

Karen Hobert Flynn, President and CEO of Common Cause, a nationally respected leader in the democracy reform community with more than 30 years of experience at Common Cause, is the organization's ninth president. In 2020, Karen was recognized as one of the Top 50 Grassroots Lobbyists in Congress by *The Hill* newspaper for the fourth consecutive year. Karen is a go-to resource for reform-minded Congressional leaders and public officials implementing reforms around the country.

As Senior Vice President for Program and Strategy, Karen led the program and state development of Common Cause from 2012 to 2016. During that time, she oversaw the strategy and planning for the organization and raised significant resource to support Common Cause's national and state efforts to expand election administration reforms, efforts to curb the outsized influence of big money in politics, and ethics and accountability reforms. She launched Common Cause's campaign to stop the dangerous movement in the states for a constitutional amendment that would put in jeopardy every constitutional right or protection currently available to Americans. She sparked a dramatic expansion of Common Cause's digital presence, bringing in a million new members and supporters. From 2013 to 2014, Karen served as Interim President of Common Cause after the sudden passing of Bob Edgar, guiding the organization through an unexpected transition.

As Vice President of States from 2007 to 2012, Karen expanded Common Cause's state presence to include Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois, Oregon, Ohio, Florida, Hawaii, and Vermont.

Under her leadership of Common Cause in Connecticut, Karen secured one of the strongest state campaign finance laws in the country, including a comprehensive public financing grants program for statewide and legislative offices, banning state contractor political giving and strict limits on lobbyist donations. She helped pass numerous ethics law, including a sweeping gift and meal limit law, a promotional advertising ban during election years, and strong disclosure and coordination measures.

Karen writes and speaks frequently on democracy issues, including money in politics, voting rights, and ethics and conflict of interest reforms for elected officials. Karen has been quoted in papers across the country, including the New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, USA Today, and The Atlantic, and her writings have been published in the US News and World Report, Newsweek, the Daily Beast, USA Today, the Hill and many other publications.

Karen serves on the board of Democracy21 and is co-chair of the Democracy Initiative.

