



Dear Neighbor,

Earlier this month, the Senate passed our [One-House Budget Resolution](#), as did the Assembly. These one-house budgets are the Legislature's response to the governor's Executive Budget Proposal, and they serve as the starting point for three-way negotiations on the final state budget.

I am proud of the strong One-House Budget that the Senate Majority put forward. It is laser-focused on delivering for New Yorkers in the face of the affordability crisis. It restores childcare funding, reduces taxes for the middle class, provides tax credits for working families and low-wage workers, and pushes forward with Cap & Invest and other environmental priorities that will save money for the vast majority of New Yorkers while delivering vitally needed progress to fight the climate crisis.

You can read more details and watch my comments on the Senate's one-house by [clicking here](#).

For a good side-by-side comparison of some of the issues and where each house and the governor stand, check out [this article in NY Focus](#).

In theory, the final state budget is due on April 1st. But in reality, in the last few years the budget has been a few weeks late, and I anticipate that will be the case again this year.

In [last month's newsletter](#), I highlighted several actions taken by the Trump/Musk Administration that will have direct, negative impacts on New Yorkers across our city and state. As will probably be the case for at least the next four years, the concrete examples of President Trump's destructive policies are too numerous to keep track of. But here is a small sample from the past month:

Raising Taxes on Regular Americans

Of all the erratic and illogical behavior of the Trump/Musk Administration, the ongoing Tariff Wars - which seem to mostly apply to our friends and allies - are some of the toughest to follow. I haven't found a great tracker that is not behind a paywall, but [this one is a good start](#). Tariffs, in spite of what the president seems to think, are taxes on imports that are invariably passed on to consumers. These completely [irrational and self-defeating](#) actions will drive up prices for regular Americans on everything from [groceries](#) to [electricity](#) to [housing construction](#) to [new cars](#) (especially the new [25% tariff on all imported cars](#)), making life harder for [small business owners](#) and [farmers](#) and everyone else who isn't a billionaire.

Making it Harder to Claim Social Security

As part of Elon Musk's attack on Social Security, based on his [lack of understanding](#) of the vanishingly small amount of benefit fraud and his [false claim](#) that millions of dead people are receiving benefits, the Social Security Administration announced that by the end of the month people will [no longer be able to verify their identity over the phone](#). The SSA has since [updated their announcement](#) to say that people applying for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Medicare, or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) will still be able to verify their identity over the phone, but beginning April 14th, those applying for Retirement, Survivors, or Auxiliary (Spouse or Child) benefits will have to visit a field office if they are unable to complete the process online (which is increasingly difficult to do because of staffing cuts - the Social Security website [crashed 4 times over the course of 10 days](#) this month). At the same time, Musk is intent on [closing dozens of offices](#) around the country, and [firing up to half of SSA workers](#). Combined, these perverse changes will make it harder for millions of older Americans and people with disabilities to access the funds that they are entitled to. Even the acting Social Security Commissioner has [admitted privately](#) that the changes are potentially "catastrophic." Rules around verification may very well be changed again, so it is important to continue monitoring any updates.

Putting Life-Saving Research and Thousands of Jobs at Risk

The Administration has proposed [drastic cuts to National Institutes of Health funding for medical research](#). The cuts have been temporarily stopped by the courts, but there's no way to know how long those protections will last. New York State will be particularly hard-hit by the cuts, which put [30,000 New York jobs at risk](#), and undercut vital funding for research into things like [treatment for 9/11 first responders](#), cures for Alzheimer's, and groundbreaking cancer treatments.

Attacking Our Children's Education

This month the Administration announced that [half of the staff at the Department of Education are being cut](#), as part of the President's unlawful effort to close the Congressionally-created department. One result of these cuts is that half of the regional offices of the Office of Civil Rights are being closed, including the one here in New York - that's the office that, among other things, enforces rules against anti-

Semitism on college campuses. Another result is [delays in the ability to access \\$363 million in federal funds](#) by the State Education Department. The USDA also [canceled \\$1 billion in funding](#) that helps schools buy locally produced fresh food, in a blow that will hurt our kids and our farms (New York farmers are also being hit by Trump's [attempt to claw back \\$186 million in grants](#) under the Inflation Reduction Act). And Congressional Republicans are trying to [drastically reduce eligibility for free school meals](#), which could prevent 36% of New York students, nearly a million kids, from being eligible.

Making America Sick Again

On the subject of cuts at the Department of Agriculture, Trump and Musk recently abruptly [halted the work of two advisory committees on food safety](#), one of which was about to release findings of an investigation into an outbreak of bacterial infections in babies linked to infant formula, the other looking into a listeria outbreak in deli meat. The Administration also announced [cuts at the Environmental Protection Agency](#) - which protects us all from dirty water, toxic air, and poisoned land – with plans to slash 65% of the agency's budget, including cutting 75% of the staff at the Office of Research and Development, which provides critical data on human health risks that, for example, [helps New Yorkers](#) track air quality and provides soil and water testing after toxic chemical spills. EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin, my former colleague in the State Senate, announced his intention to [throw out dozens of environmental and health protections](#), saying that the purpose of the EPA is not to protect Americans, but to help “unleash energy dominance.” For an excellent reflection on Zeldin's transformation from common sense environmentalist to anti-science cultist, [read this piece from Adrienne Esposito](#) of Citizens Campaign for the Environment.

