

# Rebecca Seawright



*Dear Neighbor,*

*New Yorkers are facing unprecedented challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This week, in Albany, we maintained safe social distancing in order to vote to pass a comprehensive package of legislation to address these challenges, including vital protections for tenants, nursing home residents, and consumers.*

*This week, we held a face mask and hand sanitizer giveaway on Roosevelt Island and a Virtual Town Hall on Parks and Recreation. Please tune in this week for our Virtual Town Hall Tuesday on the topic of Animal Welfare and Pet Care.*

*With the Test and Trace Corps set to launch June 1, and the number of positive cases, hospitalizations, and cases in the ICU in continuous decline, New York City is moving closer to phase one of reopening.*

*If you are in need of information or assistance, please don't hesitate to contact our office. We regretfully have suspended in-person appointments and meetings, due to public health considerations. **We are eager to continue assisting constituents by telephone and email.** Please leave a message on our voicemail with your name, address and phone number and our staff will return your call:*

**Phone:** 212.288.4607

**Email:** [SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov](mailto:SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov)

*Sincerely,*

**Rebecca**

**Roosevelt Island Face Mask and Hand Sanitizer  
Giveaway**



## Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright Announced the Passage of COVID19 Emergency Legislation Including Vital Protections for Tenants, Nursing Home Residents and Consumers

The legislation prohibits the eviction of tenants in financial distress during the pandemic. Nursing homes would be required to develop and adopt annual pandemic emergency response plans for review and approval by the state Health Department. Price gougers of products or services "vital or necessary to the health, safety, and welfare of consumers or the general public" would be subject to strict sanctions.

Other actions provide state-financed rental vouchers, a one-year extension for plaintiffs seeking monetary damages for claims of child sexual abuse, and penalties for employers who take action against employees who speak out

against workplace safety hazards.

***"I'm proud to have cosponsored these and other measures approved by the state Assembly and Senate Wednesday," said Assembly Member Seawright. "The Legislature is moving swiftly to respond to this unprecedented health crisis, and more legislative action is imminent. Everything is on the table in the era of Covid-19."***

Significant administrative changes in nursing home response to infectious disease threats are required under the new legislation, which awaits the signature of Gov. Andrew Cuomo. The nursing homes "annual pandemic emergency plan" will include protocols for:

- Communicating the status of each nursing home resident to family members
- Protecting patients, staff, and visitors from infection
- Ensuring hospitalized residents be cleared of infection before readmission to the facility
- Preserving a resident's place in the facility if they have been hospitalized
- Ensuring the facility maintains at least a two-month supply of personal protective equipment.

***The wide-ranging agenda of legislation cosponsored by Assembly Member Seawright and passed this week by the Assembly and Senate include:***

A.7652A to allow cemeteries to provide sales of cemetery lots and related services over the internet. This would modernize cemetery operations as the existing Not-for-Profit Corporation Law does not contemplate website sales by cemetery corporations.

A.10252A to permit municipalities to defer certain property taxes during the COVID-19 State of Emergency and permit installment payments to be determined by the local legislative body. No additional interest or penalties will accrue during such deferment.

A.10290B to prohibit the eviction for nonpayment of rent of residential tenants. They have suffered financial hardship and were in arrears on rent while New York on PAUSE imposed restrictions in their county. The tenant would remain liable for the rent owed, but this legislation will ensure New Yorkers are not made homeless due to these extraordinary circumstances.

A.10351B to require New York State regulated banking institutions to grant 180 days of mortgage forbearance, with the option for an additional 180 days, on a residential mortgage on their primary residence to any mortgagor who can demonstrate financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A.10404A to ensure audio-only and video-only telehealth and telemedicine services will be eligible for reimbursement. This will help ensure that individuals will continue to be able to access needed health care services, to the extent such services are deemed appropriate by the Department of Health, to provide through audio-only telehealth, while still maintaining proper social distancing to prevent spread of COVID-19.

A.10493 to allow a witness or party at a preliminary hearing on a felony complaint to appear by electronic means during a state of disaster emergency.



A.10508A to allow licensed pharmacists to administer a vaccine for COVID-19 no sooner than 90 days once a vaccine has been approved by federal and state public health agencies.

A.10509 to include the Commissioner of the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) as a member of the Disaster Preparedness Commission. During the COVID-19 pandemic, researchers indicated a likely spike in relapse and emerging substance use disorders. Including OASAS in disaster management planning will help ensure the best care for patients.

A.10519 decouples the City of New York from certain provisions in the unincorporated business tax, the general corporation tax, and the business corporation tax from recent federal changes.

