

## 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.

**Mark Ridley-Thomas** is a member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, serving the Second District. He is also a board member of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Commission, and LA Care, the nation's largest publicly operated health plan. In 2017, he authored Measure H and led LA County's unprecedented effort to end homelessness. Previously, he served the 26th District in the California State Senate, where he chaired the Senate's Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development. In 2008 he served as Chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus. First elected to public office in 1991, he served on the Los Angeles City Council for nearly a dozen years and was Council President pro Tempore. In 1992 he founded the Empowerment Congress, arguably the LA region's most successful initiative in neighborhood-based civic engagement. He later served two terms in the California State Assembly, where he chaired the Jobs, Economic Development, and Economy Committee and the Assembly Democratic Caucus. From 1981–1991 he was the

executive director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Greater Los Angeles. He earned BA and MA degrees from Immaculate Heart College and a PhD in social ethics from the University of Southern California.

**Darrell Steinberg** is mayor of Sacramento. As co-chair of Governor Newsom's Regional Council of Homeless Advisors, he led efforts to change to the way housing and supportive services are provided and mandated that people experiencing homelessness be brought indoors. He served as a city councilman before being elected to the State Assembly and State Senate. As a state legislator, he championed economic development, education reform, building sustainable communities, and major investments in healthcare and education. He was the first Sacramentan to serve as president of the State Senate in more than 125 years and was elected mayor of Sacramento in 2016. He is a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles, and UC Davis Law School.