# **Restoring Confidence in American Elections**

#### **Paige Alexander**

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Paige Alexander joined The Carter Center as chief executive officer in June 2020, succeeding Ambassador (ret.) Mary Ann Peters.

Alexander has had a distinguished global development career, with over two decades of experience spanning the government and nonprofit sectors. She has held senior leadership positions at two regional bureaus of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), covering missions and development programs in 25 countries.

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Between 1993 and 2001, Alexander held several roles in USAID's Bureau for Europe and the Newly Independent States Task Force, including deputy assistant administrator, chief of staff, directhepepso1yrk ev1 (a)-11 (t)) (9auliG)1 (the)-2 7 govceor OmsnprieudiID),rC6(a)-1 a (r(tr1 (e)-1 (x) (6(a) 5.2))

### John Williams

John Williams is a fellow at the Baker Institute who oversees the institute's Presidential Elections Program. A national award-winning journalist and speechwriter, Williams has been a policy assistant to the Honorable James A. Baker, III, since July 2004. In that role, he has supported Secretary Baker's efforts to find solutions for a wide array of international and domestic challenges, including the Iraq Study Group, the Commission on Federal Election Reform, the National War Powers Commission and the BP U.S. Refineries Independent Safety Review Panel.

He also prepares speeches, op-eds and other written materials for Secretary Baker and is an employee of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Before working for Secretary Baker, Williams had a long career reporting on governmental and political issues, serving as a political columnist and reporter in his prior job with the Houston Chronicle, where his focus was on state and local issues. He received a 1987 Penney-Missouri Journalism Award for a series of articles about a Mississippi investment banking firm that took advantage of small investors and a 2012 Cicero Speechwriting Award for "The Life and Legacy of Ronald Wilson Reagan." A fourth generation Texan, Williams was born and raised in Austin, where he graduated from The University of Texas with bachelor's degrees in zoology and journalism.

### **David Becker**

David Becker is the Executive Director and Founder of the nonpartisan, non-profit Center for Election Innovation & Research, working with election officials of both parties, all around the country, to ensure accessible, secure elections for all eligible voters. A key element of David's work with CEIR is managing the Election Official Legal Defense Network, providing pro bono legal assistance to election officials who are threatened with frivolous criminal prosecution, harassment, or physical violence.

Prior to founding CEIR, David was Director of the elections program at The Pew Charitable Trusts. As the lead for Pew's analysis and advocacy on elections issues, David spearheaded development of the <u>Electronic Registration Information Center</u>, or ERIC, which to date has helped a bipartisan group of thirty states update over 25 million out-of-date voter records, and helped those states register tens of millions of new eligible voters.

Before joining Pew, David served for seven years as a senior trial attorney in the Voting Section of the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, overseeing voting rights enforcement in sever

rights litigation, including the case of *Georgia v. Ashcroft*, ultimately decided by the U.S. Supreme Court.

David serves as CBS' election law expert, and his many appearances in the media include *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, CNN, MSNBC, PBS NewsHour, and NPR, and is frequently published on election issues.

David received both his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of California, Berkeley, and was a two-time champion on *Jeopardy!* and a winner on *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*.



### David Carroll

David Carroll leads the Carter Center's initiative on developing standards and best practices in international election observation. He has managed or participated in more than 70 Carter Center projects to strengthen democracy and electoral processes around the globe in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

Carroll joined The Carter Center in 1991 to serve as the assistant director of the Latin America and Caribbean Program. Since 2003, he has directed the Center's Democracy Program, playing a key role in the Center's work

to build consensus on international standards for democratic elections, as rooted in states' obligations in international and regional human rights law.

He received his Ph.D. in international relations from the University of South Carolina, has published articles and book chapters on development and democratization, and has taught at the University of South Carolina, Georgia State University, and Sewanee - the University of the South.

## Session 1: Can a Presidential Election Be Stolen?



### Natalie Adona

Natalie Adona is the Assistant Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters for Nevada County. She is a Deputy Member of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO) and the County Recorders Association of California (CRAC). She currently serves as the Chair of the CACEO Constitution and Bylaws Committee and the Co-Chair of the state Ballot Design Advisory Committee. 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, a private philanthropy based in Washington, DC. Natalie's professional interests over the last 15 years center on elections and voting, including public opinion surveys on the topic. She is the co-author of "Understanding the Voter Experience" and the co-author/Principal Investigator of "Stewards of Democracy." Natalie began her career as a poll worker trainer in the San Francisco Bay Area in 2008 and 2009 and as a student researcher at the Election Administration Research Center at Cal. She has also worked for several elections and voting rights organizations, including MAPLight.org, Project Vote, and the Fair Elections Center.

Natalie holds a B.A. from the University of California at Berkeley, a J.D. from the American University Washington C02 Tw -2tor.

Prior to National Journal, Garrett was the Chief White House correspondent for Fox News. During his eight years at Fox, Garrett also covered two presidential elections, Congress, the war in Iraq and other major stories. Before joining Fox News, Garrett was a White House correspondent for CNN during the administrations of George W. Bush and Bill Clinton. Previously, he was a senior editor and congressional correspondent for U.S. News and World Report, where he reported on Congress and the impeachment of President Clinton. He was a congressional reporter for The Washington Times (1990-95) and the newspaper's deputy national editor (1995-97). Earlier in his career, Garrett was a reporter for The Houston Post, Las Vegas Review-Journal and the Amarillo Globe-News.