A.10521 to prohibit a utility corporation or municipality from terminating or disconnecting services to any residential customer for the nonpayment of an overdue charge for the duration of the COVID-19 State of Emergency. This moratorium will last 180 days from the expiration of the COVID-19 State of Emergency for those residential customers that have experienced a change in financial circumstances.

A.10522 to enact the "Emergency Rent Relief Act of 2020" to establish an interim residential rent relief program for low-income tenants. The program will issue a subsidy for tenants who were rent-burdened before the COVID-19 pandemic – or are paying more than 30 percent of their income toward rent – and are now experiencing an even greater rent burden due to a loss of income.

A.10528 to establish a COVID-19 pension benefit for families of public employees who die due to their workplace exposure to the disease.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER  
**REBECCA SEAWRIGHT**



**VIRTUAL TOWNHALL TUESDAYS**

**CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATES**



**JUNE 2 @ 7:00 PM**



**ANIMAL WELFARE & PET CARE**



**Kathryn Coyne**

PRESIDENT AND CEO  
ANIMAL MEDICAL  
CENTER



**Rossana Ceruzzi**

FOUNDER & PRESIDENT  
WILDLIFE FREEDOM  
FOUNDATION



**Manda Kalimian**

FOUNDER & PRESIDENT  
THE CANA  
FOUNDATION

**JOIN US! WATCH LIVE ON FACEBOOK:  
[www.facebook.com/RebeccaASeawright/](https://www.facebook.com/RebeccaASeawright/)**

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED: CALL 212.288.4607  
EMAIL SEAWRIGHTR@NYASSEMBLY.GOV**

**REGISTER TO THE TOWN HALL HERE!**

**CLICK HERE TO WATCH ON FACEBOOK LIVE @ 7PM  
ON 6/2**

**In Case You Missed It (ICYMI): This Week's Tuesday Town  
Hall on Parks & Recreation**



We held our May 26 virtual Townhall Tuesday on Parks & Recreation. We heard from NYC Regional Director of New York State Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation Leslie Wright, NYC Parks Manhattan Borough Commissioner William Castro, and Executive Director for the Carl Schurz Park Conservancy Patrick McCluskey.

# VOTING GUIDE

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



*Here are the options for voting during the COVID19 pandemic:*

- All New Yorkers have the option to vote by mail in the June 23, 2020 election, per an Executive Order from Governor Cuomo, by requesting an absentee ballot. The Board of Elections is in the process of mailing an absentee ballot application to every eligible voter, with return postage paid.
- All registered voters can participate in early voting June 13 - 21. Benefits include shorter wait times and less crowding at the polls. Find your early voting location here:  
<https://nyc.pollslocator.com/>
- Vote in-person on June 23- If you would like to vote in-person, you can find your poll site here:  
<https://nyc.pollslocator.com/Search.aspx>

*Keep in mind the following dates and deadlines:*

- June 13- Early voting begins
- June 16- Last date to postmark absentee ballot application
- June 21- Last day for early voting
- June 22- Last day to apply (in person) for an absentee ballot
- Last date to postmark absentee ballot (must be received by city BOE by June 30)
- June 23- Special Elections/Presidential Primary Day / Last day to deliver absentee ballot (in person) to the city BOE

## COVID19 Updates

The New York Forward Loan Fund provides financial relief for small businesses and nonprofits that haven't received federal stimulus assistance.

The application period is now open

### **\$100+ MILLION LOAN PROGRAM FOR SMALL BUSINESSES**

The loan program will focus on supporting small businesses that were less likely to receive federal loans, especially women and minority-owned businesses, and very small businesses with 20 or fewer employees. Learn more at [esd.ny.gov/nyforwardloans](http://esd.ny.gov/nyforwardloans).

### **VOLUNTEERS OF LEGAL SERVICE CONTINUE THE UNEMPLOYED WORKERS PROJECT**

If you are looking for answers or advice regarding unemployment, please call VOLS unemployed workers project helpline at 347-521-5720 or fill out this [form](#).

### **FACE MASK EXECUTIVE ORDER**

There is an Executive Order authorizing businesses to deny entry to customers who do not wear masks or face-coverings. The Executive Order builds on the state's ongoing efforts to protect New Yorkers and slow the spread.

The state has already distributed more than 8 million masks across New York City, including to NYCHA developments, food banks, churches and homeless shelters.

- o New York State maintains a comprehensive testing network throughout the state, including more than 225 sites in New York City. New York's extensive testing—the state currently conducts tens of thousands of tests per day—now allows the government to pinpoint the state's hardest-hit neighborhoods for additional supplies and other aid.

