



CALIFORNIA REPUBLIC

Building Partnerships for a Stronger Democracy



2016 CONFERENCE

February 25 & 26, 2016

The California Endowment
Los Angeles, CA



/FutureofCAElections



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www.futureofcaelections.org



This conference is generously sponsored by:



The James Irvine Foundation

Special thanks to the 2016 FoCE Conference Planning Committee

Jess Jollett, *ACLU of California Voting Rights Project*

Deanna Kitamura, *Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles*

Caitlin Maple, *California Forward*

Yesenia Martinez, *NALEO Educational Fund*

Ofelia Medina, *NALEO Educational Fund, Conference Co-Chair*

Fred Nisen, *Disability Rights California*

Gabriel Taylor, *Disability Rights California*

Gail Pellerin, *Santa Cruz County Clerk*



Message from the Executive Director

Welcome to the Future of California Elections' 2016 Conference!

Future of California Elections (FoCE) is a five-year-old collaboration of election administrators, election reform advocates, and civil rights organizations who are sharing ideas and working together to modernize California elections and expand participation. Since our inception in 2011, our members have worked in Sacramento and in local communities across the state to identify and eliminate systemic barriers to voting. On issues ranging from language access to automated voter registration, from vote centers to ensuring security and privacy for voters with disabilities, and from poll worker training to improved vote-by-mail procedures, FoCE has played a central role in focusing strategies to implement needed reforms. We hope you will take the time to visit our website at www.futureofcalelections.org and stay connected throughout the coming year.

FoCE and our member organizations want to extend a special thank you to the James Irvine Foundation for their generous support of this conference, and all of FoCE's ongoing initiatives. This conference marks the departure of Catherine Hazelton, our Senior Program Officer at the Irvine Foundation. Ms. Hazelton was the driving force behind the creation of FoCE and her wisdom, energy and passion for strengthening our democracy have been catalysts for countless FoCE accomplishments. We are all deeply grateful to her. Thank you also to our project sponsor, Community Partners, and to our host, the California Endowment.

Finally, I wish to thank our conference planning committee members, who have devoted countless hours toward ensuring the best possible experience for our attendees, and a special thank you to our exceptional staff here at FoCE: Astrid Garcia Ochoa, Stefani Jimenez, and Jacqueline Wu.

Thank you for being here. Please enjoy the conference!

Sincerely,

Vince Hall

Executive Director

Future of California Elections Staff

Vince Hall, *Executive Director*

Astrid Garcia Ochoa, *Deputy Director, Conference Co-Chair*

Stefani Jimenez, *Project Coordinator*

Jacqueline Wu, *Project Coordinator*

Doug Chapin, *Project Consultant*

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FutureofCAElections

2016 Conference Agenda

Thursday, February 25, 2016

8:00 am
Foyer

Registration Opens - Continental Breakfast Provided

Opening Plenary

9:00 am
Yosemite

Modernizing Elections: Strategies from California, Colorado and Oregon

California, Colorado and Oregon are at the forefront of innovation in voter registration and election administration. In this panel, policymakers from these three states will discuss their challenges and lessons learned with developing and implementing new reforms around registering to vote and ballot options.

- Hon. Jeanne P. Atkins, *Oregon Secretary of State*
- Hon. Alex Padilla, *California Secretary of State*
- Hon. Wayne Williams, *Colorado Secretary of State*
- Moderator: Doug Chapin, *Director, Election Academy, University of Minnesota*

Morning Sessions

Session A
10:45 am
Catalina

Funding Democracy: The Future of Sustainable Election Funding and Governance

Funding for elections is essential to strengthening California's democracy, yet election administrators face rising costs and significant barriers, including replacing aging voting systems. This panel explores the true cost of elections and strategies for providing adequate and sustainable funding for elections in California.

- Kim Alexander, *President and Founder, California Voter Foundation*
- Cathy Darling Allen, *County Clerk/Registrar of Voters, Shasta County*
- Caitlin Maple, *Research Analyst, California Forward*
- Pamela Smith, *President, Verified Voting*
- Moderator: Ofelia Medina, *Director of State Civic Engagement Policy, NALEO Educational Fund*

Session B
10:45 am
Yosemite

Voting for Revolution: The Role Civic Engagement Plays in Modern Day Movements

Movements are defined by the momentum they create well beyond a single point in time. This panel explores the important momentum of movements in 2016 and the role of organizations, election administrators and media in civic engagement.

- Aura Bogado, *Staff Writer, Grist*
- Jay Jordan, *Networks Manager, Californians for Safety and Justice*
- Aaron Nevarez, *Executive Assistant, Office of the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, Los Angeles County*
- Aparna Shah, *Executive Director, Mobilize the Immigrant Vote*
- Moderator: Jill Fox, *Outreach Manager, Elections Department, San Francisco County*

2016 Conference Agenda

Thursday, February 25, 2016

Morning Sessions

Session C
10:45 am
Joshua Tree

Designing for the Voter Experience

Organizations and governments understand that they must use design for an improved voter experience. This panel will discuss best design practices for serving voters, such as plain language, voting equipment, and ballot layout.

- Dean Logan, *Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, Los Angeles County*
- Daniel G. Newman, *President and Co-Founder, MapLight*
- Gail Pellerin, *County Clerk/Registrar of Voters, Santa Cruz County*
- Whitney Quesenbery, *Co-Director, Center for Civic Design*
- Moderator: Trudy Schafer, *Senior Director for Program, League of Women Voters of California*

Session D
10:45 am
Mojave

The Youth Vote: Engaging Our Future Voters (This session will repeat on Day 2)

Youth are the future of our democracy, yet they are among the lowest in voter turnout. This panel will explore tools to increase youth engagement including civic education, pre-registration of high school students, and registration at colleges and universities.

