

## 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.

**Dr. Nadine Burke Harris**, MD, MPH, FAAP, is surgeon general of California. She has dedicated her career to serving vulnerable communities and combating the root causes of health disparities. She is the founder of the Center for Youth Wellness, an organization leading the effort to advance pediatric medicine, raise public awareness, and transform society's response to children exposed to adverse experiences and toxic stress. Her TED Talk, "How Childhood Trauma Affects Health across a Lifetime" has been viewed more than 7 million times. Her book *The Deepest Well: Healing the Long-Term Effects of Childhood Adversity* was called "indispensable" by the *New York Times*. She is the recipient of the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism in Medicine Award presented by the American Academy of Pediatrics as well as the Heinz Award for the Human Condition. She received her bachelor's degree in integrative biology from the University of California, Berkeley and her medical degree from the University of California, Davis.

**Melody Gutierrez** covers state government and politics in Sacramento for the *Los Angeles Times*. Her focus is on healthcare policy, but over the past year she has chronicled the pandemic from the first case of COVID-19 in California to outbreaks, mask shortages, and most recently, the vaccine rollout. She has worked in print media for more than two decades. Prior to joining the *Times* in 2018, she covered state politics for the *San Francisco Chronicle* and the *Sacramento Bee*. She graduated from California State University, Chico.

**Dr. Sandra R. Hernández**, MD, is president and CEO of the California Health Care Foundation. Previously, she was CEO of The San Francisco Foundation, which she led for 16 years, and director of public health for the city and county of San Francisco. She also co-chaired San Francisco's Universal Healthcare Council, which designed the Healthy San Francisco program. In 2018, she was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to the Covered California board of directors. In 2019, she was appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom to the Healthy California for All Commission, which is charged with developing a plan to help California achieve a health care delivery system that provides coverage and access through a unified financing system. She also serves on the University of California Regents Health Services Committee and the Chancellor's Health Advisory Board for University of California, San Diego. She is a graduate of Yale University, the Tufts School of Medicine, and the certificate program for senior executives in state and local government at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

**Jim Wood**, DDS, is the assemblymember for the Second Assembly district, including Del Norte, Trinity, Humboldt, and Mendocino Counties, and northern and coastal Sonoma County. He is a general dentist by profession and has chaired the Assembly Health Committee since 2016. He is invested in identifying how California can provide health care to all. His priorities in the assembly include health care, wildfire

prevention, environmental protection, and housing and homelessness, with a focus on the impact of these issues on rural populations. In the past year, he has focused on responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and health equity. He has been a leader in passing legislation to protect and expand access to medical, dental, and mental health care, to contain health care costs, to prevent surprise medical bills, and to broaden subsidies for purchasing health care coverage. In 2006, he was elected to the Healdsburg City Council, eventually serving two terms as mayor. He earned his bachelor's degree from University of California, Riverside and his DDS from Loma Linda University.