



Nita Rinehart

Quick Facts

Birth: 1940

Texarkana, Texas

Death:

Occupation: Faculty Member,
The Evergreen State College

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Years served: 1979-83 (H)
1983-96 (S)

Office: Representative, Senator

District: 43 (King County) 1979
46 (King County) 1983

Personal:

Education:

- University of Washington School of Law, J.D.
- Southern Methodist University, B.A. in English Literature, B.A. in Music

Community Service:

- Planned Parenthood of Seattle-King County
- Lake City, Wedgewood and University Chambers of Commerce

Affiliations:

- League of Women Voters, board of directors
- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition, board of directors
- Washington State Institute for Public Policy, board of directors
- Mortar Board Alumni
- Ryther Child Center, board of directors
- Business and Professional Women
- Statewide Steering Committee on Adolescent Pregnancy, Pregnancy Prevention and Parenting
- National Sudden Death Infant Syndrome Foundation, Washington State Chapter, Board of Directors
- Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Institute
- Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Washington
- Intergovernmental Fiscal Policies Task Force
- National Conference of State Legislators
- CLEO (Concerned Local Elected Officials), founder

Awards:

Legislative & State Service:

- Appointed November 13, 1979 to serve Jeff Douthwaite's unexpired term.
- She resigned on December 10, 1996. Ken Jacobsen was appointed and then elected to serve her unexpired term.
- A driving force in the expansion of early childhood education programs and the getting the consumer protection lemon law passed.

Committees: (1980) Ecology; Financial Institutions; Revenue **(1981)** Revenue, Ranking Minority Member; Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs; State Government **(1983)** Education, vice-chair; Rules; State Government; Ways and Means **(1985)** Education, vice-chair; Governmental Operations; Rules; Ways and Means **(1987)** Education, vice-chair; Parks and Ecology, vice-chair; Ways and Means **(1989)** Education, Ranking Democratic Member; Law and Justice; Rules **(1991)** Education, Ranking Minority Member; Ways and Means, Ranking Minority Member **(1993)** Ways and Means, chair; Education; Law and Justice **(1995)** Ways and Means, chair; Law and Justice

Leadership, Positions & Appointments:

- Democratic Assistant Floor Leader (1989)
- First female to serve as chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee
- Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program
- Ran for Lieutenant Governor in 1988, did not make it to the general election.
- Was a gubernatorial candidate in 1996 but withdrew.

Sources:

- <http://www.awcnet.org/portal/StudioNew.asp?ArticleID=2901&ChannellinkID=4066&webid=1>
- <http://archives.thedaily.washington.edu/1996/040896/candid40896.html>
- "Rinehart Leads Ways and Means," by Bob Parlow, *The Olympian*, November 20, 1992
- "Seattle's Senator Rinehart Runs for Lieutenant Governor," by Mike Oakland, *The Olympian*, June 15, 1988
- "Rinehart Budget Surprises," by Rebecca Boren, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, March 31, 1993
- *Ray Moore: An Oral History*, interviewed by Sharon Boswell, Washington State Oral History Program, Office of the Secretary of State, 1999