- Paul Bugarino, *Community Education and Engagement Specialist, Elections Department, Contra Costa County*
- Mynor Godoy, *Education Program Officer, United Way of Greater Los Angeles*
- Emily Rusch, *Executive Director, CALPIRG and CALPIRG Education Fund*
- Jen Tolentino, *Civic Technology Program Manager, Rock the Vote*
- Moderator: Tanzila Ahmed, *Campaign Strategist, 18 Million Rising*

12:00 pm
Yosemite

Break - Lunch Provided

12:45 pm
Yosemite

New Research by Future of California Elections Members and Partners

This panel showcases research initiatives that provide a better understanding of California's diverse electorate and election system.

- Dr. Eric McGhee, *Research Fellow, Public Policy Institute of California*
- Leila Pedersen, *Program Manager, California Common Cause*
- Dr. Mindy Romero, *Director, California Civic Engagement Project, UC Davis*
- Moderator: Astrid Garcia Ochoa, *Deputy Director, Future of California Elections*

2016 Conference Agenda

Thursday, February 25, 2016

Afternoon Sessions

Session E 2:00 pm Mojave

Voter Registration Modernization

This panel explores efforts to modernize California's system of voter registration. Panelists will discuss the new statewide voter registration database, the new motor voter law and voter registration at local public agencies.

- John Gardner, *Assistant Registrar of Voters, Solano County*
- Rosalind Gold, *Senior Director of Policy, Research and Advocacy, NALEO Educational Fund*
- Jana Lean, *Chief of Elections Division, Office of the California Secretary of State*
- Tammy Patrick, *Senior Advisor, Democracy Project, Bipartisan Policy Center*
- Moderator: Efrain Escobedo, *Vice President of Civic Engagement and Public Policy, California Community Foundation*

Session F 2:00 pm Catalina

Moving the Electorate: Reflections and Insights on Civic Engagement (This session will repeat on Day 2)

California's diverse demographics call for innovative and fresh strategies for voter mobilization. This civic engagement panel will discuss the work organizations do to find the most effective messaging and models for moving California's diverse electorate.

- Whitney May, *Director of Government Services, Center for Technology and Civic Life*
- Eren Mendez, *Election Outreach Coordinator, Elections Division, Contra Costa County*
- Kenya T. Parham, *Political Strategist, Assistant Project Leader, African American Civic Engagement Project*
- Karla Zombro, *Field Director, California Calls*
- Moderator: Jess Jollett, *Communications Strategist, ACLU of California Voting Rights Project*

Session G 2:00 pm Joshua Tree

Accessible Voter Information for Everyone

This panel will explore how to provide accessible information for all of California's diverse voters, including people with disabilities and limited English proficient voters. Panelists will discuss the importance of plain language, the need to make information available in different formats and the significant role stakeholder involvement plays in creating successful outcomes.

- Manjusha Kulkarni, *Executive Director, South Asian Network*
- Tim McNamara, *Assistant Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, Election Operations, Los Angeles County*
- Dora Rose, *Senior Director of Civic Engagement, League of Women Voters of California*
- Cynde Soto, *Community Organizer, Communities Actively Living Independent and Free*
- Moderator: Ted Jackson, *Community Organizing Director, California Foundation for Independent Living Centers*

2016 Conference Agenda

Thursday, February 25, 2016

Afternoon Sessions

Session H
2:00 pm
Cabrillo

Districting What? Understanding the Power of Line Drawing in Your Community

More and more local governments in California are moving from at-large elections to district-based elections, and we are halfway to the 2021 redistricting. Learn the community and administrative processes involved in line-drawing and how the process helps community organizations engage local residents.

- Palma Hooper, *President, Southwest Center For Asian Pacific American Law*
- Denise Hulett, *National Senior Counsel, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund*
- Connie Malloy, *Program Director, California Democracy, The James Irvine Foundation*
Commissioner, California Citizens Redistricting Commission
- Michael Vu, *Registrar of Voters, San Diego County*
- Moderator: Kathay Feng, *Executive Director, California Common Cause*

Closing Plenary

3:30 pm
Yosemite

Fostering State and Local Government Collaboration

Learn about best practices for building local collaborations. This panel brings together case studies, which exemplify best practices of nongovernmental organizations and state and local governments working together. The panel will highlight state and local efforts to support language access and voters with disabilities.

- Ardis Bazyn, *President, Bazyn Communications*
- Neal Kelley, *Registrar of Voters, Orange County*
- Deanna Kitamura, *Voting Rights Project Director, Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles*
- Brian D. Newby, *Executive Director, U.S. Election Assistance Commission*
- Dr. Beatriz Solis, *Director, Healthy Communities - South Region, The California Endowment*
- Moderator: Catherine Hazelton, *Senior Program Officer, The James Irvine Foundation*

5:00 pm
Courtyard

Welcome Reception

2016 Conference Agenda

Friday, February 26, 2016

8:00 am
Foyer

Registration Opens - Continental Breakfast Provided

8:30 am
Yosemite

Keynote

Commissioner Thomas Hicks, Vice Chair, U.S. Election Assistance Commission

Morning Sessions

Session I
9:15 am
Joshua Tree

Reducing Barriers to the Voting Booth

Election stakeholders across the state work daily to provide access to the voting booth, yet some voters still face challenges to participating on Election Day. This panel will review what barriers exist today for voters with disabilities, including people under conservatorship, limited English proficient voters, and voters who were formerly incarcerated. Speakers will share the unintentional consequences to barriers on Election Day and how we can improve access for all.

