

UNION STATION

LOWER DOWNTOWN (LODO)

BALLPARK & CENTRAL PLATTE VALLEY

Denver District 9 Legacy Project
Judy H. Montero | 2003 - 2015



A LETTER FROM:

COUNCILWOMAN JUDY H. MONTERO

DENVER
NEIGHBORHOOD
SPOTLIGHT

When I was elected in 2003 I gathered residents from throughout District 9 in Denver and asked them what they wanted and needed for their neighborhoods. The “Mi Casa Es Su Casa” caucus (my house is your house) resulted in hundreds of yellow sticky notes pasted on the large district map.

I consider District 9 the heart of the city, and it’s been my home for most of my life. The district’s arteries – the neighborhoods – not only have vast cultural diversity but vast economic diversity. District 9 is home to residents who live in high-end lofts, public housing and homeless shelters.

I always viewed diversity as a source of pride that should be embraced and maintained.

People of all cultural and economic means should be able to live together in harmony. With that goal in mind, I got to work on the largest “to-do” list of my political career that spanned three terms.

This newsletter details the projects that were checked off that list during my 12 years in office. It reflects my accountability to the Union Station, LoDo, Ballpark and Central Platte Valley residents and includes the work that still needs to be accomplished by my successors.

The hundreds of sticky notes felt overwhelming at first but I had some amazing mentors who



2011 Family photo | L to R: Former state representative (HD 5) and husband Nolbert D. Chavez, daughter Hope and Councilwoman Montero.

QUICK FACTS:

- Councilwoman Montero had a 98 percent attendance record during her 12-year term. She attended 573 Monday night Council meetings out of 586 total meetings.

- Councilwoman Montero chaired three different Council Committees during her 12-year term: Transit-Oriented Planning 2004-2005, FasTracks 2005-2010, and the National Western Stock Show 2011-2014.

- Councilwoman Judy Montero was elected Denver City Council President Pro-Tem on July 21, 2014.

THE POWER OF MENTORS

prepared me to meet the challenge.

I was privileged to know Sal Carpio, the district's first Latino councilman who served from 1975 to 1987. I met Sal's aide, Debbie Ortega, and helped her get elected in 1987. Debbie served the district until 2003 and I worked as her aide until 1997.

Mayor Wellington Webb appointed me in 1997 as the Public Information Officer for the Parks and Recreation Department and to serve as a council liaison.

My previous work with the Chicano Education Project and Denver Employment Training Organization in the 1970s and 1980s allowed me to meet future Mayor Federico Pena and political activists Paul Sandoval and Rich Castro.

These strong individuals taught me to never back down and to seek ways to find solutions. When I was told a problem couldn't be resolved, I remembered those lessons from my mentors and didn't accept no for an answer.

In 2012, I fought a good fight to keep the character of District 9 in tact when the city faced redistricting.

A GOOD FIGHT

Every 10 years, the city must redraw its district boundaries based on the U.S. Census data. The goal is to have approximately 54,560 residents in each of the city's 11 districts.

The council districts needed to be redrawn because the neighborhoods in the far northeast corner of the city grew more than other parts of the city.



40 years of elected Latino leadership in District 9 | L to R: Judy Montero (2003-2015), Sal Carpio (1975-1987) and Debbie Ortega (1987-2003).

My argument was that combining neighborhoods with other districts would impact historic representation and for the first time in 40 years there would not be a Latino representative for District 9 – despite the large Latino population.

We debated the issue and had public meetings but the majority of the council voted for new boundaries. That means Union Station, LoDo, Ballpark and Central Platte Valley will remain in the new District 9 after the May 2015 municipal election.

