

# Speaker Bio | Mandy Spears

A seasoned policy expert and strategic thinker, Spears is a trusted guide to elected officials, journalists, and citizens who seek to better understand and shape our society. A native Tennessean, she started her public policy career in the state Comptroller's Office of Research and the Tennessee General Assembly. As a founding member of The Sycamore Institute's leadership team, she helped establish the organization's accessible, objective, and evidence-based approach to explaining complex issues. Spears has over 15 years of experience supporting federal and state policymakers,

including as a presidential management fellow and adviser to senior leaders at the US Department of Health and Human Services under presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama. She is an adjunct professor of public policy at Vanderbilt University's Peabody College and Lipscomb University's College of Leadership and Public Service. Spears holds a master's degree in public policy from Georgetown University and a bachelor's degree in political science from Lipscomb University.