
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.

Efrain Escobedo is vice president of civic engagement and public policy at California Community Foundation. He is responsible for collaboration and advocacy across the nonprofit, public, and private sectors to address community problems. Before joining CCF, he was manager of governmental and legislative affairs for the Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters. He worked with elected officials on initiatives aimed at making the voting process easier for Angelenos, including the electronic delivery of sample ballots and the authorization of online voter registration. He also worked as senior director of civic engagement for the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund, where he led the development of voter contact strategies and technologies that have helped engage more than a million young, newly registered, and infrequent Latino voters across the country. He holds a bachelor's degree in American studies and ethnicity from the University of Southern California and is a recent graduate of the Los Angeles County Executive Leadership Program.

Dean Logan is registrar-recorder and county clerk for Los Angeles County. In addition to serving as the ex officio supervisor of elections, he is responsible for recording real property documents; maintaining vital records of births, deaths and marriages; issuing marriage licenses; performing marriage ceremonies; and processing business filings and other documents. He is also an instructor in the public sector MPA program at California State University, Northridge. He previously served as director of records, elections, and licensing services in King County, Washington; state elections director for the Washington secretary of state; and county clerk in Kitsap County, Washington. He serves on the executive board for the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials and on the Pew Center on the States' Voter Registration Modernization and Performance Index for Elections working groups. He is an active participant in the Future of California Elections collaborative and sits on the board of directors for the National Elections Center. He holds a degree in organizational leadership from Azusa Pacific University and an executive master's of public administration from the Evans School of Public Policy and Governance at the University of Washington.

Alex Padilla is California secretary of state. He is focused on modernizing the office, increasing voter registration and participation, and strengthening voting rights. Before he was took office in 2015, he represented the San Fernando Valley region of Los Angeles in the California State Senate. As a senator he chaired the Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Communications, shepherding legislation to combat climate change. He also authored laws to address childhood obesity, the college transfer process, and K-12 funding. He began his career in public service by winning a seat on the Los Angeles City Council, and he later served three terms as council president. He is past president of the National Association of Latino Elected Officials, and was the first Latino to serve as president of the California League

of Cities. He graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a degree in mechanical engineering.

Karthick Ramakrishnan is associate dean of the School of Public Policy at the University of California, Riverside, where he is professor of public policy and political science. He is also an adjunct fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California. His research focuses on the demographics and politics of race and immigration, including civic participation, public opinion, and public policy. He has authored or coauthored dozens of articles, reports, and books, including *Asian American Political Participation* and *The New Immigration Federalism*. He directs the National Asian American Survey, is the founder of AAPI Data, and serves on the California Commission on APIA Affairs. He is the founding editor of the *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics*. He holds a PhD in politics from Princeton University.

Sebastian Ridley-Thomas represents California's 54th Assembly District, which includes several Los Angeles County communities. He serves on the Select Committee on Civic Engagement and chairs the Select Committee on Mental and Behavioral Health. He serves on three standing committees: Revenue and Taxation; Banking and Finance; and Health. Before he was elected in 2013, he served as public policy director for state senator Curren Price, advising on economic development, transportation, housing, public safety, and local government issues. He was a legislative consultant to the Senate Select Committee on Procurement, working to ensure that small business owners in underserved communities received a fair share of state contracts, and political director for the nine-member California Legislative Black Caucus. He holds a BA from Morehouse College, where he majored in sociology. He trained in mediation and conflict resolution at the University of California, Davis, Extension, and California State University, Dominguez Hills.

Gaddi Vasquez is senior vice president of government affairs for Edison International and Southern California Edison, one of the nation's largest investor-owned utilities. Before joining SCE in 2009, he served as US ambassador to the United Nations agencies based in Rome, including the World Food Program and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. He was director of the United States Peace Corps from 2002 to 2006. Early in his career, he served as an Orange County supervisor, as chief deputy appointments secretary to Governor George Deukmejian, and as a police officer for the City of Orange. He has served on the President's Commission on White House Fellowships, the California Criminal Justice Council, and the California Film Commission. He joined PPIC's board of directors in 2015; he also sits on the boards of the Segerstrom Center for the Performing Arts, the National Advisory Board of the Salvation Army, and the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund. He holds a bachelor's degree in public service management from the University of Redlands.

Karla Zombro is field director for California Calls, an alliance of 30 community-based organizations in urban, rural, and suburban counties across the state. She is responsible for statewide organizing, capacity-building, and civic engagement. Before joining California Calls, she worked for SCOPE (Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education) in South Los Angeles. She helped build SCOPE's membership and community leadership and developed key policy campaigns. She also designed a curriculum on civic engagement organizing for community groups that is the core of California Calls training program and has been used across the country. She was a union organizer with SEIU Local 1877 from 1994 to 1999. She holds a BA from the University of California, Los Angeles, where she majored in women's studies.