- Ben Hamatake, *Community Outreach Manager, Orange County Registrar of Voters*
- Cristin Hanson, *New Voter, San Diego County*
- Terri Lantz, *Case Manager, United Cerebral Palsy of Los Angeles*
- Fred Nisen, *Supervising Attorney for Voting Rights, Disability Rights California*
- Moderator: Lori Shellenberger, *Director, ACLU of California Voting Rights Project*

Session J
9:15 am
Cabrillo

Workshop: Making Information for Voters Easy to Understand

The Center for Civic Design and partners will bring best practices for improving voter information for voter outreach. This is an interactive workshop for election administrators and nonprofits. Participants are encouraged to bring their election materials and get feedback.

- Whitney Quesenbery, *Co-Director, Center for Civic Design*

Session D
9:15 am
Mojave

The Youth Vote: Engaging Our Future Voters

Youth are the future of our democracy, yet they are among the lowest in voter turnout. This panel will explore tools to increase youth engagement including civic education, pre-registration of high school students, and registration at colleges and universities.

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- Moderator: Tanzila Ahmed, *Campaign Strategist, 18 Million Rising*

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Morning Sessions

Session F
9:15 am
Catalina

Moving the Electorate: Reflections and Insights on Civic Engagement

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- Whitney May, *Director of Government Services, Center for Technology and Civic Life*
- Eren Mendez, *Election Outreach Coordinator, Elections Division, Contra Costa County*
- Kenya T. Parham, *Political Strategist, Assistant Project Leader, African American Civic Engagement Project*
- Karla Zombro, *Field Director, California Calls*
- Moderator: Jess Jollett, *Communications Strategist, ACLU of California Voting Rights Project*

Closing Plenary

10:45 am
Yosemite

Moving to the Future: Legislative Policies and Practices to Support Voter Turnout

In recent years California has passed new laws intended to support voter turnout. This panel explores the new laws, the timing of when laws will go into effect and future policies being considered.

- Senator Ben Allen, *26th Senate District, Chair of the Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee*
- Assemblymember Sebastian Ridley-Thomas, *54th Assembly District, Chair of the Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee*
- James Schwab, *Chief of Legislative Affairs, Office of the California Secretary of State*
- Moderator: Vince Hall, *Executive Director, Future of California Elections*

Featured Speakers



Honorable Alex Padilla *California Secretary of State*

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

Secretary Padilla started his career for Hughes Aircraft in Southern California. He would later work for U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein and then-Assemblymember Tony Cardenas. In 1999, Secretary 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.

In 2005, Secretary 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 Padilla was elected to the California State Senate. He was reelected in 2010. Over the course of eight years, Secretary Padilla established a diverse and groundbreaking legislative record.

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



Honorable Wayne Williams *Colorado Secretary of State*

Secretary of State Wayne Williams was elected Colorado's 38th Secretary of State in 2014. As Secretary of State, he strives to work with the staff to provide excellent customer service throughout the office. He is the first Colorado Secretary of State to earn the nationally recognized Certified Elections/Registration Administrator designation and also received the Medallion Award from the National Association of Secretaries of State for his efforts in protecting the right to vote.

Prior to his election, Secretary Williams served as the El Paso County Clerk & Recorder from 2011 to 2015, where he successfully ran elections in the state's most populous county. As Clerk, he focused his efforts on expanding services to citizens by adding more than a dozen 24/7 drop boxes and consistently running elections that were both cost-effective and voter-friendly. He also expanded access to online records and published instant wait times to help people spend less time waiting. Secretary Williams also served as Commissioner in El Paso County from 2003 to 2011.

In addition to his service in elected office and the community, Secretary Williams has operated a Colorado small business since 1998 in which his legal practice is focused on labor and employment law matters. He also teaches employment law seminars throughout the nation and previously taught employment law at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Secretary Williams graduated with honors from Brigham Young University in 1986 and from the University of Virginia Law School in 1989. Secretary Williams was selected as a Harry S. Truman Scholar and is a graduate of the Leadership Program of the Rockies.

Featured Speakers



Honorable Jeanne P. Atkins *Oregon Secretary of State*

Secretary of State Jeanne P. Atkins was sworn in as Secretary of State in 2015. A veteran state administrator, Congressional staffer, and women's rights advocate, Secretary Atkins is a committed public servant who's spent her entire career in public service and non-profit organizations.

At her swearing-in, Secretary Atkins emphasized her commitment to fulfilling the opportunity given her to protect and strengthen some of Oregonians' deepest values: free and open elections, transparency in government, public access to Oregon history, and accountability by state agencies and offices. One of Secretary Atkins' main priorities is implementing the Oregon Motor Voter bill passed by the 78th Legislative Assembly and signed into law by Governor Kate Brown. Since taking office, Secretary Atkins has also ensured progress and smooth operation of key functions of the Secretary of State's office, which range from administering elections and conducting audits, to overseeing the State Archives and serving as the first stop for business services and support in Oregon.

Secretary Atkins retired in January 2015 from the office of U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, where she served as State Director since 2009. Previously, she was Chief of Staff for the Oregon House Speakers Jeff Merkley and Dave Hunt. In her nonprofit work, Secretary Atkins focused on policy analysis and public affairs at organizations including the United Way of the Columbia/Willamette and Planned Parenthood of the Columbia/Willamette, where she later served as Director of Patient Services. Secretary Atkins spent her early career in Washington, D.C. working in public policy. She earned her law degree at the University of Oregon and received her bachelor's from the University of Washington.



