



MY OFFICE IS HERE TO HELP!

Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I hope you are having a safe and enjoyable summer! We are pleased to share this edition of our community newsletter highlighting our work in Albany and in our community.

This session, we made important progress in Albany, including the passage of legislation to better protect older New Yorkers, support family caregivers, expand educational opportunities, and lower energy costs. Here at home, I continue to advocate for safer streets and greater accountability for reckless e-bike operators while fighting to preserve and expand affordable housing and deliver meaningful investments for our community.

You will also find updates on neighborhood events, including our Spring Clean Team, community shredding day, animal adoption event, mobile constituent services, and our 12th Annual Women of Distinction Awards, where we celebrated extraordinary women whose leadership strengthens our community every day. In addition, it was an honor to recognize two beloved Upper East Side businesses—Little Wolf Cabinet Shop and Ottomanelli Bros.—for their lasting contributions to our neighborhood by nominating them for inclusion in the New York State Historic Business Preservation Registry.

As always, my office is here to help with state agencies, benefits, housing assistance, notary services, and a wide range of constituent services. Whether you need assistance or simply want to share your thoughts, we are always just a phone call, email, or visit away.

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your Assembly Member. As always, please consider our office your resource!

Sincerely,

REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT

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Seawright Delivers for Older New Yorkers



Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, Chair of the Assembly Aging Committee, pictured at a press conference with Senator Cordell Cleare, Chair of the Senate Committee on Aging, Beth Finkel, AARP New York State Director, and AARP advocates calling for the passage of elder financial exploitation protection legislation.

Family Caregiver Support (A03602): Seawright's bill requiring New York State to collect and report data on family caregivers—including the number of caregivers, their average age, the cost of providing care, and the savings their unpaid care provides to the state—passed both the Assembly and Senate.

Protecting Older Adults from Financial Exploitation (A8447): The Legislature passed Seawright's bill establishing a statewide public awareness campaign to educate older New Yorkers about scams, financial exploitation, and fraud prevention.

Supporting Aging in Place (A3601): Seawright's Independent Senior Housing Resident Freedom of Choice Act passed the Assembly, protecting the right of seniors living in independent senior housing to choose their own healthcare and supportive service providers, helping them remain independent in their communities.

Celebrating Women Who Inspire Our Community: 12th Annual Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony



Sharon Zeisel, Ruth Zealand, PhD, Ilana Yagudayev, Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright, Kristen Oberlander, Bridget A. O'Reilly, and Sherry Miller.

Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright proudly hosted her 12th Annual Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony, recognizing 40 remarkable women from the Upper East Side, Yorkville, and Roosevelt Island for their leadership, service, and dedication to strengthening our communities. The annual celebration honors women whose contributions make a lasting difference in the lives of others and inspire future generations of leaders.

Seawright Supports Stronger Accountability for Reckless E-Bike Operators

Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright continues to advocate for stronger protections against dangerous and reckless e-bike and e-scooter operation following an op-ed by Upper East Side resident and dear friend Rabbi Michael Miller, former longtime CEO of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York.

In his Daily News opinion piece, "Unregulated E-Bikes Endanger Everyone," Rabbi Miller recounts the devastating injuries he suffered after being struck by a speeding e-bike traveling the wrong way on Third Avenue. The rider fled the scene, leaving Rabbi Miller with multiple fractures requiring surgery, months of rehabilitation, and permanent injuries. His powerful firsthand account highlights the urgent need for greater accountability and stronger safety measures.

Assembly Member Seawright shares the concerns of Rabbi Miller and many other New Yorkers for the safety of our streets. She proudly sponsors and co-sponsors legislation that would strengthen oversight and improve accountability, including:

A1251, sponsored by Assembly Member Seawright, would **increase penalties for hit-and-run incidents involving e-bikes and e-scooters**. This legislation would make the penalties for leaving the scene of an accident involving an electric bicycle or electric scooter consistent with those for motor vehicle hit-and-run offenses, ensuring that individuals who injure pedestrians cannot evade meaningful accountability.

A350, to **require electric bicycles and electric scooters to be registered, inspected, and insured**.

A339 (Priscilla's Law), to **require electric bicycles and electric scooters to be registered** with the Department of Motor Vehicles and display license plates.

A116, to **establish operator safety training, licensing, and insurance** requirements for electric scooter operators.



Rabbi Michael Miller recovering after being struck by an e-bike.

Seawright Supports Rent Guidelines Board Approval of Rent Freeze for Rent-Stabilized Tenants

Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright welcomes the New York City Rent Guidelines Board's decision to approve a **0% increase for both one-year and two-year rent-stabilized lease renewals** beginning between October 1, 2026, and September 30, 2027. As a result, eligible rent-stabilized tenants renewing their leases during this period will not see an increase in their legal regulated rent, providing meaningful financial relief to more than one million rent-stabilized households across New York City. Prior to the Board's vote, Assembly Member Seawright submitted written testimony opposing excessive rent increases for rent-stabilized tenants, emphasizing the importance of protecting housing affordability at a time when many New Yorkers are concerned about housing security and the ability to remain in their neighborhoods.

