
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. 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.

Rusty Hicks is chair of the California Democratic Party. He was a Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee delegate for over 12 years. Previously, as president of the LA County Federation of Labor, his initiatives included increasing diversity in the union; fighting for a \$15 minimum wage, greater protections against sexual harassment and assault, and safe and clean water in Los Angeles; and driving ballot measures to build affordable housing, provide homeless housing and services, and expand the LA transit system. He was the LA Fed's political director for 10 years, leading political operations across Southern California. He also served as the California political director of the 2008 Obama campaign. Early in his career, he worked for the late Assemblymember Mike Gordon and then-Assemblymember Ted Lieu. He is a lieutenant in the US Navy Reserve and a graduate of Austin College and Loyola Law School.

Tamara Keith is a White House correspondent for National Public Radio and cohost of the *NPR Politics Podcast*. She also appears on the weekly Politics Monday segment of *PBS NewsHour*. In 2018, she was elected to serve on the board of the White House Correspondents' Association. She previously covered Congress and business for NPR, with an emphasis on House Republicans, the budget, taxes, and fiscal issues. Before that, she covered California politics and policy for member stations KQED and KPCC. She holds a master's in journalism from the Graduate School of Journalism at the University of California, Berkeley.

Marisa Lagos is a correspondent for KQED's California politics and government desk and cohosts a weekly show and podcast, *Political Breakdown*, that offers a peek into the lives and personalities of those driving politics in California and beyond. At KQED, she conducts reporting, analysis, and investigations into state, local, and national politics for radio, TV, and the internet. Previously, she worked for nine years at the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *San Francisco Examiner*, and the *Los Angeles Times*. She was nominated for a Peabody and won several other awards for her work investigating the 2017 wildfires.

Jessica Patterson is chair of the California Republican Party, the first woman and Latina to serve in this role. She has served the California Republican Party, the Republican National Committee, and state-wide and national candidates for nearly two decades, including leadership positions for Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Mayor Rudy Giuliani, and Senator John McCain. Previously, she was CEO and cofounder of California Trailblazers, an organization that recruits, trains, and helps elect Republican candidates to state legislative offices. Trailblazers has helped facilitate over \$6 million in independent expenditures to more than 160 candidates. She serves on the board of directors for the Marian Bergeson Series, a training program designed to recruit and train the next generation of Republican women in California politics.