And of course no discussion of the Administration's attack on our health would be complete without mentioning Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who believes we should fight the growing measles outbreak (which is [spreading here in New York](#)) with [cod liver oil instead of vaccines](#). And speaking of the spread of infectious diseases, HHS this week announced they are cutting over \$12 billion in funding to states (including \$300 million to New York) for infectious disease tracking, as well as mental health services, addiction treatment, and other health services, and are planning to [cut 20,000 staff](#) from the agency. HHS also [removed from its website a major health advisory](#) from former Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy that declared gun violence a public health crisis. This follows on from the Administration's decision in January to [shut down the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention](#).

Using Your Tax Dollars for a Historic Crypto Scam

President Trump has announced plans to create something he calls, rather ironically, a “[strategic crypto reserve](#).” This would involve using taxpayer money to buy a lot of cryptocurrency, like Bitcoin, and then hold it for an unknown period of time for an unknown reason (cryptocurrency is mostly used for international criminal activity). Cryptocurrency, of course, is a very volatile “asset”, and there is absolutely no guarantee that the value of whatever currency is purchased with our money will not plummet, though it will certainly increase significantly at first if Trump goes through with his plan. This is likely the point, to pull off a scam called a “pump-and-dump,” in which big investors pump up the value of a cryptocurrency and get other smaller investors excited and buying. Then the big guys sell out at the top, making a massive profit, and the little guys lose their shirts. This is exactly what happened with Trump's own branded \$Trump cryptocurrency, except now he wants the American taxpayer to lose their shirt as well, not just the dupes who bought his coin. Statistically, we'd be better off if he just took our money to the roulette table.

Failing to Protect Americans from Wildfires and Toxic Smoke

The federal across-the-board hiring freeze is resulting in a [failure to hire a sufficient number of wildlands firefighters](#). At the same time, Elon Musk recently [fired 3,400 staff from the US Forest Service](#), many of whom were secondary firefighters, meaning they are regularly called upon to fight wildfires on the front lines, and many more are critical support staff such as aviation managers. Even if the Administration were to realize their mistake and reverse course (as they have done several times already), there may not be time to train and fill key leadership positions, which would prevent personnel from being deployed when and where they are needed. Smokey Bear said "only you can prevent forest fires," and boy was he right - since there won't be enough federal firefighters, the American people may find they are left to do the job themselves.

Attacking Federal Workers and Unions

It should come as no surprise that a billionaire with a record of failing to pay his bills, co-leading the government with another billionaire, is no friend to working people. He has made that clear again by [rescinding a Biden-era executive order](#) that raised the minimum wage for workers employed by federal contractors to \$17.75 an hour (higher than NYC's current minimum wage, set by state law at \$16.50 as of January 1st of this year). Once the Department of Labor issues the regulations to implement this change, the federal workers' minimum wage will revert to \$13.30 an hour, a pay cut of \$9,000 per year for those workers. And just yesterday President Trump announced his is unilaterally (and probably illegally) [rescinding the collective bargaining rights](#) of hundreds of thousands of unionized federal workers. This move comes after [Trump tried to fire \(though he was stopped by the courts\) the chair of the National Labor Relations Board](#), preventing the board from performing its role of enforcing labor laws because it lacked a quorum.

Driving Away Tourists

The Trump/Musk Administration’s erratic and aggressive behavior toward our allies and neighbors, combined with a “shoot-first-ask-questions-later” approach to [immigration enforcement](#), is beginning to act as a deterrent to tourists visiting the US. Tourism is obviously a critical part of New York City’s economy. According to a [recent release from the Mayor’s office](#), tourist spending “generated more than \$6.8 billion in tax revenue, which helped save each New York City household around \$2,000 in 2024.” But there are [early signs that visitors are holding back](#), particularly those from Canada, who make up the largest contingent of international visitors to the city. Flight bookings between Canada and the US are [down an astonishing 70%](#). Several countries are also [issuing warnings](#) to their citizens planning to travel to the US.

Many people ask me what they can do to prevent these terrible actions. One thing you can do is join friends and neighbors at a demonstration - there's [one being organized on April 5th](#) in all 50 states. See the end of this email for more information.

Below you will also find updates on legislative activity in Albany, as well as upcoming events and other useful information. As always, if you have any questions or need assistance, please email or call my office at lkrueger@nysenate.gov or 212-490-9535.

