

Faces of Democracy

A campaign of election officials and workers to defend U.S. elections
sponsored by Issue One



Natalie Adona

Natalie Adona is the Assistant Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters for Nevada County, California. She is a Deputy Member of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO) and the County Records Association of California. She currently serves as the Chair of the CACEO Constitution and Bylaws Committee and the Co-Chair of the California Ballot Design Advisory Committee. She is also an Advisory Board Member of the Election Official Legal Defense Network, a Member of the Bipartisan Policy Center's Elections Task Force, and a Member of the Editorial Board for the Journal of Election Administration Research and Practice.

Prior to joining the Nevada County Clerk-Recorder's office, she was the Senior Research and Learning Associate for the Elections Program at Democracy Fund. Adona began her career as a poll worker trainer in the San Francisco Bay Area. She has also worked for MapLight.org, Project Vote, and the Fair Elections Center.



Karen Brinson Bell

Karen Brinson Bell became Executive Director of the North Carolina State Board of Elections on June 1, 2019. As the state's chief elections official, she leads about 95 full-time employees at the state agency, which is charged with administering elections, overseeing the 100 county boards of elections, and monitoring campaign finance compliance.

In her time as Executive Director, Brinson Bell has overseen more than 10 elections. She has spent most of her career in elections administration. From March 2011 to March 2015, she served as director for the Transylvania County (North Carolina) Board of Elections. Prior to that, she worked for five years as a district elections technician for the State Board of Elections, where she supported 12 county boards in western North Carolina in almost all facets of elections. Before her appointment as Executive Director, Brinson Bell was Deputy Director of the Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center. In that role, she assisted election administrators on a national level, providing expert testimony and educational tools for conducting elections.



Barb Byrum

Barb Byrum is currently serving in her third term as Ingham County Clerk, acting as the county's chief elections official. As Clerk of one of the most populous counties in the state of Michigan, Byrum has successfully conducted 30 elections. Since 2016, she has been credentialed as a Certified Elections/Registration Administrator by Election Center. In 2017, she served on Election Center's Security Task Force. Byrum lent her expertise to Michigan's Election Security Commission, the secretary of state's team of advisors tasked with strengthening and better securing elections in the state.

Byrum is a member of the Overseas Voting Initiative, a collaboration between the Council of State Governments and the U.S. Department of Defense to improve the process of voting by members of the military and civilians living abroad. Byrum previously served three terms as a Michigan State Representative in House District 67. During her time in the Legislature, Byrum served as the ranking Democrat on the House Committee on Redistricting and Elections.



Leigh Chapman

Leigh M. Chapman was appointed Acting Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on January 8, 2022. In this role, Chapman leads the Pennsylvania Department of State. Previously, Chapman served as Executive Director of Deliver My Vote. She also held senior leadership positions at the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and other non-partisan, non-profit election reform and advocacy organizations. From 2015 to 2017, Chapman served as Policy Director at the Pennsylvania Department of State, advancing key agenda items including the implementation of electronic voter registration.



Virginia Chau

Virginia Chau is a corporate attorney by trade, AmeriCorps VISTA Alumni, 2022 Outstanding Woman in Business Award nominee presented by Good Business Colorado, and currently runs a tech startup. In Denver, Colorado, she supervises her local Voter Service and Polling Center, which is one of the highest in-person voting and ballot drop-off sites in Denver County. Since transplanting from the East Coast, she has served for just about every election, including the most recent presidential election. She is unaffiliated with a political party, but cares deeply about voting rights and access for every eligible voter. As a first generation American, her immigrant and refugee parents fled the cultural revolution in China without these rights.



Jim Condos

Vermont Secretary of State Jim Condos has served in his position for the past 10 years. He has an outstanding record of achievement from more than 30 years of elected public service. Prior to becoming Secretary of State, he served on the South Burlington City Council for 18 years and as a Vermont State Senator from Chittenden County for 8 years.

Secretary Condos was raised in the Burlington area, and worked his entire private and public career in Vermont. His business background includes working for a Fortune 100 company, a \$30 million family-owned Vermont business, and a regulated utility company.



Nedra Cooper

Nedra Denise Cooper is a trainer for poll workers for the Clark County Elections Department, running a vote center over the past sixteen years.

