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## 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 State-wide 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. 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.

**John Diaz** has been editorial page editor for the *San Francisco Chronicle* since 1996. He has won numerous state and national awards, and served as a juror for the Pulitzer Prize four times. Before joining the editorial page, he directed the paper's East Bay news coverage. He came to the *Chronicle* in 1990 as an assistant city editor. Before that, he worked as a general assignment reporter for the Associated Press in Philadelphia and as a statehouse reporter and assistant city editor for the *Denver Post*. He began his career as a reporter for the *Red Bluff Daily News*. He earned a BA in journalism from Humboldt State University.

**Lucy Dunn** is president and CEO of the Orange County Business Council, where she leads a dynamic organization of business members who work with academia and government to ensure the county's economic prosperity and high quality of life. Previously, she served as director of the California Department of Housing and Community Development. She was appointed to the California Transportation Commission by Governor Schwarzenegger in 2008, reappointed twice by Governor Brown, and elected as chair in 2015. She is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including *Orange County Business Journal's* Women in Business Award, Women in Transportation's Woman of the Year, Southern California Leadership Network's Public Sector Leader of the Year, and the prestigious Vision and Visionaries Award from California State University, Fullerton.

**Kevin Faulconer** is mayor of San Diego. Shortly after taking office in March 2014, he began implementing his vision for One San Diego, a unified city with an inclusive government that creates opportunities for San Diegans and delivers results for every neighborhood. Some of his accomplishments include directing 50 percent of all new major revenue toward neighborhood improvements, doubling the miles of streets repaired annually, improving emergency response times in underserved neighborhoods, increasing hours at libraries and recreation centers to their highest level in a decade, and creating a year-round indoor homeless shelter for families and veterans. Previously, he served as a city councilmember and worked in public affairs. He graduated from San Diego State University.

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**Chet Hewitt** is president and CEO of Sierra Health Foundation and its independent operating unit, the Center for Health Program Management. Since beginning his tenure in 2007, he has focused foundation investments on health disparities, health equity, and the healthy development and well-being of vulnerable youth. Before joining the foundation, he worked for five years as the director of Alameda County's Social Services Agency. He is credited with transforming its failing child welfare system into a national model and using technology to improve the delivery of human services. He was named the Administrator of the Year by Black Administrators in Child Welfare and has received several national honors, including the Annie E. Casey Foundation Child and Family Leaders Fellowship and Child Welfare Administrator of the Year, the Robert T. Matsui Community Service Award, and the Grantland Johnson Intergovernmental Cooperation Award.

**Kristin Olsen** was elected to the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors in 2016. In addition, she serves as vice chair of the California Republican Party and runs her own consulting firm, Red Suit. Previously, she represented Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties in the state assembly. She served as Republican leader of the assembly from 2014 through early 2016. In this capacity, she was the caucus' lead negotiator on major policy and fiscal issues, led its political and campaign efforts, and was its principal spokesperson. Prior to being elected to the assembly, she served as a city council-member in Modesto. She serves on the board for California Women Lead and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Stanislaus County. She graduated magna cum laude with a BA from Westmont College.

**Joe Simitian** was elected to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors in 2012. He has served as a member of the state senate and assembly. He has also served as mayor of Palo Alto and president of the Palo Alto School Board, and served an earlier term on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. He served as an election observer/supervisor in El Salvador and Bosnia, and participated in refugee relief and resettlement efforts in Albania and Kosovo. Before he began his public service career, he worked in the private sector as an attorney, businessman, and AICP-certified city planner. He holds a master's in city planning and a JD from the University of California, Berkeley, as well as a master's in international policy studies from Stanford University.

**Darrell Steinberg** is mayor of Sacramento. He has served the Sacramento community for over 20 years, beginning as president of the Tahoe Park Neighborhood Association. He was then elected to the city council, where he focused on making neighborhoods safe, creating good jobs, and providing quality afterschool programs. He founded the afterschool program Sacramento START to help kids in the city's most challenged schools improve their test scores. He later became the first Sacramentan to serve as president of the state senate in over 125 years. As senate leader, he championed economic development, education reform, and major investments in health care and education. As mayor, he will focus on diversifying Sacramento's economy, attracting high-wage employers, and helping local businesses grow. He is a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles, and UC Davis Law School.