

## **How Technology is Reshaping State Legislatures – Panelist Bios**

**John Bjornson:** John Bjornson is director of the North Dakota Legislative Council. Before his appointment to the position of director, he served as legal counsel, assistant code revisor, code revisor, and legal division director during his more than 33 years with the Legislative Council. As an attorney with the Legislative Council, he primarily focused on state and local government law, election law, and legislative redistricting.

He has served as an officer for various NCSL Committees and has served on the NCSL Executive Committee and Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee (LSCC).

He received a bachelor's degree with a political science major and history minor from the University of North Dakota and a Juris Doctor from the University of North Dakota School of Law.

**Brad Hendrickson:** A graduate in political science from Western Washington University, he completed an internship with the Washington State Senate during the 1982 session and later served as legislative liaison for WWU students in 1983. He began working for the Legislature in 1985 as an aide to a State Representative. Since going to work full-time for the Senate in 1986, he has held a number of positions with caucus staff and Senate administration, including deputy staff director, information systems coordinator and accounting & human resources coordinator. He has served four appointments as deputy secretary and was elected secretary of the Senate in January 2017. Raised in southwest Washington (Puget Island), he now lives in Olympia with his wife, Laura McDowell. They have two children, Sarah, a second-grade teacher in the Tukwila School District, and Sean, a student at The Evergreen State College.

**Representative. Candice Pierucci:** Candice Pierucci is the youngest serving female legislator in the history of Utah and currently the youngest serving legislator. Representative Pierucci serves District 52 (Riverton, Herriman, South Jordan). She currently serves as the vice chair of Health and Human Services and also serves on the Government Operations Committee and Social Services Appropriations. In addition, she serves on the following interim committees: Transportation, Health and Human Services, and Retirement and Independent Entities. Pierucci also serves on the Commission for Criminal and Juvenile Justice. She is currently serving on the 2021 Legislative Redistricting Committee.

Prior to her legislative service she worked as the development director for Sutherland Institute, a conservative think tank that focuses on faith, family and free markets. Previous to working at Sutherland, she was the director of community relations for Congressman Chris Stewart. She has served as the vice president of Professional Republican Women of Utah and vice chair of the Utah Federation of College Republicans. Over the years, Pierucci has worked on presidential, congressional, and local campaigns. In addition, she is a former board member and flight leader for Utah Honor Flight, a non-profit dedicated to taking veterans to visit their monuments in Washington, DC.

She received her bachelor's degree in political science with an emphasis in American government from Utah Valley University and her master's degree in public administration from the University of Utah. She is currently an adjunct professor and a research fellow with the Utah Women Leadership Project, co-authoring briefs on the status of Utah women in politics, non-profits and business.