



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

An Alabama Supreme Court ruled that frozen embryos are considered children, raising questions for In vitro fertilization (IVF) patients and providers across our country. This sets a dangerous precedent and severely limits the availability of modern health care and is an attack on reproductive rights.

With the overturning of Roe v. Wade, we are seeing more interference and hostility in the most personal reproductive decisions made by families. Some states, including New York, are working to uphold our rights with constitutional amendments while others are working on abortion bans and gestational limits.

We are proud to be leading the fight for the Equal Rights Amendment to the New York State Constitution. As lead sponsor in the Assembly, we successfully obtained the required passage in two consecutive sessions to make this ballot referendum a reality. The Equal Rights Amendment is heading to New York State voters in November 2024!

In a moment in time when we are seeing federal courts turn the clock back on civil and human rights, we need to make sure New York's Constitution includes robust protections against discrimination that effectively work to hold our state and its institutions accountable for ending discrimination. In this community update, we have included more information on the amendment and how you can get involved in education efforts.

The Presidential Primary is on Tuesday, April 2 and the deadline to register to be eligible to vote in this election is March 23. You can now register to vote online [here](#).

We are hosting a no-cost screening mammogram van at the district office on Wednesday, April 10. Call our office at 212.288.4607 to make an appointment. Our office is collecting new or used children's books for a book drive in partnership with Project Cicero through March 7. More information on these events and others is in the upcoming events section.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to our community office if we can be of assistance.

Phone: 212.288.4607

Sincerely,



REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT

Equality Amendment: New York's Call to Action



WHAT IS THE EQUALITY AMENDMENT?

The ERA (S.108-A Krueger/A.1283 Seawright) would prohibit discrimination by the government based on a person's ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, and sex — including their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes. It would also protect against any government actions that would curtail a person's reproductive autonomy or their access to reproductive health care.

The ERA would, for the first time, explicitly include language to clarify that discrimination based on a person's pregnancy or pregnancy outcome is sex discrimination – an essential clarification given the national trend of criminalizing people for various pregnancy outcomes, as well as the Supreme Court's overturning of *Roe v. Wade*.

These legal protections go above and beyond the protections of the federal constitution, and insulate New Yorkers from a changing leadership that may seek to eliminate or narrow existing legal protections.

VOTE FOR EQUALITY

... FOR GUARANTEED PROTECTIONS FOR ALL NEW YORKERS

Our Federal and State Constitutions were written at a time when their promise of equality only protected the interests of a few and so our constitutional protections are woefully inadequate.

Currently, the New York State Constitution's equal protection clause does not provide comprehensive protections against discrimination, in fact, it only explicitly protects against discrimination based on race and religion.

We must amend our State Constitution to include robust protections against discrimination that effectively works to hold our state and its institutions accountable for ending discrimination.

By voting for the ERA, we will amend our state constitution's current equal protection clause in Article I, Section 11 to create broader protections to safeguard against discrimination by the state and its institutions.

VOTE FOR REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOMS ... FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE AND BODILY AUTONOMY

Does the ERA protect the right to an Abortion?

The right to make decisions about reproductive health, including abortion, is central to women's equality. The decision of when and whether to be pregnant fundamentally impacts every aspect of a woman's life. Forcing a person to remain pregnant by preventing her from accessing abortion constitutes discrimination on the basis of sex.

When state laws restrict access to abortion care or an employer fires someone because they had (or did not have) an abortion, that constitutes discrimination against women. True equal rights mean that women cannot be denied reproductive health care, including abortion.

What are pregnancy outcomes?

Increasingly across the country in virtually every state, including New York, women face criminal and civil consequences for their pregnancy outcomes. We have seen more than 1200 criminal arrests and prosecutions of pregnant women who have experienced adverse pregnancy outcomes (such as miscarriages and stillbirths) or ended their own pregnancies.

CONTACT NEW YORKERS FOR EQUAL RIGHTS

A coalition of civil rights and reproductive rights organizations advocating for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

nyequalrights.org

[@NYEqualRights](https://twitter.com/NYEqualRights)

REGISTER TO VOTE!

e-register.vote.nyc

New Law Taking Effect

The stronger our small businesses are, the stronger our economy and city become. A new law Assembly Member Seawright cosponsored will allow New York City agencies to create small-business construction mentoring programs to increase opportunities for Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises (Ch. 604 of 2023).



