

PARTICIPANTS

J. Edgar Boyd is the pastor of the 142-year-old First African Methodist Episcopal Church of Los Angeles (FAME). Assigned to the church in 2012, he has empowered the church's leadership to proactively address the overall health, social, and educational needs of the parishioners and the larger community. As the CEO of FAME, he conceived the formation of the South Los Angeles Community Development and Empowerment Corporation, organized to address social and economic issues in South Los Angeles. Previously, he was pastor of the Bethel AME Church in San Francisco for 20 years, where he established a multi-million dollar housing and community development corporation. He served as clerical dean of the California Conference for 20 years and currently serves as a member of the General Board of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Inc., and as treasurer for the denomination's 5th Episcopal District. He holds a BA in community development from Western Washington University and a master of divinity degree from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in Iowa. He is pursuing a doctor of ministry degree at the American Baptist Seminary of the West in Berkeley.

Deborah Gonzalez is director of government affairs at PPIC. She and her staff work to connect PPIC research with policymakers and community leaders. A longtime Capitol staffer, she served as policy and fiscal director for six legislative leaders and worked on a wide variety of issues—including the state budget, education reform, infrastructure funding, and public safety. She holds a law degree from the McGeorge School of Law, University of the Pacific, and a BA from Claremont McKenna College, where she majored in international relations.

Magnus Lofstrom is policy director of corrections and a senior fellow at PPIC, and a visiting professor at the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley. Focusing on crime rates and recidivism, his recent work examines criminal justice reforms in California. His research also spans issues in immigration, education, and entrepreneurship. His research has been published in numerous academic books and journals, including *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Demography*, *Criminology & Public Policy*, and *Journal of Population Economics*. He serves on the editorial board of *Industrial Relations* and was a member of then-California State Controller John Chiang's Council of Economic Advisors. Prior to joining PPIC, he was a faculty member at the University of Texas at Dallas and the University of California, Irvine. He received his PhD in economics from the University of California, San Diego.

Brandon Martin is a research associate at the Public Policy Institute of California. He studies corrections and public safety, with recent work examining the need for jail construction in California and the changes in state and local correctional populations. He has previous research experience in the area of legislative committees, including legislative and oversight responsibilities and the electoral considerations of committee assignments. He holds an MA in political science from the University of California, Davis, and a BA in political science from Michigan State University.

Tod Sockman has been chief of police for the City of Galt since 2016. He was recently appointed to the board of directors of the League of California Cities. He has been vice president and president of the Central Sierra Police Chiefs Association and is on the board of directors of the California Police Chiefs Association. Prior to serving in Galt he was a division commander for the West Sacramento Police Department. He began his law enforcement career in the United States Air Force. He is a strong proponent of community policing, which focuses on quality-of-life issues in individual neighborhoods. He has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice management and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy.

Shirley Nash Weber represents California's 79th Assembly District. She chairs the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Public Safety and is a member of the standing committees on education, higher education, elections, budget, and banking and finance. Prior to being elected to the assembly, she served as the chair of the Citizens' Equal Opportunity Commission. She was a professor at San Diego State University and also taught at California State University at Los Angeles and Los Angeles City College. She served as president of the 79th Assembly District school board, where she became known for her advocacy for closing the achievement gap and a higher standard of excellence for all children. She has also served on the board of the NAACP, the Young Women's Christian Association, the YMCA Scholarship Committee, battered women's services, United Way, the San Diego Consortium and Private Industry Council, and many more. She has lectured throughout the United States, the Caribbean, and Africa. She received her BA, MA, and PhD at UCLA.