

## PARTICIPANTS

**Jackie Botts** covers income inequality for CalMatters, as part of The California Divide, a statewide collaboration between newsrooms to report on income inequity and economic survival in the Golden State. She previously reported for the data and enterprise desk at Reuters News and for the *Santa Barbara Independent*. Her articles have also appeared in *Pacific Standard*, Public Radio International's "The World," and the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, among other publications. She is a Report for America corps member. She graduated from Stanford University's master's program in journalism.

**Caroline Danielson** is a policy director and senior fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California. Her research focuses on multiple dimensions of the social safety net, including its role in mitigating poverty, program access and enrollment, and the integration and governance of programs. Her work has been published in numerous academic journals, including the *Journal of Policy Analysis* and the *Social Service Review*. Before coming to PPIC, she was a principal analyst at the University of California's Welfare Policy Research Project and a faculty member in the Department of Politics at the State University of New York, Potsdam. She holds a PhD in political science from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in policy analysis from the Pardee RAND graduate school.

**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.

**Kim Johnson** is director of the California Department of Social Services. She was previously appointed by Governor Jerry Brown as the deputy director of the Family Engagement and Empowerment Division and was responsible for the planning, policy direction, and oversight of services to over 4 million individuals, children, and families living in poverty through safety net resources, employment opportunities, and additional engagement strategies. She served as branch chief for CalWORKs and child care and refugee programs in 2015. She was also appointed to serve as a member of the State Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Intervention, the State Advisory Council on Early Learning and Care, and the Public Policy Committee of Child Care Aware of America. She holds a degree in social welfare from the University of California, Berkeley.

**Richard Raya** is director of Mission Promise Neighborhood, working with 20 government and community partners to improve educational results for San Francisco's children, build wealth and political power for families, and combat displacement through real estate development and preservation. Previously, he was chief of staff for an Oakland city councilmember, where he mediated community-benefit negotiations. He has also served as executive director of Youth Radio, and director of administrative services for the Alameda County Public Health Department. He earned a bachelor's in English and a MPP from the University of California, Berkeley.

**Tess Thorman** is a research associate at the Public Policy Institute of California. Her research interests include community health, immigration, and social and economic equity. Before joining PPIC, she worked as a consultant with the Center for Migration Studies of New York, where she researched capacity for implementing a large-scale legalization program for undocumented immigrants. She holds an MPP from the University of Southern California and a BA with a major in English and musical studies from Oberlin College.

**Peter Weber** is founder of California Bridge Academies and a former Fortune 500 executive at the helm of some of the world's leading technology and agricultural science companies. He was an advisor to former Fresno mayors Alan Autry and Ashley Swearengen, and currently serves as an advisor to Fresno mayor Lee Brand. In 2010, he launched the Fresno Bridge Academy, now called the California Bridge Academies,

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which has expanded into more than a dozen academies in six counties. He currently co-chairs California Forward and is chair emeritus of the California Bridge Academies, and also serves on the board of California Competes and formerly served on the board of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, the Fresno Business Council, the Fresno Citizen Corp, Fresno Citizens for Good Government, the Fresno Regional Jobs Initiative, the Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and the Stanford Institute for Manufacturing and Automation. He received a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, and is a graduate of the executive program at the Stanford University Business School.