

Honorable Elbra M. Wedgeworth – Bio

The Honorable Elbra M. Wedgeworth is a proud East Denver native and her professional experience in the private/public sector spans over 30 years. Wedgeworth is the only person in recent memory who has served in all three branches of Denver City Government, City Council, Auditor's Office and Mayor's Office. In 1999, she was elected as the District 8 City Councilwoman and in July 2003, her City Council colleagues unanimously elected her the Council President 2003-2005.

April 2007 to December 2019 Elbra Wedgeworth served as the Chief Government and Community Relations Officer at Denver Health and Hospital Authority. She is responsible for all governmental legislative matters on the local, state and federal level and is the hospital's liaison for Community Engagement Initiatives. Elbra spearheaded Denver Health to be approved for the 2017 General Obligation Bond Initiative by Denver voters for \$75.0 million dollars to build the DH Outpatient Medical Center. The National Association of Health Services Executives presented her with the Distinguished Healthcare Leader Award at the 44th Annual Legislative Conference of the Congressional Black Caucus in Washington, DC.

Elbra served as the President/Chair of the Board for the Denver 2008 Convention Host Committee for the historic Democratic National Convention. The last political convention hosted in the Rocky Mountain West was in Denver in 1908. Her leadership was crucial and key to Denver being chosen to host the 2008 Democratic National Convention. It was the largest convention in the history of the City of Denver and the State of Colorado. Elbra will also be remembered as the first African-American woman to be President/Chair of a Host Committee in the history of either political party. In 2013, 5280 Magazine named Wedgeworth as a Woman of Colorado who has played a historically significant role because of chiefly being responsible for bringing the 2008 Democratic National Convention to Denver.

Being a vibrant and enthusiastic leader she is the recipient of many honors and awards for her public service. In April 2012, Elbra was named by the Denver Post as One of Colorado's Most Influential Women and was named one of Denver's 25 Most Powerful Women by the Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce also receiving their ATHENA Award which honors Colorado women who best exemplify exceptional professional achievement, devotion to community service, and assisting other women in the attainment of professional excellence and leadership skills. In 2014, Elbra was inducted into the Blacks in Colorado Hall of Fame by the Denver Public Library. In 2019 she was a the Five Point Jazz Festival Awardee. The Denver Business Journal awarded her with their Legacy Award which recognized Elbra's significant contributions to local business and community engagement throughout her career. In 2019, Elbra was named by the Denver Black Pages as one of Metro Denver's most influential African Americans. In 2020 she received the Girls Athletic Leadership School Award

In September 2008, she was elected unanimously as the President of the Denver Union Station Project Authority Board of Directors and served nine terms as the Board President from 2008 thru 2017. The \$500 million dollar Denver Union Station Project opened May 2014 on time and under budget.

Served as the past Chairwoman for the Downtown Denver Partnership Inc. (2013-2014) Wedgeworth was the first person of color male or female, to serve as Chairperson in their 60 year history and was named the Downtown Denver Partnership Honorary Partner. Wedgeworth served on the Board of Trustees for the University of Redlands in Redlands, California, her college alma mater and currently serves in the Colorado Complete Count Census Campaign Committee. Elbra was appointed to the Board of Trustees for FirstBank, Colorado. Founded in 1963, FirstBank has over \$17.0 billion in assets and bank branch locations in Colorado, Arizona and California. Elbra is the first woman of color to be appointed to the Board of Trustees. In August 2014 the Elbra M. Wedgeworth Municipal Building was dedicated in her honor in the historic Five Points neighborhood for her service to the City of Denver and State of Colorado. Elbra Wedgeworth has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Redlands, Redlands California in Sociology/Anthropology. Wedgeworth officially retired 12/31/19 after over 30 years of public service.