CCSD: New School Name Application

The School Name Committee accepts nominations for the naming of new Clark County School District (CCSD) schools. Nominations should recognize individuals whose contributions have had a significant and lasting impact on education, children, or the Clark County community.

Prior to submitting this application, please review CCSD Policy 7223, which outlines the School Name Committee process. Additional information may also be found by following this link.

All nominations and supporting materials are subject to public review and will be posted on the CCSD website. Applications will be evaluated based on the information provided regarding the nominee's contributions, leadership, service, impact, and character. **Applications will be reviewed by individual committee members as they are received.**

Please complete all required sections and upload supporting documentation, references, and any supplemental materials that support the nomination. If you have any questions, please email SNC@nv.ccsd.net.

Information About the Primary Nominator

First and Last Name of Person Submitting the Nomination *

Punam Mathur

Email Address of Person Submitting Nomination *

[redacted]

Primary Phone Number *

[redacted]

Secondary Phone Number *

[redacted]

Section 2: Information About the Suggested Namesake

Is the Nominee Deceased? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

Has this individual, or a member of his/her family, given consent to being nominated? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

Full Name of Nominee *

(First, Middle, and Last Name)

Joyce Laraine Woodhouse

Proposed School Name *

Joyce Woodhouse Elementary

Nominee's Occupation *

Teacher, Administrator, Legislator, Education Advocate

Is the Nominee a Former CCSD Employee? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

If Yes, How Many Years Retired?

20

Is the Nominee a Former School Board Trustee? *

- ( ) Yes
- (●) No

If Yes, How Many Years Retired?

n/a

Is the Nominee Currently Serving in Any Public Office? *

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Is the Nominee a Current or Former CCSD Supplier, Contractor, or Consultant? *

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

If Yes, Please Describe the Nominee's Relationship with CCSD as a Supplier, Contractor, or Consultant

n/a

If Applicable, Last Year of Service with CCSD

MM DD YYYY

11 / 02 / 2006

Is the Nominee Related to Any Person Currently Serving on the School Name Committee or Board of School Trustees? *

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

If Yes, Please Describe the Relationship

n/a

Date of Birth of Nominee *

MM DD YYYY

[redacted] / [redacted] / [redacted]

Years Living in Clark County *

60

Is/Was the Nominee a Resident of Clark County? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

Section 3: Support for This Nomination

1. Extraordinary and Lasting Contributions to Education and/or Clark County *

Please summarize the nominee's extraordinary and lasting contributions benefitting the Clark County School District and/or the community.

(1500 character limit)

In 1966, Joyce Woodhouse answered a call from the Clark County School District for a teaching job. That August, she walked into a classroom of first graders at C.C. Ronnow Elementary — and found both her calling and her home.

The eldest of five daughters, she grew up on a cattle ranch, where she learned the values that would guide the rest of her life: hard work, neighborliness, service, faith, and the conviction that every person matters. She lived those values for 19 years in the classroom, then answered a call to expand her impact — first as Vice-Principal and Principal, then for 17 years as Director of the School Community Partnership Office, inviting the broader community to share her passion for helping every child succeed.

After retiring from CCSD in 2006, she answered yet another call: to serve in elected office and advocate for policies that would reach even more children and families. As she rose, she never changed. She remained, first and always, a teacher — driven by her values to make life better for children.

Joyce's contributions at every stage of her life were extraordinary, and her impact is lasting. From helping countless first graders take their first steps as readers and learners, to helping educators grow, to helping her community and lawmakers understand the realities facing children and families, Joyce Woodhouse's impact on education and on Clark County will endure.

2. Exceptional Leadership *

Please explain the nominee's demonstrated exceptional leadership toward the advancement of education and/or humanity in Clark County.

(1500 character limit)

There are many examples of Joyce's exceptional leadership in advancing education in Clark County. Here is just one:

Clark County Partnership Office (1989–2006) – Joyce was selected to grow a budding effort to build bridges between businesses, schools, and the community. Driven by student needs, particularly in high-need schools, she took a "do whatever it takes" approach. Under her leadership, the office grew from seven partnerships in 1989 to more than 600 by her retirement in 2006.

At a time when few school districts nationally had dedicated partnership offices, Joyce largely wrote the playbook herself. Her programs brought business and community leaders directly into schools, giving them firsthand understanding of student needs and educators' challenges. PAYBAC connected business leaders with students for career planning; FOCUS matched businesses with schools for targeted volunteers and resources; and The Jason Project, her signature initiative, brought STEM curriculum to teachers and students.

The impact extended well beyond classrooms. Years of business involvement built broad community understanding of Clark County's educational needs and helped create a powerful constituency for public education — evident in 1998, when voters overwhelmingly approved Question 2, a $3.5 billion school bond backed by business leaders and chambers. As a Metro Chamber employee at the time, I witnessed firsthand the commitment to education Joyce's work helped inspire.

3-A. Notable Experience – Education Positions and Experience *

List relevant education positions or experiences inside and/or outside the Clark County School District, length of time in each position, and impact on children in Clark County.

(1500 character limit)

Across a 40-year career with the Clark County School District, Joyce dedicated 19 years to early literacy in the first-grade classroom, three years to school leadership, and 17 years to strengthening ties between students and the community. She then spent 20 years after retirement as an elected official and advocate, championing for children and their families, in Clark County and throughout Nevada.
1966-1976 – CC Ronnow Elementary, Teacher
1976-1977 – Rex Bell Elementary, Teacher
1977-1980 – CC Ronnow, Teacher
1980-1981 – Leave of Absence to serve as Association President
1981-1985 – Vegas Verdes Elementary, Teacher
1985-1986 – Diskin Elementary, Teacher
1986-1987 – Long Elementary/Harmon Elementary, Assistant Principal
1987-1988 – Gene Ward Elementary/Long Elementary, Assistant Principal
1988-1989 – J.M. Ullom Elementary, Principal
1989-2006 – Director, School & Community Partnership Programs/Communications Unit
2006 – Retired from CCSD
2007-2010 – Member, Nevada Senate; Member, Committee on Human Resources & Education
2013-2020 – Member, Nevada Senate. In her final session, she served as Chair of Senate Finance, Vice-Chair of Education, and a member of the Health & Human Services Committee.

Throughout her career, the power and influence she accumulated were built on humility, credibility, and a reputation for seeking solutions for children and families.

3-B. Notable Experience – Organizations, Activities, and Public Service *

List involvement in organizations or activities benefitting children and/or relevant public or government service. Explain how these activities contributed to children, education, or the betterment of Clark County.

(1500 character limit)

In addition to her remarkable legislative service, Joyce's advocacy for children and families extended through the organizations she cared about:

- 1998-2026 – Founder and Board Member of Kids Voting, now Voices in Voting, a statewide K-12 civic engagement program reaching 3,000-4,000 students annually.
- 2016-2026 – Member of the NCSL International Education Study Group, bringing insights back to apply in Nevada.
- 2017 – Founder of the NV Institute for Teacher & Educator Preparation (NITEP), a statewide program housed at UNLV. NITEP upskills pre-service and in-service teachers, as well as high schoolers considering the profession — reflecting Joyce's belief that Nevada could build its own home-grown teacher pipeline. Since inception, it has impacted approximately 3,000 educators.
- 2017 – Sponsored SB249, requiring financial literacy and economics instruction in public schools, leading banks and credit unions statewide to partner with schools on budgeting, credit, and personal finance.
- 2019-2026 – Joined the board and executive committee of Communities In Schools of Nevada, serving 100,000 students across 112 high-needs schools with resources to help them stay in school and succeed.
- 2023-2026 – Appointed to the Commission on School Funding; selected by peers as Vice Chair.
- 2023-2026 – Appointed to the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education; selected by peers as Vice Chair in 2024. Joyce always had an eye on the future.

4. Significant Impact on Children and/or Education in Clark County *

Describe the estimated number of children and/or people impacted by the nominee's activities. Include any extraordinary circumstances or actions beyond customary expectations that resulted in extraordinary benefit to CCSD students, staff, or community members.

(1500 character limit)

In 1966, long before class size reduction efforts, Joyce Woodhouse likely taught around 30 children in her first-grade classroom. For the 19 years she taught, her impact on those early learners and their families was transformative — expressions of thanks from those students, now middle-aged adults, continued until her final days.

She then spent 17 years at the Partnership Office, building bridges, understanding, and goodwill between the broader community and CCSD's students and staff.

Once elected to the Legislature, she recognized that advocacy required more than identifying problems; it demanded drafting policy, navigating bureaucratic hurdles, and securing sustainable funding. Her most significant contribution came in 2019 with the passage of SB543, overhauling the state's 53-year-old K-12 school funding system by creating the State Education Fund and Pupil-Centered Funding Plan. True to her conviction that every person matters, the new formula provides a base allocation per student plus additional funding for at-risk pupils, English learners, students with special needs, and gifted students.

