Working Together For a More Inclusive Democracy

Future of California Elections

2015 Conference
February 18 & 19, 2015
Sacramento Convention Center

www.futureofcaelections.org
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This conference is generously sponsored by:

The James Irvine Foundation

Special thanks to the 2015 FoCE Conference Planning Committee.

Alexandra Bjerg  
California Forward

Yesenia Martinez  
NALEO Educational Fund

Ofelia Medina  
NALEO Educational Fund

Jennifer Pae  
League of Women Voters of California Education Fund

Leila Pedersen  
California Common Cause

Gail L. Pellerin  
Santa Cruz County Clerk

Emily Rusch  
CALPIRG
Welcome!

Thank you for attending and participating in the 2015 conference of Future of California Elections (FoCE). FoCE was formed in 2011 to examine and address the difficult challenges facing the state of California’s election system. With generous support from the James Irvine Foundation, FoCE has become an effective collaboration of election administrators, election reform advocates and civil rights organizations working to expand participation by modernizing our elections.

2015 marks the beginning of a renewed effort to achieve consensus around all aspects of electoral reform, including new laws, regulations, technologies, and community-based initiatives to make voting easier and more accessible while safeguarding electoral integrity. After years of decline in funding for state and local government, budgets have stabilized creating new opportunities for forward-looking initiatives. The inauguration of a new, reform-minded Secretary of State, means renewed leadership from Sacramento. Equally important is the ability of Future of California Elections to create a positive dialogue amongst diverse stakeholders, building consensus around shared goals, and mutual understanding where differences remain.

As we begin the new year, we would like to say thank you to our Founding Executive Director, Doug Chapin. Doug has worked tirelessly to move FoCE from just an idea, to an impressive and well functioning reality. We take comfort in the knowledge that he will continue be an active participant in FoCE and in the electoral reform movement nationally.

California is home to the largest and most diverse electorate in the nation. Our elections present many challenges, but many more opportunities. Through a productive partnership of local and state leaders, California, as it has in so many other policy areas, will be a model for the nation.

Welcome to our conference!

Vince Hall
Executive Director

Join our conversation today on Twitter

@FutureCAEelect #FOCE2015
Members

Participating County Elections Officials:

Cathy Darling Allen
Shasta County Clerk

Jill LaVine
Sacramento County Registrar of Voters

Gail L. Pellerin
Santa Cruz County Clerk

Neal Kelley
Orange County Registrar of Voters

Dean Logan
Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

Participating Organizations:

American Civil Liberties Union of California
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles
California Association of Clerks and Election Officials
California Common Cause
California Forward
California Voter Foundation
CALPIRG
Disability Rights California
The Greenlining Institute
League of Women Voters of California
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund
Rock the Vote
Verified Voting Foundation

Future of California Elections Staff:

Vince Hall
Executive Director

Stefani Jimenez
Project Coordinator

Doug Chapin
Project Consultant

Astrid Garcia Ochoa
Deputy Director

Will Romero
Project Coordinator
Resources

Recent toolkits, reports and research developed by FoCE members and partners.


- California Online Voter Registration Toolkit [http://www.futureofcaelections.org/covr/](http://www.futureofcaelections.org/covr/)


- UC Davis Center for Regional Change, The California Civic Engagement Project


- ACLU of California Voting Rights Project “How to Comply with the National Voter Registration Act” A toolkit for Agency Staff, NVRA Coordinators and Election Officials [https://www.aclusandiego.org/NVRA-toolkit/](https://www.aclusandiego.org/NVRA-toolkit/)
2015 Conference Agenda

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

11:00 am  
Registration Opens

1:00 pm  
Welcome and Opening Keynote

Welcome
Vince Hall, Executive Director, Future of California Elections

Keynote Speaker
Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of California

1:30 pm  
Opening Plenary

Opening Remarks
Alex Padilla, California Secretary of State

Expanding Participation in California’s Democracy: 
A look at current reforms and the road ahead
California’s new election practices can help to expand participation. Online Voter Registration is entering its third year and Election Day Registration will be implemented in the near future with the hope of increasing participation. This panel will look at California’s diverse demographics and how election policies and practices can help expand participation in the state’s democracy.

- Lisa García Bedolla, Chancellor’s Professor, UC Berkeley
- Joseph E. Holland, County Clerk, Recorder and Assessor - Registrar of Voters, County of Santa Barbara
- Ted Jackson, Community Organizing Director, California Foundation for Independent Living Centers and Disability Organizing Network
- Arturo Vargas, Executive Director, National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund
- Kathay Feng, Executive Director, California Common Cause, Moderator

3:00 pm  
Break

3:30 pm  
Afternoon Sessions

Session A: Modernizing Elections: 
California’s new statewide voter registration database
This panel will provide an update on VoteCal and look at lessons learned from other states with centralized voter registration databases. Panelists will discuss the new voter look-up tools and public data available through the VoteCal system and potential uses for increased look-up engagement.

- Neal Kelley, Registrar of Voters, County of Orange
- Jana M. Lean, Chief of Elections, Office of the California Secretary of State
- John Lindback, Executive Director, Election Registration Information Center (ERIC)
- Steven Ochoa, National Redistricting Coordinator, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)
- Tammy Patrick, Senior Advisor to the Democracy Project, Bipartisan Policy Center
- Kathay Feng, Executive Director, California Common Cause, Moderator

3:30 pm  
Main Room
2015 Conference Agenda

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

3:30 pm  Room 201
Session B: Expanding Electoral Participation through Language Access
State and federal laws require that counties provide language assistance in covered jurisdictions. Providing language assistance for limited English proficient voters ensures that all voters can participate in the election. This panel will explore new and bold efforts that are improving language assistance in California. Participants will learn about the importance of language access advisory committees and expanding the pool of eligible bilingual poll workers.

- Zainab Badi, Claiming Our Democracy Fellow, The Greenlining Institute
- Denise Hulett, National Senior Counsel, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)
- Deanna Kitamura, Senior Staff Attorney, Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles
- Tim McNamara, Assistant Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, County of Los Angeles
- Ofelia Medina, Director of State Civic Engagement Policy, National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund, Moderator

3:30 pm  Room 205
Session C: Expanding Participation for Voters with Disabilities
All voters have the right to cast a private and independent ballot. Election administrators and advocates work to guarantee this right for voters with disabilities. This panel will review the best practices for assisting voters with disabilities. Participants will learn best practices for engaging voters with disabilities in California’s democratic process, from providing voter information in accessible formats to casting a ballot.

