
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. An authority on elections, voter behavior, and political and fiscal reform, he has authored ten books and numerous reports, 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. He holds a PhD in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley.

Phil Isenberg is the former chair of the Delta Stewardship Council. He serves on the PPIC Water Policy Center Advisory Council and has been a member of PPIC's board of directors since 2013. In his long career in state and local government he has served as a Sacramento city council member, mayor of Sacramento, and a member of the California Assembly. He has chaired the California Marine Life Protection Act Blue Ribbon Task Force and the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force. He has also run his own private law practice and served as president of Isenberg-O'Haren Government Relations. He holds a JD from the University of California, Berkeley, and a BA in social science and government from California State University, Sacramento.

Kevin McCarthy represents California's 23rd District in the US House of Representatives. First elected to Congress in 2006, he became Chief Deputy Whip in 2009 and Majority Whip in 2011; in 2014 he became Majority Leader. He has served on several House committees, including Financial Services, Homeland Security, Natural Resources, Agriculture, and House Administration. From 2002 to 2006, he represented the 32nd Assembly District in the California Legislature; before that, he was district director for former congressman Bill Thomas. Prompted by his experiences as a small business owner, he began his career in public service as a trustee for the Kern County Community College District. He holds an MBA and a BA from California State University, Bakersfield.