Liz Krueger
State Senator

**Speaking Out Against Trump's
Radical Immigration Actions**



Earlier this month, President Trump's "Border Czar," Tom Homan, visited the New York State Capitol. I proudly stood with many of my legislative colleagues to denounce his visit, and pointed out that this past November New Yorkers voted overwhelmingly to approve the Equal Rights Amendment to our state constitution, which includes protections from discrimination based on nationality or national origin.

[Click Here to View Video of Sen. Krueger's Statement on Tom Homan](#)

Statement on the Detention of Mahmoud Khalil

This month I was joined by Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal, and Assembly Members Harvey Epstein, Dana Levenberg, and Linda Rosenthal in issuing the following statement regarding the detention and planned deportation of Mahmoud Khalil:

As New York State Jewish elected officials, we are deeply committed to campus safety for Jewish and all New York students. We are concerned about the antisemitism that has reared its head across the political spectrum, including within campus encampments. We know Mahmoud Khalil is a leader of the group Columbia University Apartheid Divest (CUAD), which has espoused positions we find abhorrent, and have no place in a movement for peace or self-determination or on a college campus.

However, the detention of Mr. Khalil, and the federal administration's intention to deport him, is gravely concerning. In a democracy, process and transparency are paramount. Mr. Khalil has not been charged with grounds for removal in the days

since he was removed from his home. Due process is a critical element of both our criminal justice and immigration systems, and disappearing a legal permanent resident is outrageous. We will continue to monitor this closely, and stay committed to these protections that are a key component of keeping Jewish students, and all students, actually safe.

President Trump, a person who dines with neo-Nazis and refuses to rebuke Elon Musk for performing a Sieg Heil salute, is weaponizing the fears of the Jewish community to further an authoritarian agenda that is unfolding before our very eyes. We say: not in our name.

Calling on Gov. Hochul to Sign Health Data Privacy Bill

This week I was joined by Attorney General Letitia James, legislative colleagues, and advocates in calling on Governor Hochul to immediately sign the New York Health Information Privacy Act ([S.929/A.2141](#)). In light of the privacy concerns laid bare by the bankruptcy of DNA testing company 23andMe -- which prompted Attorney General Letitia James to [urge customers to delete their data](#) -- as well as the Trump Administration's ongoing attacks on reproductive rights, urgent action is required to protect New Yorkers. The bill would regulate companies that collect and sell healthcare information, and provide additional rights and protections to consumers related to the sale of their private health information. It passed both houses of the Legislature earlier this year.

Most New Yorkers think their healthcare data is their own, that's it's protected by federal HIPAA laws and is sacrosanct. But that could not be further from the truth. The 23andMe bankruptcy should be a wake-up call. Our health data is being collected, tracked, and sold to third parties by the very companies that are supposed to be taking care of us - including women's health apps, which tend to have vague or hard-to-find privacy policies. This critical legislation will empower New Yorkers by giving them control over how their health data is used - and it could not be more urgently needed. At this time when our privacy rights are under fierce attack, I urge Governor Hochul to act now and sign the bill.

Click Here to Read More

AG James Urges 23andMe Customers To Delete Data



New York Attorney General Letitia James today issued a consumer alert to customers of 23andMe, a direct-to-consumer genetic testing company, urging them to take action to protect their data. 23andMe collects and analyzes people’s genetic code and uses DNA samples to help people trace their ancestry or detect personal health risks, among other factors. The company filed for bankruptcy and announced plans to sell its assets. Due to the trove of sensitive consumer data 23andMe has amassed, Attorney General James would like to remind New Yorkers that they are able to request that 23andMe delete their personal data and destroy any samples of genetic material held by the company.

Attorney General James is offering New Yorkers tips on how to delete their data that is stored with 23andMe or destroy test samples. Consumers can delete their account and personal information by taking the following steps:

- Log into your 23andMe account on their website.
- Go to the “Settings” section of your profile.
- Scroll to a section labeled “23andMe Data” at the bottom of the page.
- Click “View” next to “23andMe Data.”
- Download your data: If you want a copy of your genetic data for personal storage, choose the option to download it to your device before proceeding.
- Scroll to the “Delete Data” section.
- Click “Permanently Delete Data.”
- Confirm your request: You’ll receive an email from 23andMe; follow the link in the email to confirm your deletion request.

If you previously opted to have your saliva sample and DNA stored by 23andMe, but want to change that preference, you can do so from your account settings page,

under “Preferences.”

If you previously consented to 23andMe and third-party researchers to use your genetic data and sample for research, you may withdraw consent from the account settings page, under “Research and Product Consents.”

Attorney General James encourages New Yorkers who experience issues deleting their data with 23andMe to [contact her office by filing a complaint online](#).

Letter to Congress Opposing HUD Cuts

This month I joined over a hundred elected officials and housing advocates on a letter authored by the New York Housing Conference to New York State's Congressional delegation, opposing cuts to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs and Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC), which the Trump/Musk Administration have threatened. At a time when the availability of affordable housing is at a crisis level, these cuts would have serious negative consequences on New Yorkers and our communities.

