

## **BIO FOR KAREN BRINSON BELL, CERA, PMP**

### **SHORT FORMAT**

Karen Brinson Bell, CERA, PMP, is the co-founder and principal of Advance Elections, LLC, a partnership with former Virginia chief election official, Chris Piper, to continue supporting election officials across the country. She served as the executive director of the North Carolina State Board of Elections from June 2019 to May 2025, overseeing the state's voting process for more than 7.5 million registered voters. She led the 100 county boards of elections through hurricanes, a global pandemic, changes in election law, and record-setting turnout. Since 2006, she has served in various roles at the county, state, and national levels within the elections profession.

### **LONG FORMAT**

Karen Brinson Bell, CERA, PMP, is the co-founder and principal of Advance Elections, LLC, a partnership with former Virginia chief election official, Chris Piper, to continue supporting election officials across the country. 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, and the 2020 Presidential election, conducted amid the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting in record-setting turnout and ballots cast for the state.

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).

Brinson Bell has spent most of her career in elections administration. 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.

Throughout her career, Brinson Bell has participated in various boards and councils. 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 Institute for Election Administration Research and Practice Symposium Panel.