Garrett is the author of four books: "Common Cents," with former Rep. Tim Penny (D-Minnesota) Little, Brown Publisher, 1995; "The 15 Biggest Lies in Politics," St. Martin's 1999;

### Al Schmidt

Al Schmidt joined the Committee of Seventy as President & CEO in January 2022 after serving ten years as City Commissioner of Philadelphia. The Committee of Seventy is a nonprofit and Commission on Election Administration" (Presidential Commission on Election Administration, 2014); "The State of Campaign Finance in the United States" (Bipartisan Policy Center, 2018); and "Democratizing the Debates" (Annenberg Working Group on Presidential Campaign Debate Reform, 2015). He is a Contributing Editor of Lawfare and has published opinion pieces on constitutional and political law issues in *The New York Times, The Washington Post*, and *The* 

the 2016 and 2020 Presidential elections, amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to serving at the county, Julietta was the Executive Director of Elections for the City of Milwaukee, the largest municipality in the state. With over 30 years of government service experience at the state, county, and municipal levels, she is a recognized expert on elections and has been asked to advise and troubleshoot election issues throughout her career. Recently, she received the 2021 Milwaukee Business Journal Women of Influence Award in the category of Public Policy and was recognized by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors for her leadership, invaluable service, and election knowledge. She is also a member of the EOLDN (Election Official Legal Defense Network) Advisory Committee. Ms. Henry, who earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration from Cardinal Stritch University, is a native of Chicago, Illinois. She is actively involved in her community as a charter member of Cream City (WI) Chapter, The Links, Incorporated for over 32 years; a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated; and a committed member of Christ the King Baptist Church for over 25 years. Guided by the principle of compassion, she believes every person can make a difference in the world through service to others.

### Mark P. Jones

Mark P. Jones, Ph.D., is the fellow in political science at the Baker Institute, the Joseph D. Jamail Chair in Latin American Studies and a professor in the Department of Political Science at Rice University.

Jones also serves as the faculty director of Rice's Master of Global Affairs program. His research focuses on the effect of electoral laws and other political institutions on governance, representation and voting. He has received substantial financial

support for this research, including grants from the National Science Foundation. His research has been published in journals such as the American Journal of Political Science, Electoral Studies and the Journal of Politics, as well as in edited volumes published by Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press and Penn State University Press, among others. He is a frequent contributor to Texas media outlets, and his research on the Texas Legislature has been widely cited in the media as well as by numerous political campaigns.

Jones regularly advises U.S. government institutions on economic and political affairs in Argentina and has conducted research on public policy issues in Latin America and Texas for n (s)2 ( Un(ue)3 (sA(S.)-2 ( 7-1 ( )]J0.bTd[um))-2 ((it)6 (e (c)3 (h, i)-1c)-1 (it001 Tc -0.002a n)1(ic)-0.9(h o)-3 (n n

impact of political institutions on politics and public policy in Latin America, and the other that analyzes the evolution of partisan politics in Texas over the past 50 years. Jones received his doctorate from the University of Michigan and his bachelor's degree from Tulane University.



### Gabriel Sterling

Gabriel Sterling is the Chief Operating Officer for the Georgia Secretary of State, and he is also serving Georgians as the interim Deputy Secretary of State and interim director of the Professional Licensing Division of the office.

He gained visibility during the 2020 election cycle as the Statewide Voting System Implementation Manager when

he oversaw the largest rollout of voting equipment in U.S. history with Georgia's new, secure, paper-ballot system – on time and under budget. In that role, he led the response to the COVID pandemic by moving quickly to build a high capacity absentee ballot system, securing protective equipment and sanitizer for the counties that run elections. After the November election, he frequently briefed the media on the details of the largest hand recount in the United States and a second recount. He gained worldwide attention when he gave an impassioned defense of election workers and called on President Trump, and others in positions of responsibility, to stop spreading disinformation surrounding the November General Election.

Before coming to the Secretary of State's office, his involvement with elections was from the other side of the table in that he had a long career as a political consultant with several campaigns on the state and federal level, going back to his teenage years here in Georgia. He also worked as a business and operations consultant to firms as small as \$1 million and up to \$100 million in sales.

He worked on Capitol Hill for Georgia Congressman Charlie Norwood (GA-10) from 1995-96. He served in elective office as a member of the Sandy Springs City Council from 2011-2018. He was an integral part of developing the Sandy Springs City Center, passing "The Next 10" a land use plan to protect and enhance neighborhoods, and played a key role in bringing the Mercedes Benz USA headquarters to Sandy Springs, Georgia. He is still involved in his hometown community recently serving as the Chairman of the Sandy Springs Charter Commission and as a board member for the Sandy Springs Conservancy, an environmental charity focused on preserving greenspace and enhancing recreation opportunities. He is a graduate of the University of Georgia. In his personal time he enjoys yardwork, cooking, and especially engaging in making great BBQ.