She ended her journey exactly where she started: meeting the needs of every student. In 1966, she made and kept that promise to a single classroom of first graders. By 2019, she made the same promise to future generations of students throughout Nevada.

Joyce Woodhouse's impact on children and education in Clark County is in a league of its own.

5. Positive Role Model / Special Attributes / Talents / Accomplishments / Contributions *

Describe the nominee's demonstrated character, special attributes, talents, accomplishments, or contributions not addressed elsewhere in this application.

(1500 character limit)

I regret not nominating Joyce for a school naming 20 years ago. Based purely on her stellar contributions across 40 years as a dedicated CCSD teacher, administrator, and community ambassador, she would have been a strong nominee then.

Ironically, it is precisely because of her extraordinary humility, servant's heart, unfailing kindness, and gentle spirit that none of us took the initiative to put her name forward sooner. Guided by her values and motivated only by a desire to make things better for students, she worked for decades without seeking attention, credit, or accolades. As a result, while students walking into Joyce Woodhouse Elementary will never have the privilege of meeting her, that school community will have the honor of learning about her remarkable life and the extraordinary character she exemplified.

We can bring her to life for those students — through the organizations she founded, the programs she believed in, and the ongoing involvement of community members on whose hearts she left an indelible impression. Her life embodied the notion that an ordinary person can do extraordinary things, when guided by deeply-held values and convictions. She originated from humble beginnings and her example will remind students that with hard work, kindness and purpose, that success in life isn't defined by where you begin, but where you end. I hope you agree that there is no better role model for future students to be inspired by and emulate.

Section 4: Supporting Documentation Demonstrating Significant Impact on Children, Notable Education Experience, Exceptional Leadership, Extraordinary and Lasting Contributions to Education and/or Clark County, etc. (for example: certificates, awards, news articles, reports, etc.)

Upload Supporting Documentation (Optional)

Woodhouse, Atta... Ralston's FLASH ...

Add file

Upload Reference List *

Required: Five (5) references including names, addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers. References may not be related to the nominee.

Woodhouse Refe...

Add file

Upload Letters of Recommendation *

Required: No more than three (3) letters of recommendation.

Woodhouse, Lett... Woodhouse, Lett... Woodhouse, Lett...

Add file

Section 5: Certification of Accuracy

Please acknowledge the following: *

Checkboxes (Required - Please Click All Boxes)

- [ ] I certify that the information provided in this application is accurate and complete.
- [ ] I understand that this nomination will be reviewed by the School Name Committee.
- [ ] I understand that supporting documentation will become part of the public record.
- [ ] I understand that references and supporting materials may be contacted or reviewed during the evaluation process.

This form was created inside of Clark County School District.

Google Forms

August 16, 2026

Clark County School District
Attn: School Name Committee
5100 W. Sahara Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89146

Re: Letter of Support — Naming of Elementary School in Honor of the Late Senator Joyce L. Woodhouse

Dear Chair Henry and Members of the Committee,

We write as current and former elected officials, policymakers, legislative staff, and lobbyists who had the privilege of working with Senator Joyce L. Woodhouse. We may disagree on topics but are steadfastly united in our support for naming a Clark County School District elementary school in her honor.

Long before she ever set foot in the Legislature, Joyce spent forty years with CCSD as a first-grade teacher, a principal, and the founder of the District's Partnership Office, where she built hundreds of partnerships between schools and the business community. That record of service is what first brought her to Carson City — and what shaped every year she spent there.

Elected to the Nevada State Senate in 2006, Joyce went on to chair the Committees on Education, on Legislative Operations and Elections, and, in her final years, the powerful Committee on Finance. Those of us who served alongside her, staffed her committees, advocated before her, or negotiated across the aisle from her came to know the same thing: Joyce came to every hearing room looking for cause and solution first, not party and problem first. That instinct, more than any title, was her real legislative signature, and it let her build genuine consensus on education, healthcare access, job creation, and classroom funding.

Her crowning legislative achievement was the 2019 passage of SB543, which modernized Nevada's 53-year-old school funding formula so that every child, regardless of background or circumstance, would receive the support they needed to succeed. Many of us were in the room for that fight, and we know how much of it was carried by her persistence, her preparation, and her refusal to let politics get in the way of getting it right. For a former first-grade teacher, it was a full-circle achievement — the same individualized attention she gave her students became the guiding principle behind how Nevada funds public education.

That work ethic did not wane after she left the Senate. Joyce continued to serve on the Commission on School Funding and the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, helping shape policy long after she was no longer required to. She remained a steady presence for the Nevada Youth Legislature and the Nevada Center for Civic Engagement's We the People State Invitational, mentoring the next generation of Nevadans who might one day serve as she did.

Beyond her significant legislative successes and extraordinary record of service, those of us who worked with Joyce remember her simply as a colleague of rare character — warm and gracious in the hallway, and always the most prepared person in the hearing room. She researched every issue she worked on deeply, always curious to hear every perspective before she settled on her own. She never lost sight of the big goal, but she never let a single detail slip past her either. And she was, at heart, a teacher first, in every room she entered — actively recruiting, mentoring, and guiding new candidates and lobbyists just as she once guided her students, always eager to help the next generation find its footing.

Even in her final illness, Joyce remained active, joining meetings and hearings virtually whenever she could, committed to the very last breath to improving the lives of Nevadans.

In an era when consensus is hard to find and antagonism is all too present, Joyce was rare — purely motivated to be the best citizen and servant she could be, and to help others along the way. Her example has left an indelible impression on all our hearts and minds. We believe that same example will leave its mark on the hearts and minds of the students lucky enough to attend Joyce Woodhouse Elementary School.

We are grateful for your consideration and enthusiastically urge your support.

Respectfully,

Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

Dina Titus
United States Congress (NV-01)

Steven Horsford
United States Congress (NV-04)

Cisco Aguilar
NV Secretary of State

Nicole Cannizzaro
Majority Leader
Nevada State Legislature

Marilyn Dondero Loop
State Senator, District 8
Nevada State Legislature

Rochelle Nguyen
State Senator, District 3
Nevada State Legislature

Julie Pazina
State Senator, District 12
Nevada State Legislature

Angela D. Taylor, Ph.D.
State Senator, District 15
Nevada State Legislature

Sandra Jauregui
Majority Floor Leader
Nevada State Assembly

Erica Mosca
Assist. Majority Floor Leader
Nevada State Assembly

Shea Backus
State Assemblymember, District 37
Nevada State Legislature

Venicia Considine
State Assemblymember, District 18
Nevada State Legislature

Daniele Monroe-Moreno
State Assemblymember, District 1
Nevada State Assembly

David Orentlicher
State Assemblymember, District 20
Nevada State Legislature

Michael Naft
Chairman, District A
Clark County Commission

William McCurdy, II
Vice Chairperson, District D
Clark County Commission

Justin Jones
Commissioner, District F
Clark County Commission

Michelle Romero
Mayor
City of Henderson

Carrie Cox
Council Member, Ward III
City of Henderson

Monica Larson
Council Member, Ward II
City of Henderson

Dan Stewart
Council Member, Ward IV
City of Henderson



Mariluz Garcia
Commissioner, District 3
Washoe County Commission



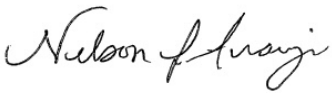
Gordon Absher
Manager
Foley Public Affairs



Kristine Absher
Vice President
Foley Public Affairs



Jeremy Aguero
Principal
Applied Analysis



Nelson Araujo
Former Assemblymember
R & R Partners



Celeste Arnold
Admin. Services Officer III
NV Department of Education



Joseph Baggs
Student Investment Division
NV Department of Education



Teresa Benitez-Thompson
Former Majority Leader
Nevada State Assembly



Beau Bennett
Education Funding Specialist
NV Department of Education



Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod
Former Assemblymember
Nevada State Legislature



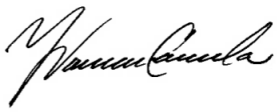
Shirley A. Breeden
Former State Senator
Former Director, CCSD



Barbara Buckley
Former Speaker
Nevada State Assembly



Caleb Cage
Principal
Arc Dome Strategies



Yvanna Cancela
Former State Senator
Nevada State Legislature



Maggie Carlton
Former State Senator
Nevada State Legislature



Dusty Casey
Member
Commission on School Funding



Lesley Cohen
Former Assemblymember
Nevada State Legislature



Kelly Crompton
Government Affairs Manager
City of Las Vegas



Mo Denis
Former Majority Leader
Nevada State Legislature



Carolyn Edwards
Former School Board Trustee
Clark County School District



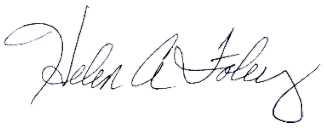
Dale Erquiaga
Former Supt. of Public Instruction
State of Nevada



Melissa Evans
Education Funding Manager
NV Department of Education



Gabby Everett
Former Legislative Staff
Nevada State Legislature



Helen Foley
Former Nevada State Senator
President, Foley Public Affairs



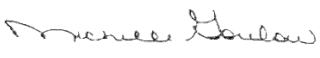
Jason Frierson
Former Speaker of the Assembly
Nevada State Legislature



Scott Gilles
Partner
The Griffin Company



Chris Giunchigliani
Former State Assemblywoman
Former Clark County Commissioner



Michelle Gorelow
Former State Assemblymember
Nevada State Legislature

Becky Harris

Becky Harris
Former State Senator
Nevada State Legislature



Linda Hiller
Former Committee Secretary
Nevada Senate Education Cmte.

