
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, often provides testimony before legislative committees and state commissions, and regularly hosts PPIC's Speaker Series. 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. He holds a PhD in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley.

Ruben Barrales is president and CEO of GROW Elect. Before joining GROW Elect, he was president and CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce. He also served as deputy assistant to the president and director of intergovernmental affairs for President George W. Bush. Previously, he was president and CEO of Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network and the first Latino elected to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. He serves on both the PPIC Statewide Survey Advisory Committee and on PPIC's board of directors. He has served on several other commissions and boards, including the California Speaker's Commission on State and Local Government Finance and the California Commission of Local Governance for the 21st Century. He holds a BA with a joint major in political science and administrative studies from the University of California, Riverside.

Nancy Pelosi is the Democratic Leader of the House of Representatives in the 115th Congress. She has led House Democrats for 16 years, and she served as the first woman Speaker of the House from 2007 to 2011. She has represented San Francisco, California's 12th District, for 31 years. She brings to her leadership position a distinguished record of legislative accomplishment. She led the Congress in passing historic health insurance reform, key investments in college aid, clean energy and innovation, and initiatives to help small businesses and veterans. She has been a powerful voice for civil rights and human rights around the world for decades. In 2013, she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame. She comes from a family with a strong tradition of public service in Baltimore. Married to Paul Pelosi, she is a mother of five and grandmother of nine.