Message from the Executive Director

Welcome to the Future of California Elections’ 2017 Conference!

Future of California Elections (FoCE) is a six-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.futureofcaelections.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. 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, Deborah Mack, Rachel Sherman, and Katy Flaherty.

Thank you for being here. Please enjoy the conference!

Sincerely,

Vince Hall

Executive Director
FEATURED SPEAKERS

**Honorable Alex Padilla**
*California Secretary of State*

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

In 2016, Secretary Padilla oversaw the state’s historic General Election. Working with statewide partners, the Secretary helped add one million voters to the rolls. More than 19.4 million Californians were registered and more than 14.6 million cast ballots on Election Day - both state records.

In 2015, the Secretary sponsored the New Motor Voter Act which will eventually register to vote every eligible California citizen who goes to a DMV office to get a driver’s license or renew one, potentially adding millions to California’s voter rolls. He also sponsored legislation to establish vote centers, expand early voting and implement same-day conditional voter registration.

Secretary Padilla also launched “Honor Veterans. Vote.” This program provides Californians an opportunity to dedicate their vote in honor of a family member or friend who has served or is actively serving in the military.

Padilla’s parents emigrated from Mexico and raised their family in the working class community of Pacoima, California. Padilla attended local public schools and went on to graduate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering.

In 1999, at the age of 26, 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 2006, Padilla was elected to the California State Senate. He was reelected in 2010. Over the course of eight years, Padilla established a diverse and groundbreaking legislative record.

Padilla lives with his wife Angela and their three sons in the San Fernando Valley.

**Senator Henry Stern**
*Senate District 27*

Senator Henry Stern is a sixth-generation Californian and native of his district. He credits his passion for public service as a family trait, whose diverse history includes farming and ranching, music and film, and a steadfast commitment to helping young people fulfill their potential. Senator Stern was elected to represent the 27th Senate District, which includes parts of Los Angeles and Ventura counties, on November 8, 2016.

Prior to his election, Senator Stern worked as a senior policy advisor to former California State Senator Fran Pavley. As a staff member, he helped Senator Pavley pass common sense policies to improve the quality of life and economic sustainability of California. Together, they advanced bipartisan measures to balance the budget, respond to the drought, revitalize our education system, ensure safer communities, and update California’s energy policy for the 21st century.

Senator Stern has also lectured at UCLA and UC Berkeley, enjoys volunteering at his local Boys & Girls Club and is a member of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Advisory Committee, the Jewish Federation, the American Jewish Committee, and the Truman National Security Project. He is an alumnus of Harvard University and UC Berkeley Law.

**David Becker**
*Executive Director, Center for Election Innovation & Research*
@beckerdavidj

As Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Center for Election Innovation and Research (CEIR), David Becker’s mission is to improve outcomes related to election administration via research, data and technology. CEIR focuses on increasing voter participation, and offers election officials the tools required to ensure turnout by all eligible voters. Prior to founding CEIR, Mr. Becker was Director of the elections program at The Pew Charitable Trusts, driving reforms 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 election issues, Mr. Becker spearheaded development of the innovative Electronic Registration Information Center, or ERIC, which to date has helped a bipartisan group of nearly two dozen states correct almost 4 million out-of-date voter records, and led to these states registering almost a million new eligible voters. Mr. Becker led campaigns in dozens of states, red and blue and everything in between, and directed Pew’s partnerships with state government agencies, and with private sector partners like Google, IBM, Facebook, and others.

Before joining Pew, Mr. Becker served for seven years 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. During his time at the Justice Department, Mr. Becker worked in dozens of states enforcing federal election laws and observing elections in thousands of precincts, and served as lead trial counsel in many cases, including Georgia v. Ashcroft.