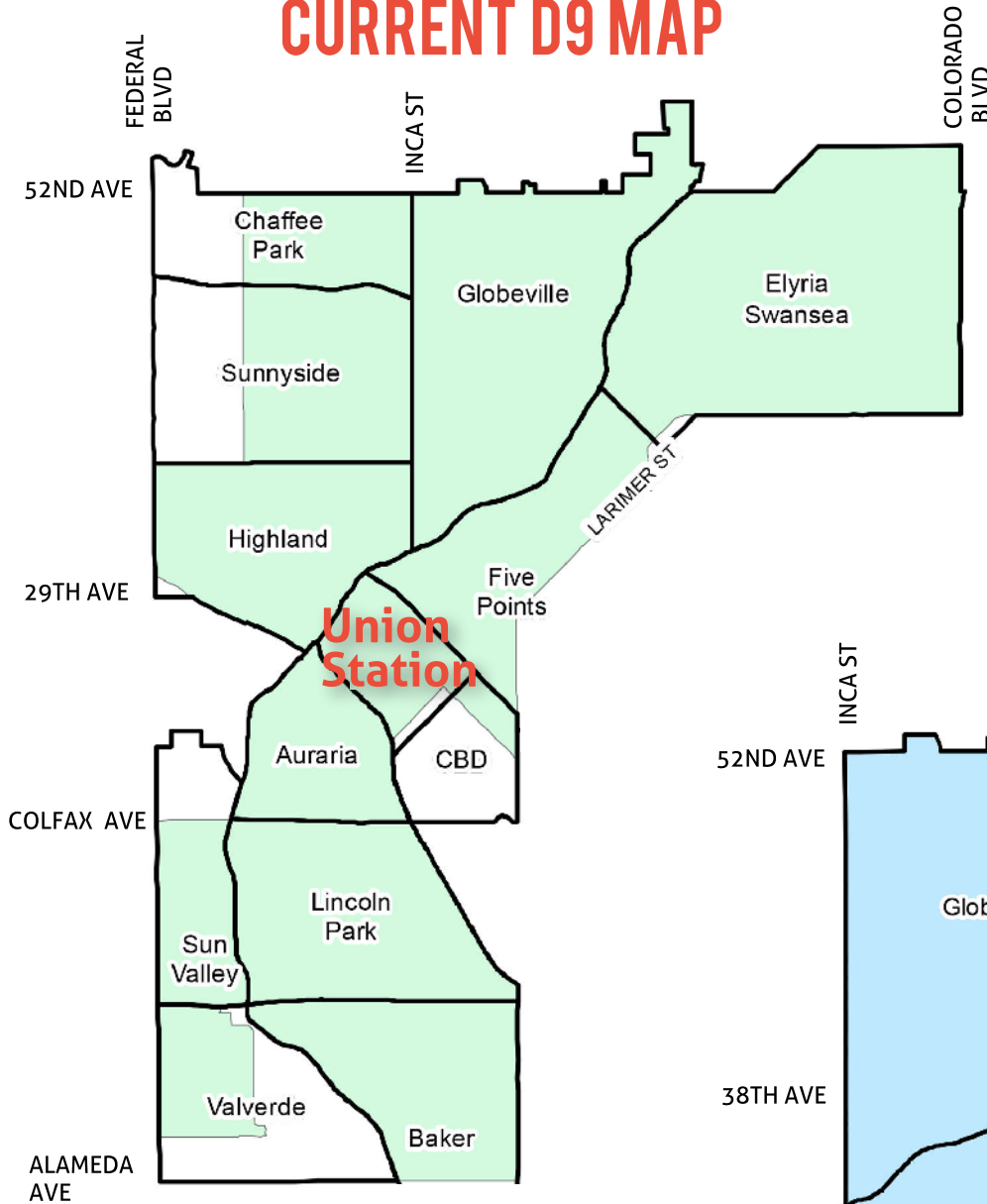
The new District 9 also includes neighborhoods historically in District 8: Five Points, Cole, Clayton, Whittier, Skyland, City Park and City Park West.

No matter who is elected on the council, the best advocates for Union Station, LoDo, Ballpark and Central Platte Valley are the neighbors.

I trust these residents will continue to keep watch and protect the interests of this unique area of Denver.

