

## Biography

### Erik Randolph

As Director of Research for the Georgia Center for Opportunity, Erik coordinates research projects that support the public policy goals of GCO. In addition, he has authored numerous studies, including on the topics of safety net programs, health insurance, and civil asset forfeiture. He has written blogs relating mostly to the welfare system, labor force issues, and minimum wage issues. He also manages GCO's safety net and marriage penalty computational models.

Over the years, Erik has created unique economic models to analyze governmental programs and has proposed legislative and administrative solutions for more effective governance that are fiscally sound and respect American values of family and political freedom.

Erik has 35 years of professional experience in the field of public policy research and analysis, including fiscal/budgetary analysis. He began his career as a program evaluator in 1986 at the Government Accountability Office, receiving a "Special Commendation Award" for coauthoring a major staff study under the direction of the agency's chief science advisor, Osmund T. Fundingsland.

Afterward, Erik became a senior fellow with the University-Industry Programs division at the New York State Science and Technology Foundation. In 1989, Erik moved back to his native Pennsylvania as an economic development analyst for the Office of Technology Development at Pennsylvania's Department of Commerce, working with the nationally recognized Ben Franklin Partnership program to spawn economic development by sponsoring industry-university research projects. He also helped to solidify the creation of the Industrial Resource Center program intended to revitalize small to medium-sized manufacturers.

In 1991, Erik became a senior analyst with the Committee on Appropriations, Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He developed expertise in the legislative process, the drafting of legislation, fiscal analysis, forecasting costs of proposed legislation, budgeting, revenue forecasting, debt analysis, and capital budgeting. Erik wrote bill analyses, hundreds of fiscal notes, budget briefings, and white papers. He organized forums and hearings on areas of public policy, participated on task forces, worked on bipartisan issues, and negotiated legislation. He also completed special projects on behalf of the Chairman.

From 2011 to 2013, Erik was a special assistant to the Pennsylvania Secretary of Public Welfare. He led teams of executive staff on numerous projects, including preparing Congressional testimony and recommending changes in federal law. He developed an early version of the welfare cliff model, demonstrating the economic impact of the welfare system on specific household types, and led a team of staff that developed a prototype solution. He led another team that developed options to link child support to subsidized childcare services, addressing a conflict between Court Rules of Civil Procedure on child support and departmental regulations.

From 2013 to 2020, Erik provided consulting services to various organizations on public policy issues, including the Georgia Center for Opportunity, the Illinois Policy Institute, the Mississippi Bigger Pie Forum, and the Secretaries Innovation Group, among others.

Erik received a Master of Science degree in Science and Technology Studies from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1988. He has two bachelor's degrees from the Pennsylvania State University.

From 1996 to 2013 and 2015 to 2020, Erik taught Principles of Economics on a part-time basis for the Harrisburg Area Community College and York College of Pennsylvania, respectively.