Guy Hobbs
Chair
Commission on School Funding

Tim Hughes
Vice President
NV State Board of Education

Terri Janison
Former School Board Trustee
Clark County School District

Ruth Johnson
Former School Board Trustee
Clark County School District

Amber Joiner, Ph.D
Former Assemblymember
Nevada State Legislature

Yolanda King
Vice Chair
Commission on School Funding

Mark Krmpotic
Senate Fiscal Analyst
NV Legislative Counsel Bureau *(retired)*

Salomee Levy
Outreach Specialist, District 1
U.S. House of Representatives

Mark Mathers
Chief Financial Officer
Washoe County School District

Punam Mathur
Member
Commission on School Funding

Sandy Miller
Former First Lady
State of Nevada

Sabra Newby
Deputy Manager
City of Las Vegas

Zhan Okuda-Lim, Ph.D.
Past NV Youth Legislator
Past Chair, NV Youth Legislature

David Parks
Former State Senator
Nevada State Legislature

Mary Pierczynski, Ed.D.
Former Supt., Carson City
Lobbyist NASS



Mary Janet Ramos
Former Legislative Staff
Nevada State Legislature

Julia Ratti
Julia Ratti
Former State Senator
Nevada State Legislature



Marco Rauda
Founder & CEO
El Faro Consulting



Nicole Rourke
Director of Gov. Relations
City of Henderson



Walt Ruffles
Former Superintendent
Clark County School District



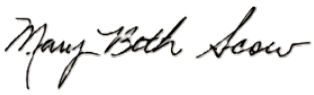
Peter Saba
Senior Manager
Nevada Restaurant Assoc.



Maite Salazar
Commissioner
NV Commission on Innovation & Excellence in Education



Brett Scolari
Partner, General Counsel
Strategies 360



Mary Beth Scow
Former School Board Trustee
Former Clark County Commissioner

Cassandra Stahlke

Cassandra Stahlke
Member
Commission on School Funding



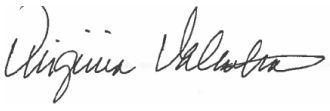
Ann Standley
Committee Manager
Legislative Operations & Elections



Izack Tenorio
Vice President
Strategies 360



Jill Tolles
Former State Assemblymember
Kenny Guinn Center for Policy Priorities



Virginia Valentine
President & CEO
Nevada Resort Association



Nick Vassiliadis
Political Director
R & R Partners

William Vassiliadis
Chairman
R & R Partners

Victor Wakefield
Superintendent
NV Department of Education

Valerie Wiener
Former State Senator
Nevada State Legislature

Melissa Willis
Manager, Bureau of Student Funding
NV Department of Education

Frank Woodbeck
Strategic Consultant
Frankly Speaking, LLC

August 11, 2026

Tameka Henry, Chairperson
Members, School Name Committee
Clark County School District
Government Relations Department
5100 West Sahara Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89146

Letter of Support: Naming of Elementary School in Honor of the Late **Senator Joyce L. Woodhouse**

Dear Chairperson Henry and Members of the School Naming Committee,

We write as Governor and former Governors of the State of Nevada to lend our strongest support to naming a Clark County School District elementary school in honor of the late State Senator Joyce L. Woodhouse, who passed away on May 8, 2026, at the age of 82, leaving behind a legacy that touched generations of Nevadans.

Joyce's story began far from Nevada, on a cattle ranch in Wibaux, Montana, where she was raised as the eldest of five daughters. After earning her degree in Elementary Education from Carroll College, she came to the rapidly growing Las Vegas Valley to teach — a decision that would shape the rest of her life and, in turn, the lives of thousands of Nevada schoolchildren.

Over forty years with the Clark County School District, Joyce served as a first-grade teacher for seventeen years, as principal of Ullom Elementary School, and later as a district program administrator, all while continuing her own education and earning two master's degrees from UNLV. Her devotion to her students never wavered, and her impact only grew with time.

In 2006, following her retirement from CCSD, Joyce answered a new call to service, winning election to the Nevada State Senate. Over six regular sessions and ten special sessions representing Senate Districts 5 and 6, she chaired the Committees on Education, on Legislative Operations and Elections, and, in her final years, the powerful Committee on Finance. Colleagues on both sides of the aisle knew her as warm and gracious, yet quietly relentless in pursuit of what was right for Nevada's children and families. Hers was an unparalleled kind of advocacy, one that helped deliver bipartisan education reforms that will brighten the future for generations of Nevada students to come.

We speak to this firsthand. Across our own differing parties and administrations, we each came to know Joyce as a partner who could set politics aside in service of Nevada's children. She had a rare gift for building consensus across the aisle — with legislators and governors alike — never losing sight of the fact that the work of educating our children is bigger than any single party or administration.

That work ethic never dimmed, even after she left the Senate. Joyce continued to serve Nevada through the Commission on School Funding and the Commission on Innovation and Excellence

in Education, fighting long after her official retirement to make Nevada a better place to live and learn. Her decades of service earned recognition from across the state — from the Vegas Chamber, Phi Delta Kappa, the Soroptimists of Nevada, and the Nevada Public Education Association — and, most recently, induction into both the Nevada Senate Hall of Fame and the Clark County School District Hall of Fame.

But beyond the honors and titles, those who knew Joyce remember her simply as kind — instinctively curious about others, quick to laugh, and steadfast in her faith and her devotion to this community she called home for sixty years.

Naming an elementary school in her honor would be a fitting and lasting tribute: a first-grade teacher who became a tireless champion for every child in Nevada, memorialized in the very kind of place where her life's work began. We can think of no more meaningful way to ensure that Joyce Woodhouse's contributions continue to make an impact on Nevada, and to inspire the students, teachers, and families of Clark County, for many years to come.

We urge the Committee to approve this naming with our full and heartfelt support.

Respectfully,

Governor Joe Lombardo
State of Nevada

Governor Steve Sisolak
Former Governor, State of Nevada

Governor Brian Sandoval
Former Governor, State of Nevada

Governor Bob Miller
Former Governor, State of Nevada

Governor Richard H. Bryan
Former Governor, State of Nevada

August 16, 2026

Clark County School District
Attn: School Name Committee
5100 W. Sahara Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89146

Re: Letter of Support — Naming of Elementary School in Honor of the Late Senator Joyce L. Woodhouse

Dear Chair Henry and Members of the Committee,

We represent Nevada's education, nonprofit and business communities, as well as Joyce's friends and family — we are a diverse group united in one objective: to lend our strongest support to naming a Clark County School District elementary school in honor of the late State Senator Joyce L. Woodhouse.

During her forty years with CCSD, Joyce served as a first-grade teacher at CC Ronnow, Rex Bell, Vegas Verdes and Diskin Elementary Schools, as assistant principal of Long/Harmon and Gene Ward/Long Elementary Schools, as principal of Ullom Elementary School, and, for 17 years, as director of the School-Community Partnership Office. Joyce's leadership transformed the fledgling Partnership Office into a robust operation, building more than 600 partnerships between schools and the business community. Her focus was always on bringing people, expertise, and support into classrooms where they could make a meaningful difference for teachers and students. Among us is an army of former classroom volunteers with fond memories of participating, at Joyce's invitation, in FOCUS Schools and PAYBAC.

In 1992, that same vision led her to bring the national JASON Project to Clark County, giving thousands of students each year direct access to real scientific exploration — from an undersea laboratory off Florida to lessons broadcast from NASA's Johnson Space Center. It was the leading edge of what we now call STEM education, years ahead of its time, influencing the lives of thousands of students and enriching the curriculum used by teachers throughout the District. This endeavor represented hundreds of hours over weekends and after the normal workday, year after year.

