



Monday, March 3, 2014

The Center for Healthy Communities – The California Endowment
Los Angeles, California

2014 Conference Program



Future of

CALIFORNIA ELECTIONS



*Modernizing Elections.
Expanding Participation.*

This conference is generously sponsored by:



**The James Irvine
Foundation**

Special thanks to the 2014 FoCE Conference Planning Committee
and FoCE Members for their support in planning this conference.

Future of California Elections

The Future of California Elections (FoCE) Project was formed in late 2011 to examine and address the unique challenges facing the State of California's election system. In 2013 and beyond, FoCE will be focused on building on this foundation of consensus and success.

California is home to the largest and most diverse electorate in the nation. In many ways, California has been a national leader in regard to elections, including improving the transparency and auditability of elections and providing election information such as sample ballots to all voters.

And yet, the state still has far to go; California ranks near the bottom nationwide in the percentage of eligible citizens actually registered to vote, and barriers to participation yield a voting population that does not mirror that of the state as a whole.

FoCE members include election administrators, leaders of civil rights organizations and election reform advocates. Together they represent the public servants charged with managing the process, groups representing a diverse spectrum of California voters and advocates dedicated to an open, transparent and well-functioning system of democracy in California.

With the support of The James Irvine Foundation, FoCE convened a series of meetings in 2011 and 2012 at which these stakeholders could discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the state's election system and collaborate on projects and proposals to improve and protect the process for all California voters.

FoCE was established as a 501 c(3) in 2013 to support the work of the members in modernizing elections and expanding participation in California.

To date FoCE members have had many milestones working together, including, recognition by the Presidential Commission on Election Administration for recommendations made on best practices for serving limited English proficient voters.

Tweeting Today?

Join our conversation

@FutureCAElect #FOCE2014

Members

Lori Shellenberger

American Civil Liberties Union of California

Eugene Lee

Asian Americans Advancing Justice –
Los Angeles

Kathay Feng

California Common Cause

Jim Mayer

California Forward

Kim Alexander

California Voter Foundation

Emily Rusch

CALPIRG Educational Fund

Hillary Sklar

Disability Rights California

Orson Aguilar

The Greenlining Institute

Melissa Breach

League of Women Voters of California

Dean Logan

Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk,
Los Angeles County

Thomas A. Saenz

Mexican American Legal Defense and
Educational Fund (MALDEF)

Arturo Vargas

National Association of Latino Elected and
Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund

Neal Kelley

Registrar of Voters,
Orange County

Jill LaVine

Registrar of Voters,
Sacramento County

Gail Pellerin

County Clerk/Registrar of Voters,
Santa Cruz County

Cathy Darling Allen

County Clerk/Registrar of Voters,
Shasta County

Heather Smith

Rock the Vote

Pamela Smith

Verified Voting Foundation

Future of California Elections Staff:

Doug Chapin

Director

Astrid Garcia

Deputy Director

Stefani Jimenez

Project Coordinator

2014 Conference Agenda

9:00 am Registration

9:30 am Welcome

9:45 am Keynote Address

- Tammy Patrick, Federal Compliance Officer for Maricopa County Elections Department and Commissioner for the Presidential Commission on Election Administration

10:00 am **Opening Plenary: Election and Voting: A California and National Perspective**

Every eligible citizen has the right to cast a vote. This panel will review recent developments in policy and election administration that have helped or hindered this right.

- Jennie Bretschneider, Office of the Secretary of State
- Thomas A. Saenz, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
- Ethan Jones, California State Assembly Committee on Elections and Redistricting
- Tammy Patrick, Federal Compliance Officer for Maricopa County Elections Department and Commissioner for the Presidential Commission on Election Administration
- Kathay Feng, California Common Cause, Moderator

11:15 am **Morning Panel: Changing Populations, Changing Ballots: Improving Language Access in California**

California's increasingly diverse electorate requires innovative solutions to ensure every voter has equal opportunity to cast their ballot on Election Day. This panel explores new policies and practices to improve access for California's limited English proficient voters.

