



Assemblymember
Jo Anne Simon

52nd District



Announcements & Upcoming Events

January 2018

A Message from Jo Anne...

The 2018 legislative session has officially kicked off. I am pleased that Governor Cuomo presented such an ambitious plan for New York in his recent State of the State address, from criminal justice reforms to protections for immigrants and women. I am particularly supportive of his plans to legally challenge Trump's federal tax law, which disproportionately harms New Yorkers, and examine reforming our tax code to protect New Yorkers. We won't let this disastrous tax plan devastate New York families' financial well-being without a fight.

I am also encouraged by the Governor's proposal to combat sexual harassment in the workplace, highlighted by courageous women through the #MeToo campaign. I look forward to working with him to implement the "No Student Goes Hungry Program" so that all students from kindergarten to college have access to healthy food and to ban the "lunch shaming" of kids who don't have enough money to pay for school meals, and to address the crushing crisis of college student debt. I also support his initiative to remove firearms from domestic abusers, which the Assembly passed last year but needs a push in the Senate.

But the devil is in the details and so I look forward to the Governor's upcoming Executive budget proposal in which I will look to see clarity on his proposal to end cash bail and a responsible plan to ensure a fair and sustainable funding source for the MTA to address our current mass transit crisis, so we can get back to a state of good repair, modernize the system and increase service to underserved areas of New York City. The fiscal and physical health of New York depends on it.

For more details on the upcoming legislative session, please sign up for my email alerts by emailing simonj@nyassembly.gov.

Film Screening & Discussion: *She's Beautiful When She's Angry*, Fri., Jan. 19th, 6-8:30PM

Join me for a free film screening of *She's Beautiful When She's Angry*. The film tells the lesser known stories of the powerful women who founded the modern women's movement from 1966 to 1971. As our fight for women's equality continues, join us to reflect on the history of the movement on the eve of the next Women's March on NYC. After the screening, I will host a discussion with Assemblymember Yuh-Line Niou; the film's director and producer, Mary Dore, a Park Slope resident; and former Congresswoman and Brooklyn DA Liz Holtzman. The event is on Friday, Jan. 19th, 6-9 pm at NYU Tandon School of Engineering MakerSpace Event Space, 6 MetroTech Center, Brooklyn, NY, 11201. Please RSVP to simonj@nyassembly.gov.

Celebrating 100 Years of Suffrage, Thurs., Jan. 11th, 5-7:30PM

YWCA Brooklyn is hosting this event to celebrate a century of women's suffrage. I am honored to participate in a panel alongside my colleagues in state and city government and YWCA Brooklyn Young Women Leaders. Following the panel, there will be a reception with an historic photo exhibit showing a century of women's

professional training programs in Brooklyn. Please join us on Jan. 11th, 5-7:30 pm, YWCA Brooklyn Upper Gallery, 30 Third Ave., Brooklyn, 11217. Space is limited so you must RSVP to 718-875-1190 or go to <http://www.ywcabklyn.org/> to access the Eventbrite RSVP link.

Please Join My Efforts to Prevent Gun Violence

Please join me, Senators Persaud and Kavanagh, Assemblymember Titone, New Yorkers Against Gun Violence, Gays Against Guns, and the NYC Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence in signing our petition asking Governor Cuomo to include \$5 million in funding for a Firearms Violence Research Institute. New York must lead the way in conducting scientific research to better understand and prevent the gun violence that claims 33,000 lives each year. Gun violence is a public health crisis. While other major health and safety concerns such as motor vehicle accidents, heart disease, and tobacco have rightly received expanded research, far too little research has been conducted on firearm violence. It is clear that common-sense legislation and effective community programs prevent gun violence. But we must do more. To sign the petition, go to my Assembly webpage or go to https://www.change.org/p/andrew-cuomo-urge-governor-cuomo-to-create-a-firearms-violence-research-institute-in-new-york-state?recruiter=847976169&utm_source=share_for_starters&utm_medium=copyLink.

NYS Paid Family Leave Law starts Jan 1, 2018

Paid Family Leave is here! Family always comes first. We drop what we're doing to be by a loved one's side in a time of need and make sacrifices for them in an instant; but unfortunately, selfless actions like those can come with a harsh price tag for too many people. It can be the difference between food on the table and an empty fridge, because for so many New Yorkers, paid leave from work simply isn't an option. That's about to change, though, with the state's new paid family leave program, which began on Jan. 1, 2018. I am proud to have cosponsored this legislation which creates the program, recognizing that for too long, workers have been penalized for putting family first.

