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Patrick Murphy is an adjunct fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California and professor of public affairs, public administration, and politics at the University of San Francisco (USF). He serves as the faculty director for the graduate programs in public service. For nearly 20 years, he taught in USF's Department of Politics, where he served as department chair as well as director of the McCarthy Center for Public Service. His research is focused on public budgets and tax policy, with an emphasis on fairness and sustainability. As a policy researcher, he has led a number of different applied projects for organizations including the RAND Corporation, Yale's Tobin Center for Economic Policy, and PPIC, where he was director of research. He has worked in and with governments, from the federal level in the US Office of Management and Budget, to serving as a consultant for state and local fiscal issues, to impact philanthropy at Arnold Ventures encouraging governments to make efficient and fair public finance decisions. He earned an MA and PhD in political science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison as well as an MPA from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas-Austin.

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