate change, receive at least 35% of the funds collected.

And helped secure over \$2.5 billion for the environment in the enacted 2024-25 state budget, including:

- ☑ \$500 million to support clean water infrastructure and
- ☑ \$400 million for the state Environmental Protection Fund.

The budget included legislation to Tackle Gun Violence

Initiates a state study on the viability of “smart guns,” handguns with identity verification technology that can only be fired by their owner (A.8333-A).

Requires firearm manufacturers to ensure their products cannot be converted with rapid-fire modification devices (A.10053-A).

The budget provided measures to prevent retail theft and violence against workers

Provides tax credits to small businesses to support anti-theft measures.

Strengthens penalties for those who shoplift, assault retail workers or foster the sale of stolen goods.

Creates dedicated law enforcement teams to combat organized retail theft rings.

Combating hate crimes

Provided \$35 million statewide to organizations tackling hate crimes

Expanded what offenses can be considered hate crimes

Cracking down on illegal cannabis

Strengthened the authority of local law enforcement and the state Office of Cannabis Management to padlock and shut down illegal cannabis stores



Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright called for the inspection and closure of unlicensed smoke shops in the 76th District. The inspections revealed disguised cannabis products and underscored the importance of law enforcement action.

Seawright said, “The proliferation of these shops is endangering our community. Most of the products that were seized were marketed to children using common brand names like “Starburst” or “SweeTARTS. It is critical that we crack down on unlicensed cannabis in our neighborhood.” In the recently passed budget, Seawright voted in support of vital measures that will strengthen cannabis enforcement and promote public safety.

Community Office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright
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Assembly Member
**REBECCA A.
SEAWRIGHT**

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New York State Budget Update ...cont

Passing legislation to protect children on social media

- ☑ Passed the SAFE for Kids Act (Ch. 120 of 2024)
Prohibits social media sites from using an addictive algorithm to deliver content to children without parental permission.
- ☑ Passed the New York Child Data Protection Act (Ch. 121 of 2024)
Prohibits internet companies from collecting, using, sharing, processing or selling children’s data without parental consent.
Establishes clear rules and standards for social media companies to follow to foster a safer digital environment.
- ☑ Passed legislation to protect children from online abuse (A.6789-B)
Requires social media companies to clearly disclose their policies on hate speech and racism, disinformation, extremism and threats of violence, harassment, and foreign political interference.
Directs social media companies to provide data on the number of policy violations and their enforcement actions.

Seawright Hosts No-Cost Community Shredding

10,370 pounds of paper
were shredded on
May 7th on 79th Street and
4,000 pounds on June 18th at
St. Catherine’s Park.

Save the dates for the
next shredding event!

Tuesday October 29th, 2024
York Avenue & 91st Street