

Donald Palmer currently serves as the Secretary of the Virginia Board of Elections. Appointed in 2011, he is chief election official of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the head of the state agency charged with implementation and uniformity of state and federal election law. Previous to his current position, he served as the Director of Elections with the Florida Department of State during the successful 2008 and 2010 election cycles. Since 2009, he has served on Election Assistance Commission (EAC) advisory boards, including the Standards Board Executive Board and the Technical Guidelines Development Committee (TGDC) representing the National Association of State Election Directors (NASSED) and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Prior to his tenure in Florida, he served as a trial attorney with the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division where he enforced the federal voting laws and provided guidance to states on compliance with the federal voting laws. In that position, he enforced the voting rights of Americans under the Voting Rights Act (VRA), the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA). He also monitored compliance of the states with the Uniform and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). Prior to his entry into the arena of voting law and election administration, he served in the U.S. Navy as an Intelligence Officer and as a Judge Advocate General deployed overseas onboard the USS John F. Kennedy and with tours of duty in Florida, Italy, and Washington D.C.