[Click Here to View the Letter](#)

Measles Update

As you have likely heard, we are experiencing several outbreaks and multiple isolated cases of the measles in the United States, including in New York. It is not unusual for there to be a nominal number of measles cases each year, but the number of cases to date has exceeded previous years. Furthermore, falsehoods are being spread about measles prevention. I am sharing information and resources provided by doctors, epidemiologists, and health departments so that you have medically-accurate information to make informed decisions for yourself and your family.

Measles is highly contagious and can lead to a range of complications, including: diarrhea, ear infections, pneumonia, encephalitis (swelling of the brain), brain infection, miscarriage, premature birth or low birthweight in pregnancy, and death. **For every person who contracts measles, they will infect an average of 18 other people**, making measles one of the most contagious diseases. Measles is an airborne disease that spreads when an infected person sneezes or coughs. It is possible to contract the disease from someone with measles who was in the same room up to a couple of hours earlier. **The most effective protection against contracting measles is the standard two doses of the MMR vaccine.**

So far in 2025, there have been [378 confirmed measles cases](#) in Alaska, California, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont, and Washington. Of those individuals, 33% are under the age of 5, 42% are between the age of 5-19, 23% are above the age of 20, and 2% are of unknown age. Regarding the severity of cases, 64 were hospitalized and there is one confirmed death - a second death is under investigation. **Most significantly: 95% of individuals who have contracted the measles were unvaccinated or their vaccination status was unknown**, 3% had one MMR vaccine dose, and 2% had two MMR vaccine doses.

Health Secretary Kennedy spoke about the measles outbreaks on national news, attributing the outbreaks to poor nutrition, and promoted vitamin A. [As Dr. Katelyn Jetelina explains](#), there are “kernels of truth in his claims.” It is important to know that taking vitamin A helps to reduce mortality in measles cases among vitamin A deficient children, but vitamin A does not prevent measles. Furthermore, if children are given too much vitamin A, it can cause liver damage. Secretary Kennedy has also asserted that cod liver oil, budesonide, a steroid, and clarithromycin, an antibiotic, are effective treatments for the measles. [These remedies have certain benefits, but they are not recognized by physicians as treatment for the measles.](#)

We are seeing an increase in measles cases due to a decrease in vaccination rates. In New York City, [only about 81% of children age 24-35 months have received their first of two MMR vaccinations](#). If you have any questions about whether you or your child are fully vaccinated against the measles, please speak with your doctor or pediatrician and see Dr. Katelyn Jetelina’s [10 FAQs on MMR and Measles Protection](#) for guidance. I encourage you to make sure that you and your family are protected by getting fully vaccinated.

Please see the following resources for more information about measles, how it is transmitted, symptoms, what to do if you have been exposed to or have contracted measles, complications, and prevention:

- [About Measles](#) (CDC)
 - [Get The Facts About Measles](#) (NYS Department of Health web page)
 - [Measles](#) (NYC Health Department web page)
 - [10 FAQs on MMR and Measles Protection](#) (Your Local Epidemiologist by Dr. Katelyn Jetelina)
-

AG: Trump Administration Can't Ban Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Programs in Schools



Earlier this month, New York Attorney General Letitia James affirmed that the Trump administration does not have a legal basis to demand New York K-12 schools and higher education institutions change their DEI policies.

"The administration cannot ban diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility efforts with a 'Dear Colleague' letter," said Attorney General James. "Schools and educational institutions can rest assured that they are well within their legal rights to continue building inclusive learning environments for their students. My office will always stand up for the rule of law and defend New Yorkers from threats."

Joining Attorney General James in issuing this guidance are the attorneys general of California, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, Nevada, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and the District of Columbia.

[Click Here to Read the Full Press Release](#)

EBT Benefits Fraud Warning

There have been recent reports received by the Department of Social Services of clients getting phone calls from individuals "spoofing" the DSS OneNumber customer service phone number (718-557-1399). Spoofing is when a caller deliberately falsifies the information transmitted to your caller ID to disguise their identity.

The caller ID on these calls may appear to be the DSS OneNumber customer service number, but the call is actually originating from a different source. Please remember that legitimate DSS OneNumber representatives will never call a client to request account or EBT card information. **Clients should never provide such information in response to unsolicited phone calls, even if the caller ID appears to be from the DSS OneNumber.**

Clients can protect their benefits by freezing their EBT card through their [ebtEDGE](#) account. For more information, click [here](#).

Medicaid Renewal Updates for 2025

I am aware that there has been confusion over if and when constituents should renew their Medicaid case in order to maintain benefits. During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, Medicaid benefits were not terminated, even if individuals did not renew their Medicaid. Since the expiration of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, some individuals, but not all, have had to renew their Medicaid.

My office has been informed by HRA that the suspension on closing Medicaid cases will end in April 2025. Going forward, only clients who receive and respond to their renewal forms, and are deemed eligible, will continue to receive Medicaid benefits. Clients who do not respond to their renewal will have their cases closed, starting with those whose authorization ends in April 2025. No further extensions will be granted, and these clients will begin receiving their renewal forms by mail as early as January.

