

## PARTICIPANTS

**Mark Baldassare** is president and CEO of PPIC, where he also holds the Arjay and Frances Fearing Miller Chair in Public Policy and directs the PPIC Statewide Survey. Before he assumed his current position, he was PPIC's director of research. He has authored ten books, including *The Coming Age of Direct Democracy: California's Recall and Beyond*. 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 and initiated and directed the Orange County Annual Survey. 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.

**Dean Bonner** is associate survey director at PPIC, where he coauthors the PPIC Statewide Survey. 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.

**Jim Brulte** is chairman of the California Republican Party. He is also a partner at California Strategies. Elected chairman by his GOP colleagues in 2013, he brings almost 25 years of experience in politics and government to the position. He served for 14 years in the California Assembly and Senate, representing the Inland Empire. He was the only freshman ever elected leader of his party in both bodies. During his legislative tenure, he focused on education, regulatory reform, crime reduction, and improving California's business climate. He has served on the Board of Visitors of the United States Naval Academy and on the California Performance Review Commission. He holds a bachelor's degree from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

**David Leshner** is director of government affairs at PPIC and is based in PPIC's Sacramento Center. Previously, he directed the New America Foundation's California Program, which sponsors a wide range of research, writing, and events on issues of critical importance to the future of California. His primary responsibilities at NAF included recruiting and guiding New America's California fellows, orchestrating high-profile public events throughout the state, and forging strategic partnerships with other California-based policy organizations. Prior to that, he covered politics and government for 15 years at the *Los Angeles Times*, where his roles ranged from lead reporter in the Sacramento bureau to assistant national editor on the paper's presidential campaign desk.

**Jennifer Medina** is a national *New York Times* correspondent. Based in Los Angeles, she has covered Southern California and Nevada since 2010, focusing on the uneven economic recovery, immigration, prisons, and education in addition to news events such as the Gabrielle Giffords and UCSB shootings. She has traveled from El Centro to the back roads of the Central Valley and written about "gentrification" in Boyle Heights and labor violations in Beverly Hills. Since joining the *Times* about a decade ago, she has covered state politics in New York and Connecticut and spent several years writing about New York City public schools. She graduated from the University of Southern California with a degree in print journalism and political science.

**Garry South** is a principal of California Strategies, LLC. He has 40 years of high-level experience in government, politics, and business consulting. He has worked for a president and for governors of two large states. He has also managed or played leading roles in campaigns for president, U.S. Senate, governor, lieutenant governor, state legislature, county executive, county supervisor, mayor, and city council. In 1998, He managed the come-from-behind victory of Gray Davis, who became California's first Democratic governor in 20 years. He regularly contributes opinion pieces to major publications and is a frequent guest commentator on NPR. He is a member of the Council on American Politics of George Washington University's Graduate School of Political Management in Washington, DC.