In 2006, following her retirement from CCSD, Joyce began her career in the Nevada State Senate. Many of us continued working alongside her on education, healthcare access, job creation, and targeted classroom funding. For Joyce, this was a natural step in her life filled with service. It was simply an extension of her lifelong commitment to making people's lives better.

That work ethic never dimmed after Senator Woodhouse left the Senate. She served actively as a volunteer on the Commission on School Funding, the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, Communities In Schools of Nevada and the Smith Center for the Performing Arts, and helped lead the Nevada Center for Civic Engagement's annual *We the*

People State Invitational and the Nevada Youth Legislature. Her service earned recognition from the Metro Chamber, Phi Delta Kappa, the Soroptimists of Nevada, Communities In Schools of Nevada, and the Nevada Public Education Association, and, in recent years, induction into UNLV's College of Education Hall of Fame, the Nevada Senate Hall of Fame, and the CCSD Excellence in Education Hall of Fame.

Beyond her accomplishments and accolades, what we honor and miss most is her character. She was a rare and truly kind person, admired for her humble heart and her pure intention to serve. In every room we shared with her — classroom, boardroom, kitchen table or hearing room — she was a mentor and an exemplar.

It is bittersweet to advocate for a posthumous naming. What gives us grace is knowing that, if we are successful, generations of young people will cross the threshold into Joyce Woodhouse Elementary School and be inspired by the example she set, just as we are. We cannot think of a better role model for future students to emulate. We thank you for your consideration and hope you agree.

Sincerely,

Mitzury Aguilar

Mitzury Aguilar
Senior HR Manager
Communities In Schools of NV

Lovee Arum

Lovee Arum
Philanthropist

Jameson Bauman
Senior Partner
New York Life

Alexis Benavidez
Chief Administration Officer
Communities In Schools of NV

Johanna Blake
Managing Director
Bank of America, Private Bank

Hannah Brown

Hannah Brown
Retired Business Leader
Namesake, Hannah Brown ES

Bob Brown
President & CEO
Opportunity Village

Shannon Brown
Director, Electric Delivery Ops
Nevada Energy

Kellie Butterworth
Community Member



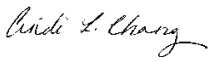
Todd Butterworth
Community Member



Lisa Burkhead
President
Cristo-Rey St. Viator College Prep

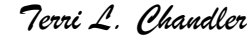


Alex Bybee
CEO & State Director
Communities In Schools of NV



Cindi Chang

Director, Career & Technical
Clark County School District



Terri L. Chander

Founder & Executive Director
Future Smiles



Glenn Christenson

Managing Director
Velstand Investments, LLC



Thelma Davis
Retired Administrator
Clark County School District



Jennifer Denoo
CEO
Great Basin Fed. Credit Union



Miles Dickson
President
Nevada Grant Lab



Rebecca Dirks Garcia
President & CEO
Nevada PTA



Mary Doucette, Ed.D



Cheryl A. Duncan
Sister



Jeremy C. Empol
League President & CEO
Nevada's Credit Unions



Eric D. Estes
Retired & Former CEO
Boulder Dam Credit Union



Martin Fitzgerald
Longtime Friend
Campaign Volunteer

Dr. Beverly Givens
Executive Director
Refuge for Women Las Vegas

Evan Gong
Community Member

Phyllis Gurgevich
President & CEO
Nevada Bankers Association

Aidan Guthridge
Nephew

Kalin Guthridge
Family Member

Lisa Habighorst
Co-Founder & CEO
Spread the Word Nevada

Jake Haldeman
Former CCSD Student
Jason Project Volunteer

Joyce Haldeman
Assoc. Superintendent, Retired
Community & Gov. Relations, CCSD

Tanner Hale
Community Member

Tami Hance-Lehr
Former CEO & State Director
Communities In Schools of NV

Kathy Harney
Assoc. Superintendent, Retired
Clark County School District

Tim Harney
Assoc. Superintendent, Retired
Clark County School District

Steele Hendrix
President/CEO
Nevada's Credit & Boulder Dam Credit Union

Chad Hensley, Ph.D.
Clinical Associate Professor
Boise State University

Claudia L. Howard
Sister

Christine Hull
Nevada Center for Civic Engagement
Trustee, Washoe County School District

Dawn Hume
Event Committee Member
Communities In Schools of NV

Michelle Jackson
President & CEO
Junior Achievement of NV

Kevin Janison
Retired Weather Anchor

Craig Kadlub
Chief of Staff to the Supt, Retired
Clark County School District

Matt Kershaw
Chief Executive Officer
Create Credit Union

Stephanie Kirby
Executive Director
Southern Nevada Trades High School

Geri Kodey
Friend and Photographer

Heather Korbulic
Senior VP Policy & Comm.
VIMO

Ellis Landau
Retired Financial Executive

Sue Longson
Retired Financial Executive

Jayne Malorni
Strategist
CCSD

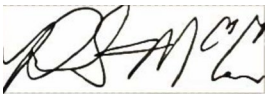
Dorothy Marmo
Neighbor

Charles Marmo
Neighbor

Myron Martin
President & CEO
The Smith Center



Richard P. McCann, J.D.
Retired, NV Association
of Public Safety Officers



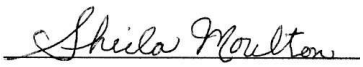
Robert S. McCord
Deputy Assist. Supt., Retired
Clark County School District



Laura Meyer
Executive Director
Communities In Schools of SNV



Joseph Morgan
Interim Dean & Professor, Special Ed.
UNLV College of Education



Sheila Moulton
Former School Board Trustee
1998-2010



Brian C. Myli Ed.D
Senior Vice President
Leadership Institute of NV



Jeanette K. Nagel (Belz)
Vice President
Cartwright NV



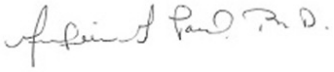
Lori Nelson-Kraft
Senior VP, Community Affairs
Las Vegas Grand Prix



Mark Newburn
Former Vice President
NV State Board of Ed.



Amy Parson
Niece & Teacher



Michelle Paul, Ph.D
Assistant Vice President
University of Nevada, Las Vegas



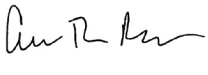
Sharon Pearson
Retired Teacher
CCSD



Megan Peterson
Chief Financial Officer
Education Service Center



Shane Piccinini
Government Relations
Food Bank of Northern Nevada



Alejandro Rodriguez
Higher Education Advocate

Henry Rosas Ibarra
Former Legislative Staffer
Nevada State Legislature

Kathy Rudd
Chief Programs Officer
Communities in Schools of Nevada

Sam Rudd
President & CEO
United Way of SNV

Danny Ruiz
Board Member, Communities In Schools of NV
Chief Gaming Officer, The Venetian Resort

Candy Schneider
The Smith Center for the Performing Arts
Dear friend and colleague of over 40 years

Paul Selberg
Longtime Friend
Campaign Volunteer

Matti Smith
Community Member

Donald Snyder
Retired Business Executive
Community Leader

Raymond Specht
Chairperson
Communities In Schools of NV

Vinny Spottleson
CCSD Teacher

Kat Tait
Neighbor & Friend
President of Joyce's HOA Board

Tom Tait
Neighbor & Friend
Former Tourism Professional

Denise Tanata
Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Advisor
The Children's Cabinet

Mary Thomas
President, MKT Consultants

Kenesha Thompson
Senior Director of HR
Communities In Schools of NV



Carolyn Turner
Former CCSD Student
Former Lobbyist



Michael Vannozzi
Former CCSD Student



Kenneth Varner
Assoc. Dean, Academic Programs
NITEP Director, UNLV



Dennis Walters III
Community Member



Kristee Watson
Executive Director
Nevada Conservation League



Nancy Weaver
Communications Director
UNLV College of Ed.



Berdie Woodhouse
Sister



Rose Marie Young
Kindergarten Teacher
Clark County School District



Joyce L. Woodhouse

[redacted] - May 9, 2026

Obituary Events Guestbook

Joyce L. Woodhouse Obituary

Henderson, NV - Joyce L. Woodhouse
1944 - 2026
Joyce Laraine Woodhouse, beloved educator, three-term State Senator, and tireless advocate for the children, families, and schools of Nevada, passed away on Saturday, May 9, 2026, at the age of 82. She leaves behind a legacy measured by the generations of Nevadans whose lives she touched, one classroom and one piece of legislation at a time.

Joyce was born in 1944 in Glendive, Montana. The eldest of five daughters, she was raised on a Hereford cattle ranch, first in Wibaux, Montana, and later in Big Timber where she learned the values that would guide the rest of her life: hard work, neighborliness, faith, and the conviction that every person matters. She graduated from Sweet Grass County High School in Big Timber, Montana and earned her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Carroll College in Helena, Montana. Soon after, she answered the call of a teaching job that would bring her to the rapidly growing Las Vegas Valley - the community she would call home for the rest of her life.