A cover letter titled “*Act Now! Medicaid Renewal Rules Have Changed*”

(MAP-3185a) will be included with all Medicaid renewal notices. This letter will inform clients that they or someone in their household must complete a Medicaid renewal to maintain eligibility for services and will outline the necessary steps to successfully renew their Medicaid coverage.

If you are unsure when you will need to renew your Medicaid case, there are a couple of ways to obtain this information:

- Create an online [ACCESS HRA](https://ao69-access.nyc.gov/accesshra/) account at: <https://ao69-access.nyc.gov/accesshra/>. If you have internet access, this is the easiest way for many individuals to access information about the status of your Medicaid case and when you need to renew.
- Call HRA and speak with a representative. I am aware that many constituents have reported having great difficulty getting through to an HRA representative in order to request this information. Please follow the directions below to reach a representative:
 1. Dial 888-692-6116.
 2. Select your language.
 3. Select 2 for the client Medicaid menu.
 4. Select 1 to hear information about your Medicaid case.
 5. Follow the instructions to enter your information.**
 6. You will hear the status of your Medicaid case. Press 1 to hear more information about your case.
 7. Press 1 to hear the status of your Medicaid renewal.
 - 8.

** You should have your date of birth, case number, and/or your Social Security Number ready. You will need to enter these to hear information about your case.

Please contact my office at 212-490-9535 if you have any questions.

AARP Shredding Events



AARP members and guests are invited to attend free paper shredding events at select locations around New York state. Connect with AARP New York to help combat fraud and safeguard yourself from identity theft by shredding sensitive personal documents after tax season.

Documents will be shredded on-site at no cost. There is a limit of 3 boxes or bags per person. **This event is for paper only.** Metal, plastic, magazines, cardboard, and other materials can damage the shredders and will not be accepted. Please remove metal binder clips beforehand.

Shredding trucks will operate during the scheduled time or until they reach full capacity. Shred site addresses will be provided after you complete your registration.

Manhattan Locations:

Wednesday, April 16, 2025, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
The Center @ Lenox Hill Neighborhood
Register: <https://events.aarp.org/BigShredLennoxHillCtr>

Saturday, April 19, 2025, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Esplanade Gardens
Register: <https://events.aarp.org/EsplenadeGardens>

Thursday, May 1, 2025, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Alianza Dominicana
Register: <https://events.aarp.org/BigShredAlianza>

Saturday, May 3, 2025, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Washington Heights
Register: <https://events.aarp.org/WashingtonHeights>

Free Online Tax Filing



File for free with IRS Direct File

File your taxes online – for free – directly with the IRS.

IRS Direct File is an option for eligible taxpayers who lived in one of these participating states in 2024 for the entire year and report certain types of income, deductions and credits.



Alaska	Kansas	New Mexico	Texas
Arizona	Maine	New York	Washington state
California	Maryland	North Carolina	Wisconsin
Connecticut	Massachusetts	Oregon	Wyoming
Florida	Nevada	Pennsylvania	
Idaho	New Hampshire	South Dakota	
Illinois	New Jersey	Tennessee	

Use the Eligibility Checker at directfile.irs.gov to find out if IRS Direct File is right for you.

IRS Direct File is simple, accurate, secure and helps you:



- ✓ File online – for free – directly with the IRS
- ✓ File in English or Spanish
- ✓ Add your tax information with step-by-step guidance
- ✓ Get real-time online help in English or Spanish
- ✓ Access it from smartphones, laptops, tablets and desktop computers
- ✓ Direct deposit your refund or make a tax payment online

Subscribe to the [Direct File newsletter](#) or visit [Direct File on IRS.gov](#) to learn more.

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First Phase of the Fair Fares NYC Program Transition to OMNY



The MTA has announced the first phase of the full transition of the Fair Fares program to OMNY, the MTA’s contactless fare payment system, following the conclusion of a successful Fair Fares pilot on OMNY between the DSS and the MTA.

The Fair Fares discount is available to New Yorkers between the ages of 18 and 64 whose income falls at or below 145 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Visit

the [Fair Fares website](#) to check for eligibility, apply online and begin saving 50 percent on subway and eligible bus fares or MTA Access-A-Ride paratransit trips.

The switch to OMNY will make it easier for working-class New Yorkers to manage their transit funds and help participants save even more with automatic fare capping, which ensures that no Fair Fares client will pay more than \$17 per week to ride the subway and eligible buses when using their Fair Fares-issued OMNY card.

During the first phase of the transition to OMNY, the Fair Fares discount will be available on Fair Fares-issued OMNY cards. All new program enrollees will receive a Fair Fares OMNY card instead of a MetroCard and will immediately be able to tap into the subway system or eligible buses after loading funds onto the card. Clients can add money to their Fair Fares OMNY card in the following ways: at one of the more than 470 OMNY vending machines installed in subway stations across the city, select retail locations, online by creating an OMNY account at <https://omny.info/register>, or by calling OMNY customer service at 877-789-6669.

