

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

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Kansas District

Representative Keys describes her congressional district in the 1970s.
Interview recorded June 14, 2016

Again, if I had been in the district that had Lawrence, that would have helped a lot. Unfortunately, my 15 counties did not have Lawrence. But Bill Roy, before me, when he won it, it was the first time that district had had a Democrat I think in something like 100 years. So, you know, it was a district that had been won by a very good Democrat and then, of course, he chose to run for the Senate. So I had—maybe, maybe that gave me a little better chance, but—and the thing of it is it was post-Nixon. That was why a lot of us from those marginal districts got in. And quite a lot of us went out about four years later. The Paul Weyrich Committee for Survival of a Free Congress did the same routine on about four or five of us in marginal districts, et cetera. The same lousy campaign of negatives marketed—and these were all districts, of course, that weren't in urban areas. They didn't have a single press.