

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 Faulconer is mayor of San Diego. Shortly after taking office in 2014, he began implementing his vision for One San Diego, a unified city with an inclusive government that creates opportunities for San Diegans and delivers results for every neighborhood. Under his leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic, the city has taken quick and decisive action to protect public health and help people and the small businesses stay afloat. His directives provided economic relief to residents, doubled the number of homeless individuals housed, and re-imagined how government operates, with innovative initiatives such as transforming parks and parking lots into places for dining, retail, gyms, and religious services. He is also known for strengthening ties with Mexico, enacting a bipartisan climate action plan, and backing homeless policies to make San Diego the only major city in California where homelessness is decreasing. Previously, he served as a city councilmember and worked in public affairs. He graduated from San Diego State University.

Libby Schaaf is mayor of Oakland. A native Oaklander, she is committed to revitalization that preserves and celebrates the city's diversity and leads to prosperity for long-time residents and newcomers. During her tenure, Oakland has undergone an economic revival and building boom, and has cut gun violence in half. Her housing plan has helped increase Oakland's affordable housing production, stabilize rents, and decrease evictions. Her innovative public-private partnerships have prevented over 1,800 families from losing their housing, while resolving some of Oakland's most unsafe street encampments. She has also launched the Oakland Promise, an initiative to send more low-income Oakland kids to college. In 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom appointed her to California's first Council of Regional Homeless Advisors. Before being elected mayor in 2014, she served on the Oakland City Council and was a council chief of staff and top mayoral aide to Jerry Brown. She holds a JD from Loyola Law School in Los Angeles and a BA from Rollins College in Florida.