Current Fair Fares MetroCard holders may request an OMNY card at their convenience via [ACCESS HRA](#). Otherwise, they will automatically receive one when they renew their program enrollment or request a replacement card. Clients can continue to use any active Fair Fares MetroCard until they either expire, or 30 days after the OMNY card request or program enrollment renewal, whichever comes first.

In the second phase of the transition, participants will be able to apply their Fair Fares discount to preexisting OMNY cards, bank cards, or mobile devices, making it even easier and more convenient to save on transit costs.

Assm. Seawright's Rent Freeze Clinic



**FREEZE YOUR RENT
ENROLLMENT CLINIC**

**WED. APRIL 9
WED. APRIL 23**

10:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

**1485 YORK AVENUE
(78/79 ST.)
TO RSVP
CALL 212-288-4607
OR EMAIL
SEAWRIGHTR@NYASSEMBLY.GOV**



Who is eligible:	Document checklist:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Government issued ID• Federal or state income tax returns with all schedules and 1099s.• Current and prior leases, signed by you and your landlord.

Housing Repairs Chatbot

Repairs Chatbot



Roxanne

What the Repairs Chatbot Can Do:

- Guide you through documenting repair problems
- Explain your rights to repairs
- Help you write letters to your landlord
- Assist with HPD complaint filing
- Provide step-by-step guidance for getting repairs

Roxanne is now available on our [website](#). While Roxanne is knowledgeable about NYC housing repairs, remember that it's an AI assistant, not a lawyer. For complex situations, you should still call our hotline, visit our tables, or seek legal advice.

To get started with Roxanne, visit: housingcourtanswers.org/roxanne

This new Chatbot from Housing Court Answers is designed to help tenants get needed repairs by answering questions about their rights and providing practical guidance for getting repairs done.

[Click Here to Try It Out](#)

NYC Housing Answers from HPD

Housing Information Classes

NYC Department of Housing Preservation & Development

We have your housing answers!

FREE Zoom classes with City agencies and Community Based Organizations!
Visit nyc.gov/hpd for more information.

Tenants - Know your rights!

- Push back against harassment
- Eliminate pesky pests
- Landlord avoiding repairs
- Apply for affordable housing

Homeowners - We got you too!

- Learn about violations and summonses
- Navigate all the City agencies you need
- Resources for repairs, contractors, and financing
- Avoiding deed theft and other scams

Register Here!

Full List of Classes

In partnership with: **NYC Public Schools** **Parent University**

HPD's housing information classes provide information on a variety of housing issues to tenants, homeowners, and property managers in New York City. The classes are free, led by experts, and held virtually on Zoom. Any information shared during these classes is subject to change and does not constitute legal advice.

[Click Here to Register](#)

Fifth Avenue Committee Affordable Housing Seminars



Fifth Avenue Committee
Our Community. Our Future.

Affordable Housing Virtual Information Sessions

Learn how to apply to affordable housing
lottery opportunities in NYC

You will learn

- How to set up your Housing Connect account
- How to register and apply online or by mail
- How to qualify your household to meet the eligibility guidelines and who qualifies
- How to refine your search
- Understand your household income
- Understand what documents are needed
- Where to locate and access housing resources and more

Register for one of our
information sessions every
last Thursday of the month
beginning January 30th
from 6 to 7:30 PM

Register using the QR or
Link



<https://bit.ly/4am1ltD>



Click Here to
Register

Know Your Rights!

**KNOW YOUR RIGHTS
RESOURCES FOR IMMIGRANT NEW YORKERS**

Know Your Rights with ICE: If Immigration and Customs Enforcements (ICE) Agents approach you, you have rights! Scan the QR code on the right to visit NYC’s Resources for Immigrant New Yorkers, available in multiple languages*



Conozca Sus Derechos Antes ICE: Si se le acercan agentes de ICE (el Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas), usted tiene derechos. La Ciudad de Nueva York ofrece recursos gratuitos para inmigrantes. Escanea el código QR para aprender más.

The Rapid Response Legal Collaborative provides legal assistance to those detained, or at imminent risk of detention & deportation, who may not have the right to see an immigration judge or are otherwise facing a fast-track to removal. Scan the QR Code to learn more:



Explore sus opciones legales. Hable con un abogado de confianza y evite el fraude. Escanea el código QR para aprender más.

Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs Immigrant Legal Support Hotline:
1-800-354-0365
9 AM to 6 PM
Monday – Friday
Interpretation is available.
Or call 311 and say “Immigration Legal”

***All immigrant New Yorkers can access free and confidential immigration legal help in their preferred language.**

Click Here to Learn More About Immigrant Rights

Click Here If You Are At Imminent Risk of Deportation

**NYC Guide to Mental Health
and Substance Use Services**

The Office of Community Mental Health was established in December of 2021 as the first mayoral office dedicated to promoting mental health for New Yorkers. OCMH collaborates with City agencies to reduce barriers to mental health and substance use care for marginalized communities through policy and strategy development, public and provider education, behavioral health workforce development, and testing and implementation support for quality service delivery practices. New York City has a wide range of mental health and substance use services. This guide can help you to understand what services are available and how to access the right ones for yourself, your loved ones and your community.