She has worked in the community as an activist since her youth, and is a member in many civil organizations, including as a founding member of the MLK Community founded in 1981 focused on education. Cooper was instrumental in securing a building for after-school tutoring run by members. She is also a life member of the Las Vegas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, acting as the State Social Action coordinator and the chapter Social Action Chair. In 2020, just before the pandemic, she organized and coordinated a reenactment of the Selma March for voting rights. She received a letter from President Clinton as a nominee for the President's Volunteer Service Award, and has volunteered for the Red Cross and received Congressional Recognition as a member of the Disaster Action Team.



Nick Custodio

Nick Custodio has served as Deputy City Commissioner for Philadelphia City Commissioner Lisa Deeley since 2018. In that role, he has led the most aggressive election modernization efforts in the history of the city of Philadelphia. This includes: upgrades to the city's legacy DRE voting system to a modern system with a voter verifiable paper ballot, preparing and implementing a \$10 million grant to both conduct the 2020 General Election in a safe manner and build a mail-house to prepare and receive new no excuse mail-in ballots. Custodio oversaw the relocation of the city's ballot counting operations for the 2020 General Election to the Pennsylvania Convention Center to ensure safety during a COVID spike. Custodio also oversees budgeting and communications for the Department of the Philadelphia City Commissioners.



Cathy Darling Allen

Cathy Darling Allen has been the elected County Clerk and Registrar of Voters in Shasta County, California since 2004. A DC native, elections and politics have been a constant in her life. She has a deep appreciation for the importance of election administration, and works daily to serve her community by facilitating access to the ballot. She lives in Redding with her husband and granddaughter.



Lisa Deeley

Lisa Deeley is the chairwoman of the Philadelphia City Commissioners. She was first elected in 2015 and has made it a priority to make voting and elections easily accessible to the citizens of Philadelphia. She led the department through the administration of the 2020 presidential election, unwavering in her responsibilities while under the critical scrutiny of the entire world during a devastating pandemic. She successfully instituted mail-in voting for Philadelphia, and has continued to champion for its continuation so that she may bring elections to our entire voting population.



Bill Gates

Bill Gates was reelected to another four-year term on the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors in 2020 in Maricopa County, Arizona. He was first elected to the Board of Supervisors in 2016. Gates currently serves as the Chairman of the Board, a position he held in 2019 when, among other things, he negotiated a reorganization of the Maricopa County Elections Department with then-Maricopa County Recorder Adrian Fontes. Prior to joining the Board of Supervisors, Gates served on the Phoenix City Council from 2009-2016, including a stint as Vice Mayor in 2013. Gates has been a lifelong Republican. He led the Arizona Republican Party's election integrity efforts in 2006 and 2008, organizing a cadre of poll watchers and attorneys to ensure that every eligible vote was counted. He testified on October 7, 2021, before the U.S. House Oversight and Reform Committee about election integrity in regards to the results of Maricopa County's 2020 General Election, and expressed concerns with the "audit" of Maricopa County ballots and equipment by Arizona Senate contractors.



Ken Hamm

Ken Hamm is a poll worker in Las Vegas, Nevada. He trains other poll workers and has worked at the polls in several positions for years. He believes deeply that elections are a core part of American culture, and works in a nonpartisan, nonpolitical manner to ensure that every voter has the chance to cast their ballot.



Neal Kelley

Neal Kelley was the Registrar of Voters for Orange County, California, the fifth largest voting jurisdiction in the United States, serving more than 1.9 million registered voters. Kelley served as the Registrar of Voters from 2005 through 2022 and led the office through the largest cycle of elections since Orange County was founded in 1889. In his role as the county's chief election official, he led an organization responsible for conducting elections, verifying petitions, and maintaining voter records.

Prior to joining Orange County, Kelley developed and grew several companies of his own, employing hundreds of people from 1989 to 2004. He was also an adjunct professor with Riverside Community College's Business Administration Department, and served as a police officer in Southern California during the mid 1980's.



Carly Koppes

Carly Koppes is the County Clerk and Recorder in Weld County, Colorado. She has been working in the Clerk and Recorder's office for eighteen years. She has mostly worked in the Election Department, but has also worked in the Recording and Motor Vehicle Departments. She received her Colorado Election Official Certification from the Colorado Secretary of State in October 2007 and finished her national designation of Certified Elections/Registration Administrators (CERA) through the Elections Center's Professional Education Program at Auburn University in July of 2014. Koppes is a 2016 graduate of the Leadership Program of the Rockies and in 2019 she received her Public Leadership certification from Pepperdine University through the International Association of Government Officials.

