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.

Nancy Pelosi is the 52nd Speaker of the House of Representatives. She has represented San Francisco, California’s 12th Congressional District, for more than three decades. In January 2019, she became the first person in more than 60 years to regain the Speaker’s gavel, after having been the first woman elected Speaker in 2007. Over the past few years, she has kept House Democrats united through the government shutdown in 2018–19, the presidential impeachment, and the congressional response to the COVID-19 pandemic. She has been a House leader for 18 years and has an extensive record of legislative achievement that includes historic health insurance reform, key investments in college aid, measures to promote clean energy and innovation, and initiatives to help small businesses and veterans. She has long been a powerful voice for civil rights and human rights around the world. In 2013, she was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame. She holds a BA in political science from Trinity College in Washington, DC.