

## Karen Handel

### Senior Vice President, Public Policy

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As senior vice president of public policy, Karen Handel is responsible for leading Susan G. Komen for the Cure® in its federal and state advocacy efforts. Her responsibilities include management of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure® Advocacy Alliance, the organization's public policy arm.

Under Handel's stewardship, the Komen Advocacy Alliance has taken a leading role in efforts to preserve access to vital breast health programs throughout the country. In 2011, the Komen Advocacy Alliance's network of advocates was successful in helping to preserve more than \$100 million in state funding and \$210 million in federal funding for screening programs. Additionally, other important legislation affecting the quality of care for breast cancer patients was passed, including Oral Chemotherapy Parity legislation in Connecticut, Illinois, and Texas;

legislation to provide insurance coverage for patients in clinical trials in Illinois; and an expansion in treatment coverage for uninsured women in Oregon.

Handel has been associated with Komen for the Cure and the breast cancer cause for a number of years. Her first connection to Komen was in her early 20's when, as a young staffer for long-time Komen partner Hallmark Cards, she helped to coordinate the company's involvement in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure® Series. Handel was also involved in the inaugural Susan G. Komen Global Race for the Cure® in Washington, D.C.

Handel joined the staff of Vice President Dan and Marilyn Quayle when Mrs. Quayle chose breast cancer as one of her major platform issues. As Deputy Chief of Staff, Handel coordinated Mrs. Quayle's breast cancer awareness activities, including the initiative to establish October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Prior to joining Komen in April 2011, Handel served as the Secretary of State for the state of Georgia, supervising 400 employees and overseeing elections, corporations, securities and professional licensing boards.

Before that role, she served as chair of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners after the former chair unexpectedly resigned and encouraged Handel to run to fill the remainder of his term, which she did and won with nearly 60 percent of the vote. During her tenure, she inherited a budget shortfall of nearly \$100 million but balanced the county budget three times without raising taxes.

In 2002, Governor Sonny Perdue asked Handel to serve as Deputy Chief of Staff where she oversaw operations in the Capitol and the Governor's Mansion and served as a senior policy advisor.

Prior to that role, she was president and CEO of the North Fulton Chamber of Commerce where she brought the chamber from the brink of bankruptcy to solvency while driving an aggressive economic development program that helped create tens of thousands of jobs in North Metro Atlanta.

As a former executive with major companies such as CIBA Vision and the accounting firm of KPMG, Handel has extensive private sector management, which has proven invaluable in public office and her public policy efforts.