



Talking with NYS Senator John Sampson

Senator John Llewlynn Sampson, Leader of the Democratic Conference was elected to the New York State Senate in 1996. He represents the 19th Senatorial District which encompasses Canarsie, East Flatbush, Parts of Brownsville, Crown Heights, East New York, portions of Old Mill Basin, Spring Creek Towers, and parts of Midwood and Kensington in Brooklyn.

Senator Sampson was born in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn to American and Guyanese parents. At the age of two, he moved to the Brownsville/East Flatbush section of Brooklyn with his family, where he grew up. Senator Sampson was educated in New York City's Public School 233 and in 1983 he graduated from Tilden High School in Brooklyn. John received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in 1987 from Brooklyn College of the City University of New York. In 1988, he enrolled at Albany Law School. During his studies there, he worked with the Department of Environmental Conservation until his graduation in 1991. Presently, Senator is a partner in the law firm of Gail A Adams & Associates with an office in Brooklyn, New York.

Senator Sampson has the distinction of being the first African American to serve as the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. He is also Chair of the Senate Ethics Committee and the Senate Administrative Regulations Review Commission. Senator Sampson is also the Deputy Majority Leader for State/Federal Relations.

Q- Senator, what impact will health care reform have on seniors and the professionals who serve them?

A- There will be a tremendous impact on everyone. It will be up to our elected officials to educate their constituents on how they will be affected and where the opportunities are.

Q- What are the incentives in the works for our small businesses who work with seniors?

A- The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 contain numerous tax provisions aimed at small businesses. There will be tax breaks and access to capital, especially for small business.

Q- The "Homeowners' Assistance and Financial Wellness Seminar" you held recently was a big success. What resources does your office have for seniors?

A- Any senior who is facing foreclosure or difficulty paying their bills can come in to our district office. I am sponsoring **S7139**: which requires notices of foreclosure to tenants to include a notice of the rights of rent-regulated tenants. We also need to find better ways to improve transportation options for our seniors. In September we hold a Grandparents Day, with resources of all kinds. We welcome the participation of SUN-B members.

Q- You have proposed an act creating prescription drug discounts for New York State's seniors. How can SUN-B members help?

A- The prescription drug discount card will be available to any resident between the ages of fifty and sixty-four, and any resident who has been determined to meet the disability criteria. We want to improve on the Part D benefits by allowing the State to bargain with the Drug Manufacturers. I welcome the opportunity to partner with organizations like SUN-B to address the issues that are important to your members.

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