

Donald Palmer is currently a Fellow with the Bipartisan Policy Center, advancing the recommendations of the Presidential Commission on Election Administration. He also serves as a senior advisor to the Election Assistance Commission (EAC). In 2011, he was appointed Secretary of the Virginia State Board of Elections by former Governor Bob McDonnell and served as the commonwealth's chief election official until 2014. He also served as the Florida Department of State's director of elections from 2008 to 2011. Palmer was a member of the National Association of Election Directors and he represented the organization on multiple advisory boards to the EAC, including the Standards Board Executive Board and the Technical Guidelines Development Committee. Prior to his work in election administration, he served as an attorney with the Voting Section in the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, where he enforced the federal voting and civil rights laws. Don is a military veteran, retiring from the U.S. Navy after serving two decades as an intelligence officer and judge advocate general. He was deployed on the USS John F Kennedy and served overseas in Naples, Italy. He earned his juris doctor at the Stetson University College of Law and his master's degree at the George Washington University. Don is married to Laura Palmer and they are the proud parents of three children, Joshua, Emily, and Benjamin.