
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.

Jim Brulte is chair of the California Republican Party. Before he was elected chair in 2013, he was a partner at California Strategies, a public affairs consulting firm, where he headed the Inland Empire office. He served 14 years in the California Legislature, most recently as senate Republican leader. During his legislative tenure he focused on education, regulatory reform, crime reduction, and legislation to improve California's business climate. His experience in government also includes service on the staff of the late senator S. I. Hayakawa and in the Reagan administration. He recently completed a term as a member of the board of visitors of the U.S. Naval Academy, and he was a member of the California Performance Review Commission. He served in the California Air National Guard and was honored as Outstanding Airman of the Year for the United States and its territories. He holds a bachelor's degree from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

Loni Hancock represents California's 9th State Senate District, which includes the cities of Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, Emeryville, El Sobrante, Hercules, Kensington, Oakland, Piedmont, Pinole, Richmond, Rodeo, San Leandro, and San Pablo. She chairs the Public Safety Committee and the Budget and Fiscal Review subcommittee on corrections, public safety, and the judiciary. She also serves on the Education, Environmental Quality, and Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committees. Before her election to the senate in 2008, she served three terms in the California State Assembly, representing the 14th District. She was the first woman to be elected mayor of Berkeley (1986–1994). She served as executive director of the Shalan Foundation and in the Carter and Clinton administrations. She holds an MA from the Wright Institute in Berkeley and a BA from Ithaca College.

Carol Liu represents California's 25th State Senate District, which includes Glendale, La Cañada, Flintridge, Pasadena, and several other cities and communities in the Los Angeles area. She chairs the Education Committee and the Select Committee on Aging and Long Term Care, and is a member of the Elections and Constitutional Amendments, Human Services, Insurance, and Public Safety Committees. Her highest priorities are improving the public education system and ensuring essential services for the elderly, disadvantaged, and disabled. She is also working to improve environmental quality and increase access to public transportation. First elected to the senate in 2008, she was reelected to represent the newly drawn 25th District in 2012. She represented the 44th Assembly District from 2000 to 2006. Before that, she served for eight years as a La Cañada Flintridge city councilmember, including two terms as mayor. Previously, she worked for 17 years in public schools. She graduated from San Jose State College and earned a lifetime teaching credential and an administrative credential from the University of California, Berkeley.

Donna Lucas is founder and CEO of Lucas Public Affairs, a California-based strategic consulting, public affairs, and communications firm. She has served on the PPIC Statewide Survey Advisory Committee since 1998 and on PPIC's Board of Directors since 2007; she became board chair in 2013. She provides strategic counsel to corporate clients, labor unions, nonprofits, and political candidates. She has worked on statewide initiative campaigns in many policy areas, including housing, education, campaign finance, and energy. Before forming Lucas Public Affairs in 2006, she was a deputy chief of staff for Governor Schwarzenegger and chief of staff to first lady Maria Shriver. Previously, she was the global and public affairs practice leader for Porter Novelli and CEO of the Nelson Communications Group. She was also deputy press secretary for Governor Deukmejian, deputy treasurer for Tom Hayes, and California press secretary for President George H. W. Bush. She served as chair of the American Association of Political Consultants. She serves on the boards of the California Chamber of Commerce, the College Futures Foundation, Maria Shriver's A Woman's Nation Foundation and the Scripps Institute of Oceanography. She is a graduate of the University of Southern California's School of Journalism.

Nancy McFadden is executive secretary to Governor Brown. She has served as a key legal, political, and policy official at both federal and state levels, as well as in the private sector. Most recently, she was a senior vice president for Pacific Gas and Electric Corporation. Before that, she was a senior advisor to Governor Davis, focusing primarily on energy and budget matters. Previously, she served in the Clinton administration as deputy chief of staff to Vice President Gore, general counsel for the US Department of Transportation, and deputy associate attorney general in the US Department of Justice. She holds a JD from the University of Virginia and a BA from San Jose State University.

John Myers is the newly appointed Sacramento bureau chief of the *Los Angeles Times*. A veteran journalist covering state politics, he has spent more than 20 years in broadcast news positions, most recently as senior editor of the California Politics and Government Desk at KQED San Francisco. He also served as political editor for Sacramento's ABC affiliate, KXTV. He moderated the only 2014 gubernatorial debate and was named in two *Washington Post* "best of" lists: the 2015 list of top state politics reporters and the 2014 list of America's most influential statehouse reporters.

Darrell Steinberg is a shareholder in the Sacramento office and chair of the California Government Law and Policy Practice at Greenberg Traurig. He provides strategic counsel to clients on matters involving state and local government. Before joining the firm, he represented the Sacramento region (in the state senate and assembly for fourteen years, including the last six as the senate president pro tem). During his tenure, he worked on legislation that protected California's water supply, overhauled workers' compensation laws, revamped zoning rules to combat urban sprawl and global warming, enhanced workplace safety, tackled school dropout rates, and reduced governmental red tape to benefit the economy. Before he was elected to the assembly in 1998, he served on the Sacramento City Council for six years. He has also worked as an employee rights attorney for the California State Employees Association and an administrative law judge and mediator. He is the founder and board chair of the Steinberg Institute for Advancing Mental Health Policy. He holds a JD from the University of California, Davis, and a BA in economics from the University of California, Los Angeles.