

Mayor Michael Hancock has appointed former Denver City Councilwoman Jeanne Faatz to fill a vacancy on the Board of the Denver Employees Retirement Plan.

Under the terms of the law governing the composition of the Retirement Board, one member of the Board must be a retired member of the Retirement Plan. Former Councilwoman Faatz represented District 2 in southwest Denver from 2003 to 2015. Most of those years, she served as chair of the Finance Committee. In that capacity, she became extremely knowledgeable about all matters pertaining to DERP, because any pension-related legislation originated in the Finance Committee. She was therefore appropriately looked-to by her colleagues as the City Council expert on matters pertaining to DERP, and was a forceful advocate for the Retirement Plan. She also served for 10 years on the City's Employee Health Insurance Committee, the entity overseeing the insurance offered to current City employees but also to DERP's pre-Medicare-eligible retirees.

Prior to her election to the Denver City Council, Ms. Faatz served in the Colorado House of Representatives from 1979-1998, and was the Assistant Majority Leader for much of that time. She was the prime sponsor of legislation establishing public schools of choice and the rights of crime victims. As was the case when she served on City Council, she also was acknowledged by her colleagues in the State Legislature as a member with pension expertise, at one point serving as the House sponsor of bipartisan legislation initiated by Colorado PERA.

A college instructor by profession, Ms. Faatz was director of the Colorado School-to-Career Partnership from 1999-2001. She also taught in the public schools for Denver, Cherry Creek, and Urbana, IL. She holds an M.A. in Communications from the University of Colorado at Denver.

An active civic leader, former Councilwoman Faatz is past president of the Harvey Park Improvement Association. She also served on the Southwest YMCA Board of Advisors and the Citizens Advisory Board of the Colorado Mental Health Institute at Ft. Logan. She has lived in southwest Denver for 49 years.