### MTA PILOT

The MTA will pilot the use of proven UV light technology to kill COVID-19 in subway cars and crew facilities. The MTA currently cleans and disinfects trains every day.

### CALLS FOR BIPARTISAN FEDERAL RELIEF BILL

Governor Cuomo called on the U.S. Senate to pass a coronavirus relief bill that helps all Americans and provides unrestricted fiscal support for states.

o The next bill should focus on funding state and local governments, working families, state testing and tracing efforts and a real economic stimulus with no handouts to corporations who do not protect their workers and only enrich executives or shareholders.

o The House of Representatives has already passed a bill that includes \$500 billion for states and \$375 billion for locals; Medicaid funding for the most vulnerable; increased SNAP food assistance; 100 percent FEMA federal assistance; funding for testing; and repeals SALT cap to help states most affected by COVID-19.

### REPEAL SALT

Governor Cuomo reiterated his call for the U.S. Senate to repeal the SALT limitations. The states most impacted by COVID-19 represent more than one-third of the national GDP. They also send tens of billions of tax dollars more to the federal government than they get back, and the dollars they send are then redistributed to other states and big corporations. These very same states that have been most impacted by COVID-19, are also the states that were hit hardest by the cap on state and local taxes, the politically motivated first double tax in U.S. history that was implemented by the federal tax law in 2017.

### 'AMERICANS FIRST LAW'

The Governor renewed his call for Congress to pass the 'Americans First Law' to help prevent corporate bailouts following the COVID-19 pandemic. First proposed by the Governor on May 10th, the legislation states that a corporation cannot be eligible to receive government funding if it doesn't maintain the same number of employees that the corporation had before the COVID-19 pandemic. He also urged President Trump to support a real public infrastructure program and to advance infrastructure projects in New York -- including the LaGuardia AirTrain, the Cross-Hudson Tunnels, and the Second Avenue Subway expansion -- to help supercharge the economy.

### GET COUNTED IN THE US CENSUS

*The goal of the 2020 Census is a complete and accurate count of everyone living in the United States and its five territories. You should count yourself at the place where you are living and sleeping most of the time as of April 1, 2020 (Census Day).*

## Upcoming Events



**ASSEMBLY MEMBER**

**REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT**



# HOUSING LEGAL CLINIC

**TUES. JUNE 9**

**EVERY OTHER TUESDAY  
AT 4:00 PM ATTORNEYS FROM  
THE LAW OFFICES OF GRIMBLE  
& LOGUIDICE, LLC WILL  
PROVIDE ADVICE ON HOUSING-  
RELATED MATTERS AT NO-COST  
FOR CONSTITUENTS OF THE  
76TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT**

Get help navigating the housing court process, responding to notices, dealing with threat of eviction, getting repairs from negligent landlords, and advocating for your rights as a tenant in New York City!

**DUE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS, A  
VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY WILL  
HOST A ONE -ON-ONE PHONE  
SESSION WITH ATTENDEES.**

**RSVP REQUIRED:**

**CALL: 212-288-4607**

**EMAIL: SEAWRIGHTR@NYASSEMBLY.GOV**

*The legal clinic is solely to provide guidance and advice from attorney's experienced in landlord-tenant law. The clinic does not guarantee a desired outcome and does not establish an attorney-client relationship. Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright does not represent or advise constituents in any legal matters.*

**SIGN UP FOR THE LEGAL CLINIC HERE**

Stay informed about the  
**CORONAVIRUS**



DOHMH FAQ: [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)

Face Covering Distribution: [Face Coverings Face Coverings](#)

Face Covering Tips: [helpful videos](#)

DACA Renewal Assistance: Call ActionNYC at 1-800-354-0365

Ferry Schedules: [Staten Island Ferry / NYC Ferry](#)

H+H Visitor Policy: [Policy to Reduce the Spread of Coronavirus](#)

Mental Health Hotline: 1-888-NYC-WELL or text "WELL" to 65173. [NYC Well](#)

Mental Health Online: [Support New Yorkers Can Access While Staying Home](#)

OATH: [Hearing Online](#)

Online English Classes: [We Speak NYC, Register Here](#) or for information: [click here](#)

Online Marriage Licenses: [nyc.gov/Cupid](#) or [cityclerk.nyc.gov](#)

Animal Welfare FAQ: [COVID-19 and Animals FAQ](#)

COVID-19 Pet Owner Hotline: 1-877-204-8821

Pet Planning: [Get Prepared - Pets & Service Animals](#)

Map of Essential Construction: [Essential Active Construction Sites Map / FAQ](#)

