

PARTICIPANTS

Michael Coleman is principal fiscal policy advisor for the League of California Cities. He is also the principal fiscal policy advisor to the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers (CSMFO). A leading expert on California local government revenues, spending, and financing, he is the creator of the California Local Government Finance Almanac, an online resource on California municipal finance and budgeting. He is a popular presenter at graduate schools and conferences and has authored numerous publications, including the *California Municipal Revenue Sources Handbook*. He has worked for the cities of San Mateo, Milpitas, Daly City, and Sacramento. In 2013, he received a Distinguished Service Award from the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers. He is a graduate of the Coro Fellows Program in Public Affairs; he also holds an MPA from the University of Southern California and a BA from the University of California, Davis, where he majored in policy analysis.

Robert Gutierrez is director of the California Tax Foundation, the research and education arm of the California Taxpayers Association. In 2014, he launched the Center for Special Taxes to identify parcel taxes imposed throughout the state. He has conducted extensive research on California tax policy and testified before the legislature on tax and fee policy issues. He writes regularly for the *CalTaxletter*, and assisted in the publishing of the second edition of *California's Tax Machine: A History of Taxing and Spending in the Golden State*. He holds a bachelor's degree with a major in political science from Westmont College in Santa Barbara.

Patrick Murphy is director of research and a senior fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California, where he holds the Thomas C. Sutton Chair in Policy Research. His research focuses on education financing and management in both K–12 and higher education. He is a professor of politics at the University of San Francisco, where he has served as the director of the McCarthy Center for Public Service. His work has been published by PPIC, the Center for American Progress, the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, the Center on Reinventing Public Education, the Berkeley Center for Studies in Higher Education, and RAND. Previously, he worked for RAND and at the Office of Management and Budget in Washington, DC. He holds a PhD in political science and government from the University of Wisconsin–Madison and a master's of public affairs from the University of Texas–Austin.

Marianne O'Malley is managing principal analyst of state and local finance in the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO). In this capacity, she leads and supervises analytical work on state and local finance and public employee compensation. Since joining the LAO in 1985, she has become a noted public finance expert and has testified and lectured extensively on the subjects of local government finance, property taxation, redevelopment, the initiative process, and state infrastructure investment. She is the principal author of a series of reports examining California local finance and the editor of LAO publications examining housing costs, local government voter approval requirements, state employee compensation, and the state's motion picture and television tax credit. She teaches public finance through UC Davis Extension and serves on the advisory board for the California Legislative Staff Education Institute. She holds a master's in public policy from the Kennedy School at Harvard University.

Jon Sonstelie is a PPIC Bren Fellow and professor of economics at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His areas of expertise are public finance and urban economics, with a focus on school finance. He coauthored the *California School Finance Revenue Manual*, which explains the complexities of public school funding in California, and he developed the PPIC School Finance Model for simulating the effects of various school funding formulas. His work includes studies of school budgets and student achievement, state finance and the Master Plan, school resources and academic standards, and the effect of public school quality on private school enrollment. He was previously a research fellow at Resources for the Future. He holds a PhD in economics from Northwestern University and a BA from Washington State University.