



Assemblymember  
**Jo Anne Simon**

52nd District



**Announcements & Upcoming Events**

**May 2019**

**A Message from Jo Anne...**

Our rent regulation laws will expire June 15, 2019, which presents an opportunity for the state to enact new tenant protections and strengthen the laws to prevent the hemorrhage of our dwindling stock of affordable, rent-regulated units.

In the last 25 years, we have lost nearly 300,000 units of affordable, rent stabilized housing through various loopholes, while residents in market rate apartments have virtually no renter protections. I firmly believe that housing is a human right and the impact of stagnant wages and skyrocketing rents, along with the loss of rent-regulated units, is one of most pressing issues before the legislature this session. The Assembly has proposed a comprehensive set of bills that can protect renters. This includes a bill to eliminate the major capital improvement rent increase program (A6322), a bill to discontinue individual apartment improvement rent increases (A6465), a bill to protect tenants with preferential rents (A4349), a bill to eliminate vacancy decontrol (A1198) and repeal the vacancy bonus (A2351), and a bill to remove geographic restrictions on rent and eviction regulations (A7046), in addition to several other bills. Another bill that I cosponsor that would protect 13,000 units in this district is the good cause eviction notice (A5030), which would bring protections to smaller units by allowing rent increases, but limiting them to reasonable increases set by a local price index.

For more information on any of these bills, please contact my office, or to get involved in efforts to protect affordable housing, contact <https://www.housingjusticeforall.org/>

The Assembly recently held a housing hearing in New York City, with the next one scheduled to take place on Thurs., May 9<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am, Hamilton Hearing Room B, LOB, Albany, NY 12248. Go to <https://nyassembly.gov/comm/?id=22&sec=hearings> to provide written or oral remarks at the hearing.

Sincerely,

Jo Anne Simon

**My Free Rain Barrel Giveaway in Carroll Park: 7/14/2019**

Join me for a rain barrel giveaway, co-sponsored with the Friends of Carroll Park, on Sunday, July 14th in Carroll Park (Smith Street between Carroll St. & President St.), from 10am - 2pm. Water collected can be used to water gardens and for other outdoor chores. These 60-gallon barrels capture storm water before it enters the sewer system to help prevent sewage overflows from entering into our local waterways. Barrels can connect directly to your downspout to capture and store rain water. Rain barrels are provided by the NYC Department of Environmental Protection, through the NYC Green Infrastructure Plan. If you'd like to reserve a rain barrel, please email [simonj@nyassembly.gov](mailto:simonj@nyassembly.gov) or call my office at 718-246-4889.

**Assembly Hearing on Specialized High Schools, 5/10/2019.** The Assembly Committee on Education is holding a public hearing to examine the admission process and access to NYC's specialized high schools on May 10, 250 Broadway, Rm 1923, NY, NY, 10am. Watch the hearing live: <https://nyassembly.gov/> and view the bill to change the admissions process: <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2019/A2173>. For more details on the hearing, go to <https://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?sh=he>

**Public Comments on the Gowanus Neighborhood Rezoning, due 5/27/2019.** Even if you could not attend the public hearing, written comments will be accepted by the Department of City Planning until close of business on Monday, May 27th and can be submitted via email to 19DCP157K\_DL@planning.nyc.gov. Copies of the scoping documents are available here: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/applicants/scoping-documents.page#gowanus>. You can find more information about the Gowanus Neighborhood Planning Study here: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/plans/gowanus/gowanus.page#navigation>

**Save the Date: Senior Resource Fair, Friday, 6/28/2019.** Please join me for my Annual Senior Resource Fair on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 10am to 2pm at St. Francis College, 180 Remsen Street (between Court St and Clinton St). A variety of groups will be available to provide you with information on legal services, health care, government services, community resources, and more! There will also be a town hall.

**Calling on Schools & Students: Summer Reading Challenge!** Avoid the Summer Brain Drain: all elementary and middle school students are invited to participate in my summer reading challenge. Please let me know of a school that would like to participate, or if you would like a form for a student to participate. It's fun and students will return to school in September with those "learning muscles" well-toned. There is also fall certificate ceremony. Email [simonj@nyassembly.gov](mailto:simonj@nyassembly.gov) for details.

**Plans to Bring Back Two-Way Tolling on the Verrazzano Bridge:** After decades of working with my colleagues in the federal government, I was so glad to join them as they announced legislation to restore two-way tolling on the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge. The one-way tolling system has burdened Brooklyn, Staten Island, and Manhattan with unnecessary car and truck traffic for far too long, and this change will bring safer streets and less congestion to New Yorkers (and help reduce traffic during the BQE reconstruction). As soon as the one-way toll began, western Brooklyn became a doormat for trucks who evaded paying their fair share. Each route through Staten Island, Brooklyn, into Manhattan and out the Holland Tunnel now saves a large truck over \$100. This cost New York untold millions of dollars in uncollected toll revenue and wear and tear on our infrastructure, not to mention our health. The MTA leadership also joined us to support the proposal and announced its commitment to investing additional revenue from the tolls in public transportation on Staten Island and in South Brooklyn. Note: this proposal would not increase the toll, but rather would split the existing toll in half and assign it each way.

**Spark Prize for Brooklyn Nonprofits, 5/10/19.** The Brooklyn Community Foundation is awarding funds to Brooklyn nonprofits. Applications are due 5/10/19 at 5pm. For details: [www.bcfny.org/spark/apply](http://www.bcfny.org/spark/apply).

***For community and policy updates, sign up for my email alerts by emailing [simonj@nyassembly.gov](mailto:simonj@nyassembly.gov)***

---

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

Albany Office: LOB, Room 435 | Albany, NY 12247 | 518-455-5426 | Fax: 518-455 4787

Email: [simonj@NYassembly.gov](mailto:simonj@NYassembly.gov) | Web: <http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Jo-Anne-Simon>