Joyce devoted forty years to the Clark County School District. She spent seventeen of those years as a first-grade teacher, helping countless young Nevadans take their first steps as readers and learners. She went on to serve as principal of Ullom Elementary School and later as a district program administrator, mentoring teachers and shaping programs that reached far beyond any single classroom.

Even as her career advanced, she continued her own studies earning two master's degrees from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, one in Curriculum and Instruction and another in Educational Leadership. A proud "Double Rebel,"
she would later be inducted into the inaugural class of the UNLV College of Education Hall of Fame in 2024.

Joyce retired from the school district in 2006 and, with the steadfast support of her husband, Al Wittenberg, launched a campaign for the Nevada State Senate that same year. She represented District 5 from 2006 to 2010, and District 6 from 2012 to 2020, returning to Carson City for six regular sessions and 10 special sessions in all. In the Legislature, she chaired the Senate Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and

Elections, and in her final years in office, the powerful Senate Committee on Finance. Colleagues from both sides of the aisle came to know her as a quietly relentless force: warm and gracious in the hallway, prepared and persistent in the hearing room. Over the course of her legislative career, she championed bipartisan reforms to expand education funding, strengthen public health care, create job opportunities, and direct help to the communities that needed it most. After leaving the Senate, she continued to advise the Nevada Senate Democrats and served as a member of the Commission on School Funding and the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, helping to shape the next chapter of Nevada's education system.

Joyce's contributions earned recognition across her professions. She was named "Outstanding Champion" by the Metro Chamber, received the "Leadership in Education" award from Phi Delta Kappa, was honored as "Distinguished Woman of the Year" by the Soroptimists of Nevada, and was celebrated as an "Unsung Hero" by the Nevada Public Education Association. In 2025 she was inducted into the Nevada Senate Hall of Fame, and in 2026, into the Clark County School District Excellence in Education Hall of Fame.

Friends remember Joyce as unfailingly kind, instinctively curious about other people, and quick to laugh. She was a person of deep faith, a parishioner of St. Thomas More Catholic Community in Henderson, a lover of the arts and especially of the Smith Center for the Performing Arts, and a proud supporter of UNLV.

Joyce was preceded in death by her parents Evelyn and Roland Woodhouse, husband, Al Wittenberg in 2013, her sister Frances Guthridge in 2012, and nephew Jonathan (JJ) Leuwer in 2008.
She is survived by her three sisters, Cheryl Duncan (Lloyd), Berdine Woodhouse, and Claudia Howard (Gerry), seven nieces and nephews, Aiden Guthridge (Kalin), Kiele Guthridge, Jeff Duncan (Annmarie), Amy Parson (Mike), Mikale Leuwer, Kyle Howard, and Shane Howard, and a host of lifelong friends.

A Celebration of the Life of Senator Joyce Woodhouse will be held on Monday, June 1, 2026.
Mass of Christian Burial — 1:00 p.m.
St. Thomas More Catholic Community, 130 N. Pecos Road, Henderson, Nevada
Celebration of Life Reception — immediately following
Legacy Golf Club, 130 Par Excellence Drive, Henderson, Nevada
To honor her, the Senator encouraged support for the organizations she valued most: Communities in Schools of Nevada, Nevada Center for Civic Engagement, St. Thomas More Catholic Community and The Smith Center for Performing Arts.

Joyce Woodhouse, Former Nevada Senator and Education Champion, Dies at 82

Woodhouse was a member of NCSL's International Education Study Group.

By Mark Wolf | May 13, 2026

Joyce Woodhouse came to Nevada for a teaching job in 1966 and stayed to draw upon her experience as a teacher and administrator to pursue a career as a tireless champion of education in the Nevada Senate.

She has died at 82.



"She was an education visionary with boundless energy," says Michelle Exstrom, director of NCSL's Education Program. "She was an instrumental member of NCSL's International Education Study Group, using the framework to guide Nevada's education work for the past decade. She will be missed."

Exstrom says Woodhouse worked with Nevada Sen. Marilyn Dondero Loop, another study group member, to create the state's Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education. Woodhouse served on the commission as a gubernatorial appointee due to her experience as a former legislator with expertise in best practices in education and education finance.

Woodhouse was born in 1944 in Wibaux, Mont., earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Carroll College in Helena, Mont., and master's degrees in curriculum and instruction and educational administration from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, according to her Senate biography.

Following a 40-year career in education, Woodhouse was elected to the Senate in 2006, lost in 2010, then was reelected in 2012. She was term-limited in 2020. During her Senate tenure, she served as chair of the Finance Committee and as chief majority whip.

"Joyce was amazing when it came to policy," says Dondero Loop, the Senate's president pro tem and, like Woodhouse, a career educator. "She was this consistent presence always through tough times. She knew how to bring the policy forward, that every '" was dotted and every 't' was crossed."

She adds, "When she was termed out, she came back to us in a policy spot and actually was with us as a policy specialist and a sort of chief of staff to the majority leader. She was a true gift to the state, and she was a promise to every child that she would make things better."

Her teaching and administrative background manifested itself in how she painstakingly explained to young lawmakers the details of getting legislation passed.

"She always was teaching from the get-go," Dondero Loop says. "She was also the mother of changing the funding formula here in Nevada, which we had for 50 years before we changed it in 2019. I just keep thinking, 'Oh my gosh, where is that institutional knowledge going to come from?'"

Two weeks before Woodhouse died, Dondero Loop visited her.

"I said, 'Joyce, I need to ask you a couple of questions.' And boy, she brought up all that policy, had the bill dates, the times they were passed. Her years as an educator came full circle in the Senate because she taught us all how to make sure that we understood bills and that we didn't put unintended consequences in them."

Woodhouse was inducted this year into both the Nevada Senate Hall of Fame and the Clark County School District Hall of Fame.

Her induction resolution to the Senate Hall of Fame notes, "Senator Woodhouse continually advocated for Nevada's children, families and schools, focusing on improving healthcare, expanding job opportunities and increasing classroom funding, and targeting that support to the areas that need it most during her distinguished senatorial career."

Read full obituaries of Joyce Woodhouse in the Las Vegas Review Journal and the Nevada Independent.

Mark Wolf is a senior editor in NCSL's Communications Division.

CCSD Statement on Passing of Senator Joyce Woodhouse

May 11 2026



Statement from CCSD Superintendent Jhone Ebert

The Clark County School District (CCSD) mourns the loss of a true champion for Nevada's children, Senator Joyce Woodhouse. Throughout her distinguished career as a teacher, administrator, and legislator, Senator Woodhouse's influence on education was unparalleled.

Senator Woodhouse spent decades serving students in CCSD. From her early days as a first-grade teacher and principal to her leadership as the Director of CCSD's Partnership Office, her focus was always on improving systems to better serve children. As a State Senator, she was a primary architect of Nevada's first school funding formula update in 54 years, a landmark achievement that modernized our system to better meet the diverse needs of today's students.

On a personal note, she was a cherished friend and a generous mentor to me and countless others. It was a privilege for the Board of School Trustees and me to induct her into the 2026 CCSD Excellence in Education Hall of Fame. Senator Woodhouse made an impact that is woven into the very fabric of Southern Nevada's schools. She will be deeply missed.



Joyce Woodhouse, a double UNLV alumna and former Nevada state senator, was a longtime advocate for education known for her leadership and service. She died May 8, 2026. (Photo courtesy of Geri Kodey)

Joyce Woodhouse, '83 M.Ed. Secondary Instruction and Curriculum and '87 M.Ed. Educational Leadership, was a staunch advocate for education, beloved for her leadership, passion, and vision. The former Nevada state senator and "double Rebel" passed away on May 8, 2026, at the age of 82.

"Joyce was an incredible leader for Nevada and our community throughout her long career at CCSD and in the state legislature," UNLV Interim President Chris Heavey said. "She was a close friend to many and a proud Rebel to her very last day, often seen cheering on the Runnin' Rebels as a decades-long season ticket holder. We will all miss her tremendously.



Joyce Woodhouse with husband, Al Wittenberg, who passed away in 2013. (Photo courtesy of Geri Kodey)

Woodhouse earned two master's degrees from UNLV's College of Education, where she founded the Nevada Institute for Teacher Education Preparation (NITEP). In 2024, she was inducted into the college's inaugural Hall of Fame class. A champion for education in the state senate, she also helped secure funding for UNLV's Advanced Engineering Building.