Commissioner Thomas Hicks *Vice-Chair, U.S. Election Assistance Commission*

Commissioner Thomas Hicks was nominated by President Barack H. Obama and confirmed by unanimous consent of the United States Senate on December 16, 2014, to serve on the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC). His term of service extends through December 12, 2017.

Prior to his appointment with the EAC, Commissioner Hicks served as a Senior Elections Counsel and Minority Elections Counsel on the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Administration, a position he held from 2003 to 2014. In this role, Commissioner Hicks was responsible for issues relating to campaign finance, election reform, contested elections and oversight of both the Election Assistance Commission and Federal Election Commission. His primary responsibility was advising and providing guidance to the committee members and caucus on election issues. Commissioner Hicks has talked with Americans in every state about their voting experiences. In addition, he has worked with state and local election officials across America to address critical election concerns.

Prior to joining the U.S. House of Representatives, Commissioner Hicks served as a Senior Lobbyist and Policy Analyst for Common Cause. He also served in the Clinton Administration as a Special Assistant and Legislative Assistant in the Office of Congressional Relations for the Office of Personnel Management and as agency liaison to the United State Congress and the President's Administration on matters regarding Federal personnel policies and regulations.

Commissioner Hicks received his J.D. from the Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law and his B.A. in Government from Clark University. He also studied at the University of London and law at the University of Adelaide.

Featured 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, covering the Westside, Hollywood, and South Bay communities of Los Angeles County. He serves 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 was an attorney with the law firm of Richardson & Patel LLP and was a lecturer at UCLA Law School, teaching 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*

Assemblymember 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



Tanzila Ahmed

Campaign Strategist, 18 Million Rising

An electoral organizer by trade, Tanzila Ahmed has mobilized Asian American & Pacific Islanders to the polls in over seventeen different languages in the past fifteen years. In 2004, she founded South Asian American Voting Youth (SAAVY), a national organization that organizes South Asian American youth to get involved in the electoral process. She has since worked at Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Los Angeles and Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance, employing in-language culturally competent tools to mobilize hundreds of thousands of AAPI voters to the polls. She currently is a Campaign Strategist at the Asian American new media organizing group 18MillionRising.



Kim Alexander @kimalex3

President & Founder, California Voter Foundation

As President and founder of The California Voter Foundation (CVF), a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to improving the voting process to better serve voters, Kim Alexander 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. Ms. Alexander is the author of CVF's reports, "Improving California's Vote-by-Mail Process: A Three-County Study" and "VoteCal and the Struggle to Modernize California's Statewide Voter Registration Database."



Ardis Bazyn

President, Bazyn Communications

Ardis Bazyn was born in Alvord, Iowa. When she lost her sight in a car accident at the age of 20, Ms. Bazyn completed rehabilitation, then food service management training. As wife of a husband with multiple disabilities and mother of two pre-teen daughters, she went back to college while working full-time in her food service business. Ms. Bazyn holds two bachelor degrees, in public relations and speech communications and a master's degree in arts in teaching from Coe College in Cedar Rapids, IA.



Aura Bogado

Staff Writer, Grist

As a staff writer for Grist, Ms. Aura Bogado covers environmental justice. She has covered voting rights extensively for The Nation and Colorlines, and is based in Los Angeles.

Speaker Biographies



Paul Burgarino @paulburgarino @EngageCoCo
Community Education and Engagement Specialist, Contra Costa County

Paul Burgarino has worked at the Contra Costa County Clerk-Recorder-Elections Department since August 2014. He oversees the creation of a unique civic engagement program that utilizes new and innovative ways to inform voters and get residents, especially youth, excited about community participation. Mr. Burgarino received his bachelor's degree in journalism and political science from Gonzaga University.



Doug Chapin @HHHElections
Director, Election Academy, University of Minnesota

Doug Chapin came to the Humphrey School after 10 years at The Pew Charitable Trusts, where he served as director of Election Initiatives. Under his leadership, Pew's elections team successfully lobbied for enactment of military and overseas voting reform; enlisted dozens of states and technology partners to provide official voting information online and via mobile technology. 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 from Princeton University.



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

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. Ms. Darling Allen is an active member of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO), 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.



Efrain Escobedo
Vice President, Civic Engagement and Public Policy, California Community Foundation

Efrain Escobedo is responsible for promoting collaboration and advocacy efforts across the nonprofit, public and private sectors. Prior to joining the California Community Foundation, Mr. Escobedo was the manager of governmental and legislative affairs for the Registrar of Voters in Los Angeles County. Mr. Escobedo has bachelor's degree in American studies and ethnicity from the University of Southern California and a graduate of the Los Angeles County Executive Leadership Program.

Speaker Biographies



Kathay Feng @kathayccc

Executive Director, California Common Cause

Under the leadership of Kathay Feng, 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, which has become a model for redistricting reform. Ms. Feng attained her bachelor's degree from Cornell University and holds a law degree from the University of California, Los Angeles.



Jill Fox

Outreach Manager, Elections Department, San Francisco County

As the Voter Outreach Manager in San Francisco County, Jill Fox uses skills from previous careers to get out the vote. For over 20 years, Ms. Fox worked as a managing editor in book publishing, making complex information understandable for basic readers. Her volunteer advocacy experience has shaped her understanding of engaging diverse populations. Ms. Fox is a graduate of San Francisco State University, member of California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO), participant in the Bay Area Voter Outreach Committee, and contributes ideas to the Center for Civic Design.



