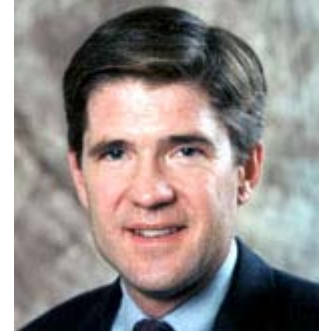


John Austin

John Austin, 47, is a Nonresident Senior Fellow with the Brookings Institution, as well as a Michigan statewide elected official, re-elected in 2008 to his second-term as Vice-President of the Michigan State Board of Education. Mr. Austin is also a resident scholar at the University of Michigan - Institute for Research on Labor, Employment and the Economy (IRLEE).



Austin currently directs the Great Lakes Economic Initiative for the Brookings Institution, designed to improve the economic vitality of the Great Lakes states. Austin has authored key Brookings reports that have directly shaped the region's economic development agenda: "The Vital Center: A Federal-State Compact to Renew the Great Lakes Region;" "The Vital Connection: Reclaiming Great Lakes Economic Leadership in the Bi-National Great Lakes Region;" and "Healthy Waters, Strong Economy" (See www.brookings.edu/projects/great-lakes.aspx)

In recent years Mr. Austin has served as Policy Director for Michigan's Governor-appointed Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth, and was principal author of the Commission's influential report. He also was the founding Director of the New Economy Initiative for Southeast Michigan—a \$100 million effort by the region's philanthropies to aid in the area's economic transformation. In 2002 he co-authored the report *Revitalizing Michigan Cities*, with Michigan Future, Inc., which led to Governor Granholm's "Cool Cities" initiative.

Austin received his Masters in Public Administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and a Bachelors from Swarthmore College in Economics & Political Science, with High Honors and Phi Beta Kappa. Mr. Austin has been married 21 years to his wife Terese. They and their three school-age children reside in Ann Arbor, Michigan.