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# CB 21-1322

## Naming the Council Chamber for the late Cathy Reynolds

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Sponsored by Councilman Kevin Flynn  
and Councilwoman Deborah Ortega

November 15, 2021



# Cathy Reynolds

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- 1975 – First woman elected to the City Council, a month earlier than the second, Cathy Donohue.
- Re-elected for a total of seven terms
- Longest continuous tenure of any council member – 28 years and two weeks
- Served alongside 38 different members during her tenure
- Elected by colleagues four times as president, eight times as pro-tem



# Women serving on Denver City Council since 1975

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- Since the election of the first two women members, a majority of members have been women
- From 1979 to present, 31 of the 56 people elected to council were women
- Prior to 1975, only one woman served; Elisa Palladino, appointed by Mayor Begole in 1935 to last four months of term of Eugene Veraldi, who resigned before the election



## WOMAN JOINS COUNCIL

**Denver Mother of Three Is Named  
to City Post by Mayor.**

DENVER, March 1 (AP).—Mrs. Elisa A. Palladino, 50, mother of three grown children, was appointed yesterday by Mayor George Begole as Denver's first woman member of the City Council.

Mrs. Palladino, ardent Republican worker, will succeed Eugene Veraldi, who resigned.

"You can bet I won't neglect my cooking and sewing," Mrs. Palladino smiled.

# Policy Initiatives

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Credit: The Denver Post

- One of the nation's first gay rights laws, 1990, leading in part to Colorado Amendment 2
- State and US Supreme Court battles led to striking Amendment 2 and upholding Denver's law
- Revision to Denver's most restrictive zoning regulation that prevented unmarried couples from living together in the most exclusive neighborhoods
- Successful drive for budget amendment to establish a mill levy for services for people with developmental disabilities
- Led the ban on assault-style firearms in Denver in 1989, receiving police protection while receiving numerous death threats; ordinance survived challenges both from the state legislature and in the courts



# Project Initiatives

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One of the leaders in conception, financing or delivery of:

- Colorado Convention Center
- Convention Center hotel (now the Hyatt Regency Hotel)
- Denver International Airport
- Coors Field
- Denver Broncos stadium
- Pepsi Center



Credit: The Denver Post

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# Leader in Representing Denver

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Credit: The Denver Post

- 28 years on the board of the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District including 23 years as Board Chair
- Elected twice as president of the Colorado Municipal League
- Elected president of the National League of Cities in 1987
- After leaving council, was a charter member of the Citizen Oversight Board, served on the Convention Center Hotel Board



# Public Hearing and Questions

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Credit: The Denver Post

The Council Chamber is the appropriate place to memorialize Cathy Reynolds' legacy of service to the People of Denver