- Steven Ochoa, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
- Deanna Kitamura, Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles
- Rosalind Gold, National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund
- Michelle Romero, The Greenlining Institute
- Efrain Escobedo, Office of the Registrar – Recorder/County Clerk – Los Angeles County, Moderator

12:30 pm Buffet Lunch

1:00 pm **FoCE Research: Who are California Voters? How are they Voting? Can we Improve the Resources they Use to Vote?**

FoCE research aims to provide insights to tough questions that will help to modernize elections and expand participation in California.

- Mindy Romero, California Civic Engagement Project at the University of California, Davis
- Lisa García Bedolla, Center for Latino Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley
- Cathy Darling Allen, County Clerk/Registrar of Voters Shasta County
- Whitney Quesenbery, Center for Civic Design
- Melissa Breach, League of Women Voters of California
- Catherine Hazelton, The James Irvine Foundation, Moderator

2:15 pm **Introduction to Concurrent Sessions**

- Gail Pellerin, County Clerk/Registrar of Voters Santa Cruz County
- Jonathan Stein, American Civil Liberties Union of California
- Jennifer Pae, League of Women Voters of California Education Fund
- Kim Alexander, California Voter Foundation

2:45 pm Break

3:00 pm

Vote by Many Methods: How Voters Cast their Ballots

Voters have many options to cast their ballot. This panel explores current trends in voting and the best practices to assist student voters and voters with disabilities in casting their ballot.

- Paul Mitchell, Political Data
- Gail Pellerin, County Clerk/Registrar of Voters Santa Cruz County
- Fred Nisen, Disability Rights California
- Emily Rusch, CALPIRG Education Fund
- Astrid Garcia, Future of California Elections, Moderator

National Voter Registration Act: Expanding Access to Voter Registration in California

SB 35 renewed emphasis on the importance of complying with the National Voter Registration Act. This panel explores successful partnership models for NVRA compliance.

- Jennie Bretschneider, Office of the California Secretary of State
- Michael Vu, Registrar of Voters San Diego County
- Raúl Macías, American Civil Liberties Union of California
- Tho Vinh Banh, Disability Rights California
- Catherine Hazelton, The James Irvine Foundation, Moderator

Voting Information Tools: Resources to Increase Civic Engagement

Voting information tools empower voters with the information they need to cast an informed vote. This panel explores new developments in voter information tools such as websites, look up tools, and the Voting Information Project.

- Neal Kelley, Registrar of Voters Orange County
- Kim Alexander, California Voter Foundation
- Jay Costa, Maplight
- David Becker, The Pew Charitable Trusts
- Caroline Vance Bruister, California Forward, Moderator

Unlocking the Keys to a Better Informed Electorate

The League of Women Voters Education Fund is hosting this small interactive workshop to explore and identify the impediments for voters and nonvoters and what information they really need. Bring your experience, questions, and ideas to openly discuss these challenges and potential solutions to state and local voter information.

- Jennifer Pae, League of Women Voters of California Education Fund
- Dana Chisnell, Center for Civic Design
- Whitney Quesenbery, Center for Civic Design

4:15 pm Break

4:30 pm Recap of Concurrent Session

4:30 pm

Closing Roundtable: Overcoming Challenges in Election Administration, Looking Ahead to 2014 and Beyond

This panel will explore cutting edge technology to help break barriers in voting.

- Heather Smith, Rock the Vote
- Pamela Smith, Verified Voting Foundation
- Dean Logan, Registrar Recorder/County Clerk Los Angeles County
- Doug Chapin, Future of California Elections, Moderator

6:00 pm Reception

Keynote Speaker



Tammy Patrick

Federal Compliance Officer for Maricopa County Elections Department and Commissioner for the Presidential Commission on Election Administration @aztammyp

As Federal Compliance Officer for Arizona's Maricopa County Elections Department, Ms. Patrick is 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), the pinnacle of her career thus far.

