



# Assembly Member REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT

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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The 2022-23 state budget I helped craft gives the New York middle-class tax cuts, an extra child tax credit and Earned Income Tax Credit payment, and \$2.2 billion in property tax relief checks.

The final budget provides a \$250 million fund to help with utility arrears for those who had higher energy bills this past winter and furthers our investment in safe, affordable housing.

I am proud to announce the inclusion of our bill language in the budget to provide equitable access to highly-specialized cancer care at National Cancer Institute (NCI) designated facilities. With the adoption of the budget, we have expanded coverage for individuals and small groups, including Medicaid-managed care plans and other qualified health plans.

Sincerely,

Rebecca A. Seawright

## Seawright Funds \$150,000 Upgrade for “A More Welcoming Environment for Seniors” at the Carter Burden Network

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright and leaders of the Carter Burden Network celebrated the opening of newly-renovated administrative offices for the longtime center serving senior citizens, thanks to a \$150,000 grant from Seawright. “It is with great joy and appreciation that we formally acknowledge and celebrate Assembly Member Seawright for providing capital grant funding that was instrumental in upgrading our new Carter Burden Network headquarters,” said Executive Director William J. Dionne. “The Carter Burden Network’s outstanding work provides aid, comfort, and guidance to more than 6,000 senior citizens each year,” said Seawright. “I’m delighted to help boost their efforts with upgraded facilities and a more welcoming environment for our seniors.” “We are so thankful for not only this grant but for all Rebecca does to support older adults in the community through the years, including hosting recent events such as COVID vaccine booster clinics and PPE supply giveaway events at our centers.”



## 2022-23 New York State Budget Highlights

### Education and Transportation

Our struggling transportation system received \$6.17 billion for Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) transit assistance for subways, buses, bridges, and tunnels, increasing by \$993 million - or 19.2%.

This year’s budget increases school aid by \$2.1 billion over last year’s budget. In addition, we fought and won a \$1.5 billion increase in Foundation Aid, delivering on the commitment we made last year to fully fund Foundation Aid within three years.

### Housing

We provided \$4.5 billion for a new five-year affordable housing capital plan and \$1 billion for Affordable Rental Housing. Folks needing help with rent payments will benefit from \$1.1 billion for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) and Landlord Rental Assistance Program (LRAP). In addition, the New York City Housing Authority is receiving \$350 million in capital funding for construction and desperately needed repairs.

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## Community Office “Second Booster” Clinics Success



The community office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright was transformed into a booster shot clinic, administering “second booster” shots to those aged 50+ and others who qualified. We partnered with the local Drug Mart on York Avenue.

## Freeze Your Rent!

The community office held 2 clinics to help neighbors enroll in the NYC Rent Freeze Program, including the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) Program and the Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) Program. Both programs help those eligible stay in affordable housing by freezing their rent. Senior and/or disabled tenants who are living in rent regulated units should check their eligibility.



Sheila (left) had her rent frozen with the help of the Office of Assembly Member Seawright and representative Melissa (right) from the New York City Department of Finance.

# 2022-23 New York State Budget Highlights

## Environment

The \$4.2 billion Environmental Bond Act of 2022 will be on the ballot for voter approval in November. Projects include:

- Climate mitigation.
- Restoration and flood risk reduction.
- Water quality projects and measures to increase open space conservation and recreation facilities.

## Criminal Justice

We have made changes to speedy trial requirements to reinforce the intent of the original law. While there are specified deadlines for disclosing discovery, we know that there are delays in providing materials that should not be the sole basis for dismissing a case.

This includes \$40 million for district attorneys' offices for additional staff, expanded storage capabilities, and new and updated technology to help prosecutors handle increased discovery requirements.

## Health

More than \$1.8 billion in new funding will go to Medicaid, public health programs, and public hospitals. In addition, we are expanding health care

coverage for undocumented immigrants for one year of postpartum coverage following the end of pregnancy and providing Medicaid coverage for undocumented seniors aged 65 and older.

Children's mental health funding and the first 988 Suicide and Behavioral Health Crisis Hotline will support those experiencing a mental health or substance use disorder crisis.

## Small Businesses

We have provided \$250 million to create a refundable tax credit for small business COVID-19-related expenses, with a minimum credit of \$1,000 per business; other innovative programs will provide a \$100 million tax cut for New York small businesses.

## Higher Education

SUNY and CUNY will get additional operating support, expanded tuition assistance covering part-time students, more money for Excelsior scholarships, full-time faculty, and nursing programs. In addition, more than \$335 million will go towards construction and repairs on SUNY and CUNY campuses. Expanded child care on campuses is also funded and the 17.5 hour a week work requirement was eliminated.



## Seawright Supports the East Side Freedom Square Coalition

Assembly Member Seawright is one of the founding members of the East Side Freedom Square Coalition to raise much needed money and supplies for Ukraine and the Ukrainian refugees. The Coalition hopes to be a voice for the East Side's unified support of our community for the extraordinary bravery and enduring spirit of the Ukrainian people.