Seawright Joins Spring Clean Team on East 86th Street

Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright joined neighbors and community leaders for the East 86th Street Spring Clean Team, coming together to beautify the neighborhood and promote civic pride. Volunteers led by President and Founder Elaine Walsh and Vice President Andrew Fine worked to clean streets, sidewalks, and public spaces along East 86th Street and the surrounding blocks.



Seawright Sponsors No-Cost Community Shredding Event



Team Rebecca was at the corner of 79th Street and York Avenue sharing resources for our neighbors and safely disposing of old personal documents. The next no-cost community shredding is on Friday, October 23, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Roosevelt Island at the Motorgate Turnaround, 688 Main Street.



Seawright Holds Animal Adoption Event with Animal Care Centers in Carl Schurz Park



Intern Michelle and Constituent Liaison Brynne welcomed potential adopters to the park.

Our office was delighted to partner with the Animal Care Centers of NYC (ACC) to host a Mobile Adoption Event at Carl Schurz Park. Families, animal lovers, and prospective pet owners had the opportunity to meet wonderful dogs and cats seeking loving homes while learning more about adoption, fostering, and responsible pet ownership. Visit nycacc.org for more information on how to adopt or foster a furry friend.

Team Rebecca Held Mobile Constituent Services at the Second Avenue Street Fair!



Team Rebecca's Courtney and John with community activists Todd and his mother Felicia.



Community Board 8 Chair Valerie Mason and Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright

Seawright Helps to Secure Expanded Income Eligibility for Rent Freeze Exemption Programs: Income Eligibility Raised from \$50,000 to \$75,000

As Chair of the Assembly Committee on Aging, Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright strongly advocated for increasing the income eligibility thresholds for both the Senior Citizen and Disability Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE/DRIE) programs and the Senior Citizen and Disability Homeowners Exemption (SCHE/DHE) programs to \$75,000. **She was proud to vote for a state budget that raises the SCRIE/DRIE income cap to \$75,000** and the SCHE/DHE income cap to \$75,000. These increases represent a significant step toward the goal of indexing income eligibility to inflation.

Assembly Member Seawright Helped Secure Funding in NY State Budget for Community Programs

2026 Community Investments Include:

American-Italian Cancer Foundation – \$10,000 for **free mobile breast cancer screenings**.

Carnegie Hall – \$30,000 for **Musical Connections, bringing music and arts programming to older adults and individuals living with dementia**.

Carter Burden Network – \$25,000 to support congregate **meal programs for older adults**.

East 86th Street Merchants/Residents Association – \$15,000 for **neighborhood beautification and civic engagement**.

Friends of NYC Nurse-Family Partnership – \$25,000 to **improve maternal and child health** through home visiting services.

Friends of the East River Esplanade – \$10,000 to advance **environmental improvements and stewardship along the waterfront**.

Girl Scouts of Greater New York – \$15,000 to expand **leadership opportunities for local girls**.

Health Advocates for Older People – \$40,000 for **home safety and fall prevention programs** that help older adults age safely at home.

Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty – \$50,000 for **crisis intervention and essential support services**.

New York Foundation for Senior Citizens – \$80,000 to expand **Home Sharing and Respite Care programs** that help older New Yorkers remain independent while supporting family caregivers.



Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright presents Linda Hoffman, Founder and President of the New York Foundation for Senior Citizens with a check for the Home Sharing & Respite Care Program

Seawright Advocates for Child Care Investment and Higher Education in the State Budget

Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright proudly supported the 2026-27 State Budget, which makes record investments in New York’s children and families—from early childhood through higher education. The budget includes **\$39 billion in school aid, expands Universal Pre-K, increases support for SUNY and CUNY students, provides \$3 billion for childcare assistance, and invests \$116 million in after-school programs.** These investments help ensure that every child has the opportunity to succeed while giving working families the support they need.

More Budget Highlights Supported by Seawright

Lowering Energy Costs

- Provides one-time **POWER rebate checks of up to \$200** for eligible New Yorkers.
- Returns excess gas and utility company revenues to consumers.
- Creates the Residential Affordability Through Energy Savings (RATES) Commission.
- Requires the Public Service Commission to consider affordability when reviewing utility rates, helping protect consumers from unreasonable costs.



Honoring Longtime Community Businesses Little Wolf Cabinet Shop and Ottomanelli Bros.

Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright nominated the historic Upper East Side businesses to the New York State Historic Business Preservation Registry and honored them with proclamations from the State Assembly. Nominate your favorite historic business by emailing SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov.



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Rebecca A. Seawright

Consider our office your resource!

- No-cost notary service
- Housing Legal Clinic
- Help with State agencies, benefits, and entitlements
- Apply for city and state programs like the city’s rent freeze program (SCRIE/DRIE)

Stop by to drop off your completed summer reading challenge calendar!

Readers who completed 40 or more days of reading for at least 15 minutes will receive a merit certificate from Assembly Member Seawright!

Announcing an America 250 essay contest

Assembly Member Seawright is sponsoring a 250th Anniversary of America essay contest, with awards going to top entries from schools on the Upper East Side, in Yorkville, and on Roosevelt Island. **Write about an American person or organization that has had a positive impact on our country.** Send your essay by September 26, 2026, to SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov or mail it to 1485 York Avenue, New York, NY 10075.