- Adam Borovkoff, Web Content Specialist, Disability Rights California
- Fred Nisen, Staff Attorney, Disability Rights California
- Gail L. Pellerin, County Clerk/Registrar of Voters, County of Santa Cruz
- Marinda Reed, Peer Self-Advocacy Senior Coordinator, Disability Rights California
- Margaret Johnson, Advocacy Director, Disability Rights California, Moderator

3:30 pm  Room 204
Session D: Expanding Participation for Young Voters
Registering young voters and engaging them to vote helps to develop a life-long habit of voting. However, young voters face challenges to participation: they move frequently, making it harder to make sure they are registered at their current address; many are new to the process and unsure about how to vote; they feel undereducated about what’s on their ballot; and some feel that their vote doesn’t matter. In this session participants will contribute to a group discussion on the challenges to youth participation, new opportunities with online voter registration and pre-registration, and how to best use educational institutions and other influencers to encourage youth participation.

- Kirk Aranda, Youth Organizer, California Foundation for Independent Living Centers – Youth Organizing (YO!) Disabled and Proud
- Robert Frazier, Government Relations Coordinator, California State Student Association
- Stephanie Lew, CALPIRG Campus Relations Chair, UC Davis
- Julian Roberto Martinez, Northern California Undergraduate Organizing Director, UC Student Association
- Ashley Spillane, President, Rock the Vote
- Emily Rusch, Director, CALPIRG, Moderator
2015 Conference Agenda

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

5:00 pm
Lobby Area

Welcome Reception

Remarks By:

• Senator Ben Allen, Chair, Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee
• Assemblymember Sebastian Ridley-Thomas, Chair, Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee
2015 Conference Agenda

Thursday, February 19, 2015

8:00 am  Registration Opens

9:00 am  Opening Plenary

Best Practices for Voting Information
The right messengers and presentation of voting information can improve how voters get the information they need to participate in elections. This panel will review best practices for how to present voting information content through design and online platforms as well as examine the importance of having the right messengers. Participants will learn best practices for relaying voter information.

- Deanna Kitamura, Senior Staff Attorney, Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles
- Jared Marcotte, Officer of Elections Technology, The Pew Charitable Trusts
- Whitney Quesenbery, Co-Director, Center for Civic Design
- Karla Zombro, Field Director, California Calls
- Melissa Breach, Executive Director, League of Women Voters of California, Moderator

10:30 am  Break

11:00 am  Morning Sessions

Session E: Practice for Designing an Improved Voter Guide
This workshop will allow participants to use the best practices for voter information by designing a voter guide. Participants will learn how to present election information content through layout and design to produce improved voter guides.

- Whitney Quesenbery, Co-Director, Center for Civic Design
- Drew Davies, Designer, Oxide Design Co. / Center for Civic Design
- Jennifer Pae, Project Manager, Voter Service and Education, League of Women Voters of California Education Fund
2015 Conference Agenda

Thursday, February 19, 2015

11:00 am  
Main Room  
Session F: Voting Options: Increasing ways to cast a ballot beyond Election Day  
Across the U.S., states are expanding the concept of Election Day beyond a single day. New voting options like vote centers and vote-by-mail allow voters to cast their ballot over a period of several days or even weeks. This panel will explore what it takes to unhook Election Day from a single day to an Election season. Panelists will discuss the technologies and public education needed to implement new voting methods; the lessons California can learn from other states using vote centers and vote-by-mail elections; and will cover the latest research on California’s vote-by-mail electorate.

- Dean Logan, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, County of Los Angeles
- Amber McReynolds, Director of Elections, Denver Elections Division - City and County of Denver, Colorado
- Mindy Romero, Director, California Civic Engagement Project, UC Davis Center for Regional Change
- Karla Zombro, Field Director, California Calls
- Doug Chapin, Project Consultant, Future of California Elections, Moderator

11:00 am  
Room 204  
Session G: Budget Challenges and Funding California’s Democracy  
Each election cycle, election officials are charged with conducting fair and accessible elections for all eligible California voters. Yet cuts in funding and growing mandates pose challenges each election. This panel will explore the cost of elections and the challenges that occur when mandates increase and funding does not. Participants will learn how elections get budgeted and the latest research on the cost of elections.

- Cathy Darling Allen, County Clerk/Registrar of Voters, County of Shasta
- Alice Jarboe, Assistant Registrar of Voters, County of Sacramento
- Chris Hoene, Executive Director, California Budget Project
- Geoff Neill, Principal Policy and Fiscal Analyst, California State Association of Counties
- Kim Alexander, President, California Voter Foundation, Moderator

12:30 pm  
Break

1:00 pm  
Main Room  
Lunch Presentation

1:30 pm  
Break
2015 Conference Agenda

Thursday, February 19, 2015

2:00 pm  
Afternoon Sessions

2:00 pm  
Main Room  
Session A: Modernizing Elections: California’s new statewide voter registration database
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- Zainab Badi, Claiming Our Democracy Fellow, The Greenlining Institute
- Deanna Kitamura, Senior Staff Attorney, Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles
- Justin Levitt, Professor of Law, Loyola Law School, Los Angeles
- Tim McNamara, Assistant Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, County of Los Angeles
- Ofelia Medina, Director of State Civic Engagement Policy, National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund, Moderator

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Room 201  
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- Mindy Romero, Director, California Civic Engagement Project, UC Davis Center for Regional Change
- Karla Zombro, Field Director, California Calls
- Doug Chapin, Project Consultant, Future of California Elections, Moderator

3:30 pm
Break

4:00 pm
Main Room

Closing Plenary

Closing Plenary: Looking Forward to an Expanded Electorate
The low voter turnout in the 2014 elections raised much frustration across the nation. However, the elections community continues to see the silver lining that change is possible. Past policies and practices have increased participation, as is evident by the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This panel will look at what states and organizers are doing nationally to increase participation and discuss the future policies and practices that will expand the electorate in years to come.

- Justin Levitt, Professor of Law, Loyola Law School, Los Angeles
- Amber McReynolds, Director of Elections, Denver Elections Division - City and County of Denver, Colorado
- Tammy Patrick, Senior Advisor to the Democracy Project, Bipartisan Policy Center
- Gary Poser, Director of Elections, Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State
- Doug Chapin, Project Consultant, Future of California Elections, Moderator

Astrid Garcia Ochoa, Deputy Director, Future of California Elections, Master of Ceremonies
Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye  
Chief Justice, California Supreme Court

Chief Justice Tani Gorre Cantil-Sakauye is the 28th chief justice of the State of California. She was sworn into office on January 3, 2011, and is the first Asian-Filipina American and the second woman to serve as the state’s chief justice.

After former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger nominated her as chief justice, she was unanimously confirmed by the Commission on Judicial Appointments and in a general election on November 2, 2010, an overwhelming majority of voters elected her to that position.

Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye chairs the Judicial Council of California, the administrative policymaking body of state courts, and the Commission on Judicial Appointments.

She has served for more than 20 years on California appellate and trial courts, and has been appointed or elevated to higher office by three governors. In 1990, Governor George Deukmejian appointed her to the Sacramento Municipal Court and in 1997, Governor Pete Wilson elevated her to the Superior Court of Sacramento County. In 2005, Governor Schwarzenegger nominated her to the Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District.

Chief Justice Ronald M. George appointed her to the Judicial Council of California in September 2008. She has also served as chair of the council’s Advisory Committee on Financial Accountability and Efficiency for the Judicial Branch, a member of the Domestic Violence Practice and Procedure Task Force and chaired its Best Practices Domestic Violence Subcommittee, vice-chair of the Executive and Planning Committee, vice-chair of the Rules and Projects Committee, co-chair of the Judicial Recruitment and Retention Working Group, and as a member of the Commission for Impartial Courts Implementation Committee.

The chief justice was a Special Master, selected by the Supreme Court of California to hear disciplinary proceedings before the Commission on Judicial Performance. She was president of the Anthony M. Kennedy American Inn of Court and was a member of the national Conference of Chief Justices Board of Directors.

Born in 1959 in Sacramento, Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye received her bachelor’s degree from the University of California, Davis, graduating with honors in 1980. She attended the University of California, Davis, Martin Luther King, Jr., School of Law in 1981 and received her law degree in 1984.
Honorable Alex Padilla
California Secretary of State

Secretary of State Alex Padilla was sworn in as California Secretary of State on January 5, 2015. He is committed to modernizing the office, increasing voter registration and participation, and strengthening voting rights.

Secretary of State Padilla previously served in the California State Senate (2006-2014) where he chaired the Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Communications. As chair, he shepherded legislation to combat climate change and create a greener and more sustainable economy. He pursued an ambitious agenda in the areas of renewable energy, energy efficiency, smart grid, and broadband deployment.

Secretary of State Padilla started his career for Hughes Aircraft in Southern California. During his time there, he participated in the Coro Fellows Program where he received leadership and public affairs training. He would later work for U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein and then-Assemblymember Tony Cardenas.

In 1999, at the age of 26, Secretary of State Padilla was elected to the Los Angeles City Council to represent the same east San Fernando Valley community where he grew up. In 2001, his colleagues elected him to the first of three terms as Council President, becoming the youngest member and the first Latino to serve in this capacity. As Council President, Secretary of State Padilla provided citywide leadership at critical times. He was Acting Mayor during the tragedy of September 11, 2001. He assisted in the interview and selection of William Bratton as Chief of Police and helped negotiate the approval of LA Live and the modernization of Los Angeles International Airport.

In 2005, Secretary of State Padilla was elected President of the League of California Cities. He advocated on behalf of California cities in the State Capitol and fought to protect their budgets and advance their legislative priorities. In 2006, Secretary of State Padilla was elected to the California State Senate. He was reelected in 2010. Over the course of eight years, Secretary of State Padilla established a diverse and groundbreaking legislative record.

Secretary of State Padilla currently serves as President of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO), a non-partisan organization made up of more than 6,000 federal, state, and local officials dedicated to all aspects of civic engagement.

Secretary of State Padilla attended local public schools and went on to graduate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering.
Welcome Reception Speakers

Honorable Ben Allen
State Senator, California’s 26th Senate District
Chair, Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee

On November 4, 2014, California State Senator Ben Allen was overwhelmingly elected to represent the 26th Senate District. He was selected as a freshman senator to serve as chair of the Senate’s Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments as well as the state legislature’s Joint Committee on the Arts. He also serves on the Senate’s Budget Committee, the Budget Subcommittee that oversees the state’s education budget, the Veterans Affairs Committee, the Natural Resources and Water Committee, and the Transportation and Housing Committee.

Senator Allen is a former Board Member, and former Board President, of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. He is also an attorney with the law firm of Richardson & Patel LLP and is a lecturer at UCLA Law School, where he teaches education law and policy. Prior to his law career, Senator Allen worked for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), and then as communications director for Congressman Jose Serrano (D-NY).

He is a senior fellow with the international human rights organization Humanity in Action, is member of the Pacific Council on International Policy, and a graduate of the Jewish Federation’s New Leaders Project. Senator Allen has degrees from Harvard, Cambridge, and the University of California, Berkeley.

Honorable Sebastian Ridley-Thomas
State Assemblymember, California’s 54th Assembly District
Chair, Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee

Sebastian Ridley-Thomas was elected in December of 2013 to represent California’s 54th Assembly District. Assemblymember Ridley-Thomas previously served as public policy director for State Senator Curren Price. In this capacity, he advised the senator on economic development, transportation, housing, public safety, and local government issues – all of which are of critical importance to constituents in the 54th Assembly District.

Assemblymember Ridley-Thomas also worked as a staff member in the district office, where he was responsible for a caseload of 900,000 residents in Greater Los Angeles and as a legislative consultant to the Senate Select Committee on Procurement, where he worked to ensure small business owners in underserved communities received their fair share of state contracts, and as the political director for the nine-member California Legislative Black Caucus.

Assemblymember Ridley-Thomas received his bachelor’s degree in Sociology from Morehouse College. A graduate of the California State University, Sacramento Capitol Fellows Program, he trained in mediation and conflict resolution at the University of California, Davis Extension and California State University, Dominguez Hills.
Speaker Biographies

Kim Alexander  
President, California Voter Foundation  
@kimalex3

Kim Alexander is president and founder of the California Voter Foundation (CVF), a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization established in 1994 and dedicated to improving the voting process to better serve voters, online at www.calvoter.org. CVF is a longtime leader in advancing the responsible use of technology in the democratic process, pioneering online voter education and campaign finance disclosure, and transparency and auditing requirements for computerized voting systems. Current priorities include improving voter access to election information, restoring election funding to California’s budget, and improving the vote-by-mail process. Ms. Alexander is the author of several articles and publications, most recently CVF’s report, “Improving California’s Vote-by-Mail Process: A Three-County Study”. Ms. Alexander received her bachelor’s degree in political science and philosophy from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Kirk Aranda  
Youth Organizer, California Foundation for Independent Living Centers - Youth Organizing (YO!) Disabled and Proud

Kirk Aranda is California Foundation for Independent Living Center’s (CFILC) Youth Organizing! Disabled and Proud Youth Organizer. Prior to being hired, Mr. Aranda volunteered for YO! Disabled and Proud and assisted in organizing the annual Disability Capitol Action Day. Mr. Aranda’s identity as a person with a disability has always been a critical part of his life. At a young age he was diagnosed with a heart condition, mild aortic stenosis, but adapted to it by staying positive and pursuing the goals he wanted to achieve. Mr. Aranda received his bachelor’s degree in government/journalism from California State University, Sacramento.