Astrid Garcia Ochoa @astridmgarcia

Deputy Director, Future of California Elections

As the first full-time hire of Future of California Elections (FoCE), Astrid Garcia Ochoa helped lead the organization's program work, build its network of partners and has spearheaded the annual conference for the past three years. Prior to joining FoCE, she led NALEO Educational Fund's national redistricting efforts, testifying before commissions and legislatures and engaging underserved populations. Ms. Garcia Ochoa currently serves on the Governing Board of the Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni and served as Co-Chair to the transitional Language Accessibility Advisory Committee.



John Gardner

Assistant Registrar of Voters, Solano County

John Gardner has improved operations and efficiencies in the Office of the Registrar of Voters, Solano County, including: ballot handling security improvements, countywide deployment of electronic rosters, cross-training staff, increasing office transparency, and implementing on-line registration processes. Mr. Gardner currently chairs the statewide Vote Cal Business Process Committee and is actively involved in modernizing the voter registration system. Mr. Gardner has over 14 years of experience in elections, and holds a master's degree in public administration from Norwich University.

Speaker Biographies



Mynor Godoy @mynor2go

Education Program Officer, United Way of Greater Los Angeles

Mynor Godoy is responsible for managing United Way's education grants portfolio where they provide support for after-school/extended learning and policy/advocacy. In Spring 2015, Mr. Godoy helped launch the LA Youth Vote campaign in partnership with the LA County Registrar and Los Angeles Unified School District. Mr. Godoy holds a master's degree in International Affairs from Columbia University and a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Irvine.



Rosalind Gold

Senior Director of Policy, Research and Advocacy, NALEO Educational Fund

Rosalind Gold serves as Senior Director of Policy, Research and Advocacy with 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. Rosalind has extensive policy expertise in the areas of newcomer civic integration, election reform, voting rights, redistricting and the decennial Census. She also serves on the advisory committees and boards of several public affairs and research efforts. Rosalind has delivered testimony before many public and private committee and commission hearings. Rosalind received her law degree from Harvard Law School and bachelor's from Pomona College.



Vince Hall @FutureCAElect

Executive Director, Future of California Elections

Vince Hall has served as the Executive Director of Future of California Elections since early 2015. He brings over two decades of public policy experience in local, state, and federal government, including serving as Staff Director for Governor Gray Davis. More recently he served eight years as Vice President of Public Affairs and Communications for Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest. 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.



Ben Hamatake

Community Outreach Manager, Office of the Registrar of Voters, Orange County

Ben Hamatake has worked at the Orange County Registrar of Voters for ten years, first as a Community Program Specialist and now as Community Outreach Manager. In this role, he oversees the translation and proofing of voting material into federally and State-mandated languages, including Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Korean, Tagalog, Japanese, Hindi and Khmer. Mr. Hamatake is also responsible for bilingual poll worker recruitment and all poll worker training.

Speaker Biographies



Cristin Hanson

New Voter, San Diego County

Cristin Hanson is an active community member, volunteer, mom, friend and leader in the neighborhood of Vista, California. In 2014, Ms. Hanson faced challenges and hurdles in casting her ballot. Working with voting rights advocates, she was able to vote, and now helps to educate her community about the right to participate in democracy.



Catherine Hazelton @hazelton4irvine

Senior Program Officer, California Democracy, The James Irvine Foundation

Catherine Hazelton has served as a senior program officer in the California Democracy program since 2009. At Irvine, she has helped design and led several key initiatives including the Future of California Elections, the James Irvine Foundation Leadership Awards, the Public Sector Leadership project, and an effort to deepen public engagement in redistricting processes. Ms. Hazelton has a master's degree in public policy from the University of California, Berkeley and a bachelor's degree from Scripps College.



Palma Hooper

President, Southwest Center for Asian Pacific American Law (SCAPAL)

Palma Hooper is an attorney who has represented clients in civil litigation, business and employment law. Ms. Hooper has served as the president of the Southwest Center for Asian Pacific American Law (SCAPAL), a nonprofit, nonpartisan law center, providing educational programs relating to the law to advance and protect the civil rights of underserved communities in San Diego County, particularly focusing on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. She received her bachelor's degree in political science at the University of California, San Diego and her juris doctorate degree at the University of Southern California School of Law.



Denise Hulett

National Senior Counsel, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund

Denise Hulett, has been litigating civil rights cases for 30 years 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 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.

Speaker Biographies



Ted Jackson @tedjacksonca @Donetworkorg

Community Organizing Director, California Foundation for Independent Living Centers

Ted Jackson has nearly 30 years of community organizing experience at the local, state and national levels. At the California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFILC), he organizes the Disability Organizing Network (DOnetwork), which has prioritized breaking barriers to voting increasing election participation for people with disabilities. 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 member of the National Council for Independent Living, he is on their Voting Rights Subcommittee and is Chair of the Disability-Queer Caucus.



Jess Jollett

Communications Strategist, ACLU of California Voting Rights Project

Ms. Jollett has been working for the ACLU since 2009. Currently, she is the communications strategist for the ACLU of California's Voting Rights Project. Her area of work includes the statewide project's felony disenfranchisement campaign, which works to civically engage this historically disenfranchised population. Born and raised in San Diego, California, Ms. Jollett is deeply committed to seeking justice in her own hometown where she works with a local nonprofit, Pillars of the Community, a community building collective dedicated to helping those affected by the criminal justice system.



