



New York State Senator, 35th District
Senate Democratic Leader

**ANDREA
STEWART-COUSINS**
News



Latest News



Senator Stewart-Cousins To Fellow Legislators, "What Can You Do For Others?"

(Albany - January 22nd) Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, the Senate Democratic Leader, spoke on a Senate Resolution she introduces annually in honor of civil rights leader Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and urged her fellow legislators this session to consider answering Dr. King's most persistent question, "What can you do for others?" The celebration of Dr. King's birthday coincides with the start of a new legislative session, when the State Senate begins its most important work, reviewing the Governor's Budget Proposal.

Senator Stewart-Cousins, a strong advocate for equal rights and opportunities, equal justice and service to others, urged her fellow legislators to consider Dr. King's challenge as a civil rights leader, a challenge that she says resonates even today. "We are all in the position everyday to do something for others," Senator Stewart-Cousins said to her fellow legislators on the State Senate floor. [More..](#)

Consolidate Primary Election Dates, Increase Participation in Electoral Process

(Albany - February 3rd) Following Assembly passage of legislation that would consolidate New York's primary elections, Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, the Senate Democratic Leader, has called for the Senate Republican Majority to bring this bill to

the floor for a vote. Currently, New York holds multiple primary elections for federal, state and local candidates and this unfunded mandate costs county governments millions of dollars as a result. Under Senator Stewart-Cousins' legislation, which is co-sponsored by Senator George Latimer, all non-Presidential primary elections would be held in June and the resulting savings to county governments and property taxpayers would be \$50 million over a two-year campaign cycle.

“Merging primary dates is a common sense way to increase participation in the electoral process and save New York taxpayers millions of dollars,” Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins said. “I applaud my colleagues in the State Assembly, especially bill sponsor Michael Cusick, for passing this common sense legislation. Now is the time for the Senate Republican Majority to follow the Assembly’s lead and finally end this unfunded mandate.” [More..](#)

The Check Is In The Mail

For those who are eligible, and are still waiting to receive a Property Tax Rebate check, the Commissioner of the state Department of Taxation and Finance reports that the remaining one million checks will go out before the end of February. You are eligible to receive one if your income is less than \$500,000 and if the municipality that you live in stayed under the 2% tax cap. The amounts range from \$200 to \$800, with the average being \$350. The Senate Democratic Conference led by Senator Stewart-Cousins helped implement this tax rebate for homeowners.

EITC Awareness Day and Free Tax Assistance

January 29th marked the [Earned Income Tax Credit \(EITC\) Awareness Day](#), a nationwide effort to increase awareness about EITC and free tax preparation sites. In 2015, 27.5 million workers received about \$66.7 billion in EITC refunds.

New Yorkers are able to find out if they are eligible using the EITC Assistant and it is available in both English and Spanish. Visit www.IRS.gov/EITC to learn more and use the Assistant to help you find your filing status, determine if you have a qualifying child or children, verify if you are eligible for EITC, and estimate the amount of your credit.

Find a location for free tax return preparation at www.IRS.gov/Individuals/Free-Tax-Return-Preparation-for-You-by-Volunteers.

Constituent Corner

Two weeks before Christmas, a 92 year old woman who lives alone in her home in New Rochelle contacted Senator Stewart-Cousins' District Office to report her boiler failed, and caused a flood. Her insurance company would only pay for the water damages. The Senator's Director of Constituent Services immediately set to work.

The woman who has lived in the same house for 60 years was unable to afford a new boiler. The office contacted the county's Department of Social Services, which receives state funding for its Home Energy Assistance Program, or HEAP. [HEAP](#) is a federally funded program that assists low-income New Yorkers with the cost of heating their homes.

The office learned the constituent could apply for assistance through New Rochelle's Community Action Program and HERR (Home Energy Repair and Replacement Program). Within a week, our New Rochelle senior had a new boiler installed. She now has peace of mind and a warm home once again.

Constituents in need of assistance are welcome to contact the Senator's District Office at (914) 423-4031, or email her at scousins@nysenate.gov.