Koppes is the youngest person to be elected to the position of Weld County Clerk and Recorder. Carly is also currently serving as the Past President for the Colorado County Clerks Association.



Brianna Lennon

Brianna Lennon is the County Clerk for Boone County, Missouri. She was elected to the position in 2018. Prior to her election as Boone County Clerk, Lennon served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Consumer Protection Division of the Missouri Attorney General's Office before joining the Missouri Secretary of State's Office under former Secretary Jason Kander. As the Deputy Director of Elections and first coordinator of the Election Integrity Unit in the Secretary of State's Office, she worked closely with local election authorities across the state to ensure that elections were simple, secure, and accessible for voters.



Amber McReynolds

Amber McReynolds is one of the country's leading experts on election administration and policy. In 2021, McReynolds was appointed by the President and confirmed by the United States Senate to serve as a Governor for the United States Postal Service. She is the former Director of Elections for the City and County of Denver, Colorado, and the former CEO for the National Vote At Home Institute and Coalition. McReynolds also served on the Colorado Independent Legislative Redistricting Commission in 2021.

McReynolds was recognized as a 2018 Top Public Official of the Year by Governing Magazine for her transformational work to improve the voting experience in Denver and across Colorado; she was recognized as one of the Top 25 Most Powerful Women in Business in Colorado in 2020; and was named as a 2021 Titan CEO. McReynolds serves on the National Task Force on Election Crises, National Council on Election Integrity, City Year Denver Board of Directors, Represent Women Board of Directors, Election Reformers Network Board of Directors, and the Women's Foundation of Colorado Empowerment Council.



Spenser Mestel

Spenser Mestel is an independent journalist and poll worker based in Brooklyn, New York. He first started working the polls for the 2012 election, and since then he's worked two more presidential elections, two primaries, and a municipal election when both early voting and e-poll books were introduced for the first time. His work has appeared in the New York Times, The Guardian, The Intercept, The Atlantic, VICE, and Bolts.



Roxanna Moritz

Roxanna Moritz has been a public servant for more than twenty years. She most recently served as Auditor and Commissioner of Elections for Scott County, Iowa. Moritz worked closely with voters, other government agencies, outside organizations, and a variety of other strategic thinkers and stakeholders. She was selected by her peers to serve as president of the Iowa State Association of County Auditors in 2020. During her tenure, she worked to ensure a safe and secure election despite extraordinary circumstances, and provided leadership, support, and guidance to colleagues across the state facing similar challenges.



Justin Roebuck

Justin Roebuck serves as the chief election officer for Ottawa County, Michigan overseeing the elections process in 23 local cities and townships and for the county's 220,000 voters. Roebuck's passion is to build trust, with honesty and transparency, in the elections process. He was honored by his colleagues as Michigan's "County Clerk of the Year" in 2021.

Roebuck currently serves as Vice Chair of the Standards Board of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, as the Chair of the Michigan Council of Election Officials, and Co-Chair of the Legislative Committee of the Michigan Association of County Clerks. He was appointed by the Michigan Supreme Court to the Michigan Judicial Council, formed in 2021 to create a statewide strategic plan for the judicial branch. He has been appointed by Governors Snyder and Whitmer to the Michigan Electronic Recording Commission, governing the standards for real property documents recorded in Michigan, where he is currently serving as Chair.



Omar Sabir

Omar Sabir was sworn in as City Commissioner of the County of Philadelphia on January 6, 2020. His primary goal as Commissioner is to empower and enable all Philadelphians to participate in the voting process by addressing voter apathy and educating communities about the importance of civic engagement. Prior to his election, Sabir served as a senior staffer in the Office of Pennsylvania State Senator Vincent Hughes and held senior roles at the Nathaniel Sabir Memorial Scholarship Fund, Citizens for State Representative Louise Williams Bishop, and the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania.

Sabir is committed to increased voter turnout across Philadelphia, particularly in historically disadvantaged communities. He has been honored by former Congressman Robert Brady for his work as the Founder of Vote Philly Vote, an initiative that aims to increase voter turnout across the city of Philadelphia until more than 90% of all registered voters participate in all city elections. Recently, Sabir was commended by President Joseph R. Biden for his exceptional work in supporting voter participation in Philadelphia elections.