Under New York's paid family leave program – the most robust in the nation – almost all workers will be eligible for paid family leave benefits. This is a drastic improvement over the federal Family and Medical Leave Act, which only offers unpaid leave and covers just 60 percent of the workforce. New York is now one of only five states, as well as the District of Columbia, to require a paid family leave benefit. Workers – especially women, who bear the brunt of unfair workplace policies – will no longer be punished for caring for a loved one.

Who's covered?

- Parents during the first 12 months after the birth, adoption or fostering of a child
- Family members caring for a sick relative
- Employees whose spouse, domestic partner, child or parent is on active military duty abroad or will soon be deployed

To learn more, please call the Paid Family Leave Helpline at [844-337-6303](tel:844-337-6303) or go to the New York State Paid Family Leave website: <https://www.ny.gov/programs/new-york-state-paid-family-leave>

2018 Parking Calendar

My 2018 parking calendar includes the days of the year that certain parking regulations are suspended throughout the five boroughs. You may download the 2018 parking calendar on my website or please contact my office via email simoni@nyassembly.gov or call [718-246-4889](tel:718-246-4889) to have one mailed to you.

2018 NYC Pre-Kindergarten Directory

Do you have a child born in 2014 planning to enter Pre-K in September? Every NYC four-year-old can start their education with Pre-K for All. You may stop by my office to pick up directories with information on all of the Pre-K programs in the City and how to navigate the application process. Applications open on Monday, Feb. 5th and the deadline is Friday, Mar. 30th. If you require a directory in a language other than English or have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office. Directories and information are also available online at www.schools.nyc.gov/PreK.

There's Still Time to Enroll in Health Care for 2018!

New York's Healthcare Marketplace, NY State of Health, is a way for individuals, families, and small businesses to find quality health insurance (the Marketplace isn't for people who have Medicare). The 2018 enrollment period is open.

Need Financial Help? Financial aid to buy insurance is available for most consumers. You may qualify for an even more affordable option through the state's Essential Plan, which covers essential health benefits and includes either a \$20 monthly premium or nothing, depending on income. You may also be eligible for Medicaid.

How Do I Apply? Apply online at www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov, or call the Marketplace at 1-855-355-5777.

Need Free Help Applying? Trained navigators are available to walk you through the application process. To find a navigator near you and set up an in-person appointment, call the Marketplace or go to:

<https://info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/ipanavigatorsitelocations>

When Do I Apply? Apply by **Jan. 15, 2018** for coverage effective Feb. 1, 2018. Open enrollment for 2018 ends **Jan. 31, 2018** (Note: the federal deadline was Dec. 15, 2017, but New York has extended its deadline for our Marketplace). After that time, you may only apply if you experience a qualifying event, such as loss of your current coverage, pregnancy, job loss, marriage or divorce, or other event. Note: You may apply for Medicaid or the Essential Plan at any time.

What is the NYC Rent Freeze Program?

The Rent Freeze Program, which includes the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) Program and the Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) Program, helps those eligible stay in affordable housing by freezing their rent. SCRIE freezes the rent for head-of-household seniors 62 and older or people with disabilities who live in rent-regulated apartments (check the below website below for additional housing and disability criteria for DRIE). Your annual household income must be \$50,000 or less and you pay more than 1/3 of your monthly income for rent. To apply & for more details, call 311 or go to

<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/rentfreeze/index.page>

Update from NYC Finance Dept. If Your DRIE Housing Benefit Recently Expired: If your DRIE benefits expired within the last 6 months and you are still eligible for DRIE, you may be entitled to have these benefits reinstated. Submit a renewal application to the NYC Dept. of Finance by **Jan. 19, 2018** online:

www1.nyc.gov/site/rentfreeze/tools/drie-forms.page or visit a Business Center. The Brooklyn Center is located at the Brooklyn Municipal Building, 210 Joralemon Street.

District Office: 341 Smith Street | Brooklyn, NY 11231 | 718-246-4889 | Fax: 718-246 4895

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