COUNCIL DISTRICT 9 MAPS

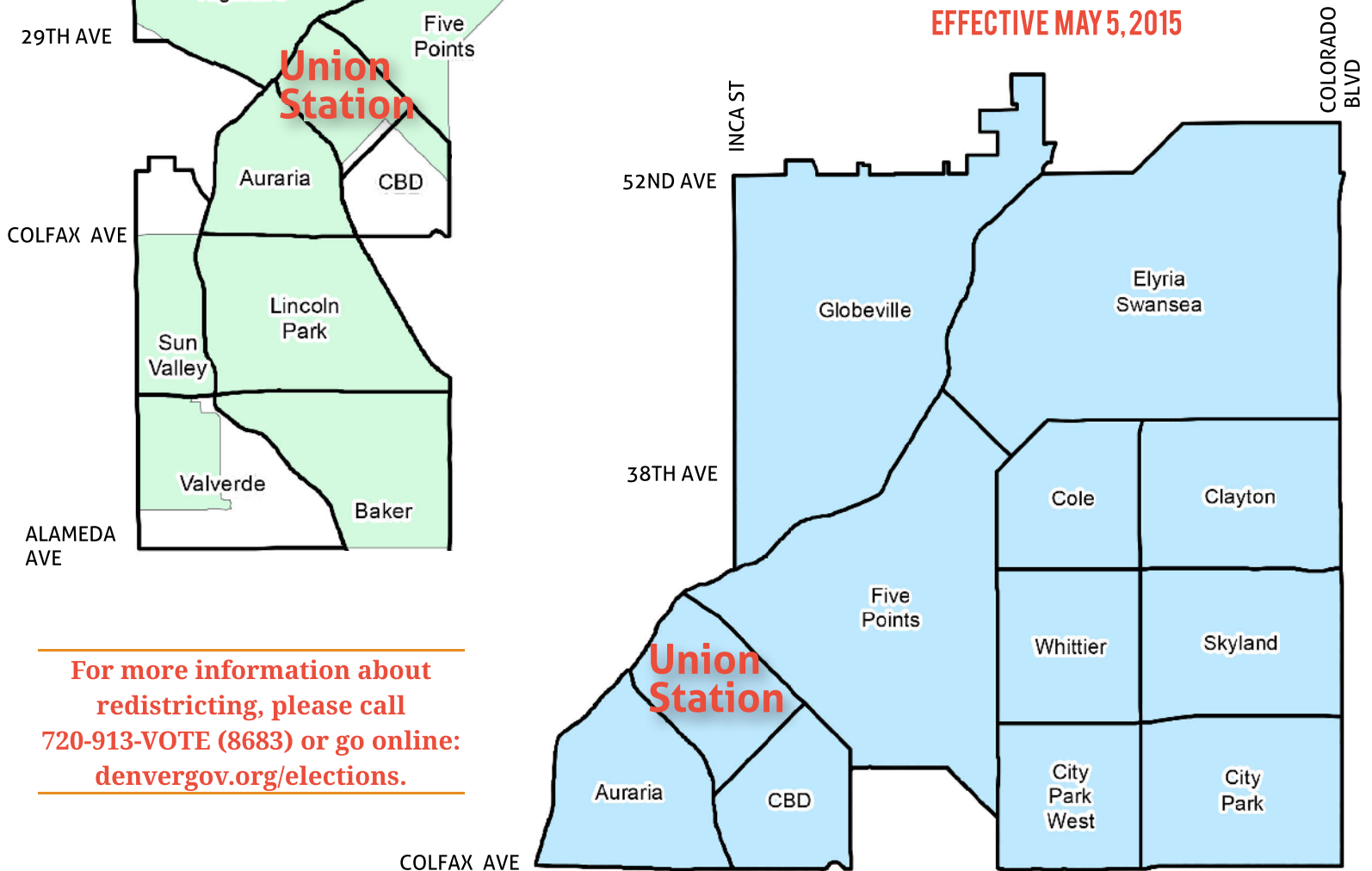
CURRENT D9 MAP



Every 10 years, the city must redraw its district boundaries based on the U.S. Census data. The goal is to have approximately 54,560 residents in each of the city's 11 districts.

FUTURE D9 MAP

EFFECTIVE MAY 5, 2015



For more information about redistricting, please call 720-913-VOTE (8683) or go online: denvergov.org/elections.

MUNICIPAL CALENDAR

MAY 5

Municipal General Election Day

-Polls open at 7 a.m., close at 7 p.m.

24-Hour Ballot Drop Boxes close at 7 p.m.

JULY 20

Inaugural Swearing in Ceremony of Denver Elected Officials

Mayor, City councilmembers, Clerk & Recorder and Auditor

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2003-2015

• HISTORIC UNION STATION REDEVELOPMENT AS TRANSPORTATION HUB •

I served on the 100-member citizens' advisory council and the 13-member Denver Union Station Project Authority Board that oversaw the \$500 million redevelopment of the 19-acre site at the depot. I took a leadership role on City Council approving nearly 20 official actions to advance and support the planning, financing and redevelopment of Union Station and its surroundings. That work included: In 2001,

creating a funding mechanism for RTD to purchase Union Station; a master plan and environmental impact statement; addressing public comments prior to council approval of a master plan for the multi-modal transportation hub, transit mixed-use zoning and landmark designation for the depot; Union Station Neighborhood Company selected as the master developer; a master plan supplement with more complete design concepts and public spaces after public comments; the creation by the council of the Denver Union Station Project Authority and the Denver Downtown Development Authority; council approval of five metropolitan districts as taxing and financing entities, which also was approved by voters in 2008; a special revenue fund for the project; and the city's purchase of the RTD Market Street Station to finance and relocate the regional bus facility to Union Station.