Zainab Badi  
Claiming Our Democracy Fellow, The Greenlining Institute  
@badizainab

Zainab Badi is a policy fellow in the Claiming Our Democracy program at the Greenlining Institute. Ms. Badi’s work at Greenlining focuses on how to increase access to the electoral process for people of color. She previously served as the Civil and Human Rights Director at the Student Sustainability Collective located at the University of California, San Diego. This position allowed her to explore the intersections of social, economic, and environmental justice. Ms. Badi received her bachelor’s degree in international studies – political science and history from the University of California, San Diego.
Speaker Biographies

Tho Vinh Banh
Staff Attorney, Disability Rights California

Tho Vinh Banh is Staff Attorney at Disability Rights California (DRC). She has been with DRC since 2001, providing direct and systems change advocacy for individuals with disabilities, including individuals with developmental disabilities. Her direct advocacy includes the representation of individuals with disabilities in different areas of public benefits, including regional center eligibility and services, In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI), and Community Based Adult Services (CBAS). Ms. Banh has an extensive background in advocacy work related to policy issues and legislation that impact access to equitable services and supports by individuals with disabilities from minority communities. She also has an extensive background in advocacy work related to the right of individuals with disabilities to register and vote, including rights provided under the National Voter Registration Act and the recently enacted SB 35 (Padilla). Ms. Banh received her law degree from the University of California, Hastings and her bachelor’s degree in both political science and psychology from the University of California, Berkeley.

Adam Borovkoff
Web Content Specialist, Disability Rights California
@DisabilityCA

Adam Borovkoff has been working at Disability Rights California (DRC) for the last six years as DRC’s Web Content Specialist. He is an expert on accessibility, including Section 508 and W3C WCAG 2.0 compliance. Mr. Borovkoff has over 20 years experience in web design, usability, electronic document accessibility, user interface design and application development. He is also a contributor to the Web Accessibility Initiative guidelines.

Melissa Breach
Executive Director, League of Women Voters of California
@melissabreach

Melissa Breach is the Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) and the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund. As a nonpartisan political membership organization, the LWVC builds citizen participation in the democratic process and advocates on public policy issues at the state level, while the Education Fund studies and educates the public on policy issues and conducts civic and voter education activities. Prior to her tenure with the League, Ms. Breach was the Executive Director of Resourceful Women and the Director of Programs at the Center for Volunteer and Nonprofit Leadership.
Doug Chapin
Project Consultant, Future of California Elections
@HHHElections

Doug Chapin is Project Consultant of the Future for California Elections (FoCE). He came to FoCE after 10 years at The Pew Charitable Trusts, where he served as Director of Election Initiatives for The Pew Center on the States. Under his leadership, Pew’s elections team successfully lobbied for enactment of military and overseas voting reform in Congress and state legislatures; enlisted dozens of states and technology partners like Google, Microsoft, and Facebook to provide official voting information online and via mobile technology; and worked with election officials, academics, and technical experts to design and implement efforts to upgrade the nation’s voter registration systems. Prior to serving at Pew, Mr. Chapin was an attorney in private practice specializing in election and ethics law. He served as elections counsel to the Democrats on the U.S. Senate Rules Committee from 1997 to 2000, where he focused on federal election legislation and participated in the review of the disputed 1996 Senate election in Louisiana. He also serves as Director of the Election Academy at the University of Minnesota’s Humphrey School of Public Affairs. Mr. Chapin holds a law degree from Georgetown University, a master’s degree in public administration from Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government, and a bachelor’s degree in politics from Princeton University.

Cathy Darling Allen
County Clerk/Registrar of Voters, County of Shasta
@cdarling_allen

Cathy Darling Allen has served as the elected Shasta County Clerk and Registrar of Voters since 2004. She has overseen the administration of over 20 elections and has counted more than 850,000 votes using electronic voting and paper ballot voting. She continues to steer Shasta County through major changes in California election law and regulation. Ms. Darling Allen has always been an active member of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials, serving on the Elections Legislative Committee, the Board of Directors, and as past President. Ms. Darling Allen received her bachelor’s degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara.
Speaker Biographies

Drew Davies
Designer, Oxide Design Co. / Center for Civic Design
@drewoxide

Drew Davies is the founder and design director of Oxide Design Co., a communications and information design firm established in 2001. Mr. Davies is the national president emeritus of AIGA, the professional association for design. He also serves as the design director for AIGA’s Design for Democracy Initiative. He was on the core design and research team that developed the U.S. Election Assistance Commission’s national ballot design standards, and continues to be actively involved in implementing best practices for ballot design on a nationwide basis. Mr. Davies has a wide range of experience in the elections design realm. He redesigned the voter registration form for the State of New York and conducted a training session on ballot design for top New York State Board of Elections officials. He has worked with the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) to redesign both the online and print versions of the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) and Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) for overseas voters. Mr. Davies is also the lead designer on the Anywhere Ballot, an online interface designed to allow voters to mark their ballot any time, in any place, on any device.

Kathay Feng
Executive Director, California Common Cause
@kathayccc

Kathay Feng is Executive Director of California Common Cause. Under her leadership, California Common Cause has been active in championing election and redistricting reforms, government sunshine and accountability laws, campaign finance reforms, media access, and the voting rights of traditionally disenfranchised communities. Ms. Feng helped spearhead California Common Cause’s successful effort to pass initiatives to create an independent citizens redistricting commission to draw state legislative and congressional districts in a fair and independent manner, which has become a model for redistricting reform across the nation. Most recently, she has led efforts to win the passage of new laws that have brought Online Voter Registration and Same Day Registration to the state. Locally, she also helped lead a successful Los Angeles coalition effort to reform the matching funds campaign finance system in 2011. Ms. Feng attained her bachelor’s degree from Cornell University and holds a law degree from the University of California, Los Angeles.
Speaker Biographies

Robert Frazier
Government Relations Coordinator, California State Student Association

Robert Frazier currently serves as the Government Relations Coordinator for the California State Student Association, the official voice for the 447,000 students of the California State University. Alongside student government leaders, Mr. Frazier worked with state and nationwide partners like CALPIRG, the California Secretary of State, and TurboVote last election season to help students at all 23 campuses of the CSU system register to vote. Mr. Frazier has his bachelor’s degree in history from California State University, Sacramento. He will be returning to the campus in the Fall of 2015 to begin work on his Social Science Teaching Credential.

