
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, a public forum featuring in-depth interviews with state and national leaders. 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 holds a PhD in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley.

Kevin de León is president pro tem of the California State Senate, the first Latino elected to this position in over 130 years. Elected in 2010, he represents Los Angeles County's 24th senate district. From 2006 to 2010, he served in the state assembly, representing the 45th assembly district, also in Los Angeles. He is focused on building a more prosperous, equitable, and sustainable economy for the Golden State. He is working to make college more accessible and affordable, combat climate change while building the clean energy economy, improve retirement security for low-income workers, and support California's growing diverse communities. His legislation has created the most ambitious renewable energy goals in the nation and the first-of-its-kind retirement-savings program for low-income workers; it has also required that a quarter of all cap-and-trade revenue be spent in disadvantaged communities. He has an extensive record on women's rights, gun-violence prevention, and worker's rights. He has led the fight in the legislature to combat homelessness. Previously, he worked as a community organizer and taught citizenship courses to immigrants. He attended the University of California, Santa Barbara, and graduated from Pitzer College.

Jean Fuller is the Republican leader of the California State Senate, the first woman to serve in this position. She represents the 16th senate district, including parts of the San Joaquin Valley, Indian Wells Valley, Morongo Basin, and the Antelope Valley. She served two terms in the state assembly and is currently serving her second term in the state senate. Before being elected to the legislature, she was an educator for over 30 years. She was superintendent of the largest K–8 school district in the state and was recognized in 2005 as California Superintendent of the Year by the American Association of School Administrators. She is well known as a leader in education and consistently receives high marks for her support of job growth and economic opportunities for Californians. She is a graduate of CSU Fresno, CSU Los Angeles, and UC Santa Barbara, and completed supplemental coursework at the University of Southern California, Harvard University, and Oxford University. She holds a PhD in educational policy and organizational studies.

Mas Masumoto is a third-generation farmer and the author of many books, including *Epitaph for a Peach*, *Changing Season*, and *Wisdom of the Last Farmer*, among others. He is currently a columnist for the *Fresno Bee* and the *Sacramento Bee*. He was a Kellogg Foundation Food and Society Policy Fellow from 2006 to 2008. His writing awards include the Commonwealth Club Silver Medal, the Julia Child Cookbook Award, and the James Clavell Literacy Award; he was a finalist for a James Beard Foundation Award. The National Resources Defense Council recognized *Wisdom of the Last Farmer* as the Best Environmental Writing in 2009. UC Davis honored him with an Award of Distinction in 2003, and he received the California Central Valley Excellence in Business Award in 2007. He was elected to PPIC's board of directors in 2009 and became board chair in 2016. In 2013, President Obama appointed him to the National Council on the Arts, the board for the National Endowment for the Arts.

Chad Mayes is the Republican leader of the California State Assembly. Elected in 2014, he represents the 42nd assembly district, which includes parts of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. As Republican leader, he negotiates for his caucus with the governor and legislative Democrats on major policy and fiscal issues, leads its political and campaign efforts, and is its principal spokesperson. He regularly travels up and down the state meeting with a wide variety of stakeholders, groups, and businesses to better understand issues and build consensus for key policies. Though he is involved in a myriad of policy issues, he is most passionate about housing, transportation, education, job creation, and economic expansion. Prior to being elected to the assembly, he was active in local government, serving three terms on the Yucca Valley Town Council and as a board member of both the San Bernardino Associated Governments and the League of California Cities. Professionally, he was a financial planner, small business owner, and chief of staff to the chair of the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors. He is a graduate of Liberty University.

Anthony Rendon is speaker of the California State Assembly. He represents the 63rd assembly district, which includes nine cities in southeast Los Angeles County. During his first term in office, he authored Proposition 1, the \$7.5 billion state water bond, which voters passed by a considerable margin in the November 2014 election. Now in his second term, he authored Assembly Bill 530 in 2015, a law that spurs much-needed revitalization of the lower portion of the Los Angeles River, and Assembly Bill 496, which connects schools with resources to improve clean drinking water infrastructure. As chair of the Utilities and Commerce Committee, he led the ongoing effort to ensure accountability for the California Public Utilities Commission. Previously, he was an educator, nonprofit executive director, and environmental activist. He was executive director of Plaza de la Raza Child Development Services, Inc., and served as the interim executive director of the California League of Conservation Voters from 2008 to 2009. He holds a PhD from the University of California, Riverside.