The organizer of the 2007 Native American Voter Outreach Summit, Ms. Patrick is dedicated to voter education, outreach, and empowerment. Arizona was the first state to offer online voter registration and Ms. Patrick has collected data and worked with the Brennan Center for Justice as well as the Pew Election Initiatives to study its effect. This information has been presented to the National Conference of State Legislatures in 2012 and at the Pew-sponsored Voting in America 2012 Summit in addition to being shared with election officials around the country who have used it to support passage of similar legislation in their own states. Her efforts in supporting good stewardship via sound data collection and analysis has afforded her inclusion in the Princeton Press publication *The Democracy Index* by Yale Law Professor Heather Gerken, and a position on the Pew Advisory Board for an Elections Performance Index.

Working to provide access to all voters, including those serving in the military or residing overseas, Ms. Patrick was an active observer for the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Law's Uniform Military and Overseas Voters Act which passed in July of 2010. Her experiences are further shared with the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) working group on electronic voting. In 2012, Ms. Patrick was asked to join the IEEE P1622 group developing standards for a common data format for election results reporting. In 2013, she became a voting member of that organization. Her interest in voting technology includes participation in the Overseas Vote Foundation's End to End Verified Internet Voting (E2EVIV) project and the Election Verification Network.

Ms. Patrick is responsible for many award-winning programs including programs on voter assistance, accessibility, language assistance, disaster recovery plan and election reporting. Ms. Patrick has a bachelor's degree in American Studies from Purdue University and has attained accreditation as a Certified Election Voter Registration Administrator through the Election Center and Auburn University.

Speaker Biographies



Kim Alexander
California Voter Foundation
@kimalex3

Kim Alexander is President and Founder of the California Voter Foundation (CVF), a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to improving the voting process to better serve voters. CVF is a longtime leader in advancing the responsible use of technology in the democratic process, pioneering online voter education and campaign finance data, and ensuring transparency and auditing requirements for computerized voting systems. Ms. Alexander's current projects include improving California's voter registration and vote-by-mail processes and providing voters access to online voter lookup tools. Ms. Alexander received her bachelor's degree in Political Science and Philosophy from the University of California, Santa Barbara.



Tho Vinh Banh
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.



David Becker
The Pew Charitable Trusts
@beckerdavidj

David Becker is Director of Election Initiatives for The Pew Charitable Trusts. He supervises work in election administration, including using technology to provide voters with information they need to cast a ballot; assessing election performance through better data; and upgrading voter registration systems. As the lead for Pew's analysis and advocacy on elections issues, Mr. Becker oversees research and directs Pew's partnerships in the states, and in the private sector, with Google, IBM, and others. He also testifies before state legislatures and other government entities, presents at relevant conferences across the country, and serves as a media resource. Before joining Pew, Mr. Becker served as a senior trial attorney in the Voting Section of the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, where he led numerous investigations into violations of federal voting laws regarding redistricting, minority voting rights, voter intimidation, and vote dilution. He also served as lead counsel for the United States on litigation over statewide redistricting in Georgia in 2001, which was ultimately decided by the Supreme Court in *Georgia v. Ashcroft*. Mr. Becker received his bachelor's degree and law degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

Speaker Biographies



Melissa Breach
League of Women Voters of California

Melissa Breach is Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of California. She has over 15 years of service in nonprofit leadership and brings significant experience as a nonprofit strategist. She is a skilled consultant and trainer on the issues of governance, organizational sustainability, and change facilitation. Ms. Breach was Director of Programs at the Center for Volunteer and Nonprofit Leadership and is a former advisory committee member of the California Arts Commission's Public School Partnership Initiative, as well as a former board member of California Partners in Education, Theatre for Young People, and Resourceful Women.



