



Joan May

San Miguel County Commissioner, Colorado
Elected 2006 (term ended 2019)



WHAT IS YOUR MOST SIGNIFICANT OR IMPORTANT ACCOMPLISHMENT AS AN ELECTED LEADER?

As a member of the Federal Advisory Committee for National Forest Planning, I helped shape the future of public lands planning, emphasizing long-term viability of our natural resources.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE?

Working with colleagues across the state to look beyond party lines and with local constituents to compromise in order to find solutions to shared problems has been challenging but also extremely rewarding when it works.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE SOMEONE CONSIDERING RUNNING FOR OFFICE FOR THE FIRST TIME?

First, ask yourself why you would run for office and be sure why you are doing it. Next, you will need a lot of moral support, so ask for help, and listen carefully, even to those with whom you expect to disagree. Finally, you will have to grow a thick skin and learn how to differentiate what to take personally and what not to take personally.

IS THERE A CONSERVATION-RELATED POLICY, RULE OR IDEA YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IMPLEMENTED AT THE LOCAL, STATE OR NATIONAL LEVEL?

A carbon tax (at any level: local, state or federal) is probably the idea that would have the most immediate and effective impact on reducing our collective carbon footprint, which is the most important issue of our time.