

# Kentuckians and Civic Action



Martha Layne Collins, Kentucky Historical Society

## ***Martha Layne Collins***

Women around the country ran for office long before the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1920. In Kentucky, however, it wasn't until 1983 that the state elected its first and only female governor, Martha Layne Collins.

As governor, Collins focused on economic development and increased funding for education. Through her leadership, Kentucky experienced record job growth due to the establishment of a Toyota manufacturing plant in Georgetown. Collins's term also included increases to educational spending, decreases in class sizes, and measures to lessen the funding gap between poorer schools and more affluent ones.

After leaving office in 1987, Collins left the political spotlight but continued serving Kentuckians through her work as co-chair of the Kentucky Task Force on the Economic Status of Women and as chairwoman and chief executive officer of Kentucky World Trade Center.