



Helen Sommers

Quick Facts

Birth: March 29, 1932
Woodbury, New Jersey

Death:

Occupation: Economist

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Years served: 1973-present

Office: Representative

District: 36 (King County)

Personal:

- Taught economics at community college.
- Personnel research assistant for Mobil Oil Co in Caracas, Venezuela
- King County Office of Finance, 1984-95
- King County Council, Analyst, 1972-1984
- Edmonds Community College - Instructor in Economics, 1971
- Mobil Oil Company de Venezuela, Caracas, Venezuela, 1954-1968

Education:

- University of Washington, B.A and M.A. in Economics
- Earned a Research Fellowship at Harvard University

Community Service:

- Burke Museum Development Council
- Friends of Stonerose Fossils, Republic, WA
- Chronic Public Inebriate Systems Solutions Workgroup
- Pharmacists Emergency Contraception Project advisory committee
- Seattle Commons
- Seattle Mayor's Education Summit
- Seattle Schools Study Steering Committee of the Municipal Leagues' s Growth Management Project, oversight committee
- Pacific Science Center Foundation, Seattle
- Chongqing Sister City Association Board
- University of Washington School of Public Health, visiting committee

- Seattle Economists Club
- University of Washington Alumni Board
- Bio 21 Steering Committee
- Rainier Institute, Board member
- Seattle Art Museum
- Ice Age Floods Institute
- Washington Environmental Council
- Neighborhood Corrections Initiative, Convenor
- Technology Alliance Smart Tools Academy, Steering Committee

Affiliations:

- Easter Seal Society
- League of Women Voters
- National Organization for Women, Seattle-King County Chapter, past president
- Washington Women's Foundation
- Women's Political Caucus

Awards:

- Citizens for Parks and Recreation Award, 2004
- Warren G. Magnuson Award, Municipal League of King County, 2002
- Elected Official of the Year, Port of Seattle Propeller Club, 2002
- Connector award, Washington Software Alliance Tech, 2002
- Legislator of the Year, Home Care Association of Washington, 2001
- "Sommers Heads List of Top Legislators," Washington Law & Politics survey, 2000
- Leadership Award, WPEA, 2000
- Legislative Excellence Award, Washington State Retired Teachers Association, 1998
- Sentinel Award, Washington Law Enforcement Association, 1996
- Distinguished Alumna Award, UW Department of Economics, 1995
- Women of Achievement, Matrix Table, Women in Communications, 1995
- Rated No. 1 legislator in Seattle Times survey, 1994
- Legislator of the Year, SeaTac Occupational Skills Center Advisory Council, 1994
- Teen Health Leadership Award, Advocates for Youth, 1994
- Awarded first Honorary Associate of Arts Degree, North Seattle Community College, 1993
- Warren G. Magnuson Award for Contribution to Government, Municipal League, 1985
- Pacific Science Center Award of Leadership in Science Education, 1985
- "Mentor's Award", Seattle Women's Network, 1981
- Named "1978 Woman of Achievement" by the Quota Club of Seattle

Legislative & State Service:

- Pension Funding Council
- State Investment Board

Committees: (1973) Revenue, vice-chair; Judiciary; Local Government (1975) State Government, chair; Revenue (1977) Revenue, chair; Constitution; State Government (1979) Revenue, Democratic chair; Education; Financial Institutions (1981) Agriculture; Ways and Means, ranking minority member (1983) Ways and Means, vice-chair; Constitution, Elections and Ethics; Natural Resources (1985) Higher Education, chair; Constitution, Elections and Ethics; Ways and Means (1987) State Government, chair; Human Services; Ways and Means, Appropriations (1989) Capital Facilities and Financing, chair; Revenue (1991) Capital Facilities and Financing, chair; Appropriations; Education (1993) Capital Budget, chair; Appropriations; Education (1995) Appropriations; Government Operations (1997) Appropriations; Capital Budget (1999) Appropriations, co-chair (2001) Appropriations, co-chair (2003) Appropriations, chair (2005) Appropriations, chair; Higher Education

Leadership, Positions & Appointments:

- Democratic Caucus Chair, 1992-93
- Institute for Public Policy, board
- Governor's Capital Forum
- Joint Committee on Pension Policy, chair
- Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee, chair

Sources:

- "After Two Decades, Helen Sommers Rises to Prominence, Scowl and All," by Jim Simon, *The Seattle Times*, March 10, 1994.
- "Sommers Named to Budget Post," *The Seattle Times*, November 10, 1993.
- "After 13 years in the legislature power still eludes Rep. Sommers," by Laura Parker, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, April 25, 1985.