

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, a public forum featuring in-depth interviews with state and national leaders. 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.

Leon E. Panetta is chairman of the Panetta Institute for Public Policy and former US secretary of defense. He began his public service career in 1964 as a first lieutenant in the US Army, receiving the Army Commendation Medal, and then served as a legislative assistant to US Senator Tom Kuchel. In 1969, he was appointed director of the Office for Civil Rights at the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, responsible for enforcing equal education laws. Elected to Congress in 1976, he represented the California central coast for 16 years. In 1993, he was sworn in as director of the US Office of Management and Budget for the Clinton administration, where he was instrumental in achieving a balanced federal budget. In 1994, he was appointed White House chief of staff. In 2009, he was appointed director of the Central Intelligence Agency, where he led the operation that brought Osama bin Laden to justice. In 2011, he was unanimously confirmed as the twenty-third secretary of defense; in this role he established a new defense strategy, conducted critical counterterrorism operations, and strengthened US alliances. Since 2013, he has been chairman of the Panetta Institute for Public Policy, a nonpartisan, nonprofit study center that attracts young men and women to lives of public service, established with Sylvia Panetta in 1997. He chronicles his life in public service in his best-selling memoir *Worthy Fights*, published in 2014. He holds a JD from Santa Clara University School of Law.