Al Schmidt

Al Schmidt served as City Commissioner of Philadelphia for ten years. As City Commissioner, Schmidt — a Republican — was one of three members on the bipartisan Board of Elections where he served as Vice Chairman. Since first being elected in November 2011, he worked to modernize election operations, improve efficiency, and bring greater integrity to the election process. Schmidt is an advocate of open data initiatives and releasing previously unavailable election data to the public. He has also produced a number of election-related reports, including investigations that have exposed vulnerabilities in the election process and voting irregularities. He has been an outspoken critic of threats against election workers — testifying in front of Congress and speaking out in the media on the threats he received during and after the 2020 election. Originally from Pittsburgh, Schmidt is a former senior analyst at the non-partisan U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) and served as a policy analyst for the Presidential Commission on Holocaust Assets in the United States.



Shane Schoeller

Shane Schoeller is the County Clerk for Greene County, Missouri. He was first elected in 2014. Now in his second term, it is his privilege to continue working alongside a tremendous team of public servants who work diligently to ensure all Greene County citizens are well served in the various duties of the office. In his role as the chief election official for Greene County, Schoeller was appointed by Senator Roy Blunt in early 2015 to serve as a member of the Advisory Board of the federal Election Assistance Commission.

Before serving as Greene County's chief election official, Schoeller served in the Missouri House of Representatives from a district covering parts of northern Greene County, including the city of Springfield. He was unanimously chosen by his peers as the House's second-ranking official in 2011 and eventually served as Speaker. Schoeller was the Republican nominee for Missouri Secretary of State in 2012, winning a competitive three-way primary with strong support from grassroots conservatives across Missouri.



George Stern

As County Clerk and Recorder in Jefferson County, Colorado, George Stern was elected to oversee one of the most public-facing offices in Colorado government, affecting almost every person in the large and diverse county. The Clerk's office conducts elections, runs the county's DMV, and carries out many other important administrative tasks, including issuing marriage licenses and recording public documents. Stern came to the Clerk's office after gaining extensive professional experience in both the public and private sectors. He was a public high school teacher and baseball coach before studying voting rights and policy implementation in law school. He served in the Obama White House, focusing on health care, veterans issues, and government ethics, and in Governor John Hickenlooper's office, focusing on everything from marijuana regulation to marriage equality and government accountability. Stern also worked as a business consultant with McKinsey, helping Fortune 500 companies and various governments improve their strategies and operations.



Wesley Wilcox

Wesley Wilcox, a nationally Certified Elections/Registration Administrator (CERA), is the Supervisor of Elections for Marion County, Florida. He was first elected on November 6, 2012. He was originally hired in 2001 as the Systems Administrator and promoted to Assistant Supervisor, a position he held for seven years, before being elected. He possesses over 30 years of experience in the elections industry, and is a Master Florida Certified Elections Professional. Wilcox is a member of the Florida Supervisors of Elections association representing Florida's 67 Election Supervisors and is Past President of the association as of May 2022. He was notably the first recipient of the President's Award in 2016 for outstanding service to the association.

Wilcox currently serves as the Chairman of the Elections Infrastructure Center for Information Sharing and Analysis Center. He was recently selected to serve on the Local Leadership Council of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, as well as the Advisory Board of the Election Official Legal Defense Network.

About Faces of Democracy

Election officials and poll workers know how our elections work better than anyone — why they are fair and secure, and what thousands of election workers and officials across the country did to administer a smooth election in 2020 amid the pandemic. They also know firsthand the threats and harassment that election officials and poll workers have faced — and are still facing — because of the baseless disinformation that “the election was stolen.” According to Reuters, today one in three U.S. election officials feels unsafe.

No one can tell the story of election workers — the defenders of our democracy — better than they can. That is why Issue One is launching **Faces of Democracy**, a campaign to elevate the voices of election workers in the policy debate about U.S. elections.

As the leading crosspartisan group in Washington, D.C., Issue One doesn’t take sides in elections. We are Republicans, Democrats, and independents committed to strengthening U.S. democracy and ensuring the safety of our U.S. election workers.

Faces of Democracy will capture and leverage the personal stories and experiences of election officials and workers in order to educate the public and members of Congress and to urge swift passage of legislation that protects election workers, their families, and America’s democracy before the 2022 elections.