
PARTICIPANTS

Mark Baldassare is president and CEO of the Public Policy Institute of California, where he also holds the Arjay and Frances Fearing Miller Chair in Public Policy and directs the PPIC Statewide Survey. Before assuming his current position, he was PPIC's director of research. He has authored ten books, including *The Coming Age of Direct Democracy: California's Recall and Beyond*. Before he joined 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.

Donna Lucas is president and CEO of Lucas Public Affairs, a California-based strategic consulting, public affairs, and communications firm. Before founding the firm in 2006, she was deputy chief of staff for strategic planning and initiatives for Governor Schwarzenegger and chief of staff to first lady Maria Shriver. She has served on the PPIC Statewide Survey Advisory Committee since 1998 and on PPIC's Board of Directors since 2007. She was elected board chair in 2013. She is a graduate of the University of Southern California's School of Journalism.

Alex Padilla is a California state senator who represents San Fernando Valley region of Los Angeles. He chairs the Energy, Utilities, and Communications Committee and the Select Committee on Science, Innovation, and Public Policy. He serves on several other committees, including Appropriations; Business, Professions, and Economic Development; and Labor. He began his career in public service by winning a seat on the Los Angeles City Council, and later became council president. He currently serves as president of the National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO), 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, and now serves on the MIT Board of Trustees.

Pete Peterson is executive director of the Davenport Institute for Public Engagement and Civic Leadership at Pepperdine University. He was the first executive director of the bipartisan organization, Common Sense California, until it merged with the Davenport Institute in 2010. He has consulted with governments around the state, from Bell to Vallejo, to improve civic participation among residents. He currently serves on the advisory committees to the Institute for Local Government's Public Engagement Program (League of California Cities), the California Civic Innovation Project, and the University Network for Collaborative Governance. He holds a master's in public policy from Pepperdine University and a BA from George Washington University.