Report Price Gouging: [DCA - COVID-19 Complaint](#)

Resource Guide for Immigrants: [Resources for Immigrant Communities](#)

Virtual Friendly Visiting Program for Seniors: Call 212-AGING-NYC

### For Families

Activity Book for Kids: [Animals of NYC - Physical Distancing Activity Book](#)

Remote Learning: [NYC DOE Info Hub](#)

Fun at Home for Kids: [nyc.gov/funathome](#) or text "Fun" to 97743

School and Childcare for Essential Workers: [Regional Enrichment Centers](#)

### How to Help:

How to Help: [Help Now NYC](#)

Companies with Supplies on Hand to Donate or Sell: [NYC Suppliers Page](#)

Companies Ready to Begin Producing Supplies: [COVID-19 Emergency Supply Sourcing & Manufacturing](#).

Donate PPE: [NYC Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) Donation Portal](#)

Donate Plasma: [New York Blood Center](#)

Food and Non-medical Donations: [DonateNYC](#), or call 833-NYC-0040

### For Constituents in Need:

Benefits Available for New Yorkers: [AccessNYC](#)

Services for Folks in Need: [Assistance for Individuals](#)

Domestic Violence: [NYCHope](#)

Family Justice Centers: [Family Justice Centers](#), 24-hour DV Hotline: 1-800-621-4673

Financial Empowerment Guidance: [DCA - Free Financial Counseling](#)

Food Finder: [Food Bank NYC](#)

Grab & Go Meals for All: Location: [Free Meal Sites](#), or text "NYCFOOD" or "COMIDA" to 877-877

Hotel Isolation Referral Program: [nyc.gov/covid19hotel](#)

Peer-Peer Wellness Check for Veterans: [Mission: VetCheck](#).

People with Disabilities: @NYCDisabilities, 311 or visit <http://nyc.gov/disability> or via video phone: 646-396-5830

SNAP: [SNAP Benefits](#)

Student Loan Debt Tips During COVID-19: [NYC Consumer Affairs](#)

Unemployment Benefits: [NYS Department of Labor + NYC FAQ](#)

### Businesses & Nonprofits:

Stop the Spread: [Stop the Spread of Coronavirus Flyer](#)

Facebook Grants for Small Businesses: [facebook.com/grantsforbusiness](#)

Guidance for Employers & Employees: [Update about Workplace Laws](#)

Non-Profit Providers: [FAQ for Nonprofit Businesses](#)

SBS Webinars for Small Businesses: [Register here](#)

Small Businesses: [Assistance & Guidance for Businesses](#)

### Workers:

Citibike Free Year Membership for First Responders: [Critical Workforce Membership](#)

Freelancers in NYC: [File Workplace Complaint](#)

Hotels for Healthcare Workers: [NYC & Company](#)

Labor Issues: Call 311, or AG's office: (212) 416-8700 or [Labor.Bureau@ag.ny.gov](mailto:Labor.Bureau@ag.ny.gov)

Paid Sick Leave: DOHMH [Frequently Asked Questions](#) / or call: 855-491-2667 or 311  
State List of Essential Business/Services: [Governor Cuomo Guidance Under 'New York State on PAUSE'](#)

SBS: [Virtual Workforce One Center](#) or call 718-960-2458

TLC Driver Jobs: [NYC Food Delivery Driver Portal](#)

TLC [Driver Resource Center](#): legal services, financial counseling, and other referrals

**Buildings & Residents:**

NYCHA Residents: [NYCHA's journal](#) + [Hardship Rent Reductions](#) + [NYCHA COVID-19 FAQ](#) + [City Harvest Mobile Markets](#) + [Mayor de Blasio Announces New Plan to Combat COVID-19 at NYCHA](#)

Property Tax issues: [Department of Finance Benefits](#)

Tenants/Landlords: [COVID-19: FAQ for Residential and Commercial Buildings](#)

## ICYMI: In Case You Missed It

### Previous Editions of Our COVID-19 Special Report

[\*MAY 1, 2020 SPECIAL REPORT\*](#)

[\*MAY 5, 2020 SPECIAL REPORT\*](#)

[\*MAY 8, 2020 SPECIAL REPORT\*](#)

[\*MAY 12, 2020 SPECIAL REPORT\*](#)

[\*MAY 15, 2020 SPECIAL REPORT\*](#)

[\*MAY 19, 2020 SPECIAL REPORT\*](#)

[\*MAY 22, 2020 SPECIAL REPORT\*](#)

[\*MAY 26, 2020 SPECIAL REPORT\*](#)

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