Jennie Bretschneider
Office of the California Secretary of State

Jennie Bretschneider is Assistant Chief Deputy and Counsel for California Secretary of State Debra Bowen and currently serves as Project Director for the 2013-2014 California Online Voter Registration Redesign Project ("COVR 2.0"). With 20 years of experience and a collaborative approach to public policy-making, Ms. Bretschneider has led several projects to fruition for Secretary Bowen, including California's National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) implementation, the California Voter Registration Card Redesign, the California Post Election Audit Pilot Project involving 20 counties, and California's first online voter registration system. In 2011, Ms. Bretschneider received the John Gideon Award for Election Integrity from the Election Verification Network. Ms. Bretschneider holds a law degree from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, a master's degree from the University of Freiburg, Germany, and a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of California, Davis.



Doug Chapin
Future of California Elections
@FutureofCAElect

Doug Chapin is Director of 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. Mr. Chapin holds a law degree from Georgetown University, a Master's in Public Administration from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, and a bachelor's degree in Politics from Princeton University. He also serves as Director of the Election Academy at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs.



Dana Chisnell
 Center for Civic Design
 @danachis

Dana Chisnell is Co-Director at the Center for Civic Design. She brings deep experience in civic design, starting with research at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) into the use of language in instructions on ballots (with Ginny Redish), and work on standards and testing for poll worker documentation for the *Voluntary Voting System Guidelines* (VVSG). At the University of Baltimore, she and her colleagues designed the Anywhere Ballot, a best practices electronic ballot-marking interface tested for accessibility by people with cognitive disabilities and low literacy. She has worked with the Presidential Commission on Election Administration on ballot design and voter education, and is a visiting scholar focusing on election design at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Ms. Chisnell is also the co-author of *Handbook of Usability Testing Second Edition* (Wiley 2008), the seminal book on the topic.



Jay Costa
 Maplight
 @jayjco

Jay Costa is Program Director at MapLight, a nonpartisan research organization that reveals money's influence on politics. Mr. Costa leads the organization's web and data projects, including its voter information website, Voter's Edge. He previously served on San Francisco's Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, chairing the group's Education, Outreach, and Training Committee, and on Berkeley's Fair Campaign Practices Commission and Open Government Commission. Mr. Costa received a bachelor's degree in Biological Anthropology from Harvard University.



Cathy Darling Allen
 County Clerk/Registrar of Voters Shasta County
 @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 currently serving as President. Ms. Darling Allen received her bachelor's degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Speaker Biographies



Efrain Escobedo

Office of the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Los Angeles County

Efrain Escobedo is Manager of Governmental and Legislative Affairs for the Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters. With more than 4.5 million registered voters, it is the largest election jurisdiction in the nation. Mr. Escobedo is also a Co-Founder and Principal with Latino Research and Communications, LLC., a strategic public affairs firm. Prior to joining the Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters, Mr. Escobedo was the Senior Director of Civic Engagement for the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund where he led the organization in the development of innovative voter contact strategies and technologies that helped to engage more than one million young, newly registered, and infrequent Latino voters across the country. Mr. Escobedo received a bachelor's degree in American Studies and Ethnicity at the University of Southern California and is currently enrolled in George Washington University's Graduate School of Political Management.



Kathay Feng

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.



Astrid Garcia

Future of California Elections

@astridmgarcia

Astrid Garcia is Deputy Director at Future of California Elections (FoCE). In her role as Deputy Director, Ms. Garcia is responsible for the daily operations of FoCE, supporting member collaboration to accomplish FoCE priorities to modernize elections and expand participation in California, and tracking policies to expand the organization's mission. Prior to joining FoCE, Ms. Garcia was responsible for civic engagement and advocacy efforts in statewide and local redistricting reforms in California, Nevada and Florida for the NALEO Educational Fund. She has over a decade of experience in community and public relations, policy, advocacy and civic engagement. Ms. Garcia holds a Master's in Public Affairs, a Master's in Urban and Regional Planning from Princeton University, and a bachelor's degree in International Relations from Pomona College.