College of Education Dean Danica Hays and staff mourned her loss, while praising her legacy. "Senator Woodhouse devoted her life to expanding opportunities for students and

strengthening public education. Her leadership and service left an enduring impact on countless students, educators, and families. We were proud to induct her as one of the first members of the college's Hall of Fame."

"Very few people had the impact on education in Nevada as Senator Woodhouse," said Constance Brooks Johnson, vice president for UNLV Government and Community Engagement. "She practiced what she preached, whether in the classroom or in the Nevada State Senate. Above all, she was an inspiration for many in the community and always such a joy to work with."

Woodhouse was born in 1944 in Montana and grew up on a Hereford cattle ranch as the eldest of five daughters. After earning a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Carroll College in Helena, Montana, she became an elementary school teacher, principal, and program administrator.

"I came here in 1966 to teach, and I stayed here," Woodhouse told the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* in 2016. She worked in the Clark County School District for more than 40 years.

At UNLV, she earned two master's degrees in education. She served as a Democratic member of the Nevada State Senate from 2006 to 2010 and again from 2012 to 2020, representing parts of Henderson. During her tenure, she served as chief majority whip and co-minority whip.
She liked to read, golf, and volunteer, according to her Senate bio. Her love of service earned her numerous awards from diverse organizations, including the American Cancer Society, Safe Communities Partnership, Nevada Public Education Foundation, and Nevada State Education Association, which she served as president.



Senate Majority Leader Nicole Cannizzaro, '10 JD, with former state senator and two-time UNLV alumna Joyce Woodhouse. (Photo courtesy of Geri Kodey)

Woodhouse was preceded in death by her husband, Al Wittenberg, who passed away in 2013.

Public condolences from prominent Nevadans poured out, as news of her passing spread.

Las Vegas Mayor Shelley Berkley, '72 BA Political Science, posted a touching tribute to her fellow UNLV alumna. "Senator Joyce Woodhouse was a champion of education in our community, and she will be greatly missed. I feel fortunate to have called this wonderful woman a friend, and our children are all better off for her hard work on their behalf."

Woodhouse was a kind and strong mentor and leader whose heart remained in the classroom, said Senate Majority Leader Nicole Cannizzaro, '10 JD, in a statement. "She knew that every budget line was more than a number; it was a promise to a child, a senior, or a working family.

"People turned to her when a bill was stalled or when things felt uncertain. Her door was always open, and her advice was practical, thoughtful, and rooted in her deep love for Nevada."

Nevada Legislature 2025
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Education champion and former state Sen. Joyce Woodhouse dies at 82

Woodhouse grew up in rural Montana on a Hereford cattle ranch, the eldest of five daughters.

Tabitha Mueller May 9th, 2026 at 11:54 AM Legislature SHARE



State Sen. Joyce Woodhouse (D-Henderson) during a committee meeting on March 18, 2019. (David Calvert/The Nevada Independent)

Former state Sen. Joyce Woodhouse (D-Henderson) died Friday, leaving a legacy as an education champion.

Inducted into the **Nevada Senate Hall of Fame** in 2025 and the **Clark County School District's Hall of Fame** in 2026, Woodhouse, 82, served in the Legislature's upper house for six regular sessions and nine special sessions from 2006 to 2010 and from 2012 to 2020, including leadership roles such as Senate Finance Committee chair.

"She knew that every budget line was more than a number; it was a promise to a child, a senior, or a working family," said Senate Majority Leader Nicole Cannizzaro (D-Las Vegas).

Elected leaders remembered her dedication to the community and issued statements grieving her death.

Gov. Joe Lombardo (R) called her an "unparalleled advocate for Nevada's children" in a statement Saturday, commending her for passing bipartisan education reforms that benefited future generations of Nevadans. He added that her work ethic was "unmatched" and noted she continued to serve the state long after her retirement.

"Few possess the ferocity of purpose Joyce Woodhouse carried into public service," state Sen. Fabian Doñate (D-Las Vegas) **posted**, adding that her "legacy will continue on through generations."

A state Senate **biography** of Woodhouse noted that her hobbies included reading, golfing and volunteering. Her husband, Al Wittenberg, died in 2013.
Woodhouse grew up in rural Montana on a Hereford cattle ranch, the eldest of five daughters.

She moved to Southern Nevada for a teaching job after graduating from Carroll College and went on to earn two master's degrees in education at UNLV. She worked in education first as a teacher, then as an elementary school principal and later as a program administrator.

Following her time as a state senator, she served from 2021-2025 as one of Senate Majority Leader Nicole Cannizzaro's closest advisers.

"I can't think of any elected official who was so pure of heart and dedicated to public service," *Nevada Independent* CEO and longtime political columnist Jon Ralston posted on social media. "She was such a wonderful person."

Further details about Woodhouse's death were not immediately available Saturday morning.

Jon Ralston's FLASH

May 11, 2026

05.11.2026
This dispatch prepared for .

Good morning, everyone. It has been bittersweet seeing all the encomia pour in for Joyce Woodhouse, the former state senator and education advocate who died Friday. Joyce led a long, productive, giving life, and I am glad she is at peace after being ill for some time. But it can't help but make me feel sad that there are so few Joyce Woodhouses in public office these days – selfless, dedicated, passionate. She BELIEVED in things and acted on those beliefs, as opposed to so many who "believe" in what they believe will advance their careers. She was also so likable, proof that you can be resolute and kind, drawing plaudits even from those who disagree with you. If we had more Joyce Woodhouses, it might be bad for the political journalist business – less conflict, more compromise – but better for the body politic. I will miss her voice and smile, and I send my condolences to her family and friends.

DAYS UNTIL EARLY VOTING FOR THE 2026 PRIMARY ELECTION: 12

DAYS UNTIL THE 2026 PRIMARY ELECTION: 29

DAYS UNTIL THE 2026 GENERAL ELECTION: 177

CCSD: New School Name Application

The School Name Committee accepts nominations for the naming of new Clark County School District (CCSD) schools. Nominations should recognize individuals whose contributions have had a significant and lasting impact on education, children, or the Clark County community.

Prior to submitting this application, please review CCSD Policy 7223, which outlines the School Name Committee process. Additional information may also be found by following this link.

All nominations and supporting materials are subject to public review and will be posted on the CCSD website. Applications will be evaluated based on the information provided regarding the nominee's contributions, leadership, service, impact, and character. **Applications will be reviewed by individual committee members as they are received.**

Please complete all required sections and upload supporting documentation, references, and any supplemental materials that support the nomination. If you have any questions, please email SNC@nv.ccsd.net.

Email *

[redacted]

Information About the Primary Nominator

First and Last Name of Person Submitting the Nomination *

Gabby Everett

Email Address of Person Submitting Nomination *

[redacted]

Primary Phone Number *

[redacted]

Secondary Phone Number *

[redacted]

Section 2: Information About the Suggested Namesake

Full Name of Nominee *

(First, Middle, and Last Name)

Joyce Woodhouse

Proposed School Name *

Joyce Woodhouse Elementary School

Nominee's Occupation *

Deceased

Is the Nominee a Former CCSD Employee? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

If Yes, How Many Years Retired?

20 years

Is the Nominee a Former School Board Trustee? *

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

If Yes, How Many Years Retired?

Is the Nominee Currently Serving in Any Public Office? *

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Is the Nominee a Current or Former CCSD Supplier, Contractor, or Consultant? *

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

If Yes, Please Describe the Nominee's Relationship with CCSD as a Supplier, Contractor, or Consultant

If Applicable, Last Year of Service with CCSD

MM DD YYYY

/ /

Is the Nominee Related to Any Person Currently Serving on the School Name Committee or Board of School Trustees? *

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

If Yes, Please Describe the Relationship

Date of Birth of Nominee *

MM DD YYYY

[redacted] / [redacted] / [redacted]

Is the Nominee Deceased? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

Years Living in Clark County *

60

Is/Was the Nominee a Resident of Clark County? *

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

Section 3: Support for This Nomination

1. Extraordinary and Lasting Contributions to Education and/or Clark County *

Please summarize the nominee's extraordinary and lasting contributions benefitting the Clark County School District and/or the community.

(1500 character limit)

Joyce devoted forty years to the Clark County School District. She spent seventeen of those years as a first-grade teacher, helping countless young Nevadans take their first steps as readers and learners. She went on to serve as principal of Ullom Elementary School and later as a district program administrator, mentoring teachers and shaping programs that reached far beyond any single classroom. She lobbied for the school district, and then she continued that dedication to service as a Nevada State Senator between 2006 and 2020, championing many notable policies including financial literacy and modernization of the school funding formula. Nevada's children have had few stauncher advocates than Joyce Woodhouse.

2. Exceptional Leadership *

Please explain the nominee's demonstrated exceptional leadership toward the advancement of education and/or humanity in Clark County.

