



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

This past week, the Assembly and Senate held a Joint Budget Hearing on Human Services, which reviewed the funding request for the State Aging Department and for non-profits such as AARP and the New Yorker Foundation for Senior Citizens.

I questioned Greg Olsen, Acting Director of the New York State Office for the Aging, about the issues facing older New Yorkers, one of which is the implementation of the state Master Plan for Aging. Barbara Baer, Director of the New York Foundation for Seniors' Home Sharing Program, also appeared to discuss funding and their initiative's potential to empower seniors.

Thanks to our advocacy, starting Saturday, February 15th, the Roosevelt Island Tram will return to its faster speed of 7.5 minutes per trip during rush hour and 15 minutes per trip at regular times. This is a trial run for two weeks pending testing of updates to the system.

Please be aware that our District Office will be closed Monday for President's Day. Regular operations will resume on Tuesday.

As always, please consider our office your resource.

Phone: 212.288.4607

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

Sincerely,

**REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT**

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**Seawright Questions Panelists at Joint Budget Hearing on  
Human Services**



Assembly Member Seawright asked Greg Olsen, Acting Director of the New York State Office for the Aging, about the issues facing older New Yorkers, such as the implementation of the state Master Plan for Aging.



Seawright was pleased to question Barbara Baer, a Director of the New York Foundation for Senior Citizens, on the need for funding and their Home Sharing Program's potential to empower seniors.

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**Supporting Seniors with AARP and LiveOn NY**



I am proud to join the Age Strong NY campaign's call for increased funding to secure a stronger future for older adults. We are fighting for a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for caregivers, to end senior service waiting lists, and more. Aging New Yorkers don't just deserve affordability and equity; they have earned it.

## Recognizing the Outgoing Staten Island Pride Center Director



Seawright was pleased to join her colleagues in recognizing Carol Bullock, outgoing Executive Director of the Pride Center of Staten Island, on the Assembly Floor. Congratulations on seven successful years!

## Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month



Let's raise awareness about the signs of teen dating violence and promote healthy, respectful relationships. Help us stand in solidarity with all those impacted.

For support and resources, visit:

[ny.gov/programs/teen-dating-abuse-awareness-and-prevention](https://ny.gov/programs/teen-dating-abuse-awareness-and-prevention)

## News You Can Use

**Rebecca Seawright Vows to Serve Seniors as New State Assembly Aging Chair**



"Upper East Side State Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright became the chair of that body's Aging Committee last month, a role that will give her significant influence over legislation affecting New York's sizable senior citizen population.

In an interview with *Straus Media*, Seawright said that her elevation to the position by Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie made particular sense from a local standpoint. Indeed, a widely-referenced City Comptroller report from 2017 revealed that the Upper East Side had roughly 43,000 senior citizen residents. According to Seawright, that dynamic still holds true today, as she said that her district contains the **'largest concentration of senior citizens in Manhattan.'**

**'This is a perfect committee for me, and one that I'm really excited to jump in and chair,'** she said. **'One of my top priorities is going to be for senior citizens to age in place, and I've introduced legislation to create a task force to study this issue.'**

[Read More](#)

**Consider Our Office Your Resource!**



# ASSEMBLY MEMBER REBECCA SEAWRIGHT



## BOOK DRIVE

for kids in under-resourced NYC Schools  
through March 5, 2025

District Office of Assembly Member  
Rebecca Seawright  
1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets)

- ✓ **Yes:** new and gently used books for pre-school through high school
- ✗ **NO:** Adult books, textbooks, library discards, or out-of-date non-fiction/reference books

Want to order books from the Project Cicero wishlist?  
Visit [projectcicero.org/wish-list](http://projectcicero.org/wish-list)



FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## Assembly Member Seawright

is sponsoring a National Black History Month essay contest, with awards going to the top entries from schools in the Upper East Side, Yorkville, and Roosevelt Island.



Civil rights protesters participate in the 1965 Selma to Montgomery marches.

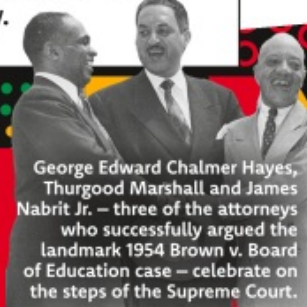
## ESSAY CONTEST

Tell us about a Black American who stood up to injustice or broke down barriers. Or tell us about a significant moment or event that helped shape American history.



Send your essay by 02/28/25 to:

Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright  
1485 York Avenue, New York, NY 10075  
212-288-4607, seawright@nyassembly.gov



George Edward Chalmer Hayes, Thurgood Marshall and James Nabrit Jr. – three of the attorneys who successfully argued the landmark 1954 Brown v. Board of Education case – celebrate on the steps of the Supreme Court.

## Tax Filing Assistance



**TAX FILING ASSISTANCE**  
is Available for  
Qualifying New Yorkers!

**More New Yorkers can file their taxes for free this year!** If your 2024 personal income was \$200,000 or less – \$250,000 or less for joint returns – you can file your state and federal taxes for free with Direct File.