Jay Jordan

Networks Manager, Californians for Safety and Justice

Jay Jordan has worked at the intersection of social justice and politics throughout his career. During his tenure at LA Voice PICO, Mr. Jordan was instrumental in recruiting and training churches in the South Los Angeles area. He served as one of the lead organizers for the Campaign to Ban the Box for the city of Los Angeles and co-founded Faith in Action. As a result of his experience as a troubled youth who served time in prison, Mr. Jordan launched an innovative youth organizing program that focuses on civic engagement called The First50, which saw both 100% high school graduation and college enrollment in its first year.



Neal Kelley @ocregistrar

Registrar of Voters, County of Orange

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).

Speaker Biographies



Deanna Kitamura

Voting Rights Project Director, Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles

Deanna Kitamura works on issues related to language access and voter protection. She 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 and worked with community partners to keep Asian American and Pacific Islander communities whole during the Los Angeles City and statewide redistricting processes. Ms. Kitamura 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.



Manjusha Kulkarni @SANSocal

Executive Director, South Asian Network

The South Asian Network (SAN) serves the needs of individuals of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Nepalese and Sri Lankan descent in the areas of civil rights, violence prevention and health and health care access. In 2014, Ms. Kulkarni received the White House Champions of Change award for her dedication to improving health care access for South Asian Americans. Before joining SAN, Ms. Kulkarni served as Senior Attorney at the National Health Law Program and has authored numerous articles, reports and training materials and provided legal assistance and training to hundreds of attorneys.



Terri Lantz

Case Manager, United Cerebral Palsy of Los Angeles

Terri Lantz has worked at United Cerebral Palsy of Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties (UCP) for more than 42 years. Ms. Lantz has developed and facilitated UCPLA's Parent Support and Advocacy Groups, UCPLA client advocacy groups, coordinated grassroots legislative advocacy and has provided information, resources and referrals for UCP's community. She is currently a member of the Access Services Community Advisory Committee, L.A. Emergency Management Advisory Committee, Community Voter Outreach Committee (CVOC) and Co-Chair of the L.A. County Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC).



Jana M. Lean

Chief of Elections, Office of the California Secretary of State

As Elections Division Chief in the Secretary of State's office since 2010, Jana Lean, has successfully overseen six statewide elections and 28 special elections. Her 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. Ms. Lean has also 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.

Speaker Biographies



Dean Logan @lacountyrcc

Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, County of Los Angeles

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. 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.



Connie Malloy

*Program Director, California Democracy, The James Irvine Foundation
Commissioner, California Citizens Redistricting Commission*

Connie Malloy was appointed program director for the California Democracy program in January 2015. She leads the Foundation's grantmaking in the areas of governance reforms, elections policies and practices, voter and civic engagement, and immigrant integration. She currently serves as a commissioner for the first-ever California Citizens Redistricting Commission. In 2011, the Commission oversaw implementation of Propositions 11 and 20 resulting in Assembly, Senate, Congressional, and Board of Equalization districts to guide elections for ten years.



Caitlin Maple @CaityMaple

Research Analyst, California Forward

Caitlin Maple serves as a Research Analyst for California Forward, a nonpartisan governance improvement organization. Ms. Maple spearheads the Election Funding Project, a year-long research project assessing how elections are funded in other states as well as in California's 58 counties in order to discover more equitable and sustainable election funding models. In addition to conducting research, she is also responsible for writing election-related media content, as well as briefing organizations, policy makers, and other interested parties on the project. Ms. Maple holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of California, Davis.



Whitney May @whitneymaybe

Director of Government Services, Center for Technology and Civic Life

Whitney May is Co-Founder and Director of Government Services at the Center for Technology and Civic Life (CTCL). Her primary focus is on ELECTricity, a learning community of local election officials who use technology to improve our democracy. Prior to CTCL, Ms. May served the Durham County Board of Elections in North Carolina for four years. As a Certified North Carolina Election Administrator, she recruited and trained poll workers. She holds a bachelor's degree from Belmont University.

Speaker Biographies



Dr. Eric McGhee @hezaproject

Research Fellow, Public Policy Institute of California

Eric McGhee focuses on elections, legislative behavior, political reform, and surveys and polling. His research on elections and electoral reform has appeared in numerous academic journals, and his work has been profiled on National Public Radio, the Washington Post, the New York Times, and The Economist. He is an occasional contributor to the Washington Post's Monkey Cage blog on politics. Before joining PPIC, he was assistant professor of political science at the University of Oregon and served as a Congressional Fellow through the American Political Science Association.



Tim McNamara

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

Tim McNamara is the Assistant Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, Election Operations for Los Angeles County. 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.



Ofelia Medina @ofemedina

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

Ofelia 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). Ms. Medina received her bachelor's degree from Loyola Marymount University and a master's degree in public policy from the University of Southern California.



Eren Mendez

Elections Outreach Coordinator, Elections Division, Contra Costa County

Eren Mendez began her service as an Election Official in 2006 and currently serves as Co-Chair of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO) Voters with Specific Needs Subcommittee and is a member of the Bay Area Voter Outreach Committee (BAVOC). Ms. Mendez is originally from Nayarit, Mexico and is grateful to use the platform a career in public service provides to influence civic engagement in her community.

Speaker Biographies



Aaron Nevarez

Executive Assistant, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, County of Los Angeles

Aaron Nevarez serves as the L.A. County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's liaison with departmental management, the Board of Supervisors, County Commissions, other County departments and public officials. He oversees the Department's Legislation section and coordinates the functions of the Department's Governmental and Legislative Affairs

Division, which includes the Outreach, Media and Legislation sections. Mr. Nevarez also identifies new programs and services, and provides consultation in the development of the new plans, systems and policies.