Mr. Becker’s appearances in the media include The New York Times, The Washington Post, MSNBC, and NPR, and his work has been published by the Stanford Social Innovation Review, the University of California, Berkeley, and in The Hill. He received both his undergraduate and law degrees from UC Berkeley.
Kim Alexander
President and Founder,
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 disclosure as well as transparency and auditing requirements for computerized voting systems. CVF’s current priorities include improving voter access to election information, restoring election funding to California’s budget, and improving the vote-by-mail process. A fifth-generation Californian, Ms. Alexander was raised in Los Angeles, received her Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science and Philosophy from UC Santa Barbara, and lives in Sacramento.

Maria Bianchi
Project Manager, Voting Information Project, Democracy Works
Maria Bianchi is the project manager for the Voting Information Project at Democracy Works, Inc., a team of software developers, public policy wonks, and civic organizers working to improve the voting experience for voters and election officials alike. Ms. Bianchi joined Democracy Works in 2014, and leads the team to work with states and counties to collect and standardize VIP data into a national dataset. Before joining Democracy Works, Ms. Bianchi organized voter registration with the Oregon Bus Project and spent two years in Arkansas with Teach for America. Ms. Bianchi received her degree from Michigan State University.

Dorian Caal
Director of Civic Engagement Research, NALEO Educational Fund
@techcaal
Dorian Caal is the Director of Civic Engagement Research at the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund where he is responsible for analyzing and preparing demographic reports regarding citizenship and electoral participation data. In addition, Mr. Caal leads the strategic development of experiments that directly impact the organization’s outreach to “The Great Unengaged.” Prior to joining NALEO Educational Fund in 2016, Mr. Caal worked as Data & Targeting Manager for Oregon Voice. He has extensive experience working on campaigns and with local government, including serving as the Deputy Data Director for Obama for America in Washington State. Mr. Caal holds a a Bachelor’s Degree in Anthropology from the UC Irvine and a Master’s in Public Administration from New York University.

Steven Carda
NVRA and Voter Outreach Program Manager, Office of the California Secretary of State
Steven Carda is the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) and Voter Outreach Program Manager for the Elections Division of the California Secretary of State. He has worked through 12 statewide elections since joining the election team in 2006. Mr. Carda served as a system administrator of California’s statewide voter registration database (CalVoter) and has more recently focused on the National Voter Registration Act, as well as statewide voter education and outreach. He has worked to expand resources to voters through partnerships such as Pew’s Voting Information Project, where official election data can be used to increase voter awareness and participation.

Samidh Chakrabarti
Product Manager for Civic Engagement, Facebook
@samidh
Samidh Chakrabarti is a product manager at Facebook where he focuses on enhancing civic engagement on the platform, including all the features Facebook deployed to encourage voter participation in the recent U.S. election. Before joining Facebook, Mr. Chakrabarti was a product lead for Google’s civic engagement initiative and managed politics and elections products globally. Mr. Chakrabarti has worked in the “civic tech” sector before it even had such a name, and holds Master’s degrees in Public Policy from the University of Cambridge, Modern History from the University of Oxford, and Computer Science from MIT.

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

**Dana DeBeauvoir**  
*Travis County Clerk, Travis County, TX*

Dana DeBeauvoir is the County Clerk for Travis County, Texas. Since her election as County Clerk in 1986, Ms. DeBeauvoir has devoted herself to delivering high ethical standards, effective and cost efficient management practices, the benefits of new technology, and high quality customer service to the office of the County Clerk. The Clerk’s Office has a wide range of responsibilities, including the conduct of elections; the filing and preservation of real property records; and the management of civil, probate, and misdemeanor court documents. Ms. DeBeauvoir has always been inspired by public service, which led her to obtain a Master’s Degree from the LBJ School of Public Affairs and ultimately run for public office.