Visit [www.tax.ny.gov/pit/efile](http://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/efile) to learn more.

Need help preparing your taxes? **The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs offer free basic tax return preparation for seniors and other qualifying taxpayers.** For

more information or to see if you are eligible for these services, please visit [www.irs.gov/individuals/free-tax-return-preparation-for-qualifying-taxpayers](http://www.irs.gov/individuals/free-tax-return-preparation-for-qualifying-taxpayers).

**Make sure you take advantage of all the tax savings out there!**

Visit [www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/child-tax-credit](http://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/child-tax-credit) or [www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/earned-income-tax-credit-etc](http://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/earned-income-tax-credit-etc) to learn more about the federal Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit.

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**Rebecca  
Seawright**  
ASSEMBLY MEMBER

**NO-COST SCREENING MAMMOGRAMS**

## *The Mammogram Bus*



American-Italian  
**CANCER FOUNDATION**

**will be at our Community Office  
1485 York Avenue**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025  
9:00am to 4:30pm**

For an appointment please call  
**212-288-4607**

### **Eligibility:**

Women age 40 to 75  
Currently living in New York City  
No Mammogram in the past 12 months

- No co-pays required and deductibles are waived
- Uninsured patients also welcomed
- Medical Services provided by Multi-Diagnostic Services

**Funded by a grant from the NYS DOH Cancer Services Program  
Additional funding provided by the generous support of the JALBCA, NBCF,  
NYC Council, NYC DOHMH, NYS Senate, MCHF,  
RAR Foundation, and individual patrons.**



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## METROCARD BUS

STOPS HERE (79/YORK):

WED. 02/05 & 02/19

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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REFILL YOUR  
METROCARD

APPLY FOR  
REDUCED FARE

CASH ONLY

**Rebecca**  
**Seawright**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER

# NO-COST NOTARY

Monday - Friday

10am-12pm

1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets)



**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!**

**RSVP REQUIRED:  
CALL: 212-288-4607**

**EMAIL: SEAWRIGHTR@NYASSEMBLY.GOV**

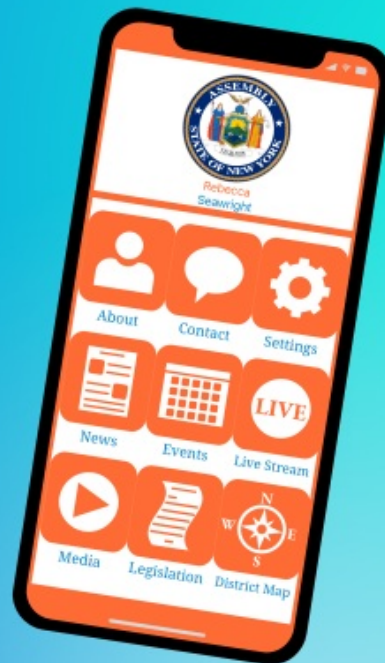
*The legal clinic is solely to provide guidance and advice from attorney's experienced in landlord- tenant law. The clinic does not guarantee a desired outcome and does not establish an attorney- client relationship. Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright does not represent or advise constituents in any legal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



## 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 <https://on.nyc.gov/on.nyc.gov/benefitreplacement>

## 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](https://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/](https://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](https://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: <https://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 <https://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](https://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 license, learner permit or ID will be on your smartphone whenever you need it. [More info here](#).

### **NYCDOT Street Work Permit Maps**

The NYC DOT provided a street work permit map for our district so New Yorkers could have access to any active street work information in real time. You can view the map here: <https://dmv.ny.gov/id-card/mobile-id-mid>

### **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](https://www.nyc.gov/site/dsny/collection/residents/curbside-composting.page)

### **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](https://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 re-certify their benefits for 36 months instead of 24 months and eliminating the interview requirement for re-certification. 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: <https://www.osc.ny.gov/unclaimed-funds?fbclid=IwAR2JR5SjGd4zt7CdT5aw5NQIBqIoud2O141dOUbqPWOjoolIaO8Qi7xxTFw>

### **COVID-19 resources**

You can order four COVID tests (for free, including shipping!) at [this website!](#) To see the latest data and key metrics on COVID-19 in New York City, check out the [NYC Department of Health's website](#). Vaccine shots are also available in pharmacies, clinics, hospitals and doctors' offices.

#### 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.

## Upcoming Events



**HEALTH ADVOCATES**  
FOR OLDER PEOPLE

### Health Advocates February 2025 Monthly Calendar

Health Advocates for Older People, Inc. promotes safe and healthy aging through programs designed to facilitate independent living, physical well-being, and greater social interaction.

[Click here for the monthly calendar!](#)

[Community Update: February 7, 2025](#)

[Community Update: January 31, 2025](#)

[Community Update: January 24, 2025](#)

[Community Update: January 17, 2025](#)

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