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## PARTICIPANTS

**Mark Baldassare** is president and CEO of the Public Policy Institute of California, where he holds the Arjay and Frances Fearing Miller Chair in Public Policy. He is a leading expert on public opinion and survey methodology, and has directed the PPIC Statewide Survey since 1998. He is an authority on elections, voter behavior, and political and fiscal reform, authoring ten books and numerous reports on these topics. He often provides testimony before legislative committees and state commissions, and regularly hosts PPIC's Speaker Series. Previously, he served as PPIC's director of research. Before joining PPIC, he was a professor of urban and regional planning at the University of California, Irvine, where he held the Johnson Chair in Civic Governance. He has conducted surveys for the *Los Angeles Times*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and the California Business Roundtable. He holds a PhD in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley.

**María Blanco** is executive director of the Undocumented Student Legal Services Center at the University of California. Launched in 2014, the center is implementing a pilot program to provide legal services to undocumented students on six UC campuses. She was elected to PPIC's Board of Directors in 2010. Before she assumed her current position, she was vice president of civic engagement at the California Community Foundation. Previously, she served as executive director of the Chief Justice Earl Warren Institute on Race, Ethnicity and Diversity at the UC Berkeley School of Law, and before that as executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area. She was national senior counsel for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (1998–2003). She was also an associate director and associate professor of law at Golden Gate University School of Law (1994–1998) and an attorney with Equal Rights Advocates (1987–1994). She served on President Barack Obama's transition team. Her undergraduate and law degrees are both from the University of California, Berkeley.

**Dean Bonner** is associate survey director at PPIC, where he coauthors the PPIC Statewide Survey—a large-scale public opinion project designed to develop an in-depth profile of the social, economic, and political attitudes at work in California elections and policymaking. He has expertise in public opinion and survey research, political attitudes and participation, and voting behavior. Before joining PPIC, he taught political science at Tulane University and was a research associate at the University of New Orleans Survey Research Center. He holds a PhD and MA in political science from the University of New Orleans.

**Kevin De León** is President pro Tem of the California State Senate. Elected in 2010, he represents Los Angeles County's 24th district (formerly the 22nd district). From 2006 to 2010, he served in the state Assembly, representing the 45th District, also in Los Angeles. As a legislator, he has focused on bills affecting the environment, the working poor, immigration, and public safety. He championed workers' compensation reform and retirement security for low-income workers. He also co-chaired the campaign for Proposition 39, the California Clean Energy Jobs Act. Before he was elected to the

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legislature, he worked as a community organizer, as an ESL and U.S. citizenship teacher, and as a staff advocate for the California Teachers Association. He also served as a senior associate for the National Education Association in Washington, DC, advocating for more resources for schools in low-income neighborhoods. He is a Rodel Fellow at the Aspen Institute and a guest lecturer at the University of Southern California. He attended the University of California, Santa Barbara, and graduated from Pitzer College.

**Chad Mayes** is the Republican leader of the California State Assembly. He represents the 42nd assembly district, which includes parts of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. He is vice chair of the Assembly Human Services Committee and serves on several other committees, including the Governmental Organization Committee, the Insurance Committee, the Assembly Rules Committee, and the Special Committee on Legislative Ethics. Assembly Speaker Atkins recently appointed him to the Little Hoover Commission. Before he was elected to the assembly in 2014, he was chief of staff for San Bernardino County supervisor Janice Rutherford. He served on the Yucca Valley Town Council from 2002 to 2011, and his fellow council members twice elected him to serve as mayor. He has served on the board of the San Bernardino Associated Governments and the Statewide Board of Directors for the League of California Cities, and was president of the League of California Cities' Desert Mountain Division. He is a leader in his local church and has served his community as a youth sports referee, a lifeguard and swim instructor, and treasurer of the Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce. A former financial advisor and registered tax preparer, he co-owns a local small business with his brother. He is a graduate of Liberty University.