

PARTICIPANTS

Debra Bowen is California's thirtieth Secretary of State. As the state's chief elections officer responsible for state and federal elections, she promotes voter registration and participation, maintains a statewide database of registered voters, tracks and certifies state ballot measures, compiles election results, and more. Her top goals are to ensure every eligible Californian has access to the tools of democracy and every voter's ballot is counted exactly as it was cast. Before being elected secretary of state in 2006, she served for six years in the California State Assembly (1992–1998) and eight years in the state Senate (1998–2006). Earlier in her career, she practiced corporate, tax, and ERISA law in Chicago, Washington DC, and Los Angeles. She holds a J.D. from the University of Virginia.

Kathay Feng is executive director of California Common Cause. She helped spearhead California Common Cause's successful effort to pass initiatives to create an independent citizens redistricting commission, which has become a model for other states. She also led efforts to pass laws that have brought online voter registration and same-day registration to the state. Before she joined Common Cause in 2005, she headed the Voting Rights and Anti-Discrimination Unit at the Asian Pacific American Legal Center. She serves or has served on numerous boards, including the California secretary of state's Advisory Committee on Voter Participation and Outreach, the L.A. County Human Relations Commission, and the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council. She holds a law degree from UCLA School of Law and is a graduate of Cornell University.

David Leshner is director of government affairs at PPIC. Before he joined PPIC, he directed the New America Foundation's California Program, which sponsors 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 and forging strategic partnerships with other California-based policy organizations. In fifteen years at the *Los Angeles Times*, his roles ranged from lead reporter in the Sacramento bureau to assistant national editor on the presidential campaign desk.

Dean Logan is registrar-recorder/county clerk for Los Angeles County, the nation's largest, most diverse local election jurisdiction. Before he came to Los Angeles County, he was director of records, elections, and licensing services in King County, Washington. He also served as the Washington State elections director and as the elected county clerk in Kitsap County, Washington. He serves on the executive board of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials and on the steering committee of the Future of California Elections initiative. He has served on the California secretary of state's VoteCal Statewide Voter Registration System advisory committee and the National Election Center's task forces on education and training and election reform. He holds an executive master's in public administration from the Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington and is certified as an elections and registration administrator and professional county official.

Eric McGhee is a research fellow at PPIC. His work focuses on elections, political participation, political polarization, legislative behavior, redistricting, and surveys and polling. Before joining PPIC as a policy fellow, he was assistant professor of political science at the University of Oregon; he previously worked at PPIC on the PPIC Statewide Survey. He holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of California, Berkeley.