Lisa García Bedolla
Chancellor’s Professor, University of California, Berkeley

Lisa García Bedolla is Chancellor’s Professor of Education and Political Science at the University of California, Berkeley. Her research interests center on the political and educational inequalities affecting ethnoracial groups in the United States, with a particular focus on the intersections of race, class, and gender. She is author of several award-winning books. One of her most recent, Mobilizing Inclusion: Transforming the Electorate through Get-Out-the-Vote Campaigns (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2012), won the American Political Science Association’s Ralph Bunche Award and a best book award from APSA’s Race, Ethnicity, and Politics Section. Professor García Bedolla received her doctoral degree in political science from Yale University and her bachelor’s degree in latin american studies and comparative literature from the University of California, Berkeley.

Astrid Garcia Ochoa
Deputy Director, Future of California Elections
@astridmgarcia

Astrid Garcia Ochoa is Deputy Director of the Future of California Elections (FoCE). Ms. Garcia Ochoa works to support the shared vision and mission of the FoCE members, developing relations and helping to implement priorities. Previously, Ms. Garcia Ochoa was Director of State Election Policy and Redistricting at NALEO Educational Fund, working to advance voting rights by engaging communities of color in the 2011 decennial redistricting process in California, Nevada and central Florida. Ms. Garcia Ochoa advocated before state legislative committees and citizen commissions to support reform policies to increase participation of underserved communities. Ms. Garcia Ochoa also served in the district office of Congressman Xavier Becerra, where she managed public relations and a wide policy portfolio that included immigration, education, and environment issues. Ms. Garcia Ochoa is a former Fulbright Scholar. She holds a master’s degree in public affairs and a master’s degree in urban and regional planning from Princeton University, and bachelor’s degree in international relations with a minor in French from Pomona College.
Speaker Biographies

Vince Hall
Executive Director, Future of California Elections
@FutureCAElect

Vince Hall is the new Executive Director of Future of California Elections. Mr. Hall brings over two decades of public policy experience in local, state, and federal government to his new position, including serving as Staff Director for Governor Gray Davis. More recently he served for eight years as Vice President of Public Affairs and Communications of Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest, the nation’s second-largest Planned Parenthood affiliate. While at Planned Parenthood, he directed governmental relations and served on the State Legislative Committee where he guided state policy goals and managed diverse coalitions. Mr. Hall has served as a consultant to political campaigns and to communities engaged in redistricting, bringing experience in, and passion for, fair and efficient elections.

Chris Hoene
Executive Director, California Budget Project
@ChrisHoene @CABudgetProject

Chris Hoene became California Budget Project’s (CBP) Executive Director in October 2012, bringing to the organization 15 years of leadership in state and local policy research and analysis. He leads the strategic direction of the organization, acts as primary spokesperson, and works with the Board of Directors and community partners to implement their vision and mission. Prior to joining the CBP, Mr. Hoene was Director of the Center for Research and Innovation at the National League of Cities in Washington, D.C., leading efforts to analyze trends in local and state government and promote constructive policy action on issues, including public finance, economic development, housing, poverty reduction, infrastructure, and governance. Mr. Hoene also previously worked for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in Washington, D.C. and the Public Policy Institute of California in San Francisco. In 2011, in recognition of his service to the state and local community, Mr. Hoene was elected as a Fellow into the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA). He holds a doctoral degree in political science from Claremont Graduate University and a bachelor’s degree in political science from the College of Idaho.

Joseph E. Holland
County Clerk, Recorder and Assessor, County of Santa Barbara

Joseph E. Holland was first elected to the Office of County Clerk, Recorder and Assessor on March 5, 2002 and was recently re-elected to his fourth term of office, which began in January 2015. As the County Clerk, Recorder and Assessor Mr. Holland oversees a multifaceted department that provides necessary election, recordation and property assessment services to residents of Santa Barbara County. Mr. Holland holds the designation of a Certified Public Finance Officer (CPFO) from the nationally recognized Government Finance Officers Association. He received a bachelor’s degree in business economics and an master’s degree in economics - both from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Mr. Holland also graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles Executive Program at the Anderson School of Business.
Speaker Biographies

Denise Hulett
National Senior Counsel, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)

Denise Hulett, National Senior Counsel, has been litigating civil rights cases for 30 years, most of that time at MALDEF, in the areas of voting rights, immigrant rights and employment discrimination. Formerly MALDEF’s National Redistricting Director, she directed MALDEF’s outreach, legislative advocacy, and litigation in connection with state and local redistricting in several states, including California, Texas, Illinois, Arizona, and New Mexico. She also litigated cases challenging INS workplace raids, language discrimination, racial harassment, and discriminatory hiring and promotional practices in federal, state and municipal agencies. Ms. Hulett recently returned to MALDEF after serving as Litigation Director for Legal Aid Society-Employment Law Center, and Co-Director of the Employment Justice Research Center (EJRC) in San Francisco.

Ted Jackson
Community Organizing Director, California Foundation for Independent Living Centers and Disability Organizing Network
@DOnetworkorg

Ted Jackson has nearly 30 years of community organizing experience at the local, state and national levels. Beginning as a faith-based youth organizer, he went on to engage artistic, LGBTQ and political community partners. While volunteering to defend the FAIR Education Act against a repeal effort in 2011, Mr. Jackson joined the California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFILC), which transitioned him into the role of a disability advocate. At CFILC, he organizes the Disability Organizing Network (DOnetwork), which has concentrated on removing barriers to voting for people with disabilities and increasing disabled voter turnout. Mr. Jackson was a strong advocate for the recreation of California’s online voter registration and currently sits on the Secretary of State’s Voter Accessibility Advisory Committee. As a national advocate, he also joins others from around the nation on the National Council for Independent Living’s Voting Rights Task Force.

Alice Jarboe
Assistant Registrar of Voters, County of Sacramento

Alice Jarboe has been with the County of Sacramento for over 24 years. As the Assistant Registrar of Voters, she helped guide the County’s implementation of optical scan voting. Over the past years she worked to streamline election activities while maintaining the integrity of the election process. She recently worked with the Board of Supervisors on the County’s redistricting project and with the County’s Disability Advisory Committee to implement online accessible voting material. Ms. Jarboe chairs the California Association of Clerks and Election Official’s (CACEO) committee for State Mandate Reimbursement Reform, the program that provides state payment for some election activities. She also assists with the CACEO’s Summer Institute, an intensive training program for the counties’ election officials held at Stanford University. She is active in state and national election organizations and has received both State CalPEAC (California Professional Election Administrator Certificate) and National CERA (Certified Election and Registration Administrator) certifications. Ms. Jarboe holds a bachelor’s degree from California State University, Sacramento.
Speaker Biographies

**Margaret Johnson**  
Advocacy Director, Disability Rights California

Margaret Johnson has worked for Disability Rights California for 25 years. In 1999, she became the Bay Area’s regional office-managing attorney until moving to San Diego to set up and manage a regional office there. While in San Diego, she began coordinating Disability Rights California’s voting related work. She has continued to work on voting issues for people with disabilities and has been a member and co-chair of the Secretary of State’s Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee for many years. In 2006, she moved to Sacramento and the job of Advocacy Director. She currently supervises legislative and peer self-advocacy work in addition to the web content specialist and communications director. Ms. Johnson is the stigma and discrimination grant project manager, funded by County/Mental Health Services Act through CalMHSA. She specializes in voting, mental health and Americans with Disabilities Act legislation. Ms. Johnson has a law degree from Golden Gate University.

