

The Honorable Martha Elizabeth Keys
U.S. Representative of Kansas (1975–1979)

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Early Political Experience

Representative Keys describes the value of her experience as a volunteer for George McGovern's presidential campaign.

Interview recorded June 14, 2016

I went back and became active and we managed to get quite a lot of delegates for McGovern out of Kansas, which was amazing because Kansas was not a state that was going to ever vote for McGovern. But it was quite rewarding. I, I ran the state for, for him on purely a, purely a, you know, voluntary position. I mean, nobody—there was no pay for anything. But we had a good team and we worked to grow a lot of volunteers and some donors and we sent a lot of people in to some big things he had in Kansas City, Missouri, et cetera. So it was very rewarding—extremely rewarding. And, of course, I, that got me much more acquainted with people in the Democratic Party all across the state because I was very careful to make all activities known to all of the regular Democratic chairmen, even though they weren't at all for McGovern. But I certainly helped bridge and make some relationships with a lot of people in the Democratic Party around the state that I had not been involved with at all before.