

Norma Anderson

Business Woman - Community Leader - Legislator

Norma Anderson has been a resident of Jefferson County since November 1950. With business management as her background, Norma used her experience as supervisor for Time, Inc., Office Manager of Capitol Solar, working for Mountain Bell, and Owner/Operator for KBJ Stables to make a difference in her area.

As her three children went through school, Norma served on the budget and safety committees for her children's school and chaired the Bear Creek Advisory Committee, the area Bond issue, and supported school sports activities. She worked as Director of the Bear Creek Junior Sports Soccer program which tripled in size under her guidance. She worked within the community to build more fields and increase support for sporting events.

Transportation has been another important issue which Norma worked to improve, beginning with her service on the Lakewood City Advisory Committee for the construction of Kipling Parkway. She was then appointed to the Regional Transportation Board serving three years. Norma continued her participation in her community as a board member of the West Chamber, American Cancer Society (Jeffco), Foothills Foundation Board, and was Chair of the Arapahoe House Board. She served 10 years on the board of The Great Outdoors Colorado and as chair for three years.

Norma was elected to the House of Representatives in 1986 and was able to bring her citizen's agenda of stronger education, improved transportation planning, criminal justice reform and streamlining healthcare in the subsequent nineteen years of her legislative career.

With these goals, Norma sponsored the School Finance Act of 1994. In 1996 she sponsored the Third Grade Literacy Act, requiring summer tutoring for children who cannot read by the third grade. She created the Department of Transportation that instituted a 20-year transportation plan. She assisted in the restructuring of the Departments of Social



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Services and Institutions to streamline operations, saving the state ten million dollars. She also sponsored Lifetime Parole and Probation for Sex Offenders.

Working with the State Attorney General during the Tobacco Companies Lawsuit Settlement in 2000. Norma sponsored legislation to create the Visiting Nurse Program from the settlement funds as well as focusing the funds on health care. Colorado led the nation in Healthcare assistance from the tobacco funds. She sponsored other major legislation, including the College Opportunity Fund and accountability for K-12 schools.

House of Representatives - 1981-1998. Majority Leader of the House of Representatives, Chaired the Education Committee, Transportation and Energy Committee, Legislative Audit Committee and Vice Chair of Health, Environment, Welfare, and Institutions.

Senate - 1999-2006. Served as the Senate Majority Leader, making the first woman in Colorado to serve as the Majority Leader in both houses. She also served as Minority Leader, Chair of Business Affairs and member of several Committees.

In addition, Norma was a member of the State Advisory Council to the Labor Department, the State Compensation Board, Colorado Uninsurable Health Insurance Board, Justice Assistance Grants, and Community Corrections Advisory Board. She served on the Executive Committee for the Conference of State Legislatures for five years and chaired the Transportation Committee for the NCSL and was Vice Chair of their Federal Assembly. She Co-Chaired the Social Security Task Force - Washington, D.C. and chaired the NCSL convention held in Denver.

In October 2007 she received the honor of a Jefferson County School being named the "Norma V. Anderson Pre-School".

Norma was elected to the Jefferson County Historical Commission Hall of Fame in November 2011. ☞