

BIOGRAPHY FOR KAREN BRINSON BELL, MPA, CERA, PMP

Karen Brinson Bell, MPA, CERA, PMP, is the co-founder and principal of Advance Elections, LLC supporting election officials through work with MIT Election Data & Science Lab, where she serves as the Election Policy Fellow, and other organizations like the Election Security Exchange and Election Center's Coalition of Election Association Leaders. Since 2006, she has served in various roles at the county, state, and national levels within the elections profession.

From June 2019 to May 2025, Bell served as North Carolina's chief elections official and executive director of the State Board of Elections, overseeing voting processes for over 7.5 million registered voters. During her tenure, she supervised 20 elections, including the 2024 Presidential election, which took place during Hurricane Helene.

Under Brinson Bell's direction, North Carolina gained national and state recognition earning four U.S. Elections Assistance Commission Clearinghouse awards, two national Election Center awards, and the first Partnership Award from the North Carolina Local Government Information Systems Association (NCLGISA).

Prior to serving as state elections director, she helped establish the Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center and spent nearly 4 years assisting election administrators nationally by providing expert testimony and educational tools for conducting ranked choice voting elections. During this period, she also served as a polling place chief judge in Buncombe County, N.C., and helped Easy Vote Solutions expand nationally. From March 2011 to March 2015, she was the director for the Transylvania County (N.C.) Board of Elections. Brinson Bell began her elections career in 2006 as a district elections technician for the State Board of Elections, supporting 12 county boards in western N.C. in almost all facets of elections.

She currently serves on the Bipartisan Policy Center's Task Force on Elections Advisory Board, the Conference on Election Science, Reform, & Administration Steering Committee and Advisory Board, and the Election Technology Education Fund, as president.