**Dr. John Dobard**  
*Manager of Political Voice, Advancement Project California*  
[@johndobard](https://twitter.com/johndobard)

John Dobard is Manager of Political Voice at Advancement Project California where he leads efforts to eliminate racial and economic disparities in political participation and government responsiveness through policy advocacy, coalition-building, and actionable research. Previously, Dr. Dobard served as Advancement Project California’s Manager of Strategic Initiatives. In that capacity, he co-created the Political Voice program and worked with coalitions across the state to use the California Voting Rights Act to secure equitable electoral systems. He also oversaw several key organization-wide initiatives, including an initiative to urge the Los Angeles Unified School District to adopt a student need index to guide allocation of Local Control Funding Formula dollars. Dr. Dobard holds a Master’s Degree and doctorate in Political Science from the University of Chicago.

**Kathy Feng**  
*Executive Director, California Common Cause*

Kathy Feng is Common Cause’s National Redistricting Director and California Common Cause’s Executive Director. Ms. Feng spearheaded successful initiative campaigns to create an independent citizens commission to redistrict state and congressional districts in California. She also led efforts to successfully pass Online Voter Registration and Same Day Registration, and helps anchor California’s Election Protection efforts. In Los Angeles, Ms. Feng helped win improvements to the Matching Funds system of public financing for candidates.

**Joseph Gloria**  
*Registrar of Voters, Clark County Election Department*

Joseph Gloria is Registrar of Voters for Clark County, Nevada, serving just over 1 million registered voters in Nevada’s largest county. Mr. Gloria has been in the election profession for over 25 years, starting as a voting machine technician in New Mexico and progressing to the position of Registrar of Voters in Nevada. Mr. Gloria is an appointed member of the Election Assistance Commission Standards Board, as well as a member of the Nevada Election Task Force, whose appointments are made by the Nevada Secretary of State. He received his Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix and his Master’s Degree in Public Administration from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

**Mynor Godoy**  
*Senior Associate, Movement Strategy Center*

Mynor Godoy is a Senior Associate with the Movement Strategy Center and the Program Coordinator for YVote, an alliance of more than 15 community-based organizations who work to strengthen California’s future by increasing the impact of young voters and transforming the electorate to reflect the majority of California. Prior to joining the Movement Strategy Center, Mr. Godoy spent three years at the United Way of Greater Los Angeles where he launched LA Youth Vote, a high-school-based voter registration campaign, and piloted pre-registration for 16- and 17-year-olds in partnership with the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk. Mr. Godoy holds a Master’s Degree in International Affairs from Columbia University.

**Rosalind Gold**  
*Senior Director of Policy, Research, and Advocacy, 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. She currently serves on the Board of the Directors of the National Institute on Money in State Politics, and as Chair of the Future of California Elections Board of Advisors. Ms. Gold received her law degree from Harvard Law School and Bachelor’s Degree from Pomona College.
SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Denise Hulett
National Senior Counsel, MALDEF

Denise Hulett is the National Senior Counsel at MALDEF where she litigates in several states, primarily in the area of voting rights. Ms. Hulett has been litigating civil rights cases for over 30 years in the areas of voting rights, immigrant rights and employment discrimination. Previously, as MALDEF’s National Redistricting Director, Ms. Hulett 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.

Daylan Johnson
Team Leader, Building Blocks for Kids Collaborative: African American Civic Engagement Project

Daylan Johnson is a team leader at Building Block for Kids (BBK) Collaborative and has been involved with the organization since he was in high school. Mr. Johnson has supported outreach and education efforts, helped plan and implement community events, and has represented BBK Collaborative at several engagement and advocacy convenings, including Race Matters in Baltimore, Maryland. He is currently a member of the African American civic engagement team and is responsible for educating, registering and informing members of the Richmond community so that they may remain involved in the voting process.

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 127-year history. He was recently awarded the 2015 “Public Official of the Year” award by the National Association of County Recorders, Election Officials and Clerks. He is an appointed member and chair of the United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC) Board of Advisors and the EAC Voting Systems Standards Board, and is also an advisory board member for the Future of California Elections. Mr. Kelley earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Business and Management from the University of Redlands and a Master’s Degree in Business Administration from the University of Southern California.

