

Susan Kirkpatrick

Her Legacy: First Directly Elected Mayor in Fort Collins' history. Former Mayor of Fort Collins 1990-1993. Led the effort to create the Natural Areas Policy Plan. Championed laws to reduce CFC emissions; and Susan Kirkpatrick served as the executive director of the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) for the state of Colorado from 2007 to 2011 under Governor Bill Ritter. During her tenure with the agency, she championed regional cooperation and strategic partnerships among state agencies to improve the lives of Coloradans.

Susan Kirkpatrick served as the executive director of the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) for the state of Colorado from 2007 to 2011 under Governor Bill Ritter. During her tenure with the agency, she championed regional cooperation and strategic partnerships among state agencies to improve the lives of Coloradans. Between 2007 and 2010, DOLA provided more than \$504 million in financial assistance to communities throughout the state, which supported more than 39,000 jobs. Every state dollar invested by DOLA leveraged an average of \$6 locally. Susan served as mayor of Fort Collins from 1990 to 1993 and was a member of the Fort Collins City Council from 1986 to 1990. Her employment in post-secondary education has included working as a lecturer in political science at Colorado State University and as an assistant professor at the University of Northern Colorado. She also served as vice president and executive director of the National Audubon Society's Colorado office, as the Executive Director of the Aims Community College Foundation, and a founding member and chair of Great Outdoors Colorado.

Former Fort Collins mayor Susan Kirkpatrick was executive director of the Aims Community College Foundation in Greeley, 2004.

Kirkpatrick, who ran unsuccessfully as the Democratic candidate for the 4th Congressional District in 1998, brings to Aims not only political experience but also a background in fundraising, management, nonprofit work, consulting and teaching at both the University of Northern Colorado and Colorado State University. "My self-image is one of an educator, especially someone involved with post-secondary education," Kirkpatrick said. "Campaigning and fundraising are areas I really enjoy and in which I excel. The job as executive director of the Aims Foundation combined my commitment to post-secondary education with my skills in fund-raising." Kirkpatrick has spent the last 18 months running her own business in fundraising management and business planning for nonprofit corporations. In that capacity, she successfully obtained a \$10,000 gift for Right On Fort Collins and a \$32,000 gift to the Center for Community Justice Partnership in 2003. "I tried the business, but I liken that to the experience of being a substitute teacher. I never felt as though I could be around to see the results," Kirkpatrick said. "It was a great experience, but it turns out that I'd prefer to be part of an organization."

Before starting her own business, Kirkpatrick served as vice president/executive director of the National Audubon Society's Colorado office in Boulder for more than three years. From 1992 to 1997, she was an assistant professor of political science at UNC, earning awards in teaching excellence. She left to run for Congress in 1998. She was mayor of Fort Collins from 1990 to 1993, attaining that position after four years on the Fort Collins City Council. She received her BA in Political Science from the University of Michigan, an Ed.M. from Harvard University and a Ph.D. in Political Science from Colorado State University.

Former Fort Collins Mayor (and the first directly elected female Mayor in Fort Collins' history) Susan Kirkpatrick knew that she'd be setting up shop in Downtown Fort Collins when she decided to embrace her love for all things food and open Savory Spice in 2011. Susan retired as she sold her Savory Spice Shop in Old Town, July 2021.

Bio from Web information

