

PARTICIPANTS

Laurel Beck is a research fellow at PPIC. She focuses on health policy, including program evaluation, insurance markets, and the policy challenges related to aging populations. Her recent work includes an analysis of California's growing need for health care workers and nursing facilities over the next decade, as well as work on enrollment in the state's health and nutrition safety net programs. She has also studied the physical and mental health of working mothers. Before joining PPIC, she was a research associate at the Federal Reserve Board of Governors and participated in doctoral trainee programs with the National Institute of Mental Health and the National Institute on Aging. She holds a PhD in economics from the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Cheryl Brown represents California's 47th Assembly District, which includes Colton, Fontana, Grand Terrace, Rialto, San Bernardino, and the unincorporated communities of Bloomington and Muscoy. She chairs the Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care and serves on several other committees, including Banking and Finance and Veterans Affairs. Before she was elected to the Assembly in 2012, she served on the San Bernardino County and City Planning Commissions for 17 years. During her tenure as a commissioner, she was elected president of the California County Planning Commissioners Association. She has worked with many community groups and served as the president of the San Bernardino County NAACP. She has been a small business owner since 1980, when she and her husband, Hardy Brown Sr., founded Brown Publishing Company to circulate a community newspaper called the *Black Voice News*. In 2001, they created California Black Media, a network of 22 African American newspapers and media enterprises across the state.

Karen Keeslar is executive director of the California Association of Public Authorities for IHSS (CAPA). A government relations consultant and lobbyist with extensive expertise in health and human services and public sector financing, she has worked for more than 30 years with state and local government agencies, public employee unions, and nonprofit associations. She founded Keeslar & Associates Governmental Relations in 1994. Before that, she worked with the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) as the primary policy analyst and advocate for counties in the health and welfare arena. She holds a BS from the University of Southern California, where she majored in political science and journalism.

David Leshner is director of government affairs at PPIC and is based in PPIC's Sacramento Center. Since the opening of the PPIC Sacramento Center in 2007, he has been a liaison to the state Capitol community for all of PPIC's research and events. Previously, he directed the New America Foundation's California Program, which sponsors a wide range of research, writing, and events on issues of critical importance to the future of California. He was a newspaper journalist for nearly 25 years, including 15 years as a writer and editor at the *Los Angeles Times*.

Barbara O'Connor is a member of the AARP National Board of Directors. She is also an emeritus professor of communications and director of the Institute for the Study of Politics and Media at the California State University, Sacramento. Appointed by the California Public Utilities Commission, she serves as a director and officer of the California Emerging Technology Fund. She has chaired the California Educational Technology Committee and the California Public Broadcasting Commission, and served on many other boards and commissions dealing with the media and technology. She has been a consultant to the California Legislature, the US Congress, the Federal Communications Commission, the Office of Technology Assessment, the US Department of Commerce, National Public Radio, and a number of Fortune 500 media, energy, and telecommunications companies. She holds a PhD in communications from the University of Southern California.