Brian D. Newby @briandnewby

Executive Director, U.S. Election Assistance Commission

Brian D. Newby was appointed to a four-year term as Executive Director for the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) in November 2015. In this position, Mr. Newby is charged with implementing the commission's policies in meeting EAC's mission under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), and he oversees the day-to-day operations at EAC in

all program areas, while managing a \$9.6 million budget. Prior to his service at EAC, Mr. Newby served as the Election Commissioner in Johnson County, Kansas for eleven years.



Daniel G. Newman @DanielGNewman

Co-Founder and President, MapLight

Daniel G. Newman has led MapLight from a 2005 startup to an established national resource for citizens and journalists. Maplight's groundbreaking database connects data on campaign contributions, politicians, legislative votes, industries, companies, and more to show patterns of influence never before possible to see. Prior to co-founding MapLight,

he founded Say I Can, a speech recognition software firm, and he is the author of three books on speech recognition software. Mr. Newman holds a master's degree from the University of California at Berkeley and a bachelor's degree from Brown University.



Fred Nisen @DisabilityCA

Staff Attorney, Disability Rights California

Fred Nisen is the Supervising Attorney for Voting Rights with Disability Rights California (DRC). 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 eight years, Mr. Nisen has been working on voting issues for DRC. He currently oversees DRC's

Voting Rights Unit. For example, he coordinates DRC's Election Day Hotline and trains election officials on disability accessibility issues.

Speaker Biographies



Kenya T. Parham @KParham

Political Strategist, Assistant Director, African American Civic Engagement Project

Kenya T. Parham has raised over \$15 million, and registers an 87%-win rate with initiatives and electoral campaigns. Her distinctive approach to developing platforms, impact strategies, and coaching her clients in cultivating purposeful donor relationships sets her apart as a Millennial actively working to advance the interests of youth, minorities and women. In addition, she has taken on special projects, such as covert civic engagement training in Ferguson, MO for community organizers, elected officials and future candidates following the 2014 social unrest in that region.



Tammy Patrick @aztammyp

Senior Advisor of the Democracy Project, Bipartisan Policy Center

Tammy Patrick is a Senior Advisor of the Democracy Project with the Bipartisan Policy Center, focusing on implementation of the recommendations of the Presidential Commission on Election Administration, to which she was appointed to by President Obama in 2013. Ms. Patrick was honored to testify in Congress in 2007 on the role of election audits and the U.S. Senate in 2014 on voter registration modernization. She serves on the Steering Committee for National Voter Registration Day and Board of Advisors for the Center for Technology in Civic Life.



Leila Pedersen @LeilaPed

Program Manager, California Common Cause

Leila Pedersen joined California Common Cause in 2013 as state program manager. She is responsible for coordinating legislative and campaign activities with staff and volunteers from across the state. Before joining Common Cause, Ms. Pedersen worked at Progressive States Network, where she created and managed a working group of state legislators for election reform. She also worked for EMILY's List, running voter contact programs and helping elect a record number of women to the U.S. House and Senate. Ms. Pedersen has a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley.



Gail Pellerin @votescount

County Clerk/Registrar of Voters, Santa Cruz County

Gail Pellerin has more than 30 years of experience in public service - 7 years working for the State Legislature in Sacramento and 23 years serving as the primary elections official in Santa Cruz County. She is a past president of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO) and currently serves on the Secretary of State's Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee. Ms. Pellerin has authored several election guidebooks to assist voters in navigating election procedures including Initiatives, Recalls, and Referendums and is currently working with the Center for Civic Design to redesign the county Voter Information Guide.

Speaker Biographies



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

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, 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*.



Elmer Roldan @elmer_roldan
Director of Education Programs & Policy, United Way of Greater Los Angeles

Elmer Roldan is the Director of Education Programs and Policy, United Way of Greater Los Angeles. Prior to joining United Way, he served as the Community Affairs Deputy in the Office of then LAUSD School Board President Mónica García. Mr. Roldan's professional experience also includes working at Community Coalition for 12 years, where he served as Director of Youth Programs, Fundraising Director, and as a Youth Organizer. He is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Public Administration at California State University, Dominguez Hills.



Dr. Mindy Romero @mindysromero
Director, UC Davis Civic Engagement Project

Mindy Romero is the 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. Dr. Romero's individual research specializes in the intersection of political behavior and race/ethnicity. Her research has been cited in numerous major news outlets, including the Washington Post, LA Times, SF Chronicle, Politico, and the Huffington Post.



Dora Rose @dorarose
Senior Director, Civic Engagement, League of Women Voters of California

Dora Rose has been a civil rights litigator, policy advocate, and voting rights activist for over twenty years. Her experience includes holding leadership positions with the Voting Rights Institute, the Center for Election Integrity at Cleveland State University, and as General Counsel and Director of Voter Protection for the Ohio Democratic Party. She worked with the ACLU of California developing Secretary of State Candidate forums, and as a cooperating attorney organizing to improve California's ballot initiative process. Currently, she is leading the League of Women Voters of California's pilot partnership, Voter's Edge California.

Speaker Biographies



Emily Rusch @emilyrusch

Executive Director, CALPIRG and CALPIRG Education Fund

Emily Rusch is the Executive Director of CALPIRG and CALPIRG Education Fund. She has testified before the California state legislature on issues including election reform, money in politics, consumer protections, energy and transportation policy, and public health protections. 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 holds a bachelor's degree from Willamette University.



