



Harriet A. Spanel

Quick Facts

Birth: 1939
Iowa

Death:

Occupation:

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Years served: 1987-93 (H)
1993-2009 (S)

Office: Representative, Senator

District: 40 (San Juan, Skagit,
Whatcom Counties)

Personal:

- Born and raised on an Iowa farm
- 3 children

Education:

- Iowa State University, B.S. in Mathematics

Community Service:

- Bellingham Childcare and Learning Center, Advisory Board Member
- Bellingham Planning Commission, past member
- Bellingham Parks & Recreation Board, past Chair

Affiliations:

- League of Women Voters, past President
- Economic Development Association of Skagit County
- Mount Vernon Women in Business
- Washington Environmental Council
- Women's Political Caucus
- Democratic Women's Club
- Women of Western
- YWCA
- Wildcat Steelhead Club
- Opportunity Council Board, past member
- Volunteer Health Resources Network Board, past member

Awards:

- Citation of Merit-Legislative, Washington Recreation and Park Association, 1989

Legislative & State Service:

- Senate Committee on Committees, 1992-present
- Legislative Building Renovation Oversight Committee, 2000-present
- Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) 1996-99
- Legislative Ethics Board, 1995-99
- Gender and Justice Task Force, 1987-89
- GJTF Implementation Committee, 1989-92

Committees: (1987) Education, vice-chair; Natural Resources; Transportation (1989) Higher Education, vice-chair; Appropriations; Fisheries and Wildlife (1991) Fisheries and Wildlife; Higher Education; Rules (1993) Ways and Means, vice-chair; Law and Justice; Natural Resources; Rules (1995) Natural Resources, vice-chair; Ecology and Parks; Rules; Ways and Means (1997) Natural Resources and Parks; Ways and Means, ranking minority member (1999) Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation; Rules; Ways and Means (2001) Natural Resources, Parks and Shorelines, vice-chair; Agriculture and International Trade; Rules; Ways and Means (2003) Highways & Transportation; Parks, Fish & Wildlife; Rules

Leadership, Positions & Appointments:

- Senate Democratic Caucus Chair, 1999-present
- Senate Majority Floor Leader, 1994-97
- Senate Majority Whip, 1993
- Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, past chair, 1993-present
- Pacific Fisheries Legislative Task Force, past chair, 1995-present
- Joint Committee on Pension Policy, 1990-94 and 2001-present, Chair, 1991-92
- National Council of State Legislatures, Environment Committee, 1995-present
- Council of State Governments, Legislative Council on River Governance, 1999 - present, Chair, 2002-2003
- Pacific Northwest Economic Region Delegate Council, 1995-97
- State Investment Board, 1992
- National Council of State Legislatures (NCSL) Education Task Force, 1987-92
- Ran for the US House of Representatives in 1994
- Interned for Congressman Al Swift in Washington, D.C.

Sources:

- "Bellingham woman announces bid for 40th District seat," *Skagit Valley Herald*, April 2, 1986.
- "Spanel announces re-election bid for 40th District House Position," by Ellen A. Hiatt, *Skagit Valley Herald*, July 19, 1988.
- *Ray Moore: An Oral History*, interviewed by Sharon Boswell, Washington State Oral History Program, Office of the Secretary of State, 1999