**Neal Kelley**  
Registrar of Voters, County of Orange  
@ocregistrar

Neal Kelley is Registrar of Voters for Orange County, California, the fifth largest voting jurisdiction in the United States, serving more than 1.6 million registered voters. Mr. Kelley has led the Registrar of Voters’ office through the largest cycle of elections in the County’s 126-year history. Mr. Kelley is an appointed member of the United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC) Board of Advisors and the EAC Voting Systems Standards Board, serves as the elected president of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO), and is the president for the National Association of County Recorders, Election Officials and Clerks (NACRC). Mr. Kelley earned a bachelor’s degree in business and management from the University of Redlands and a master’s degree from the University of Southern California.

**Deanna Kitamura**  
Senior Staff Attorney, Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles

Deanna Kitamura is a Senior Staff Attorney in the Democracy Project at Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles. She works with counties to ensure that voters are provided language assistance and is a co-author of Voices of Democracy: Asian Americans and Language Access During the 2012 Elections. From 2009-2012, Ms. Kitamura was the Statewide Redistricting Manager of her organization and worked with community partners to keep Asian American and Pacific Islander communities whole during the Los Angeles City and statewide redistricting processes. She previously worked for the City of Los Angeles, Western Center on Law & Poverty, California Rural Legal Assistance, National Consumer Law Center, and a civil rights firm. Ms. Kitamura holds a bachelor’s degree from Pomona College and law degree from the University of California, Los Angeles.
Speaker Biographies

Jana M. Lean
Chief of Elections, Office of the California Secretary of State

Jana M. Lean has served as Elections Division Chief in the Secretary of State’s office since 2010. She has successfully overseen six statewide elections and 28 special elections. Her sixteen years of experience includes implementation of HAVA section 102 punch-card voting system replacement, transition from 29-day to 15-day close of registration, Proposition 34 Voluntary Expenditure Limitation Candidate Statement program, and the implementation of the Voting Modernization Bond (VMB) Act and establishment of the Voting Modernization Board. Most recently, Ms. Lean implemented uniform guidelines for the Top-Two Primary system, created procedures and guidelines to comply with the UOCAVA/MOVE Act, and ensured the uniform implementation of Online Voter Registration. Ms. Lean has a master’s degree in business administration and bachelor’s degree in philosophy with a minor in language and literature.

Justin Levitt
Professor of Law, Loyola Law School, Los Angeles @_justinlevitt_

Justin Levitt is a national expert in the law of democracy; he teaches at Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, and has also been a visiting faculty member at the Yale Law School, the USC Gould School of Law, and Caltech. Professor Levitt has been invited to testify about election law matters before committees of the U.S. Senate, the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, state legislative bodies, and federal and state courts; he has also presented before the Mexican Electoral Tribunal. His scholarly research and shorter commentaries have been widely cited, including by the U.S. Supreme Court. Professor Levitt has served several presidential campaigns, including as the 2008 National Voter Protection Counsel; he was also counsel at the country’s largest independent voter engagement operation, and at several civil rights and civil liberties organizations. Professor Levitt has represented and advised officials of both major parties, and has represented individuals and organizations seeking to compel officials to comply with their legal obligations. Professor Levitt holds a law, master’s and bachelor’s degree from Harvard University.

Stephanie Lew
CALPIRG Campus Relations Chair, University of California, Davis

Stephanie Lew is currently the CALPIRG Campus Relations Chair and Coordinator of the Davis Go Solar Campaign at the University of California, Davis. As coordinator of the Davis Go Solar campaign, she works with City Council to draft policies that would make it more affordable and accessible for constituents of the City of Davis to switch to solar energy. Ms. Lew recently worked on the New Voters Project aimed to increase youth voter registration. In this capacity, she spoke to students about the unequal representation of youth in the democratic system and empowered youth to vote. Ms. Lew is currently a freshman at the University of California, Davis majoring in environmental science and management with a specialization in soils and biogeochemistry.
Speaker Biographies

**John Lindback**  
Executive Director, Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)

John Lindback is the first Executive Director of the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), a consortium of states using state-of-the-art technology to improve the accuracy of their voter registration rolls and improve access to voter registration for U.S. citizens. Much of his 20-year history in the field of elections administration has been dedicated to making voter registration work better for both voters and elections officials. Prior to joining ERIC, Mr. Lindback served as a senior officer for Election Initiatives at the Pew Charitable Trusts, providing key leadership on Pew’s portfolio of work in election administration. Prior to joining Pew, Mr. Lindback worked for 14 years in state elections administration. He served for eight years as director of elections in Oregon, which made him the chief administrator for the conduct of all elections in Oregon. Prior to his work in Oregon, Mr. Lindback worked as chief of staff to the lieutenant governor of Alaska for six years, which included administrative oversight of the Alaska Division of Elections. Mr. Lindback holds a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Arizona.

**Dean Logan**  
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, County of Los Angeles  
@lacountyrrcc

Dean Logan is the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk for the County of Los Angeles, the nation’s largest, most diverse and complex local election jurisdiction. In addition to administration of elections and voter registration, the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk records real property documents; maintains vital records; issues marriage licenses; performs civil marriage ceremonies; and processes business filings and other documents for Los Angeles County; serving an estimated 3,500 customers daily. Previously, Mr. Logan has served as Director of Records, Elections and Licensing Services in King County, Washington, as the Washington State Elections Director, and as the elected County Clerk in Kitsap County, Washington. He serves as an instructor for the public sector master’s in public administration program at the California State University, Northridge. Mr. Logan holds a degree in organizational leadership from Azusa Pacific University and an executive master’s degree in public administration through the Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington.
Speaker Biographies

Jared Marcotte
Officer of Elections Technology, The Pew Charitable Trusts
@jungshadow

Jared Marcotte is an officer for Pew’s election initiatives, which supports states’ efforts to improve military and overseas voting; assess election performance through better data; use technology to provide information to voters; and upgrade voter registration systems. He serves as an advisor on all election initiative projects where technical strategy or software engineering is a component of the work. Previously, as a senior engineer at the New Organizing Institute, Mr. Marcotte worked on the Voting Information Project, a collaboration with state and local officials, Google, Microsoft, and Pew to develop and populate database of election-related information for all 50 states. He also serves on the technical advisory committee for the Voting Systems Assessment Project for Los Angeles County, California. Throughout his career, he has served in roles as a developer, database administrator, and interaction designer on various enterprise-grade sites at Six Apart and IBM. Mr. Marcotte holds a bachelor’s degree in computer science from the University of Vermont.