For more information about mental health and substance use services in NYC, visit the Mayor's Office of Community Mental Health at <https://mentalhealth.cityofnewyork.us/>.

Click Here to Download a PDF of the Guide

Mandatory Composting

Curbside Composting is Mandatory

Enforcement Begins April 1, 2025

Avoid a Fine!

Buildings with 1 to 8 Units

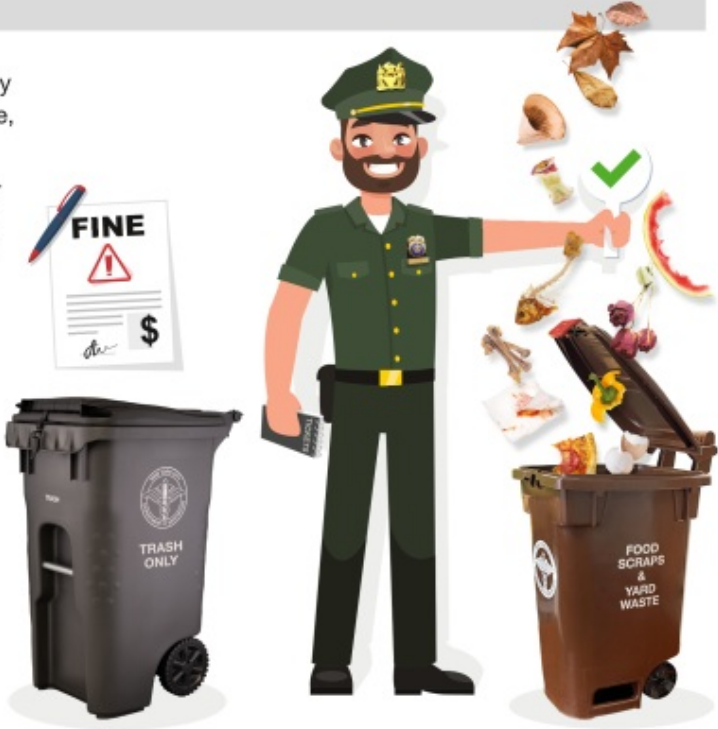
\$25 for the first offense
\$50 for the second offense
\$100 for the third and subsequent offenses

Buildings with 9 or More Units

\$100 for the first offense
\$200 for the second offense
\$300 for the third and subsequent offenses

ALL NYC residents are currently required to separate yard waste, food scraps, and food-soiled paper from trash and recycling. Starting April 1, 2025, property owners will be subject to fines.

Curbside Composting is free and collected weekly in every borough on the same day as your recycling.



nyc.gov/CurbsideComposting | call 311
Follow us @NYCSanitation



NYC
Delivering for you.
Every day. Everywhere.

COEF-25: CURBSIDE ENFORCEMENT FLYER EN F25

New Food Pantry on the UES



Liz's
Pantry



Liz's Pantry, a new food pantry on the Upper East Side, offers one bag of groceries and shelf-stable food items per person per visit. Bags are distributed on a first come, first serve basis.

The pantry is located at the St. Elizabeth of Hungary Chapel at 406 E. 80th St. All in need are welcome.

[Click Here for More Info](#)

Women Entrepreneurs Rising Program

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS RISING MWBE CERTIFICATION INITIATIVE

NEW YORK
STATE OF
OPPORTUNITY
Division of Minority
and Women's
Business Development
A Division of Empire State Development



“Women Entrepreneurs Rising” is an initiative to help minority- and women-owned businesses complete their applications for MWBE certification with the State of New York.

Starting 3/3/25 through 4/18/25, all applicants will have the option of working with a free business advisory service center to complete their DMWBD certification application. Participants in DMWBD’s “Women Entrepreneurs Rising” certification initiative may receive their determination in as quickly as 90 days.

FREE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS (business advisory service centers):

- **EACs - Entrepreneurial Assistance Centers Program**
esd.ny.gov/entrepreneurship-assistance-centers-program
- **Empire APEX Accelerator** - Inquiries on MWBE certification: empireapex.com/mwbe
- **LaGuardia APEX Accelerator**
laguardia.edu/ce/business-services/apex-accelerators/
- **Bronx Chamber of Commerce**
bronxchamber.org/
- **La Fuerza CDC**
lafuerzadc.org/pages/services



Disclaimers: Participation in DMWBD’s “Women Entrepreneurs Rising” program does not guarantee MWBE certification with New York State. To qualify for certification, a business must meet the requirements set forth in Executive Law Article 15a, and Title 5. Applicant must respond to the Division’s request for clarifying information and/or documentation within 5 business days upon receiving the request. Failure to respond within the aforementioned timeframe may delay the review by DMWBD.