## Seawright Budget Proposal Adopted for Access to Highly Specialized Cancer Care

Assemblymember Rebecca Seawright sponsored legislation that would provide more equitable access to highly-specialized cancer care.

The measure adopted in the approved budget expands coverage for individuals and small groups, including Medicaid-managed care plans and other qualified health plans.

Highly-specialized medical facilities designated by the federal National Cancer Institute as "cancer centers" are typically excluded from many health care plan networks. Insurers have argued that accepting the specialized National Cancer Institute-designated cancer centers into their networks would cause a disproportionate increase of high-cost patients with a cancer diagnosis.

"With prevailing rates as the new standard for cancer treatment at these specialized hospitals, the insurer's risk is eliminated, along with the concerns of a disproportionate increase of high-cost patients with a cancer diagnosis," said Seawright.

The National Cancer Institute-Designated Cancer Centers are recognized for their scientific leadership in laboratory and clinical research, in addition to serving their communities and the broader public by integrating training and education for biomedical researchers and health care professionals.



## Assembly Member Seawright and Governor Hochul Demand Protections for Reproductive Health

***"The reported leaked draft opinion indicates that the United States Supreme Court already voted to overturn the landmark Roe v. Wade assuring women everywhere of their reproductive rights is deeply distressing.***

***Although the final ruling is not expected until sometime in June, the draft signals the termination of the historic guarantee that a woman's right to choose will be respected throughout the nation. Instead reproductive rights will be left to the states, where harsh restrictions have already been enacted in many instances.***

***This falls heaviest on poor women, families, and people of color who do not have access to adequate and affordable health care. Thankfully, here in New York State, reproductive rights have already been codified in statute.***

***This is no substitute, however, for national recognition of a woman's right to choose. We are calling upon the United States Supreme Court to reverse their misguided draft ruling before it is too late."***



## Seawright Announces Mobile Museum of Tolerance

As incidents of hate crimes continue to mount, a mobile museum is coming to teach tolerance and combat antisemitism and other forms of discrimination, thanks to a \$1.5 million state grant to the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright announced.

The state-of-the-art mobile education center will use an interactive theater and other technology to teach tolerance and combat all forms of discrimination by focusing on the Holocaust, as well as on American civil rights experiences as critical teaching moments.

Seawright joined forces with Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and NYS Assembly Member Helene Weinstein, chair of the Assembly Ways and

Means Committee, to obtain the funding to fight the rising trend of hate crime. Heastie thanked Seawright for her leadership “in bringing this innovative museum to New York so that people of all ages can learn from the past and celebrate our diverse communities.”

The mobile education museum, currently in the procurement phase, will allow access for tens of thousands of students, educators, law enforcement agencies, faith groups, and professionals to critical educational training on issues such as antisemitism, racism, bullying, stereotyping, hate, and intolerance and promote diversity and human dignity.

## Assembly Member Seawright Honors Ten “Women of Distinction” During 7th Annual Women’s History Month Celebration



REBECCA WEINTRAUB



REBECCA SEAWRIGHT



BETTY COOPER WALLERSTEIN



CAROL GROCKI LEWIS



FLOR DE MARIA EILET



KEYNOTE HOLLY BUCHANAN



JOAN ROTH



SHIRLEY MOW



TRICIA SHIMAMURA



MARY NELL HAWK



KIM MOSCARITOLO



BRENDA SAUER

To commemorate Women’s History Month, Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright honored 10 women leaders of distinction for their achievements, noteworthy contributions, and outstanding work on behalf of the community on the Upper East Side, Yorkville, and Roosevelt Island.

## Assembly Member Seawright Hosts No-Cost Paper Shredding on 79 Street



## Seawright Wins Battle for Residents' Control On Roosevelt Island Governing Board

The New York State Legislature approved Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright's legislation giving residents a majority vote on the governing board of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation.

The measure is part of a series of reforms to bring greater accountability and transparency to the board, which serves more than 12,000 residents. Under the Seawright legislation, five of the nine appointees to the board, a majority, must reside on the island. The governor appoints four resident board members. The mayor appoints one resident board member. The full board of 9 is comprised of the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal commissioner serving as chair, the New York State Director of Budget, 5 gubernatorial appointees, and 2 mayoral appointees. "The Founding Fathers' cry of "no taxation without representation" has somehow eluded the Board of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation," said Seawright. "This long overdue reform will finally give residents a majority on the governing board to fight for a better Roosevelt Island." State Senator José M. Serrano sponsored the companion bill in the Senate. The measure now moves to the desk of Governor Kathy Hochul for her signature.

The Legislature also approved a separate bill sponsored by Seawright and Serrano requiring the corporation's Chief Executive Officer to reside on the island. A non-resident CEO would be required to relocate to the island within one year of appointment.



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## Assembly Member **REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT**

*Reports  
to the People*



## Project Cicero Book Drive Success: Hundreds of Books Donated to Project Cicero

This National Library Week we collected books for under-resourced classrooms throughout New York City. Thanks to the generosity of our neighbors, the Feminist Press at the City University of New York, and the local Yorkville Community School PS 151 PTA, our collection of hundreds of books was picked up by Project Cicero to distribute to young readers throughout New York City!