**Increasing opportunities
for MWBEs in
New York City**

Consider Our Office A Resource

Free Tax Return Preparation for Qualifying Taxpayers

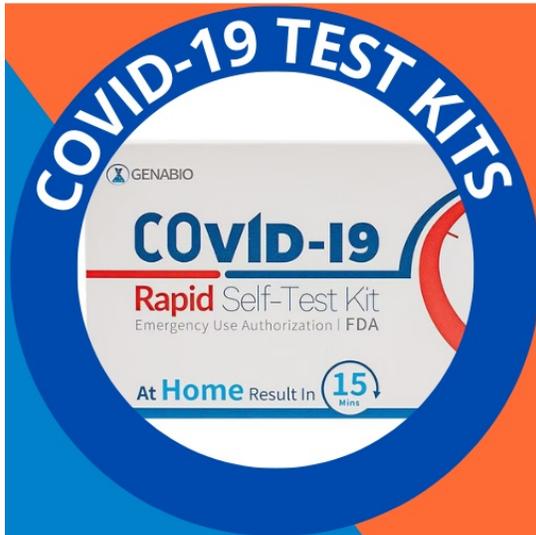
**Tax Filing Assistance is
Available for Qualifying
New Yorkers!**



Need help doing your taxes? The IRS's 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.

**Rebecca
Seawright**
ASSEMBLYMEMBER

**NO-COST
THURSDAY
PPE
GIVEAWAY**



12:00PM-2:00PM

**COMMUNITY OFFICE
1485 YORK AVENUE
(78/79 STREETS)**

212-288-4607

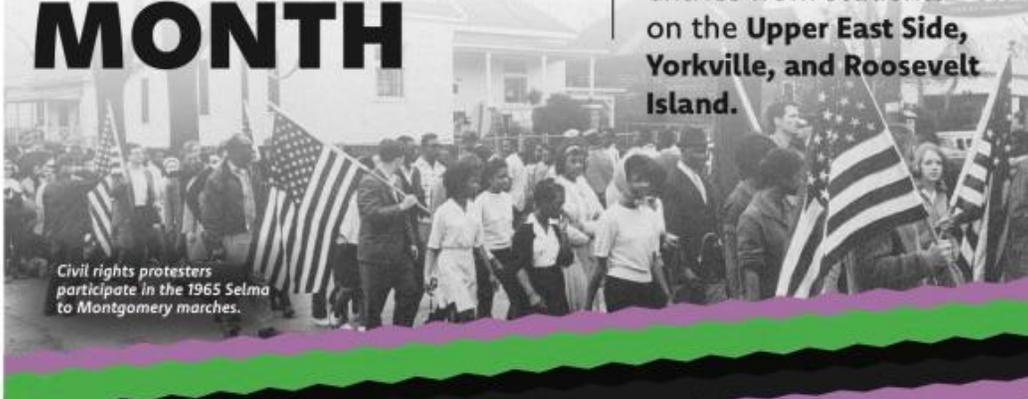
**SEAWRIGHTR
@NYASSEMBLY.GOV**

FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**Assembly Member
Rebecca A. Seawright**

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



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

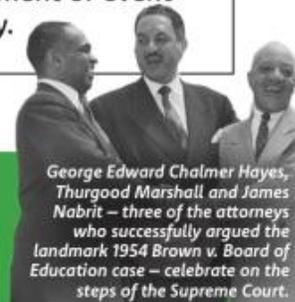
ESSAY CONTEST

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 02/29/24 to:

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



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

Community Board Applications Are Now Open!

Make a better Manhattan.



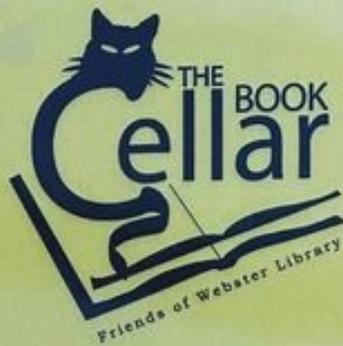
Apply to join your Community Board.

#GetOnBoard2024



Prospective members must submit a biography or resume and complete a comprehensive online application explaining why they want to join the board, what skills they offer, and their relationship to their districts. These applications are reviewed and evaluated by an independent screening panel. Qualified applicants are interviewed on the panel's recommendation by staff members of the Manhattan Borough President's office. [Click here to apply!](#)

Upcoming Events



Join us for our 20th Birthday!

On Saturday, March 2nd from 11-4
we're celebrating our birthday.

There's cake, Blue Light Specials,
and the unveiling of our new logo
with tote bags, special edition 20th
birthday t-shirts for sale, and enter
into a raffle to win gift basket and a
\$20 Book Cellar gift card.

Don't miss the fun!

A fantastic used book store, located at the Webster Library, 1465 York Ave. (between 77th & 78th St.)
Staffed by all volunteers, profits benefit the NYPL.