Lisa García Bedolla
University of California, Berkeley

Lisa García Bedolla is Professor of Social and Cultural Studies at the Graduate School of Education at the University of California, Berkeley, and Chair of Berkeley's Center for Latino Policy Research. She is the author of three award-winning books, including *Mobilizing Inclusion: Transforming the Electorate through Get-Out-the-Vote Campaigns* (with Melissa R. Michelson, New Haven: Yale University Press, 2012). Professor García Bedolla is also the recipient of the American Political Science Association's (APSA) Ralph Bunche Award and a Best Book Award from APSA's Race, Ethnicity, and Politics Section. Professor García Bedolla's research focuses on how marginalization and inequality structures the political and educational opportunities available to members of ethnoracial groups, with a particular emphasis on the intersections of race, class, and gender. She has consulted on state and national political campaigns, specializing in culturally competent political engagement and outreach. She received her Ph.D. in Political Science from Yale University and her bachelor's degree in Latin American Studies and Comparative Literature from the University of California, Berkeley.



Rosalind Gold
National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO)
Educational Fund

Rosalind Gold is Senior Director of Policy, Research and Advocacy with the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund, where she has worked for more than two decades on policy analysis and research for the organization's naturalization and Latino civic engagement efforts. Ms. Gold coordinates the research for several of the Fund's publications, including its *Directory of Latino Elected Officials*, the biennial *Latino Election Handbook*, and the *Latino Election Profiles*. Ms. Gold also has extensive policy expertise in the areas of newcomer civic integration, election reform, voting rights, redistricting and the decennial Census. She served on the California State Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Plan Update Advisory Committee and has delivered testimony before many public and private committee and commission hearings. In December 2013, she was appointed to serve on the Los Angeles City Municipal Elections Reform Commission, which is examining approaches to improve voter turnout and civic engagement in the city. She also serves on the advisory committees and boards of several public affairs and research efforts, including the National Institute on Money in State Politics and the American Community Survey Data Users Group Steering Committee. Ms. Gold received her law degree from Harvard Law School and her bachelor's degree from Pomona College.



Catherine Hazelton
The James Irvine Foundation
@hazelton4irvine

Catherine Hazelton is Senior Program Officer in the California Democracy program at The James Irvine Foundation. At Irvine since 2009, Ms. Hazelton has developed the Future of California Elections project and several elements of Irvine's redistricting grant-making program. She also oversees grants related to other governance reform issues and public media coverage of state governance and policy. Additionally, she manages many aspects of The James Irvine Foundation Leadership Awards. Before joining Irvine, Ms. Hazelton was the Associated Director of the nonprofit Fight Crime: Invest in Kids and worked with California law enforcement leaders to advocate for public investment in early education programs. Previously, she served as a Senior Legislative Aide to Assemblymember Carol Liu and a legislative aide and field representative to Assemblymember Jack Scott. Ms. Hazelton has worked on numerous political campaigns including, most recently, Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign. She has also served on several nonprofit boards and was recently appointed by Assembly Speaker John Pérez to serve on the state's Physician Assistant Board. Her research related to redistricting reform and women in California politics has appeared in the Los Angeles Times, the San Francisco Chronicle, Policy Matters and other publications. Ms. Hazelton holds a Master's in Public Policy from the University of California, Berkeley, and a bachelor's degree in History from Scripps College. She also attended Pasadena City College where she trained hundreds of students in grassroots advocacy.

Speaker Biographies



Ethan Jones

California State Assembly Committee on Elections and Redistricting

Ethan Jones is Chief Consultant to the Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee. Since 2005, he has worked on legislation related to election procedures, redistricting, campaign finance, voting systems, and conflict of interest laws. Prior to being Chief Consultant, Mr. Jones spent four years working for the Committee and on the personal staff of Assemblymember John Longville, dealing with issues including elections, campaign finance, public safety, transportation, infrastructure, flood control, and budget reform. In 2002, Mr. Jones served as the campaign manager for the successful statewide campaign in support of Proposition 43, which amended the California Constitution to provide that voters have the right to have their votes counted. Mr. Jones was born and raised in Kaneohe, Hawaii, and is a graduate of Claremont McKenna College.



