

Suzan DelBene

Suzan DelBene is a former Microsoft vice president, high-tech entrepreneur, biotech researcher and microfinance consultant. Governor Christine Gregoire named her director of the Department of Revenue on Nov. 30, 2010. Gregoire cited her experiences working with large and small businesses as an asset to the agency as it works to help businesses by simplifying the state tax code.

DelBene graduated from Reed College in Portland with a bachelor's degree in biology. Her early career focused on immunology research, and she landed a job at Zymo Genetics, then a Seattle biotech startup. During her work at Zymo Genetics, She grew interested in the business side of biotech and earned a master's in business administration at the University of Washington. She interned at Microsoft while in school and joined the company after graduation, working on marketing for Windows 95, among other projects.

In 1998, she helped launch drugstore.com as vice president of marketing and store development, then in 2000 became CEO of Nimble Technologies, a software firm that worked in data integration. She returned to Microsoft in 2004 as a corporate vice president for the mobile division, then worked in 2008 as a consultant with Global Partnerships, a microfinance nonprofit.

DelBene most recently sought election as representative from Washington's Eighth Congressional District. Although she was unsuccessful in unseating the incumbent in her first political race, she earned the endorsement of the Seattle Times, which wrote that she had "tremendous promise" and possessed "sharp business and entrepreneurial skills."

Suzan's husband, Kurt DelBene, is a president at Microsoft, and she has two children, Zack and Becca.