



## Seasons Greetings & News Updates



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### Links

- [Sue's Website](#)
- [General Assembly Homepage](#)
- [Jefferson County Homepage](#)

Hello, Friends & Citizens!

I'm wishing you Happy Holidays and updating you on a few personal, state, and local matters!

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### Town Hall Meetings

My 2012 town hall meetings will be the third Wednesday evening of every month (location TBA), the third Saturday of every month in Golden, and the fourth Saturday in Wheat Ridge starting January 21 and 28. More details later about these. You are always welcome to visit me at the Capitol or at a local coffee shop! Just email me at [sue.schafer@comcast.net](mailto:sue.schafer@comcast.net)

### Sue's Visit in Israel

At this Christmas and Hanukkah time of year, I was fortunate to have recently traveled to Israel and the holy land (not at taxpayer expense). As a former history teacher I've always wanted to visit the sites of ancient peoples, art, architecture, and faiths. Despite what we hear in sensational news reports about

violence in Israel and the Arab countries, I experienced much respect and reverence among Christians, Jews, and Muslims in Jerusalem, Bethlehem and other legendary sites. I witnessed diversity and peace breaking out all over. Are there still serious conflicts? Yes. My hope is that the Mideast countries will find a leader like Nelson Mandela who had the wisdom and statesmanship to bring reconciliation to troubled lands.

### **Shop Local, Hire Local!**

This holiday season, consider patronizing local businesses that hire fellow Coloradans. When you shop and purchase locally, the benefit to our local economy is three-fold! We Coloradans spent \$12 Billion last year on holiday shopping--can you believe it? If we shifted even 10% of our spending to locally owned businesses, it would add \$3 Billion to Colorado's economy and help to counteract the shipping of good local jobs overseas. Please visit: <http://coloradolocalfirst.com/>.

### **Growing Colorado's Economy**

Colorado's unemployment rate is one of the lowest in the nation, now 8% (U.S. = 9%) and 40,000 new jobs were created in Colorado since September 2011. We are a leader in the new energy economy which has doubled the amount of residential solar in less than 2 years and has also brought three new companies to Colorado. Jefferson County is known as a state and national STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) leader with our outstanding institutions like NREL; School of Mines; Collaboration of CU, CSU and RRCC; FasTracks; the new St. Anthony's Hospital; Martin Marietta; Caridian; and many other private companies.

### **Colorado Gives Day**

Last year, on Colorado Gives Day, \$8.7 million was donated by us Coloradoans to our favorite charities. If you would like to share with neighbors and projects in need, then please join me on December 6th as people from across Colorado give back to our community. You can choose among hundreds of Colorado non-profits, and give in a way that matches your values and generosity at <http://www.cogivesday.org/>.

### **Are You on a State Board or Commission?**

The Governor has asked for my help in identifying people in my district who would be qualified for some of the 300 positions he appoints to various state boards and commissions. If you have understanding and experience in a particular policy area, and if you have a willingness to serve the people of Colorado, I will help you find out how to get involved. Click [here](#) to see a list of the current boards and commissions.

## **Redistricting & Reapportionment**

**Redistricting** is the process every ten years for re-drawing the US Congressional district boundaries. Colorado will keep seven Congressional Districts based on our relative population. The Colorado Supreme Court today approved a map for Congressional Redistricting. **Reapportionment:** The Reapportionment Commission is charged with re-drawing the state legislative districts and submitted maps to the Colorado Supreme Court for approval. The constitutional deadline for approval is December 15, 2011. I will inform you in my next e-newsletter where the final maps can be found. Visit the [Redistricting website](#) for more info.

## **Your State Rep. Sue Schafer**

*For Wheat Ridge, Applewood, Edgewater, southern Arvada, northern Lakewood, Mountain View, Golden*

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