Julian Roberto Martinez
Northern California Undergraduate Organizing Director,
University of California Student Association

Julian Martinez is the Northern California Undergraduate Organizing Director for the University of California, Student Association (UCSA). Mr. Martinez grew up in Calexico, California, a small border town and primarily Latino community east of San Diego. He became politicized as an undergraduate at the University of California, Berkeley through his involvement with progressive organizations such as the Raza Recruitment and Retention Center and Stiles Hall as well as the political climate at Cal, stemming from budget cuts to higher education and increased student fees. As the Northern California Undergraduate Organizing Director, Mr. Martinez creates organizing materials and helps students strategize and implement UCSA undergraduate campaigns in the field, including their voter registration drives and get-out-the-vote efforts. He travels to UC campuses to meet with, train and provide support to student leaders and organizers involved in UCSA campaigns. Mr. Martinez holds a bachelor’s degree in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley.
Speaker Biographies

Tim McNamara
Assistant Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, County of Los Angeles

Tim McNamara is the Assistant Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, Election Operations for the County of Los Angeles. He oversees a variety of election processes including candidate filing, campaign finance, pollworker recruitment, poll place, voter registration and vote-by-mail operations. Mr. McNamara has worked in elections for over 20 years - 16 in San Diego County before coming to Los Angeles County in 2006.

Amber McReynolds
Director of Elections, Denver Elections Division - City and County of Denver, Colorado
@AmberMcReynolds @DenverElections

Amber McReynolds is the Director of Elections for the City and County of Denver, Colorado. She has administered elections in Denver for over nine years and has worked in public policy and administration for over 14 years. Her team is focused on continual process improvement, which includes implementing innovations in election administration with a focus on improving the voter’s experience. Under her leadership, the Denver Elections Division has earned various national awards from the Election Center and the National Association of Counties for Ballot TRACE (a first-in-the-nation ballot tracking, reporting, and communication engine) and iAPP (iPad Accessibility Pilot Project). In addition, the Denver Elections Division recently released a Denver Votes mobile application that makes voting information more accessible. Ms. McReynolds is a national Certified Elections/Registration Administrator (CERA), Certified Colorado Election Official, a GOALS graduate and a member of various professional organizations. She received her master’s degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science and her bachelor’s degree with a double major from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana.

Ofelia Medina
Director of State Civic Engagement Policy, National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund
@ofemedina

Ofelia Medina is the Director of State Civic Engagement Policy for the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund. In her role, Ms. Medina is responsible for implementing the organization’s technical assistance and professional development program activities on a broad range of efforts related to state voting and civic engagement policy, including language assistance, online voter registration and National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) compliance. Prior to joining the NALEO Educational Fund, Ms. Medina was a Policy Director at the Alliance for a Better Community (ABC), where she analyzed and advanced local and state birth-to-college education policies and initiatives that were culturally and linguistically relevant for Latino children and their families. Ms. Medina received her bachelor’s degree from Loyola Marymount University with a double major in political science and chicana/o studies and received a master’s degree in public policy from the University of Southern California.
Speaker Biographies

**Geoff Neill**
Principal Policy and Fiscal Analyst, California State Association of Counties
@CSACLoc_Fin

Geoff Neill has worked on many issues at the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), including work mandates, elections and the state budget. Before joining the counties, he worked at the California Special Districts Association and studied philosophy at the University of California, San Diego.

**Fred Nisen**
Staff Attorney, Disability Rights California
@DisabilityCA

Fred Nisen is an attorney with Disability Rights California’s (DRC) Bay Area Regional Office. DRC is California’s federally mandated protection and advocacy system for people with disabilities. Mr. Nisen has worked for DRC for the last 16 years. For the past seven years, Mr. Nisen has been working on voting issues for Disability Rights California. He currently coordinates DRC’s voting work, for example the Disability Rights California’s Election Day Hotline and elections officials training on disability accessibility issues.

**Steven Ochoa**
National Redistricting Coordinator, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)
@StevenAOchoa

Steven Ochoa is the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund’s (MALDEF) National Redistricting Coordinator and is responsible for all of MALDEF’s redistricting needs, including direct GIS mapping, community education, gathering and constructing relevant datasets, and conducting racially polarized voting analysis. Having served MALDEF since 2011, Mr. Ochoa has overseen MALDEF’s 12 state redistricting program from 2011-2012, and has personally conducted its western program in California, Arizona, and Nevada. This included crafting redistricting proposals for the California State Legislature, California Congress, the Arizona State Legislature, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Los Angeles City, and the Los Angeles Unified School District, among many other plans. He also participated in MALDEF’s 2001-2002 redistricting efforts. Mr. Ochoa was trained at the University of California, Berkeley, Statewide Database in the use of census and election data and GIS mapping. He earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of California, Berkeley and a master’s degree in public policy from the University of Michigan.
Speaker Biographies

Jennifer Pae
Project Manager, Voter Service and Education,
League of Women Voters of California Education Fund
@jennpae

Jennifer Pae is the Project Manager for Voter Service and Education at the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund. She is a native Californian who attributes her commitment to civic engagement to her mother, who was a first generation immigrant and single parent. During her undergraduate career, Ms. Pae served as the president of the United States Student Association (USSA). At USSA, she led campaigns to register and increase young voter turnout across the country. Subsequently, she continued her work to engage people of color in the political process as the Project Director for PowerPAC. She has also served as the Chief of Staff to 18MillionRising.org, a nonprofit start-up founded to promote Asian American & Pacific Islander civic engagement by leveraging the power of technology and social media. Ms. Pae has served as a trainer for APIA Vote, Camp Wellstone, Midwest Academy, and the New American Leaders Project. Ms. Pae holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of California, San Diego, where she was the first Asian American woman student body president.

