

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.

Ambassador Eleni Kounalakis was sworn in as the 50th Lieutenant Governor of California in 2019, making her the first woman elected Lt. Governor of California. Previously, she served as U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Hungary under President Barack Obama from 2010 to 2013. Prior to her public service, Kounalakis was president of one of California's most respected housing development firms, AKT Development, where she worked for 18 years. In addition to her duties as Lt. Governor, Kounalakis is California's Representative for International Affairs and Trade, appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom by executive order.