Deanna Kitamura
Voting Rights Project Director, Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Los Angeles

Deanna Kitamura is the Voting Rights Project Director at Asian Americans Advancing Justice-LA (Advancing Justice-LA). She works on issues related to language access and voter protection and co-authored Voices of Democracy: Asian Americans and Language Access During the 2012 Elections. Ms. Kitamura serves on the Secretary of State’s Language Accessibility Advisory Committee, Los Angeles County’s Community Voter Outreach Committee, and Orange County’s Community Election Working Group. She graduated from Pomona College and UC Los Angeles School of Law.

Jeramy Gray
Assistant Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, Information Technology, Los Angeles County

Jeramy Gray was appointed Assistant Registrar-Recorder and County Clerk for Information Technology in 2014 by the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk. In his capacity, Mr. Gray oversees all IT services, strategic planning, governance, and fiscal management, as well as LA County’s voting system redesign project. On February 5, 2016, Jeramy was jointly appointed by the United States Elections Assistance Commission (EAC) and National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to be a member of the Technical Development Guidelines Committee. As a member of this committee, Mr. Gray assists in the development of national standards for voting technology. With over 20 years of information technology experience, Mr. Gray has served as Chief Information Officer for three Los Angeles County agencies.

Michael Hogan
Partner Manager, Google

Michael Hogan has been with Google for four years, three of which have been spent working on global elections as part of Google Search’s Civic Engagement Team. In the U.S., Mr. Hogan leads Google’s work with the Voting Information Project, an organization that encourages data standards adoption among American election officials. He is passionate about the intersection of open data, civic engagement and global justice. Mr. Hogan received his Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science and Economics from Boston College.

Joseph E. Holland
Registrar of Voters, Santa Barbara County
@josephpolland

Joseph Holland is the County Clerk, Recorder, Assessor and Registrar of Voters for Santa Barbara County, California. Mr. Holland began a successful career in the Assessors Office in 1984 when he took a position as a Real Property Appraiser and was elected to office in March 2002. Active in the community, Mr. Holland serves as a volunteer board member on the FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Program. He received a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Economics and a Master’s Degree in Economic from UC Santa Barbara. Additionally, he graduated from the UC Los Angeles Executive Program at the Anderson School of Business in 2001 and holds the designation of Certified Public Finance Officer.

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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

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

Jana Lean has served as the Elections Division Chief for the California Secretary of State’s office since 2010. Ms. Lean has over eighteen years of elections experience, which include the implementation of numerous significant election law changes such as the implementation of the Voting Modernization Bond (VMB) Act and establishment of California’s Voting Modernization Board, the implementation of uniform guidelines for California’s Top-Two Primary system, the creation of procedures and guidelines to comply with the UOCAVA/MOVE Act, and the uniform implementation of Online Voter Registration. She has a Master’s Degree in Business Administration and a Bachelor’s Degree in Philosophy with a minor in Language and Literature.

Dean Logan
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk,
Los Angeles County

Dean Logan is the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk for Los Angeles County, California — the nation’s largest, most diverse and complex local election jurisdiction serving more than 5.2 million registered voters. He currently serves as President of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO) and the Pew Center on the States’ Voter Registration Modernization and Performance Index for Elections working groups. He is an active participant in the Future of California Elections collaborative and serves on the Board of Directors for the National Elections Center. Mr. Logan holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Organizational Leadership from Azusa Pacific University and earned an executive Master’s Degree in Public Administration through the Evans School of Public Policy and Governance at the University of Washington.

Jennifer B. Lyle
Executive Director,
Building Blocks for Kids Collaborative
@BBKRichmond

Jennifer B. Lyle is the Executive Director for the Building Blocks for Kids (BBK) Collaborative. As executive director, Ms. Lyle is primarily responsible for ensuring that internal systems and practices are aligned with the BBK Collaborative mission and principles; oversight and support of the 30-member collaborative and oversight of the BBK Collaborative staff and programs. She has designed and directed various community- and site-based projects that focused on economic justice, academic achievement, substance abuse prevention, health promotion and community directed leadership development and change. She received a Master’s Degree in Social Work and Sociology as well as a doctorate in Social Work and Sociology from the University of Michigan.

