

# Kentuckians and Civic Action



Kentucky Gov. John Y. Brown, Library of Congress

## ***Kentucky Equal Rights Association***

Founded in Lexington in 1888 by Laura Clay and Henrietta Chenault, the Kentucky Equal Rights Association had a strong impact on the fight for women's rights.

In addition to working for suffrage, property rights for married women, and equality in higher education, the group also lobbied for rights for children, juvenile courts, child labor laws, and a higher legal age of consent for marriage.

Among their victories was the 1894 Married Women's Property Act, which was signed into law by Kentucky Gov. John Y. Brown. The organization was also instrumental in raising support for the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which gave women the right to vote.

In 1920, with suffrage the law of the land, the group became the Kentucky League of Women Voters, which continued to work for equality for women and rights for children.