Neal Kelley

Registrar of Voters Orange County

@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 125-year history. Prior to joining Orange County, Mr. Kelley developed and grew several companies of his own, employing hundreds of people from 1989 to 2004. He was also an adjunct professor with Riverside Community College's Business Administration Department, and served as a police officer in Southern California during the mid 1980's. He has been the recipient of several awards for election administration and is the elected Vice President for the National Association of County Recorders, Election Officials and Clerks (NACRC). Mr. Kelley earned professional election certification through the National Election Center and Auburn University as a Certified Elections and Registration Administrator (CERA). He holds a bachelor's degree in Business and Management from the University of Redlands and an M.B.A. from the University of Southern California.



Deanna Kitamura

Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles

Deanna Kitamura is Senior Staff Attorney in the Voting Rights Project at Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles. Her work includes ensuring that counties comply with their language assistance requirements at poll sites. She is one of the co-authors of *Advancing Justice's Voices of Democracy: Asian Americans and Language Access During the 2012 Elections*. From 2009 to 2012, Ms. Kitamura was Advancing Justice's Statewide Redistricting Manager and worked with community partners to advocate that Asian American and Pacific Islander communities be kept whole through the Los Angeles city and statewide redistricting process. Prior to her work at Advancing Justice, Ms. Kitamura was a legislative deputy for a Los Angeles City councilmember. She has also worked as an attorney at the Western Center on Law and Poverty, California Rural Legal Assistance, the National Consumer Law Center, and a civil rights litigation firm. Ms. Kitamura received her bachelor's degree from Pomona College and a law degree from the University of California, Los Angeles.



Dean Logan

Registrar Recorder/County Clerk Los Angeles County
@lacountyrcc

Dean Logan is the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk for Los Angeles County, 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 holds a degree in Organizational Leadership from Azusa Pacific University and an Executive Master's of Public Administration degree through the Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington. He also serves as an instructor for the public sector MPA program at the California State University, Northridge.



Raúl Macías

American Civil Liberties Union of California

Raúl Macías is a Voting Rights Attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of California Voting Rights Project. Prior to joining ACLU, he worked as a research associate with the California Budget Project, and as an advocate at California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform in San Francisco and Legal Services of Northern California in Sacramento. He graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles, with a bachelor's degree in Political Science and went to graduate school for Public Policy and Administration at the California State University, Sacramento, and law school at the University of San Diego.



Paul Mitchell

Political Data

Paul Mitchell is the owner of Redistricting Partners, and is Vice President of Political Data Inc.—nationally recognized bipartisan industry leaders in their respective fields. Political Data Inc. is a voter file company that provides data to campaigns, nonprofits and academic institutions. Redistricting Partners is currently contracted with several statewide groups helping them navigate legislative and congressional redistricting, and over 30 local agencies such as cities, community colleges and special districts as they conduct their redistricting. Mr. Mitchell has served as a national expert on campaigns and redistricting, appearing in state and national publications and was featured in a *CNN Presents* documentary on the State's new decennial process. For the last two years Mr. Mitchell has been listed in "*Capitol Weekly's Top 100 List*" of influential people in Sacramento. Mr. Mitchell has a Master's in Public Policy with a focus on Urban Planning and Econometrics.

Speaker Biographies



Fred Nisen
Disability Rights California
@DisabilityCA

Fred Nisen is an attorney with Disability Rights California's Bay Area Regional Office. Disability Rights California is California's federally mandated protection and advocacy system for people with disabilities. Mr. Nisen has worked for Disability Rights California for the last 15 years. For the past six years, Mr. Nisen has worked on voting issues for the organization, including coordinating Disability Rights California's Election Day Hotline and training election officials on disability accessibility issues.



Steven Ochoa
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
@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 data sets, 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 in Public Policy from the University of Michigan.



Jennifer Pae
League of Women Voters of California
@jennpae

Jennifer Pae is Project Manager for Voter Service and Education at the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund. Ms. Pae previously served as the President of the United States Student Association (USSA) where she led campaigns to register and increase young voter turnout across the country. Ms. Pae 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 and Pacific Islander civic engagement by leveraging the power of technology and social media. Ms. Pae has served as a trainer for APIAVote, Camp Wellstone, Midwest Academy, and the New American Leaders Project. Ms. Pae holds a degree from the University of California, San Diego, where she was the first Asian American woman student body president.



