

**Karen Hayes**  
**October 16, 1935 —**  
**Elected 1982, 1986, 1990**

During Karen Hayes' three terms on the Clark County Commission, she earned a reputation as a fiscal conservative and advocate for careful growth.

Hayes was born in Cedar City, Utah. She graduated from Las Vegas High School at the age of sixteen in 1952. She then earned a business degree from Brigham Young University in 1959. She was active in Girl Scouts, the Paradise Valley Democratic Club, and the Service League.

In 1972, her husband Keith Hayes was elected to the Nevada Assembly. He served just one term in the lower house before being appointed to the District Court by Governor O'Callaghan. Karen Hayes then campaigned for and won her husband's old Assembly seat on a platform of opposition to city-county consolidation and defeating the Equal Rights Amendment. She served in the Assembly from 1975 until 1981 and spent one term as Speaker Pro Tempore.

Hayes sought a seat on the Clark County Commission in 1982. Voters elected her to the commission in 1982, 1986, and 1990. She worked to reduce crime in the county, for more oversight of the county budget, and for flood control. In 1994, Hayes lost her reelection bid to Lorraine Hunt.

In 1999, the Clark County School District honored Karen and Keith Hayes' service to southern Nevada with an elementary school named in their honor. Karen Hayes remarried after Keith's death. She continues to reside in Las Vegas with her second husband.