(1500 character limit)

As Joyce rose the ranks of the school district across her multi-decade career, she never lost sight of where she came from or who was following in her footsteps. As a principal and later as a district program administrator, she mentored teachers and shaped programs that reached far beyond any single classroom. She carried that spirit and emphasis into her public service in the state legislature. First, in 2007 she advocated for the creation of the Nevada Youth Legislature, and continued to promote its ideals and mentor its youth in the decades following its creation, mentoring many notable alums who have gone on to multiply her teachings and mentorship in their own continued work. Second, her service to the legislature always included mentorship of state staff, fellow lawmakers, and prospective candidates. No question was ever a stupid question, no idea ever too small, and no rung of the ladder too big or small for anyone to jump in and lend a hand. Joyce was always the consummate professional and the epitome of a mentor and exceptional leader.

3-A. Notable Experience – Education Positions and Experience *

List relevant education positions or experiences inside and/or outside the Clark County School District, length of time in each position, and impact on children in Clark County.

(1500 character limit)

- advocate for the creation of Nevada Youth Legislature (2007)-- its alumni ranks are now more than 230 strong since its inception
-first grade teacher (17 years)-- if assuming 20 students per class, she taught and impacted more than 340 students during that time
- principal at Ullom Elementary and district administrator (~23 years)
-advocate for financial literacy programming for Nevada's children (12 years of legislative service)
-principal architect of the school funding formula modernization-- many could argue this is not only positively impacting students today, but will for years to come

3-B. Notable Experience – Organizations, Activities, and Public Service *

List involvement in organizations or activities benefitting children and/or relevant public or government service. Explain how these activities contributed to children, education, or the betterment of Clark County.

(1500 character limit)

- Served as a member of the Commission on School Funding and the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, helping to shape the next chapter of Nevada's education system.
- Served as a state senator for 12 years between 2006 and 2020.
- Served on the National Council of State Legislatures International Education Study Group, where she learned insights she was able to bring back and apply to the state of Nevada.
-In 2025, Joyce was inducted into the Nevada Senate Hall of Fame and CCSD Hall of Fame for her abundant achievements on behalf of Nevada's children, and all Nevadans.

4. Significant Impact on Children and/or Education in Clark County *

Describe the estimated number of children and/or people impacted by the nominee's activities. Include any extraordinary circumstances or actions beyond customary expectations that resulted in extraordinary benefit to CCSD students, staff, or community members.

(1500 character limit)

Nevada is said to have around 688,000 children. That is the baseline impact of Joyce's efforts in this great state. Her integral role in modernizing the state's school funding formula for the first time in more than 50 years impacted every student life in the state. Many could argue that impact also extended to everyone who benefits from any dollars that move through the school district because it impacted school and school district budgets which helped staff, families, and the wider communities, beyond simply students. Her impact extends to every student who entered her classroom during her 17 years as a first grade teacher. It further extends during her time as a principal and later a district administrator. One of the great joys and abundant blessings of Joyce's impacts is the individuals she mentored along the way who have carried on her insights and work further multiplying the ripples in the pond Joyce initially created. The bittersweet aspect of her recent passing is hearing from the multitude of elected and community leaders who cite her teachings as core elements of their continued work and what they will carry forward in her absence. This includes leaders like Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop, Superintendent Jhone Ebert, Nonprofit Leader Alex Bybee, and countless others.

5. Positive Role Model / Special Attributes / Talents / Accomplishments / Contributions *

Describe the nominee's demonstrated character, special attributes, talents, accomplishments, or contributions not addressed elsewhere in this application.

(1500 character limit)

Joyce is remembered as unfailingly kind, instinctively curious about other people, and quick to laugh. She was a person of deep faith, a lover of the arts, and a proud supporter of UNLV (she loved her Rebel basketball). Joyce was one of the most big-hearted individuals with a non-existent ego. She didn't do the decades of work she did for any sort of credit or recognition, but simply because she felt a duty to serve her fellow humankind. She may have originally been a Montanan by birth, but she was forever a Las Vegan for what this community bestowed upon her and the ways she chose to spend the rest of her life giving back to it.

Section 4: Supporting Documentation Demonstrating Significant Impact on Children, Notable Education Experience, Exceptional Leadership, Extraordinary and Lasting Contributions to Education and/or Clark County, etc. (for example: certificates, awards, news articles, reports, etc.)

Upload Supporting Documentation (Optional)

Joyce L. Woodho… | CCSD Statement … | Mourning the Lo… | Joyce Woodhous…

Add file

Upload Reference List *

Required: Five (5) references including names, addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers. References may not be related to the nominee.

School Naming R…

Add file

Upload Letters of Recommendation *

Required: No more than three (3) letters of recommendation.

School Naming C...

Add file

Section 5: Certification of Accuracy

Please acknowledge the following: *

Checkboxes (Required - Please Click All Boxes)

- [ ] I certify that the information provided in this application is accurate and complete.
- [ ] I understand that this nomination will be reviewed by the School Name Committee.
- [ ] I understand that supporting documentation will become part of the public record.
- [ ] I understand that references and supporting materials may be contacted or reviewed during the evaluation process.

This form was created inside of Clark County School District.

Google Forms

Gabby Everett
Former Staff/ Mentee of Joyce Woodhouse
[redacted]

July 6, 2026

CCSD School Name Committee
Clark County School District
5100 W. Sahara Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89146

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Naming the New School at Skye Canyon Park Drive and Shaumber Road After Joyce Woodhouse

Dear Members of the Clark County School Board of Trustees and School Naming Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm, deep respect, and humble appreciation that I recommend Joyce Woodhouse to be the namesake for the new school being built at Skye Canyon Park Drive and Shaumber Road. As a fellow community member and Clark County resident who had the chance to work with and be mentored by Joyce Woodhouse starting in 2017, I had the opportunity to witness firsthand the generosity, giving spirit, vibrant knowledge, humble nature, strong work ethic, and profound impact Joyce had on our local community, the field of education, and countless generations of Nevadans.

Joyce Woodhouse has been a cornerstone of the southern Nevada community for 60 years. Throughout her career, she demonstrated an unwavering commitment to youth education, financial literacy, leadership development, school funding, and public service. As a former teacher, principal, district administrator, state legislator, and community leader, she has fundamentally improved the lives of countless students and Nevadans.

Joyce never engaged in this work for the recognition or accolades. She merely put her head down and went to work, even when the going might have been slow or faced much resistance. And Joyce was never faint of heart in the battles she took up. With a cheerful smile, bountiful optimism, and an inquisitive spirit, she took on modernization of a funding formula that had not been updated in more than 50 years. She never complained, and she never let the challenges and setbacks alter her course. She showed us all what persistence and resilience looks like in the pursuit of a better future for all of Nevada's children.

Beyond her direct accomplishments and impacts, Joyce Woodhouse embodied the exact virtues we hope to instill in our students and communities: integrity, empathy, leadership, resilience, innovation, curiosity, and tenaciousness. Naming this building in her honor would serve as a daily inspiration for our children, showing them that ordinary citizens can create extraordinary change.

The name Woodhouse will stand the test of time and reflect the long-term values of the Clark County School District and the wider Clark County community. Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your careful consideration of this nomination. I would welcome the opportunity to speak further at a future board meeting regarding Joyce Woodhouse's qualifications.

Sincerely,

Gabby Everett
Director of Strategic Initiatives
Nevada HAND

School Naming Reference List for Joyce Woodhouse Elementary School

1. Alex Bybee

2. Dennis Walters

3. Gabby Everett




Joyce L. Woodhouse

[redacted] - May 9, 2026

Joyce L. Woodhouse Obituary

Henderson, NV - Joyce L. Woodhouse
1944 - 2026
Joyce Laraine Woodhouse, beloved educator, three-term State Senator, and tireless advocate for the children, families, and schools of Nevada, passed away on Saturday, May 9, 2026, at the age of 82. She leaves behind a legacy measured by the generations of Nevadans whose lives she touched, one classroom and one piece of legislation at a time.

Joyce was born in 1944 in Glendive, Montana. The eldest of five daughters, she was raised on a Hereford cattle ranch, first in Wibaux, Montana, and later in Big Timber where she learned the values that would guide the rest of her life: hard work, neighborliness, faith, and the conviction that every person matters. She graduated from Sweet Grass County High School in Big Timber, Montana and earned her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Carroll College in Helena, Montana. Soon after, she answered the call of a teaching job that would bring her to the rapidly growing Las Vegas Valley - the community she would call home for the rest of her life.

Joyce devoted forty years to the Clark County School District. She spent seventeen of those years as a first-grade teacher, helping countless young Nevadans take their first steps as readers and learners. She went on to serve as principal of Ullom Elementary School and later as a district program administrator, mentoring teachers and shaping programs that reached far beyond any single classroom.