2002 | Judy prior to her first term as councilwoman. During her campaign she pledged her commitment to the redevelopment of Denver Union Station.

• FASTRACKS STATIONS •

Voters approved a multi-billion dollar FasTracks initiative in 2004 that financed 122 miles of new commuter rail and 18 miles of bus transit, in addition to 57 new transit stations throughout the Regional Transportation District (RTD). I knew that strategically placing each new commuter rail station in the District 9 neighborhoods not only gave residents better transportation access but also would help spur business redevelopment. Additionally, the new stations presented the opportunity and the need for new master plans for each neighborhood, which include upgrades in public housing and a push for affordable housing. I became the chair of the Transportation Oriented Development (TOD) committee that would oversee Denver's portion of the commuter rail expansion.

• LODO GROCERY STORE, SCHOOL, PLAYGROUND AND OFF-LEASH DOG PARK •

We worked for years to attract a full-service grocery store at 20th and Chestnut streets and finally found funding in 2013 for a public-private partnership. We also worked with Denver Public Schools to get a new school downtown. We helped neighbors raise money for a new playground that later was decorated with artwork installed by the Parks and Recreation Department. My office also forged a partnership with developer East West Partners, the Parks and Recreation Department and the Railyard volunteer group to secure land for the Railyard Dog Park.

RECOLLECTION

"Councilwoman Montero's deep roots in the Denver community fill our hearts so big with pride, and we are all taller in spirit and finer in action because of her commitment to District 9, the city of Denver and state of Colorado."

- Former Councilwoman Elbra Wedgeworth, Denver Union Station Project Authority Board of Directors

• LIGHTING STUDY •

We walked the area, including alleys, with police, public works and Xcel officials to see where LED lighting could help reduce crime and improve public safety.

• INCREASED POLICE FUNDING •

Worked with Mayor Michael Hancock and my colleagues on City Council to use supplemental funding for Denver Police District 6 to increase patrols on the 16th Street Mall, LoDo and the BallPark neighborhoods.

• 16TH STREET MALL IMPROVEMENTS •

Worked with the Downtown Denver Partnership and council for the 16th Street Mall extension to the redeveloped Union Station.

• DENVER URBAN GARDEN •

Worked with homeless shelter providers and city officials to redevelop an open space, known as Eddie Maestas Park and Triangle Park, and traditionally used as a gathering spot for the homeless. The area was transformed into an inviting urban garden.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• STREET, PARKING AND TRAFFIC •

Worked with city officials to ensure the area has adequate plans in place to address street, parking and traffic issues.

• COORS FIELD VIEW PLANE ORDINANCE •



2009 | Councilwoman Montero sponsored the ordinance preserving the view plane of the Rocky Mountains from Coors Field.

I sponsored the ordinance that prohibits new high-rise buildings that would block the view plane of the Rocky Mountains from Coors Field. Neighborhoods strongly supported this effort and council approved keeping new buildings at heights that won't block the majestic view of the mountains from the seats in the ball park.

• LAWRENCE STREET COMMUNITY CENTER / INDOOR COURT YARD •

Worked with Mayor Hancock and my colleagues on City Council to allow the Denver Rescue Mission to provide an indoor courtyard with access to restrooms, showers and fresh water. The courtyard also provides an area for the homeless to safely congregate during the day.

• BALLPARK CLEANUP •

We joined more than 100 volunteers in cleaning up streets, alleys, and gutters to help beautify the neighborhood.



Oct. 2014 | Ballpark neighborhood cleanup with Councilwoman Montero and volunteers.

ONGOING & FUTURE PROJECTS

• HOMELESS POPULATION •

Work with city, shelters and police to address the needs of the homeless and neighborhood.

• PARKING MANAGEMENT •

Address parking issues in the growing neighborhoods.

• NIGHTLIFE SAFETY •

Work with police, neighbors and business owners to address noise and safety issues around nightlife activities.