For questions or for more information please call 212-803-2414.

Click Here for More Info

Dag Hammarskjöld Greenmarket

GROW^{NYC}



DAG HAMMARSKJOLD GREENMARKET

YEAR-ROUND

Buy fresh, locally-grown
vegetables, fruits, and more
at this farmers market.



Visit our website
for daily producer
attendance

WEDNESDAYS
8AM – 3PM

**47TH STREET &
2ND AVENUE**

MANHATTAN



EBT OTC



Cash, SNAP/EBT, Debit/Credit, Healthfirst OTC Plus (select plans),
WIC & Senior FMNP coupons, and Greenmarket Bucks accepted.

Spend \$2 in SNAP/EBT/P-EBT, get bonus \$2 Health Buck, up to \$10 per day.



grownyc.org/follow

grownyc.org

The Dag Hammarskjold Greenmarket is a part of GrowNYC's network of 45 Greenmarket locations in New York City featuring fresh local foods – fruits and vegetables, seafood, eggs, meat, dairy, honey, breads, baked goods, and more – grown, raised, caught and baked within ~200 miles of New York City.

All Greenmarkets accept SNAP/EBT, Summer EBT, Healthfirst OTC (select plans), and WIC & Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program checks. When customers spend \$2 in SNAP/Summer EBT, they receive a bonus \$2 Health Buck, up to \$10 per day, to purchase additional fruits and vegetables!

**Click Here for More
Info**

DOROT's Passover Package Delivery



DOROT is welcoming volunteers to participate in their Passover Package Delivery to connect with older members of our community. This event takes on Sunday, March 30th, 2025, at two locations:

1. DOROT: 171 West 85th Street, off Amsterdam Ave.
2. Moise Safra Center: 130 E. 82nd Street, off Lexington Ave.

Volunteers check in, pick up a package, deliver it to a DOROT older adult participant

and either stay for a short visit or make a friendly call. For more information and to register, please visit this link: <https://www.dorotusa.org/packagedelivery>

Free Lifeguard Certification Courses



Make Your Impact

Become a Lifeguard

Spring Break Week: April 14th - April 18th (Pretest by March 29th)
YMCA Locations: Rockaway Y, Queens; Prospect Park Y, Brooklyn; Coney Island Y, Brooklyn

Spring II: April 18th - June 22nd (Pretest by April 12th)
YMCA Locations: West Side Y, Manhattan; Flushing Y, Queens; La Central Y, Bronx; North Brooklyn Y, Brooklyn; South Shore Y, Staten Island

June Break Week: June 23rd - June 27th (Pretest by June 7th)
YMCA Locations: Harlem Y, Manhattan; Vanderbilt Y, Manhattan; Prospect Park Y, Brooklyn



REGISTER NOW

ymcanyc.org/ymca-lifeguard-training-certification



To respond to the lifeguard shortage that has impacted New York City, the YMCA of Greater New York has launched a lifeguard training and certification course that is completely free for participants 16+ who can pass a pre-requisite swim test. This is a city-wide campaign, offering training in each borough multiple times throughout the year.

Participants will receive a \$550 stipend (given in two parts for eight week sessions) just for taking the class. Additionally, those who successfully complete the course and receive certification will be eligible to apply to work at one of the YMCA's 24 branches. If hired, individuals will receive a \$250 sign on bonus. If they stay with the YMCA for 3 months, they will receive an additional \$250 bonus.

Click Here for More Info

Community Board 8 Art Show

COMMUNITY BOARD 8 MANHATTAN presents



Open Call for Spring Art Show on the Upper East Side



Show Date:

May 31, 2025

Rain date: June 1, 2025

Location:

James Cagney Place

E. 91st Street

between 2nd and 3rd. Ave

Submit a photo sample of your paintings, sculpture, photography, or crafts by **April 21st** to **info@cb8m.com** using “Art Show Submission”

FREE to apply and participate
No drop-ins at the show!



www.cb8m.com



@CB8M



@CB8Manhattan

Rally to Oppose Trump/Musk Administration Cuts



HEY YOU BILLIONAIRES HANDS OFF!

OUR JOBS

OUR **MEDICAID**

OUR UNIONS

OUR **SOCIAL SECURITY**

OUR HEALTHCARE

OUR CLIMATE

OUR COMMUNITIES

SATURDAY
APRIL 5 1PM

MEET & RALLY AT
BRYANT PARK
MARCH TO
MADISON SQ PARK

— **NATIONWIDE DAY OF ACTION** —

JOIN US!

HANDSOFF2025.COM



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Albany Office: Capitol Building, Room 416 | Albany, NY 12247 | (518) 455-2297 | Fax: (518) 426-6874
Email: liz@lizkrueger.com | On the Web: krueger.nysenate.gov

Senator Liz Krueger | 211 E 43rd St #2000 | New York, NY 10017 US

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