Even as her career advanced, she continued her own studies earning two master's degrees from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, one in Curriculum and Instruction and another in Educational Leadership. A proud "Double Rebel,"
she would later be inducted into the inaugural class of the UNLV College of Education Hall of Fame in 2024.

Joyce retired from the school district in 2006 and, with the steadfast support of her husband, Al Wittenberg, launched a campaign for the Nevada State Senate that same year. She represented District 5 from 2006 to 2010, and District 6 from 2012 to 2020, returning to Carson City for six regular sessions and 10 special sessions in all. In the Legislature, she chaired the Senate Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections, and in her final years in office, the powerful Senate Committee on Finance. Colleagues from both sides of the aisle came to know her as a quietly relentless force: warm and gracious in the hallway, prepared and persistent in the hearing room. Over the course of her legislative career, she

helping to shape the next chapter of Nevada's education system.

Joyce's contributions earned recognition across her professions. She was named "Outstanding Champion" by the Metro Chamber, received the "Leadership in Education" award from Phi Delta Kappa, was honored as "Distinguished Woman of the Year" by the Soroptimists of Nevada, and was celebrated as an "Unsung Hero" by the Nevada Public Education Association. In 2025 she was inducted into the Nevada Senate Hall of Fame, and in 2026, into the Clark County School District Excellence in Education Hall of Fame.

Friends remember Joyce as unfailingly kind, instinctively curious about other people, and quick to laugh. She was a person of deep faith, a parishioner of St. Thomas More Catholic Community in Henderson, a lover of the arts and especially of the Smith Center for the Performing Arts, and a proud supporter of UNLV.

Joyce was preceded in death by her parents Evelyn and Roland Woodhouse, husband, Al Wittenberg in 2013, her sister Frances Guthridge in 2012, and nephew Jonathan (JJ) Leuwer in 2008.
She is survived by her three sisters, Cheryl Duncan (Lloyd), Berdine Woodhouse, and Claudia Howard (Gerry), seven nieces and nephews, Aiden Guthridge (Kalin), Kiele Guthridge, Jeff Duncan (Annmarie), Amy Parson (Mike), Mikale Leuwer, Kyle Howard, and Shane Howard, and a host of lifelong friends.

A Celebration of the Life of Senator Joyce Woodhouse will be held on Monday, June 1, 2026.
Mass of Christian Burial — 1:00 p.m.
St. Thomas More Catholic Community, 130 N. Pecos Road, Henderson, Nevada
Celebration of Life Reception — immediately following
Legacy Golf Club, 130 Par Excellence Drive, Henderson, Nevada
To honor her, the Senator encouraged support for the organizations she valued most: Communities in Schools of Nevada, Nevada Center for Civic Engagement, St. Thomas More Catholic Community and The Smith Center for Performing Arts.

To **send flowers** to the family or **plant a tree** in memory of Joyce, please **visit our floral store**.

Published on May 24, 2026

Events

Mass of Christian Burial

Monday, June 1, 2026
1:00 pm

St. Thomas More Catholic Community
130 N. Pecos Road
Henderson, NV 89074

Celebration of Life Reception

Monday, June 1, 2026
2:00 pm

Legacy Golf Club
130 Par Excellence Drive
Henderson, NV 89074

Event will happen immediately following the Mass of Christian Burial

Guestbook

1 tree planted in memory of Joyce L. Woodhouse

Share a memory or condolence

Add a Photo Light a Candle

We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Las Vegas Review Journal

A Memorial Tree was planted for Joyce L. Woodhouse

May 23, 2026



Join in honoring their life — plant a memorial tree

Joyce is also survived by her sister-in-law Patty Hanchett of Eugene, Oregon and her stepdaughter Kelly Wittenberg of Kalamazoo, Michigan. Rest in peace dear Joyce.

Patty Hanchett

May 24, 2026

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CCSD Statement on Passing of Senator Joyce Woodhouse

May 11 2026



Statement from CCSD Superintendent Jhone Ebert

The Clark County School District (CCSD) mourns the loss of a true champion for Nevada's children, Senator Joyce Woodhouse. Throughout her distinguished career as a teacher, administrator, and legislator, Senator Woodhouse's influence on education was unparalleled.

Senator Woodhouse spent decades serving students in CCSD. From her early days as a first-grade teacher and principal to her leadership as the Director of CCSD's Partnership Office, her focus was always on improving systems to better serve children. As a State Senator, she was a primary architect of Nevada's first school funding formula update in 54 years, a landmark achievement that modernized our system to better meet the diverse needs of today's students.

On a personal note, she was a cherished friend and a generous mentor to me and countless others. It was a privilege for the Board of School Trustees and me to induct her into the 2026 CCSD Excellence in Education Hall of Fame. Senator Woodhouse made an impact that is woven into the very fabric of Southern Nevada's schools. She will be deeply missed.

Joyce Woodhouse, Former Nevada Senator and Education Champion, Dies at 82

Woodhouse was a member of NCSL's International Education Study Group.

By Mark Wolf | May 13, 2026

State Legislatures News | People | Obits

Joyce Woodhouse came to Nevada for a teaching job in 1966 and stayed to draw upon her experience as a teacher and administrator to pursue a career as a tireless champion of education in the Nevada Senate.

She has died at 82.

"She was an education visionary with boundless energy," says Michelle Exstrom, director of NCSL's Education Program. "She was an instrumental member of NCSL's International Education Study Group, using the framework to guide Nevada's education work for the past decade. She will be missed."



Woodhouse

Exstrom says Woodhouse worked with Nevada Sen. Marilyn Dondero Loop, another study group member, to create the state's Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education. Woodhouse served on the commission as a gubernatorial appointee due to her experience as a former legislator with expertise in best practices in education and education finance.

Woodhouse was born in 1944 in Wibaux, Mont., earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Carroll College in Helena, Mont., and master's degrees in curriculum and instruction and educational administration from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, according to her Senate biography.

Following a 40-year career in education, Woodhouse was elected to the Senate in 2006, lost in 2010, then was reelected in 2012. She was term-limited in 2020. During her Senate tenure, she served as chair of the Finance Committee and as chief majority whip.

"Joyce was amazing when it came to policy," says Dondero Loop, the Senate's president pro tem and, like Woodhouse, a career educator. "She was this consistent presence always through tough times. She knew how to bring the policy forward, that every "' was dotted and every 't' was crossed."

She adds, "When she was termed out, she came back to us in a policy spot and actually was with us as a policy specialist and a sort of chief of staff to the majority leader. She was a true gift to the state, and she was a promise to every child that she would make things better."

Her teaching and administrative background manifested itself in how she painstakingly explained to young lawmakers the details of getting legislation passed.

"She always was teaching from the get-go," Dondero Loop says. "She was also the mother of changing the funding formula here in Nevada, which we had for 50 years before we changed it in 2019. I just keep thinking, 'Oh my gosh, where is that institutional knowledge going to come from?'"

Two weeks before Woodhouse died, Dondero Loop visited her.

"I said, 'Joyce, I need to ask you a couple of questions.' And boy, she brought up all that policy, had the bill dates, the times they were passed. Her years as an educator came full circle in the Senate because she taught us all how to make sure that we understood bills and that we didn't put unintended consequences in them."

Woodhouse was inducted this year into both the Nevada Senate Hall of Fame and the Clark County School District Hall of Fame.

Her induction resolution to the Senate Hall of Fame notes, "Senator Woodhouse continually advocated for Nevada's children, families and schools, focusing on improving healthcare, expanding job opportunities and increasing classroom funding, and targeting that support to the areas that need it most during her distinguished senatorial career."

Read full obituaries of Joyce Woodhouse in the Las Vegas Review Journal and the Nevada Independent.

Mark Wolf is a senior editor in NCSL's Communications Division.

College of Education

Mourning the Loss of Nevada Education Advocate Joyce Woodhouse



MAY. 11, 2026

We join Nevada's education community in mourning the loss of former State Senator Joyce Woodhouse. An educator, advocate, and proud UNLV alumna, Senator Woodhouse devoted her life to expanding opportunities for students and strengthening public education. Her leadership and service left an enduring impact on countless students, educators, and families.

A double Rebel with two master's degrees in education from UNLV, Senator Woodhouse was inducted into the inaugural class of the UNLV College of Education Hall of Fame in 2024, recognizing her extraordinary contributions to education. As a legislator, she played a pivotal role in advancing educator preparation and championing initiatives that strengthened both UNLV and Nevada education as a whole.

Above all, Senator Woodhouse was an inspiration to so many in our community. Her passion, leadership, and unwavering commitment to students and educators will leave a lasting legacy.

We extend our condolences to her family and friends as we mourn her passing.