Raúl Macías
Voting Rights Attorney, ACLU of California

Raúl Macías is a voting rights attorney with the ACLU of California. Since joining the ACLU in 2011, he has worked to increase compliance with the National Voter Registration Act, as well as language access and voting rights legislation.

Matthew Masterson
Chairman, Election Assistance Commission

Matthew Masterson 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). Prior to his appointment with EAC, Chairman Masterson served as Interim Chief of Staff for the Ohio Secretary of State, whom he had previously served as a Deputy Chief of Staff and Chief Information Officer. In his earlier position of Deputy Director of Elections for the State of Ohio, Chairman Masterson was responsible for voting system certification efforts by the Secretary of State’s office, including being the liaison to the Ohio Board of Voting Machine Examiners. Additionally, he was in charge of Ohio’s effort to develop an online voter registration system and online ballot delivery for military and overseas voters. He is widely regarded as an expert on elections administration throughout Ohio and the country. Mr. Masterson received BS and BA degrees from Miami University in Oxford, OH and holds a law degree from The University of Dayton School of Law.

Lizette Mata
Assistant Chief Deputy,
Office of the California Secretary of State

Lizette Mata is the Assistant Chief Deputy Secretary of State at the Office of the California Secretary of State. Previously, Ms. Mata was Director of Policy and Strategic Planning for State Board of Equalization member Fiona Ma from 2015 to 2016 and Director of Special Projects at the California Department of Motor Vehicles from 2013 to 2015, where she oversaw the statewide outreach efforts for the implementation of the historic bill to grant driver licenses to the undocumented community. Ms. Mata served as director of communications in the Office of California State Senator Ricardo Lara from 2012 to 2013 where she also served as the spokeswoman of the California Latino Legislative Caucus. She was appointed to the 52nd District Agricultural Association, Sacramento County Fair Board of Directors by Governor Brown in March of 2016.
SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Fred Nisen
Supervising Attorney for Voting Rights, Disability Rights California

Fred Nisen is the supervising attorney for Disability Rights California’s (DRC) Voting Rights Unit, working out of its Oakland office. DRC is California’s federally mandated protection and advocacy system for people with disabilities. Mr. Nisen has worked for DRC for the last 18 years, nine of which he has been working on voting issues. He currently coordinates DRC’s voting work, including DRC’s Election Day Hotline, and trains election officials on disability accessibility issues. Mr. Nisen is also a member of the Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC) in six counties in the Greater Bay Area.

Ofelia Medina
Director of State Civic Engagement Policy, NALEO Educational Fund

Ofelia Medina is the Director of State Civic Engagement Policy for the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund, the nation’s leading non-profit organization that facilitates full Latino participation in the American political process from citizenship to public service. In her role, Ms. Medina monitors and analyzes California election administration policies that impact the ability of Latinos to be part of the electoral process. Ms. Medina received her Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science and Chicana/o Studies from Loyola Marymount University and a Master’s Degree in Public Policy from the University of Southern California.

William Moore
Peer Instructor, We Care A Lot Foundation, The VOTE! Project

William Moore has been working for We Care A Lot Foundation as a Peer Instructor for The VOTE! Project since 2014. The program helps people with developmental disabilities register to vote, understand what is on their ballot, and learn how voting affects them directly. Mr. Moore has an Associate’s degree in Humanities Studies and is the current elected Treasurer for People First of Chico.

