

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. An authority on elections, voter behavior, and political and fiscal reform, he has authored ten books and numerous reports on these topics. 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.

Joe Boyd is executive director of the California Teachers Association (CTA). He oversees more than 400 CTA staff members throughout the state. He has been helping people and groups organize around issues for more than 30 years—23 of them with CTA. In the early 1990s, he headed United Teachers of Richmond in the wake of its state-imposed receivership. He has worked with rural, suburban, and urban locals across the state, handling political campaigns, negotiations, and advocacy. In 2008, he was executive director for the Teachers Association of Long Beach, which was just coming out of receivership. After leaving CTA and establishing his own advocacy and organizing firm, he became executive director of the California Federation of Teachers in 2016. He has a bachelor's degree from University of California, Berkeley, and a teaching credential from San Francisco State University.

Ricardo Cano covers education for CalMatters, a journalism nonprofit that covers California politics and government. Previously, he covered Arizona's public schools as the education reporter for the *Arizona Republic* and *azcentral.com*. He has been a finalist for several awards: a Livingston Award for Young Journalists honoring outstanding achievement by professionals under the age of 35, an Education Writers Association award for data journalism, and two consecutive Arizona Press Club awards for public service journalism. He is a Fresno State alumnus and attended California public schools.

Suzanne Kitchens is president of the California School Boards Association (CSBA), a group representing more than 1,000 California school districts and county offices of education and more than 5,000 local educational area trustees. She has had numerous roles within CSBA, serving as regional director, delegate, and a member of several committees. She served for more than 20 years as a volunteer in Pleasant Valley School District before winning election to the school board in 2000 and subsequently serving as board president. She is an accountant by trade and owns a tax business. She holds a bachelor's degree in business and a master's in business administration from California State University, Dominguez Hills, and is a graduate of CSBA's Masters in Governance program.

Ron Williams is president of the Association of California School Administrators. He provides leadership for the development and implementation of rigorous curricula, programs, and assessments. Previously, he facilitated several high-profile programs and partnerships for the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, including the California Distinguished Schools Program the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program. Prior to his work in San Bernardino County, he served in a variety of roles—including assistant principal and teacher—in multiple California districts. He is the superintendent of the Victor Valley Union High School District and serves as the state

delegate for the National Association of Secondary School Principals. In 2019, he was named Superintendent of the Year by the California Association of African-American Superintendents and Administrators. He holds master's and doctoral degrees in educational leadership.