In The Community



(Yonkers - February 22nd) As a former Yonkers teacher who sent her children to Yonkers Public Schools, Senator Stewart-Cousins is a strong supporter of education. She along with Assemblywoman Shelley Mayer and Yonkers Interim School Supt. Edwin Quezada met with these talented, smart and determined students in the Smart Scholars program at Gorton High School in Yonkers. Each one earns a blue lab coat while taking college-level classes for credit, for free, through a state-funded grant program. Many are taking classes related to medicine. They recognize how important it is for them and their families to have this unique opportunity to earn college credits while still in high school. And they plan to pursue college or associates degrees once they graduate. [View..](#)



(Harlem - February 17th) Senate Democratic Leader Stewart-Cousins joined Governor Cuomo at a rally in support of passing a 12-week Paid Family Leave policy in New York State. The Senator believes that no one should be forced to choose between caring for a loved one and potentially losing their job or ability to support themselves. The Senate Democrats that she leads have made passing a real paid family leave program a top priority and commend Governor Cuomo for his support of this essential initiative. At the rally, Senator Stewart-Cousins urged Senate Republicans, who speak of

family values, to support Paid Family Leave because of its value to all New York families. [View..](#)



(Albany - February 9th) Local students visited Senator Stewart-Cousins at the Capitol as part of their Leadership Conference in Albany. The representatives from the Westchester Youth Council, young people from the White Plains Youth Bureau and the Senator spoke about subjects of interest to them, including: mental health programs for young people, Raise the Age (of criminal responsibility), youth employment opportunities, and diversity training for educators. The students are in middle and high school in White Plains, and the Senator hope one day, will be future leaders of New York. [View..](#)



(Albany - February 8th) Speaking at the Conference of New York Mayors and Municipal Officials, Senator Stewart-Cousins addressed important issues including mandate relief, easing the tax burden, and infrastructure repairs. She was joined by (left to right) Anne Janiak, Executive Director WMOA, Rye Councilwoman Emily Hurd, Tarrytown Mayor Drew Fixell, Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan, White Plains Mayor Thomas Roach, Pleasantville Mayor Peter Scherer, Yonkers Mayor

Mike Spano and Assemblyman Steve Otis. [View..](#)



(Albany - January 21st) Senator Stewart-Cousins congratulated former Westchester County District Attorney Janet DiFiore in the Senate Chamber after Ms. DiFiore was confirmed as the next Court of Appeals Chief Judge, New York's highest judicial post. [Click here to hear the Senator's remarks on Judge DiFiore's confirmation.](#)



(Albany - January 25th) Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins was greeted with a spirited applause after a warm introduction from Reina Schiffrin, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic, at the annual Family Planning Advocates of New York State Day of Action. At the podium, the Senator gathered her peers in the Bipartisan Pro-choice Legislative Caucus as she spoke on the great New York values that make it a progressive state for women, including the right of women to have comprehensive health care. [View..](#)



(White Plains - January 16th) The Senator presenting Marie Smalls of White Plains with a Senate Proclamation in honor of her 100th birthday during a joyous celebration at Calvary Baptist Church. She's been a parishioner under six pastors, and has lived in White Plains since 1937. [View..](#)



(New Rochelle - January 15th) The Senator at the Coalition for Mutual Respect's dinner in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King at Temple Israel in New Rochelle. [View..](#)



(New Rochelle - January 9th) Senator Stewart-Cousins joined with Senator George Latimer, Assemblywoman Amy Paulin and Assemblyman Steve Otis to celebrate the awesome achievement of several constituents who officially became Eagle Scouts during Court of Honor ceremonies in New Rochelle and Tarrytown. The Boy Scouts' highest rank is achieved by completing public service projects in the community, and each young man volunteered countless hours to make their projects a reality. [View..](#)



(Greenburgh - January 4th) Senator Stewart-Cousins met with the Yonkers Chapter #16 of the Disabled American Veterans at Greenburgh Town Hall and thanked them for their service. She also outlined initiatives and legislation that she and the Senate Democrats have championed on behalf of all of veterans in her district and in New York State. As the daughter of a World War II veteran, and the sister of a Vietnam veteran, the Senator understands and appreciates the needs of veterans. [View..](#)

In Other News

- [Statement From Senate Democratic Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins On Nomination Of Rossana Rosado As New York Secretary Of State](#)
- [New Deadline For Superstorm Sandy Disaster Loan Application: December 1, 2016](#)
- [Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins Memorializing Chief Justice Judith Kaye](#)



[Visit Senate Website](#)



[Connect on Facebook](#)



[Follow on Twitter](#)

District Office:

28 Wells Avenue, Bldg#3
Yonkers, NY 10701
Phone: [\(914\) 423-4031](tel:(914)423-4031)
Fax: [\(914\) 423-0979](tel:(914)423-0979)

Albany Office:

188 State Street, 907 LOB
Albany, NY 12247
Phone: [\(518\) 455-2585](tel:(518)455-2585)
Fax: [\(518\) 426-6811](tel:(518)426-6811)

Email:

scousins@nysenate.gov