John Myers
Sacramento Bureau Chief, Los Angeles Times

John Myers has been the Sacramento Bureau Chief for the Los Angeles Times since 2015. Mr. Myers has more than two decades in radio and television news, much of that as an award-winning reporter covering statewide policy and politics. Previously, he worked for San Francisco’s NPR affiliate, where his unique online projects included everything from one of Sacramento’s original politics blogs to California’s first politics podcast. Mr. Myers also served as the moderator of gubernatorial debates in 2014 and 2010 and is often cited by state and national news organizations as one of Sacramento’s top journalists. He is a graduate of Duke University and the UC Berkeley.

Brandi Orth
County Clerk/Registrar of Voters, Fresno County

Brandi Orth was appointed County Clerk/Registrar of Voters for Fresno County, California by unanimous vote of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors in 2012. In 2014, she was elected to her first full term. With 23 years of county government experience, 16 in elections, Ms. Orth’s vision includes a commitment to accurate and accessible voting while upholding the public’s trust and confidence in the electoral process. She is an active member of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials and currently serves as Secretary. Ms. Orth holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Management and a Master’s Degree in Public Administration.

Jonathan Paik
Orange County Director, Korean Resource Center

Mr. Paik is the Campaign Manager at KRC’s Buena Park office, building and training a local and progressive base of Korean-Americans to work on issues across Orange County. Before working at the Korean Resource Center, he started his work in politics at the Bus Federation Civic Fund in Portland, Oregon, serving as the Operations Manager until December 2014. He also helped coordinate a campaign with the Urban League of Portland, collecting health equity surveys and signing low-income children up for healthcare.

Gail Pellerin
County Clerk, Santa Cruz County

Gail Pellerin is County Clerk/Registrar of Voters for Santa Cruz County, California. Ms. Pellerin was appointed to the position in July 2004 after serving as the county’s Elections Manager since 1993, and was elected to her third 4-year term in 2014. She has more than 31 years of experience in public service, seven years working for the State Legislature in Sacramento and 24 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, has served on the Secretary of State’s Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee since 2006, and has been a member of the Future of California Elections since 2011. She has authored several election guidebooks to assist voters in navigating through various election procedures, including Initiatives, Recalls, and Referendums.
SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Jose Peña
Assistive Technology Coordinator, Dayle McIntosh Center

Jose Peña is an Assistive Technology Coordinator for the Dayle McIntosh Center, an independent living center that provides advocacy and other services for people with disabilities. In this role, Mr. Peña participated in a Get-Out-the-Vote campaign whose main focus was to educate, empower, and increase the participation of voters with disabilities. He is a former member of the Orange County Registrar of Voters’ Community Election Working Group which represents the disability community. Mr. Peña received his Bachelor’s Degree from CSU Fullerton.

Whitney Quesenberg
Co-Director, Center for Civic Design @civicdesign

Whitney Quesenberg is Co-Director for the Center for Civic Design, which wants every interaction with government to be an easy, effective experience and is the home of the Field Guides to Ensuring Voter Intent and the Anywhere Ballot. Ms. Quesenberg and Co-Director Dana Chisnell teach the first course in Election Design for the University of Minnesota Certificate in Election Administration. 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.

Pablo Rodriguez
Executive Director, Communities for a New California Education Fund @cncedfund

Pablo Rodriguez is the Executive Director of Communities for a New California (CNC) Education Fund and oversees CNC Education Fund’s integrated leadership development and mass voter engagement strategy, which serve the counties of Riverside, Imperial, Fresno, Tulare, Merced, and Sacramento. Mr. Rodriguez brings 23 years of experience developing successful mass civic and electoral participation campaigns throughout the United States. Since 2011, CNC Education Fund’s year-round non-partisan civic engagement programs have spoken with over 250,000 voters via live phone calls. In addition, Mr. Rodriguez has developed service-learning programs with San Jose State University, the National Association of Social Workers, and Loyola Marymount University.