Tammy Patrick
Senior Advisor to the Democracy Project, Bipartisan Policy Center
@aztammyp

Tammy Patrick is a Senior Advisor of the Democracy Project with the Bipartisan Policy Center in Washington, DC focusing on implementation of the recommendations of the Presidential Commission on Election Administration (PCEA). Former Federal Compliance Officer for Maricopa County Elections Department for eleven years, Ms. Patrick was tasked with serving more than 1.9 million registered voters in the greater Phoenix Valley. She collaborates with community and political organizations to create a productive working relationship with the goal of voter participation. In May of 2013, she was selected by President Obama to serve as a Commissioner on the Presidential Commission on Election Administration (www.supportthevoter.gov), which has led to the position at the Bipartisan Policy Center to further the work of the PCEA.
Speaker Biographies

Gail L. Pellerin
County Clerk/Registrar of Voters, County of Santa Cruz
@votescount

Gail L. Pellerin is the Santa Cruz County Clerk/Registrar of Voters. She was appointed to the position in July 2004 after serving as the county’s Elections Manager starting in 1993. She was elected to her third 4-year term on June 3, 2014. Ms. Pellerin has more than 29 years of experience in public service - seven years working for the State Legislature in Sacramento and 22 years serving as the primary elections official in Santa Cruz County. Ms. Pellerin served as President of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials from 2010 to 2012 and has served on the Secretary of State’s Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee since 2006. She has been a member of the Future of California Elections since 2011. Ms. Pellerin has authored several election guidebooks to assist voters in navigating through various election procedures including Initiatives, Recalls, and Referendums.

Gary Poser
Director of Elections, Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State

Gary Poser has been the Director of Elections for the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State since January 2007. He has 17 years of prior county election administration experience in Washington, Anoka and Hennepin counties. Mr. Poser has served as the MN local member (2004-05) and is the current MN state member (2007-15) of the EAC Standards Board. He is currently serving as the Immediate Past President of the National Association of State Election Directors, serving as President from 2014-2015. He also currently serves as a member of the Policy Advisory Board of the Council of State Governments Overseas Voting Initiative. Mr. Poser received his bachelor’s degree in mathematics from St. Cloud State University.

Whitney Quesenbery
Co-Director, Center for Civic Design
@civicdesign @whitneyq

Whitney Quesenbery is co-director for the Center for Civic Design, which wants every interaction with government to be an easy and effective experience. The Center is the home of the Field Guides to Ensuring Voter Intent and the Anywhere Ballot. Current research projects include work on more useful voter guides for the Future of California Elections, electronic poll book usability issues, and developing a roadmap for usability and accessibility work at NIST. Ms. Quesenbery is a member of the Technical Advisory Committee for the Los Angeles VSAP. She also teaches user research at Rutgers, and is the author of three books: A Web for Everyone, Global UX and Storytelling for User Experience.
Marinda Reed

Peer Self-Advocacy Senior Coordinator, Disability Rights California

Marinda Reed has 35 years experience in the provision of services including Peer/Self advocacy for people with disabilities. Currently, Ms. Reed works as a Senior Coordinator providing peer advocacy services in Disability Rights California’s Sacramento Regional Office and has been there since 2001.

Mindy Romero

Director, California Civic Engagement Project, University of California, Davis Center for Regional Change
@mindyromero

Mindy Romero is the founder and director of the California Civic Engagement Project (CCEP) at the University of California, Davis Center for Regional Change. Her scholarly work focuses on the intersection of political behavior and race/ethnicity/age. Ms. Romero has been invited to speak about civic engagement and political rights in numerous venues, and has recently provided testimony to the National Commission on Voting Rights and the California Legislature. Her research has been cited in numerous major news outlets, including the Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle, Politico and the Huffington Post. A native of California’s Central Valley, Ms. Romero is also active in community leadership. She currently serves as President of the Board of Mutual Housing California, and is a member of the Social Service Commission for the City of Davis. Ms. Romero is a political sociologist and holds a doctoral degree in sociology from the University of California, Davis.

Emily Rusch

Executive Director, CALPIRG

Emily Rusch is the Executive Director of CALPIRG and CALPIRG Education Fund. In this role, she has been involved in policy efforts to make quality health care more affordable and accessible, protect Californians from unsafe products, rip-offs, and other anti-consumer practices in the marketplace, increase voter engagement in elections, and other issues in the public interest. CALPIRG has a long history of student activism and engagement, and student-directed chapters at universities across the state. In 2012, Ms. Rusch oversaw CALPIRG Education Fund’s project partnering with colleges and universities to ensure that students were informed of the opportunity to register to vote online for the first time in California. She is based in Oakland and has worked with U.S.PIRG, the federation of state PIRGs, since 2001. Ms. Rusch received her degree from Willamette University in Salem, Oregon.
Speaker Biographies

Ashley Spillane
President, Rock the Vote
@aspillane

Ashley Spillane joined Rock the Vote as the organization’s new President with more than 10 years of experience in electoral politics. Most recently, Ms. Spillane served as the Executive Director of The Atlas Project, where she spearheaded the development of an interactive web platform that provides organizations access to the raw data and tools needed to develop smart, strategic programs at the local, state and national levels. Ms. Spillane has worked on numerous political campaigns across the country, including presidential and gubernatorial campaigns in Iowa, Ohio, Florida, Minnesota and Maryland. Ms. Spillane holds a degree in international affairs from the George Washington University and pursues her interest in international politics as a trainer for the National Democratic Institute.

Arturo Vargas
Executive Director, National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund
@ArturoNALEO

Arturo Vargas is the Executive Director of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, a national membership organization of Latino policymakers and their supporters. Mr. Vargas also serves as Executive Director of the NALEO Educational Fund, an affiliated national nonprofit organization that strengthens American democracy by promoting the full participation of Latinos in civic life. Prior to joining NALEO, Mr. Vargas held various positions at the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, including Vice President for Community Education and Public Policy. Mr. Vargas is a nationally recognized expert in Latino demographic trends, electoral participation, voting rights, the Census and redistricting. Mr. Vargas holds a master’s degree in education and a bachelor’s degree in history and Spanish from Stanford University.

Karla Zombro
Field Director, California Calls

Karla Zombro leads the statewide organizing, capacity-building and civic engagement work with the 31 organizations of California Calls. Prior to becoming a full-time staffer for California Calls, Ms. Zombro worked in a variety of roles at SCOPE (Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education), where she played a key role in recruiting and developing SCOPE’s membership base and community leadership as well as helping develop and win key policy campaigns. Ms. Zombro also has taken time off to work as Field Director on a variety of campaigns, including the 2001 and 2005 Los Angeles mayoral elections and a 2008 campaign, which successfully elected a progressive to a pivotal assembly district in San Diego. Ms. Zombro received her bachelor’s degree in women’s studies from the University of California, Los Angeles.
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