
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. 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.

Marc Berman was elected to the California State Assembly in November 2016 to represent the 24th district, which includes southern San Mateo County and northern Santa Clara County. He is the chair of the Assembly Select Committee on the Census and the Elections and Redistricting Committee and the Select Committee on the Master Plan for Higher Education. He previously served on the Palo Alto City Council and as development director at the Silicon Valley Education Foundation, a nonprofit focused on increasing access to high-quality STEM education and closing the achievement gap. He was a leader on the city council on issues such as infrastructure improvements and financial transparency. Prior to his work in the nonprofit sector, he was an attorney with Latham & Watkins LLP and Merino Yebri, LLP. He has successfully represented pro bono clients seeking protection under the Violence Against Women Act and asylum in the United States due to political persecution. He earned a degree in political science from Georgetown University and a JD from the University of Southern California.

Sarah Bohn is vice president of research and a senior fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California, where she holds the John and Louise Bryson Chair in Policy Research. She is also a member of the PPIC Higher Education Center. As vice president of research, she works with PPIC staff to bring high-quality, nonpartisan research to important policy issues in California. Her own research focuses on the role of social safety net policy and education policy in alleviating poverty and enhancing economic mobility. Her other areas of expertise include immigration policy, the workforce skills gap, and California's economy. Her work has been published in major academic journals, including the *American Economic Review*, *Demography*, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, and *The Review of Economics and Statistics*. She holds a PhD in economics from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Carolyn Coleman is executive director of the League of California Cities. To this role, she brings 25 years of experience as a leader and an advocate in the public and private sectors. She joined the League of California Cities in December 2016 after a decade as senior executive and director of federal advocacy at the National

League of Cities (NLC in Washington, DC). During her tenure at NLC, she oversaw the organization's advocacy efforts and worked closely with city leaders and the 49 state municipal leagues throughout the country to advance NLC's priorities in matters before Congress, the federal administration, and the courts. Prior to working with NLC, she served as deputy mayor for the City of Indianapolis, where she focused on affordable housing, economic development, infrastructure, and community engagement. She previously practiced law and held marketing leadership positions in the private sector. In addition to her professional endeavors, she serves on the board of trustees of the University of Indianapolis and on the dean's cabinet at the McGeorge School of Law. She is also a governor appointee to the California Complete Count Committee and serves on the boards of directors of NLC and the California Foundation on the Environment and the Economy.

Ditas Katague is director of the California Complete Count Census 2020 office, the outreach and communications campaign to ensure a complete count of the hardest-to-count Californians. In 2019, she was recognized in *Capitol Weekly's* Top 100 most powerful movers and shakers in California politics. She has led California's census efforts since 2000. From 2012–18, she served on the US Census Bureau's National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic, and Other Populations, including serving as chair from 2015–18. In 2010, she served as the director of Governor Schwarzenegger's Census 2010 project. In 2000, as chief deputy campaign director for the governor's Census 2000 California Complete Count campaign, she led a groundbreaking outreach effort that resulted in the highest mail-in return rate in the nation. In her recent position as chief of staff to the California Public Utilities Commissioner, she improved public participation and access to the energy and telecommunications utility rate and regulation process. Since 1998, she has served on the Sacramento Center Advisory Board for the Sol Price School of Public Policy, University of Southern California.

Alex Padilla is the California secretary of state. He is focused on modernizing the office, increasing voter registration and participation, and strengthening voting rights. In 2018, he launched the California Motor Voter program, which automatically registers eligible Californians to vote when they obtain or renew their state ID or driver's license. The program registered one million new voters in its first year alone; in November 2019, California reached a record-high 20.3 million registered voters. He also oversaw the 2018 election, in which 64.5 percent of registered voters cast a ballot—the highest turnout for a gubernatorial election since 1982. He sponsored legislation in 2015 to establish vote centers, expand early voting, and implement same-day conditional voter registration through the Voter's Choice Act. In 2016, he oversaw the state's general election. Working with statewide partners, he helped add upwards of one million registered voters to the rolls. He is automating and digitizing business functions within his office to make it easier to do business in California. He grew up in the San Fernando Valley, attended local public schools, and graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a degree in mechanical engineering.

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Karen Skelton is founder and president of Skelton Strategies, a boutique political and strategic consulting firm. For more than 30 years, she has worked within the private and public sectors to design campaigns that require political, legal, and communications skills to shape policy. She has experience in a range of subject matters, including a passion for policies focused on climate change, economic equality, and transportation. She successfully navigates regulatory agencies such as the California Air Resources Board, the California Public Utilities Commission, and the Environmental Protection Agency. For almost a decade, she was CEO of The Shriver Reports, a nonprofit media initiative examining seismic societal shifts currently affecting American women and families. In that role, she was the coordinating producer of the Emmy-nominated and Television Academy–honored HBO documentary *Paycheck to Paycheck: The Life and Times of Katrina Gilbert*. The Shriver Report was part of the team winning a 2015 Emmy for All In with Chris Hayes for news discussion and analysis. She has managed some of the most complex and entrepreneurial projects in the nation for presidents, vice presidents, governors, CEOs, and foundations. She spent about a decade in Washington, DC, working in the Clinton/Gore administration at the White House and the US Departments of Justice and Transportation, and another decade managing a national public affairs firm, building it from scratch with a DC-based partner into a multimillion-dollar business. She joined PPIC’s board of directors in 2019, having previously served on the PPIC Statewide Leadership Council. She holds a BA in English from UCLA, a master’s degree from Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government, and a JD from the UC Berkeley Law School.