ASSEMBLY MEMBER REBECCA SEAWRIGHT

P R O J E C T
CICERO

BOOK DRIVE

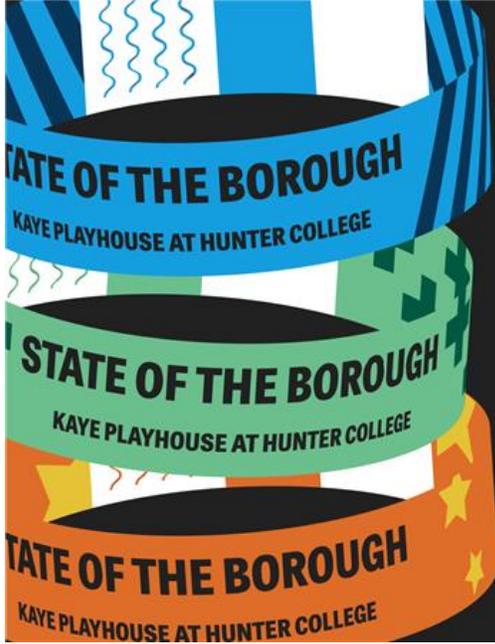
for kids in under-resourced NYC Schools
through March 7, 2024

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





MANHATTAN STATE OF THE BOROUGH

SUNDAY MARCH 3RD, 2024 DOORS OPEN AT 1:30PM



**THE KAYE PLAYHOUSE
HUNTER COLLEGE**

68TH STREET BETWEEN
LEXINGTON AVE. AND PARK



MARK LEVINE
MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

[Click here to RSVP](#)

**FREEZE YOUR RENT
ENROLLMENT CLINICS**

**WED. MARCH 6
WED. MARCH 20**

10:30 AM TO 1:30 PM

**1485 YORK AVENUE
(78/79 ST.)
TO RSVP**

**CALL 212-288-4607
OR EMAIL**

SEAWRIGHTR@NYASSEMBLY.GOV



Who is eligible:

- Are 62 years old +
- Live in a rent regulated apartment
- Have a household income of \$50,000 or less
- Spend more than 1/3 of your income on rent

Document checklist:

- Government issued ID
- Federal or state income tax returns with all schedules and 1099s.
- Current and prior leases, signed by you and your landlord.

Rebecca Seawright

ASSEMBLY MEMBER

NO-COST SCREENING MAMMOGRAMS

The Mammogram Bus



American-Italian
CANCER FOUNDATION

will be at your District Office
1485 York Avenue 10075

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024
9:00am to 5:00pm

For an appointment please call 212-288-4369

Eligibility:

- Open to women age 40 to 79
- Living in New York City
- No Mammogram in the past 12 months
- No pregnant or breastfeeding
- All insurance plans are accepted
- Bring your insurance card with you
- Co-payments and deductibles are waived
- No-cost for uninsured women



Funded by:



GABELLI Alexander Bodini Foundation
FUNDS



Bristol Myers Squibb™



Manhattan Community Board 8 Calendar

The Manhattan Community Board 8 (CB8M) represents the Upper East Side of Manhattan and Roosevelt Island. CB8M is comprised of 50 volunteer members who serve as advocates and service coordinators for the community and its residents, as well as help citizens resolve municipal service delivery complaints.

CB8M reviews and makes recommendations on various issues, including applications for Zoning Text Amendments, building variances and special permits, liquor licenses, sidewalk cafes and street fairs, changes to landmarked buildings or buildings in historic districts, traffic and transportation issues, and more.

Each month, CB8M committees meet to discuss and resolve issues in the community.

Full Board Meeting - 3rd Wednesday
Land Use Committee - 2nd Wednesday
Street Life - 1st Tuesday
Transportation - 1st Wednesday
Housing - 1st Thursday
Parks - 2nd Thursday
Landmarks - 3rd Monday
Social Justice - 4th Monday
Zoning and Development - 4th Tuesday
Youth and Education - 4th Thursday

[Read More](#)



NYC Parks is hiring for the summer!



Help keep Manhattan's green spaces beautiful and safe!



If you have a driver license, we are looking for City Park Workers at a salary of \$20.89 an hour. We also have City Seasonal Aide positions available for non-drivers at \$18.00 an hour.



For quick application to these positions, scan the code below or visit bit.ly/parks24mn



We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.



In Case You Missed It: Past Editions Of Our Community Update

[Community Update: February 16, 2024](#)

[Community Update: February 9, 2024](#)

[Community Update: February 2, 2024](#)

[Community Update: January 26, 2024](#)

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Sent byrebecca@teamrebecca.ccsend.compowered by



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