Ryan Ronco
Clerk-Recorder-Registrar of Voters, Placer County

Ryan Ronco is the Clerk-Recorder-Registrar of Voters for Placer County, California, appointed in May 2016 after a 20+ year career with the Placer County Clerk-Recorder-Elections Office. He is certified by the California Association of Clerks and Elections Officials (CACEO) as a professional elections administrator and serves on the CACEO Board of Directors. He has served on the boards of local nonprofits and currently sits on the Board of Directors for the Placer County Fair Association. He has extensive private sector experience, both in restaurant management and as a writer/researcher for a local taxpayers’ organization and received his Bachelor’s Degree in Government at Sacramento State University.

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

Dora Rose has been a civil rights litigator, policy advocate, and voting rights activist for over 20 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. Ms. Rose worked with the ACLU of California to develop Secretary of State Candidate forums, and as a cooperating attorney organizing to improve California’s ballot initiative process. Currently, she directs the League of Women Voters of California’s voter service projects, including Voter’s Edge California.

Emily Rusch
Executive Director, CALPIRG and CALPIRG Education Fund @emilyrusch

Emily Rusch is the Executive Director of CALPIRG and CALPIRG Education Fund and has been an active member of the Future of California Elections collaborative since its inception. Ms. Rusch has testified before the California State Legislature on many issues, including election reform, money in politics, consumer protections, energy and transportation policy, and public health protections. Her advocacy around election reform often draws upon the experience of CALPIRG’s New Voters Project, a non-partisan effort that engages youth volunteers in voter registration, education, and turnout on college campuses. Ms. Rusch received her Bachelor’s Degree in History and Spanish from Willamette University in Salem, Oregon.

Jesse Salinas
Assessor/Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters, Yolo County

Jesse Salinas was appointed Assessor/Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters of Yolo County, California in April of 2016. Mr. Salinas’ innovative outreach efforts to youth and underrepresented communities have been commended by California’s leadership,
inclining county officials and the Secretary of State’s Office. Local media outlets have highlighted Mr. Salinas’ commitment to transparency and youth engagement. The Election, Recorder and Assessor Associations recently appointed him to their Legislative Committees, which will provide Yolo County a strong voice in shaping California’s public policy. Mr. Salinas plans to finish the remaining term of his predecessor and then run for office in 2018.

James Schwab
Chief of Legislative Affairs, Office of the California Secretary of State
@jmschwab

James Schwab is Chief of Legislative Affairs for California Secretary of State Alex Padilla where he develops the agency’s legislative agenda and monitors State and congressional legislative proposals. Prior to working for the Secretary of State, Mr. Schwab 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 & industrial relations, appropriations, economic development, and seismic safety. Mr. Schwab has also managed the field campaigns of several local legislative and city council races. He grew up in Davis, California and attended Sacramento City College and UC Davis where he received a Bachelor’s Degree in International Relations.

Lori Shellenberger
Election Reform and Voting Rights Strategist

Ms. Shellenberger was director of the ACLU of California’s Voting Rights Project from 2011 to 2017, where she spearheaded integrated legal, policy, and organizing strategies to re-enfranchise people stripped of their voting rights because of a criminal conviction and ensured local redistricting complied with the state and federal Voting Rights Acts.

Deep Singh
Executive Director, Jakara

Deep Singh is the Executive Director of the Jakara Movement and a PhD candidate at UCLA. As Executive Director, Mr. Singh serves, with a staff of seven, the needs of the Punjabi Sikh community throughout California. The organization has a strong base in Central California and the Bay Area, especially targeting rural communities, and operates a youth center in Fresno. The goal of the organization is greater youth engagement, empowerment, justice, and organizing to create healthy individuals and communities.

Mickie Solorio Luna
City Councilmember, City of Hollister

Mickie Solorio Luna was elected to the Hollister City Council in 2014 and is currently the only woman serving on the council. Ms. Luna has held various leadership roles for the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), including State Director for California LULAC and National Vice President for the Farwest regions overseeing California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah and Hawaii. A former Executive Vice President of the American Red Cross, she has chaired the Chicano Latino Caucus of the CA Democratic Party and the San Benito County Grand Jury Education Committee.

