

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.

Kevin McCarthy serves California's 23rd district and is the Minority Leader in the US House of Representatives. He has been a strong supporter of the Trump administration's legislative agenda, including the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act. He has also worked for more federal aid to help fight California wildfires, authored a bill to support US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and proposed several bills to address climate change. First elected to Congress in 2006, he became Chief Deputy Whip in 2009 and Majority Whip in 2011; in 2014 he became Majority Leader. From 2002 to 2006, he represented the 32nd Assembly District in the California Legislature, the last two years as Minority Leader; before that, he was district director for Congressman Bill Thomas. He began his career in public service as a trustee for the Kern County Community College District. He holds a BA in marketing and an MBA from California State University, Bakersfield.