

Kentuckians and Civic Action



Kentucky State Capitol, Kentucky Historical Society

Georgia Davis Powers

In 1968, Georgia Davis Powers became the first person of color and the first African American woman to be elected to the Kentucky Senate. She would serve in that body for 21 years, advocating for people of color, women, children, the impoverished, and the disabled.

Having attended school in a segregated **Louisville**, Powers dedicated her life to equal rights. Within the first few months of her term, she introduced and secured the first open housing bill in any southern state. She is revered as one of the most influential civil rights leaders in Kentucky because of her work as senator.

After retirement, Powers remained dedicated to equal rights. In 1994, she incorporated QUEST (Quality Education for all Students), an organization dedicated to preventing the reestablishment of segregated schools in Jefferson County.

Powers died in January of 2016.