Paul Spencer
Staff Attorney for Voting Rights, Disability Rights California

Paul Spencer is a Staff Attorney with Disability Rights California’s Voting Rights Unit. Mr. Spencer is based out of San Diego and works on issues across California affecting voters with disabilities. He is focused on removing barriers to voter registration, improving in-person accessible voting, and empowering people with disabilities to vote.

Jonathan Stein
Voting Rights Staff Attorney and Program Manager, Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus
@_jonathanstein

Jonathan Stein currently heads the voting rights program at Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus and previously served as a voting rights staff attorney for the ACLU of California. Mr. Stein is Chair of the Board of Directors at California Common Cause, a Commissioner on the City of Oakland Public Ethics Commission, and the host of a video/podcast series on UCtv called In The Arena. He has served as the Student Regent on the University of California’s Board of Regents, representing the interests of the 230,000 students of the UC system, and was a member of the Men of Color Alliance and the South Asian Law Student Association. Prior to graduate school, Mr. Stein spent four years at Mother Jones magazine, including two as a campaign correspondent during the 2008 presidential elections. Mr. Stein received a Master’s and law degree from UC Berkeley.
Jen Tolentino
Director of Policy & Civic Technology, Rock the Vote
@JenTolentino_

Jen Tolentino is the Director of Policy & Civic Technology at Rock the Vote. Ms. Tolentino manages the continued development of its civic technology resources, coordinates external nonprofit and corporate partnerships, and spearheads all voting rights, election administration, and technology policy work. Prior to joining Rock the Vote, she worked on the Voting Information Project at the Pew Charitable Trusts. During her tenure at Pew, she led state and local government outreach, working with election officials to make critical voting information available online and accessible to voters. Ms. Tolentino has also spent time engaging advocates across the country on preservation issues at the National Trust, worked as a graduate student researcher to former Gov. Michael Dukakis, and served as a Post-Secondary Coach with For Love Of Children.

Michael Vu
Registrar of Voters, San Diego County

Michael Vu was appointed Registrar of Voters for San Diego County, California in December 2012 after working as Assistant Registrar for over five years. Mr. Vu is responsible for election administration of one of the largest election jurisdictions in the country with a registered voter population of over 1.65 million and oversees all primary, general, special, and district elections for the County as well as elections for the surrounding municipalities. Before his appointment in San Diego County, Mr. Vu worked for the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections, Ohio, as Director. Prior to relocating to Ohio, he worked for the Salt Lake County Elections Division under the direction of the Salt Lake County Clerk. He has testified before the United States House Administration Committee and the United States Election Assistance Commission.

Tricia Webber
Assistant County Clerk, Santa Cruz County

Tricia Webber is the Assistant County Clerk for Santa Cruz County, California. Ms. Webber joined Santa Cruz County Clerk/Elections in 1998 and assisted in many divisions such as Clerk Services, Election Officers, Vote by Mail, and Canvass Manager before becoming the Assistant County Clerk in 2013. She is the co-chair of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO) Legislative Committee, the Education Committee and the Business Process Committee, a joint committee with the SOS VoteCal team. Ms. Webber became a California Registered Election Official in 2010 after completing courses offered through the Election Center and CACEO and will receive her Certified Election and Registration Administrator certification from the Election Center in August 2017.

Karla Zombro
Field Director, California Calls

Karla Zombro is the Field Director at California Calls, where she leads their statewide organizing, capacity-building and civic engagement work. California Calls is part of the Million Voters Project, a new formation of six statewide networks (ACCE, APEN, CHIRLA, MIV and PICO California) seeking to change the California electorate to win lasting systemic change. Prior to California Calls, Ms. Zombro worked in a variety of roles at SCOPE where she helped lead their organizing and policy campaigns. From 1994 to 1999, she was a union organizer with SEIU Local 1877 in Los Angeles. Ms. Zombro received a Bachelor’s Degree in Women’s Studies from UC Los Angeles.