

---

## 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. 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 has conducted surveys for the *Los Angeles Times*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and the California Business Roundtable. He holds a PhD in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley.

**Kevin de León** is president pro tem of the California State Senate. He represents the 24th State Senate District in Los Angeles County. First elected to the senate in 2010, he became president pro tem in 2014. From 2006 to 2010, he served in the assembly, representing the 45th district, also in Los Angeles. He is working to build a more prosperous, equitable, and sustainable economy. His focus is on making college more accessible and affordable, combating climate change and developing a clean-energy economy, improving retirement security for low-income workers, and supporting the state's growing diverse communities. He has an extensive record on women's rights, public safety, and worker's rights. Before he was elected to the legislature, he taught citizenship courses to immigrants and led the opposition to Proposition 187. He was also a staff advocate for the California Teachers Association and a senior associate for the National Education Association in Washington, DC, advocating for more school resources in low-income neighborhoods. He is a Rodel Fellow at the Aspen Institute and a guest lecturer at the University of Southern California. He attended the University of California, Santa Barbara, and graduated from Pitzer College.

**Hans Johnson** is director of the PPIC Higher Education Center and a senior fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California. As center director, he works with a team of researchers to identify policies that can make higher education policy more successful and sustainable. His own research focuses on improving college access and completion. He frequently presents his work to policymakers and higher education officials, and he serves as a technical advisor to many organizations seeking to improve college graduation rates,

---

address workforce needs, and engage in long-term capacity planning. His other areas of expertise include international and domestic migration, housing in California, and population projections. Previously, he served as research director at PPIC. Before joining PPIC, he worked as a demographer at the California Research Bureau and at the California Department of Finance. He holds a PhD in demography and a master's degree in biostatistics from the University of California, Berkeley.

**Janet Napolitano** became the 20th president of the University of California in 2013. She leads a university system with ten campuses, five medical centers, three affiliated national laboratories, and a statewide agriculture and natural resources program. As UC president, she has launched initiatives to stabilize in-state tuition and achieve financial stability for the University; improve the community college transfer process; achieve carbon neutrality across the UC system by 2025; accelerate the translation of UC research into products and services; and focus UC resources on local and global food issues. She has a distinguished record of leading large, complex organizations at the federal and state levels. She served as secretary of homeland security from 2009 to 2013, as governor of Arizona from 2003 to 2009, as attorney general of Arizona from 1998 to 2003, and US attorney for the District of Arizona from 1993 to 1997. In 2014, she was appointed a tenured faculty member of UC Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy, and in 2015 she was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She holds a JD from the University of Virginia School of Law and a BS from Santa Clara University.

**Kim Polese**, a Silicon Valley entrepreneur, is chair of the consumer finance company ClearStreet, Inc. She was previously CEO of the software company SpikeSource, Inc. She made Time magazine's list of the 25 Most Influential Americans in 1997 after cofounding the software company Marimba, Inc. She also worked at Sun Microsystems—where she was the founding product manager of Java, the technology that brought interactivity to the Web—and IntelliCorp, Inc. She serves on the PPIC Higher Education Center Advisory Council and has been a member of PPIC's board of directors since 2011. She is an Aspen Institute Crown Fellow and serves on the boards of TechNet, the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, the Long Now Foundation, and the Global Security Institute. The US secretary of commerce appointed her to the new Innovation Advisory Board, which is guiding a study of national economic competitiveness. She is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, and studied computer science at the University of Washington.