

PARTICIPANTS

Sarah Bohn is vice president of research and a senior fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California, where she holds the John and Louise Bryson Chair in Policy Research. She is also a member of the PPIC Higher Education Center. As vice president of research, she works with PPIC staff to bring high-quality, nonpartisan research to important policy issues in California. Her own research focuses on the role of social safety net policy and education policy in alleviating poverty and enhancing economic mobility. Her other areas of expertise include immigration policy, the workforce skills gap, and California's economy. Her work has been published in major academic journals, including the *American Economic Review*, *Demography*, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, and *The Review of Economics and Statistics*. She holds a PhD in economics from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Ashley Swarengin is president and CEO of the Central Valley Community Foundation, a charitable foundation serving the six counties of central California and providing over \$110 million in funding to over 650 community benefit organizations over the last decade. Prior to joining the foundation, she served as mayor of Fresno from 2009 through 2016. As mayor, she focused her efforts on improving distressed neighborhoods, revitalizing the downtown and urban core, promoting business and job growth, securing the city's long-term water supply, addressing chronic homelessness, and stabilizing the city's financial position. Before becoming mayor, she led a number of community and economic development initiatives in the Central Valley, including the Governor's Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, Fresno State's Office of Community and Economic Development, and the Central Valley Business Incubator. She sits on the boards of numerous organizations dedicated to economic empowerment and educational attainment in the Central Valley and throughout California, including the College Futures Foundation, Urban Institute, California Forward, and New America. She holds MBA and BS degrees from California State University, Fresno.

Betty T. Yee is California's state controller. As the state's chief fiscal officer, she chairs the Franchise Tax Board and serves as a board member of the California Public Employees' Retirement System and the California State Teachers' Retirement System. She also serves on the California Board of Equalization and on the board of Ceres, a nonprofit organization working to advance global sustainability and action on climate change. As a member of the State Lands Commission, she helps provide stewardship of public trust lands, waterways, industrial wharves, marine terminals, pipelines, and resources through economic development, protection, preservation, and restoration consistent with the state's environmental needs. Through other financing authorities, she works to increase the number of affordable housing units, spur economic development, support pollution-control innovations, and strengthen health and educational facilities. Previously, she was the chief deputy director for budget with the California Department of Finance, where she led the development of the governor's budget. Prior to this, she served in senior staff positions for several fiscal and policy committees in both houses of the California State Legislature. She received her bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley, and a master's degree in public administration from Golden Gate University.