Trudy Schafer @trudyschafer

Senior Director for Program, League of Women Voters of California

Trudy Schafer works on a broad range of projects in community education and advocacy. Her focus is on League priorities including voting rights, election reform, money in politics, and budget issues. She also worked to ensure effective selection and functioning of the Citizens Redistricting Commission. Ms. Schafer served as president of the Sacramento County LWV and legislation director of the LWVC before joining the League's staff in 1992. Ms. Schafer has a bachelor's degree from Northwestern University and a doctorate in physical chemistry from the University of Chicago.



James Schwab @jmschwab

Chief of Legislative Affairs, California Secretary of State Alex Padilla

James Schwab develops the agency's legislative agenda and monitors State and congressional legislative proposals. Prior to working for the Secretary of State, he worked for then-State Senator Alex Padilla and began his career in the State Capitol with State Senator Elaine Alquist (ret.) in 2007. His policy work has focused on elections, education, labor and industrial relations, appropriations, economic development, and seismic safety. He has also managed field campaigns of several local legislative and city council races. Mr. Schwab attended Sacramento City College and the University of California, Davis where he majored in international relations.



Aparna Shah

Executive Director, Mobilize the Immigrant Vote

Aparna Shah has worked for social change and expanded democracy with immigrant and low-income communities for over 20 years. Under her leadership, MIV has organized statewide campaigns directly reaching 175,000+ immigrant and refugee New American voters, built the long-term infrastructure and capacity of grassroots immigrant organizations across the state to run electoral and issue campaigns, and established the MIV Action Fund. Ms. Shah holds a master's degree in health sciences from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.

Speaker Biographies



Lori Shellenberger

Director, ACLU of California Voting Rights Project

Lori Shellenberger advocates for statewide and local election reform to reduce barriers to voter participation. Since joining the ACLU in 2011, she advocated for the mapping of the first majority-minority supervisor district in San Diego County; worked to increase compliance with the National Voter Registration Act and Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act; and provided technical assistance to San Diego nonprofits to build capacity for civic engagement work. Ms. Shellenberger graduated from New York University School of Law.



Pamela Smith @VerifiedVoting

President, Verified Voting

Pamela Smith provides information and public testimony on verified voting issues at federal and state levels throughout the U.S. 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."



Beatriz Maria Solís, M.P.H., Ph.D.

Director, Healthy Communities - South Region, California Endowment

Dr. Beatriz Maria Solís is leading efforts of the Building Healthy Communities initiative to ensure that California's health policy is inclusive of residents regardless of race, gender and immigration status. As the director of Healthy Communities, South Region, Dr. Solís works to transform health outcomes in underserved communities by emboldening residents to take control of policies that affect them. Recognizing that health disparities are created when communities are absent from the decision-making table, she has focused her career on energizing youth, including immigrants and empowering women. Dr. Solís received her master's and doctorate in public health from UCLA's School of Public Health.



Cynde Soto

Community Organizer, Communities Actively Living Independent and Free

Cynde Soto was born with Arthrogryposis, a connective tissue disorder that significantly limits her physical movement. After college, she became an employee of the Independent Living Center in Long Beach. She has been a disability rights advocate with over 30 years of experience, having become active in the disability rights movement at age 20. Currently, she works as a Community Organizer. Her job enables her to work for positive policy change concerning people with disabilities. Ms. Soto holds a bachelor's degree in art from California State University, Long Beach.

Speaker Biographies



Jen Tolentino @JenTolentino_

Civic Technology Program Manager, Rock the Vote

Jen Tolentino manages the continued development of Rock the Vote's online voter registration platform and works with election administrators to implement technology solutions around voter registration. Prior to joining Rock the Vote, Ms. Tolentino spent two years working on the Voting Information Project at the Pew Charitable Trusts. During her tenure at Pew, she led the state and local government outreach, working with election officials to make critical voting information available online and accessible to voters. Jen received her bachelor's degree in English from University of California, Riverside, and her master's degree in public policy from University of California, Los Angeles.



Michael Vu

Registrar of Voters, San Diego County

Michael Vu has nearly 20 years of election experience and is responsible for election administration of the third largest election jurisdiction in California and the 8th largest in the country. Before being appointed as the San Diego County Registrar of Voters, Mr. Vu served as the Assistant Registrar. He oversees all primary, general, special, and district elections for the County and the surrounding municipalities. Mr. Vu has testified before the U.S. House Administration Committee and the U.S. Election Assistance Commission.



Karla Zombro

Field Director, California Calls

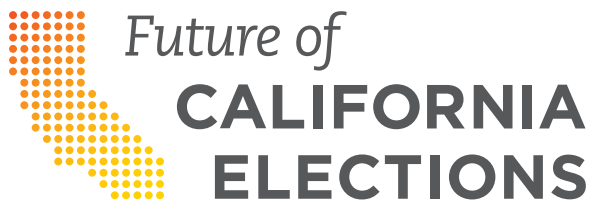
As Field Director, Karla Zombro leads the statewide organizing, capacity-building and civic engagement work of California Calls. Prior to California Calls, Ms. Zombro worked at SCOPE (Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education) in South Los Angeles where she helped recruit and grow SCOPE's membership base and community leadership as well as developing and winning key policy campaigns. During her time with SCOPE, Ms. Zombro designed a curriculum on Civic Engagement organizing for community groups that has been used across the country and is the core of California Calls' training program.

New Available Resources!

VOTER EXPERIENCE INDEX

Available at
www.futureofcalelections.org/vei

The Voter Experience Index is a free online clearinghouse which provides rapid access to resources for assisting California's diverse electorate. Learn best practices for providing language assistance, supporting voters with disabilities and improving voter information.



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The Latino Legal Voice for Civil Rights in America.



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