
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.

Donna Lucas is founder and CEO of Lucas Public Affairs, a California-based strategic consulting, public affairs, and communications firm. She has served on PPIC's board of directors since 2007. Over the course of her career, she has provided strategic counsel to large corporate clients, labor unions, nonprofits, and political candidates. Prior to forming Lucas Public Affairs in 2006, she served as a deputy chief of staff for strategic planning and initiatives for Governor Schwarzenegger and chief of staff to First Lady Maria Shriver. Previously, she was the global and public affairs practice leader for Porter Novelli and CEO of the Nelson Communications Group. She also served as deputy press secretary for Governor George Deukmejian, deputy treasurer for Tom Hayes, and California press secretary for President George H. W. Bush. Currently, she serves on the boards of the California Chamber of Commerce, the College Futures Foundation, Maria Shriver's A Woman's Nation Foundation, and the Scripps Institute of Oceanography. She is a graduate of the University of Southern California's School of Journalism.

Tony Thurmond is a state assemblymember and has served the people of California in elected office for ten years. He currently represents California's 15th Assembly District, which includes the East Bay communities that stretch along the I-80 corridor from Hercules to

Oakland. In the state assembly, he has made improving public education his top priority. He passed legislation to provide millions of dollars to school districts to help keep kids in school and out of the criminal justice system, fought for money to help ensure California youth in foster care have the opportunity to go to college, and increased funding for early education programs. He is working to provide more money for preschool and after school programs, expand school-based health and social services, and increase housing and other incentives for teachers. A fellow in the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Children and Family Fellowship program, he is a graduate and former student body president of Temple University. He holds dual master's degrees in law and social policy and social work from Bryn Mawr College.

Marshall Tuck has spent the last 15 years working to improve public education. Most recently, he worked as an educator-in-residence at the New Teacher Center, a nonprofit organization working with school districts to help develop and retain effective teachers and principals. Prior to that, he was the founding CEO of the nonprofit Partnership for Los Angeles Schools, a groundbreaking collaboration between the mayor's office and LA Unified School District to operate 18 struggling elementary, middle, and high schools serving 15,000 students. Under his leadership, these schools raised four-year graduation rates by more than 60 percent and had the highest academic improvement among California's school systems with more than 10,000 students. He was previously the president of the nonprofit Green Dot Public Schools, where he helped create ten new public charter high schools in some of LA's poorest neighborhoods, eight of which have been ranked among the top high schools in America by *US News & World Report*. He is a graduate of UCLA and Harvard Business School.