• ARAPAHOE SQUARE ZONING AND DESIGN •

My office, along with Council District 8, worked with Community Planning and Development to form a technical task force to guide the development of new zoning for Arapahoe Square, located just north of downtown Denver. The task force includes residents, business owners, land owners, developers, design professionals and other stakeholders that represent Arapahoe Square and its immediate surroundings. The Northeast Downtown Neighborhoods Plan, adopted by the council in 2011, recommends creating new form-based zoning for Arapahoe Square in order to create a densely populated, vibrant mixed-use district.

• CONFLUENCE PARK IMPROVEMENTS •

Rehabilitation of ramps in Shoemaker Plaza for better handicap accessibility, safety improvements along the trails and better access for the South Platte River.

"I've always found Judy accessible and easy to engage on any issue that related to either her district or the city at large. Council can be a demanding environment, and requires quite a lot of time and attention."

**-Jerry Glick
Vice Chairman
Denver Union Station
Project Authority**

• BROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS •

Address needs for better pedestrian and bicycle access and police patrols along this major arterial.

**April 2013 | Councilwoman
Montero paints a purple strip on
Blake Street in preparation of the
Colorado Rockies' opening day.**





July 2011 | L to R: Councilwoman Judy Montero, at the swearing in for her current term, with Councilman Albus Brooks and Judge Robert Hyatt.



2014 | D9 staff attending Denver Union Station's opening day. L to R: Council aides Amanda Sandoval, Benjamin Roldan, Councilwoman Judy Montero and aide Nola Miguel.



Courtesy: Amanda Schoultz

July 2014 | L to R: Councilwoman Judy Montero, newly-elected City Council President Pro-Tem, with newly-elected Council President Chris Herndon and former Council President Mary Beth Susman.

AWARDS

- 2010** NEWSED Community Development Corporation & Santa Fe Drive Redevelopment Corporation Celebrate Culture Civil Rights Award
- 2010** Girl Scouts of Colorado Women of Distinction Award
- 2010** Spirit of Tlatelolco Lifetime Achievement Award
- 2012** University of Denver Robert L. Hawkins Social Work Achievement Award
- 2013** Denver Public Library Cesar Chavez Leadership Hall Of Fame Award
- 2013** Youth on Record Community Rock Star
- 2014** Hispanic Contractors of Colorado Public Achievement Award

MORE FACTS:

- Councilwoman Montero served under seven different Council Presidents during her 12-year term: Elbra Wedgeworth, Rosemary Rodriguez, Michael Hancock, Jeanne Robb, Chris Nevitt, Mary Beth Susman and current President Christopher Herndon.

- Councilwoman Montero was vice chair of six different Council Committees during her 12-year term: Blueprint Denver 2004-2005, Youth & Community Services 2005-2006, Public Amenities 2006-2007, Neighborhood, Community & Business Revitalization 2008-2009, Land Use, Transportation & Infrastructure 2010-2014 and Neighborhoods & Planning 2014-2015.

CITY COUNCIL

City and County of Denver



Councilwoman Judy H. Montero
Denver City Council President Pro-Tem

Spring 2015

Hello District 9 Resident,

Driven by my desire to give back to our community, I have worked compassionately, diligently and methodically for my constituents as your elected City Council representative for District 9 since 2003. As a proud Latina, I have stood by some of the most vulnerable communities in Denver with the core values of social equity, cultural relevancy and environmental justice.

Working side by side with other City Council representatives and four Mayoral administrations (Hancock, Vidal, Hickenlooper and Webb), I have supported multi-use neighborhoods home to residents with diverse economic backgrounds. I embraced new transit-oriented development to better link the neighborhoods and cultivated long-lasting and crucial public/private partnerships.

It has been my honor to serve you these last 12 years. As I approach my term ending on July 20, 2015, I wanted to document some of the completed projects for your neighborhood and the work that still needs to be done when I am no longer your representative.

I want to thank you not only for our journey together, but also for taking time to read your neighborhood newsletter.

My staff and I celebrate the opportunity of being part of this adventure. We take pride that our hard work has improved our neighborhoods and we care deeply to leave a blueprint for our successors.

Thank you for the honor of electing me for three terms and be assured I will be working hard for you through July 20.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy H. Montero". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Councilwoman Judy H. Montero, District 9
Denver City Council President Pro-Tem