Gail Pellerin
County Clerk/Registrar of Voters Santa Cruz County

Gail Pellerin is the Santa Cruz County Clerk/Registrar of Voters. In this position she manages all elections conducted in the county and serves as the Commissioner of Civil Marriage. Her office is responsible for voter registration, conducting elections, managing candidate and campaign filings, issuing marriage licenses and conducting ceremonies, maintaining fictitious business name filings, and serving as a passport acceptance facility. Ms. Pellerin has 28 years of experience in public service – 7 years working for the state legislature in Sacramento and 21 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 is currently Co-Chair of the Secretary of State's Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee. She is the author of several election guidebooks to assist voters in navigating through various election procedures including initiatives, recalls, and referendums. She earned her California Professional Election Administration Credential in June 2006.



Whitney Quesenbery
Center for Civic Design
 @whitneyq

Whitney Quesenbery is Co-Director at the Center for Civic Design. Her work in civic design began with her appointment to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) Federal advisory committee writing the *Voluntary Voting System Guidelines* (VVS), including the first usability requirements for voting systems. She also served on the U.S. Access Board's advisory committee updating Section 508 accessibility regulations. Ms. Quesenbery is also the co-author of the Brennan Center for Justice seminal publications, *Better Ballots* (2008) and *Better Design: Better Elections* (2012). She is currently the grants coordinator for the EAC-funded Accessible Voting Technology Initiative, managing 15 grants on voting for people with disabilities, including the Anywhere Ballot project. Her most recent book is *A Web for Everyone: Designing Accessible User Experience* (Rosenfeld Media, 2014).



Michelle Romero
The Greenlining Institute

Michelle Romero is the Claiming Our Democracy Director at The Greenlining Institute, where she works to strengthen democracy by ensuring that communities of color have a voice. In 2010-2011, Ms. Romero led a statewide campaign to involve an unprecedented number of people of color in California's process of redrawing the state's legislative and congressional districts – the first time districts were drawn by a citizen commission. As a co-founding member of the Future of California Elections Collaborative, she partnered with county elections officials, civil rights, and good government groups to improve the state's voting materials and advance best practices for compliance with the National Voter Registration Act at public assistance agencies. Ms. Romero also wrote and lobbied for legislation to extend language access to the initiative process and voting rights to former felons. Currently, Ms. Romero serves on the Executive Committee of the board of California Common Cause and on MapLight's Advisory Board. Michelle earned her bachelor's degree from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Speaker Biographies



Mindy Romero

California Civic Engagement Project at the University of California, Davis

Mindy Romero is Founding Director of the California Civic Engagement Project, a statewide resource for civic engagement research, housed at the University of California, Davis, Center for Regional Change. Ms. Romero's individual research specializes in the intersection of political behavior and race/ethnicity, with an emphasis on conducting research that has on-the-ground relevancy for California's communities. Her research has been cited in numerous major news outlets, including the Washington Post, LA Times, SF Chronicle, Politico and the Huffington Post.



Emily Rusch

CALPIRG Education Fund

Emily Rusch is Executive Director of CALPIRG Education Fund. As Executive Director, she oversees the organization's 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, to increase voter engagement in elections, and other issues in the public interest. In 2012, she 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. Ms. Rusch graduated from Willamette University in Salem, Oregon.



Thomas A. Saenz

Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund

Thomas A. Saenz is President and General Counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), where he leads the civil rights organization's five offices in pursuing litigation, policy advocacy, and community education to promote the civil rights of Latinos living in the United States. Mr. Saenz re-joined MALDEF in August 2009, after spending four years on Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's executive team as Counsel to the Mayor. He previously spent 12 years at MALDEF practicing civil rights law as a staff attorney, regional counsel, and vice president of litigation. Mr. Saenz served as MALDEF's lead counsel in successfully challenging California's anti-immigrant Proposition 187. Mr. Saenz has also clerked for two federal judges before joining MALDEF in 1993. He holds a bachelor's degree from Yale College and a law degree from Yale Law School.



