
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. 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.

Dianne Feinstein is California's senior US senator. First elected to the Senate in 1992, she has a distinguished record of bipartisan legislative accomplishments. She is a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, which oversees the nation's sixteen intelligence agencies; previously, she was the first woman to chair the committee. She is the ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee and is the first woman and first Californian to lead either the majority or minority of that panel. She is a senior member of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, which she chaired during the 110th Congress. She also serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee and as ranking member of its Subcommittee on Energy and Water. In addition to her official committee assignments, she co-chairs the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control, the Senate Cancer Coalition, and the Senate Women's Caucus on Burma. She is a member of the Anti-Meth Caucus, the Congressional Dairy Caucus, and the Congressional Former Mayors Caucus, and has been a member of the Aspen Strategy Group since 1997. Recent honors include the 2015 Ansel Adams Award from the Wilderness Society and the 2012 Outstanding International Public Service Award from the World Affairs Council. A native of San Francisco, she was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1969 and served two and a half terms as board president. In 1978 she became mayor of San Francisco and served two terms.

Donna Lucas is founder and CEO of Lucas Public Affairs, a California-based strategic consulting, public affairs, and communications firm. She has served on the PPIC Statewide Survey Advisory Committee since 1998 and on PPIC's board of directors since 2007; she chaired the board from 2013 to 2016. Over the course of her career, she has provided strategic counsel to large corporate clients, labor unions, nonprofits, and political candidates. Prior to forming Lucas Public Affairs in 2006, she served as a deputy chief of staff for strategic planning and initiatives for Governor Schwarzenegger and chief of staff to First Lady Maria Shriver. Currently, she serves on the boards of the California Chamber of Commerce, the College Futures Foundation, Maria Shriver's A Woman's Nation Foundation and the Scripps Institute of Oceanography. She is a graduate of the University of Southern California's School of Journalism.