Heather Smith

Rock the Vote
@rockthevote @rtvHS

Heather Smith is President of Rock the Vote. Rock the Vote educates and empowers young people to participate in the nation's democracy in order to make positive social, political and economic change. Under Ms. Smith's leadership, Rock the Vote ran the largest nonpartisan voter engagement effort in the country during the last two presidential elections, launched a national high school civics education initiative, and refined best practices and new technologies for the continued engagement of young voters. Ms. Smith has spent her career engaging young people in politics. She founded and directed Young Voter Strategies (YVS), a project to provide political parties, candidates, and non-profits with data and research on the youth vote. She also worked as national field director for the Student PIRG's New Voters Project and as an organizing director for Green Corps' Field School for Environmental Organizing. Ms. Smith received a bachelor's degree with honors in Economics and Public Policy from Duke University, and is a member of the university's DukeEngage National Advisory Board.



Pamela Smith

Verified Voting Foundation

Pamela Smith is President of Verified Voting, a non-partisan, nonprofit working to safeguard elections in the digital age. She provides information and public testimony on verified voting issues at federal and state levels throughout the United States, including to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Administration. She oversees an extensive information resource on election equipment and the regulations governing its use at the federal level and across the 50 states. Ms. Smith is co-editor of the *Principles and Best Practices in Post Election Audits*, co-author of *Counting Votes 2012: a State by State Look at Election Preparedness*, and a contributing author for *Confirming Elections: Creating Confidence and Integrity through Election Auditing*.



Jonathan Stein

American Civil Liberties Union of California
@jonathanstein

Jonathan Stein is a Voting Rights Attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of California Voting Rights Project and Vice Chair of the California Common Cause Board of Directors. Mr. Stein served as the Student Regent on the University of California's Board of Regents, representing the 230,000 students of the University of California system and advocating for students on issues pertaining to student debt, financial aid, diversity, campus climate, and student health. Mr. Stein spent four years at Mother Jones magazine as a researcher, assistant editor, blogger, and campaign correspondent during the 2008 presidential elections. Mr. Stein graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, with a law degree and Master's in Public Policy from the Goldman School of Public Policy.

Speaker Biographies



Caroline Vance Bruister

California Forward

@MoveCAFWD @orange426

Caroline Vance Bruister is the Director of Partnership for Public Accountability at California Forward. Prior to joining California Forward she served as District Director for the 35th Assembly District representing Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. Ms. Vance Bruister has over a decade of experience in the legislative process and constituent assistance, including with the Lieutenant Governor's California Commission for Economic Development. Ms. Vance Bruister has also been active with the Junior League of Santa Barbara and Junior League of San Francisco where she currently serves on the board as Public Affairs Council Director. She is the Legislative Liaison and Communications Chair for the Junior League of California's State Public Affairs Committee. Ms. Vance Bruister received a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of California, Santa Barbara.



Michael Vu

Registrar of Voters San Diego County

Michael Vu is the Registrar of Voters for San Diego County and is responsible for the overall election administration of the third largest election jurisdiction in California and the eighth largest election jurisdiction in the country, with a registered voter population of over 1.56 million. Mr. Vu oversees all primary, general, special, and district elections for the County as well as elections for the surrounding municipalities. Mr. Vu is responsible for planning, coordinating and evaluating the overall activities of the Registrar of Voters. He has over 17 years of election experience and has testified before the United States House Administration Committee and the United States Election Assistance Commission. He has been recognized for his many accomplishments in the field of election administration, including receiving the 2012 Asian Heritage Society Award in Government.



Future of
**CALIFORNIA
ELECTIONS**

Future of California Elections
1000 Alameda Street, Suite 240
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Follow us @FutureCAElect

