

Panelist Biographies

Panel 1: Saturday morning, June 25, “The Initiative Process and Legislative Representation”

Henry E. Brady is Dean of the Goldman School of Public Policy and Class of 1941 Monroe Deutsch Professor of Political Science and Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley. He is the immediate past president of the American Political Science Association, and past president of the Political Methodology Society of the American Political Science Association. Brady has authored and edited numerous articles and books on political participation, political methodology and public opinion including *Rethinking Social Inquiry* which won the Sartori Award in 2004.

Jim Brulte served in the California State Legislature for 14 years where he was the only freshman legislator in California history to be chosen as the leader of his party in both the Assembly and the State Senate. Brulte now works at California Strategies, a public affairs consulting firm where he specializes in navigating the regulatory process, state and federal government decision making and issues-management campaigns.

Brandon Castillo is a partner at the Sacramento based public affairs firm Bicker, Castillo & Fairbanks, specializing in the development and implementation of legislative issue and ballot proposition campaigns as well as grassroots mobilizations and advocacy. He previously served as the vice president of the Sacramento/Placer Chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

Kathay Feng is the Executive Director of California Common Cause. Under her leadership, California Common Cause has taken a leadership role in voting, election and redistricting reform as well as government accountability and campaign finance reform. Prior to joining Common Cause, she directed the Voting Rights and Hate Crimes at the Asian Pacific American Legal Center where she worked in a variety of civil rights areas. Feng was named one of the Top 40 Lawyers under 40 by the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association and awarded the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles's Carrie Chapman Catt Leadership Award.

Loren Kaye was appointed president of the California Foundation for Commerce and Education in January 2006. He has devoted his career to developing, analyzing and implementing public policy issues in California, with a special emphasis on improving the state's business and economic climate. Previously, Kaye served in senior policy positions for Governors Pete Wilson and George Deukmejian, including Cabinet Secretary to the Governor and Undersecretary of the California Trade and Commerce Agency.

Eva Jefferson Paterson is a civil rights attorney and president of the Equal Justice Society, a national strategy group focused on reclaiming the 14th Amendment and its Constitutional safeguards against discrimination. Previously she served for 13 years as Executive Director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights. Paterson is co-chair of the California Civil Rights Coalition (CCRC), which she co-founded and previously chaired for 18 years.

Panel 2: Saturday afternoon, June 25, “Governmental Restructuring: State and Local”

Paul Krekorian has been a member of the Los Angeles City Council since 2009, where he advocates for public safety, the environment and schools. He is a former Assistant Majority Leader of the California State Assembly as well as a former President of the Burbank Board of Education. After graduating from UC Berkeley Law School, Krekorian spent two decades practicing business, entertainment, and property litigation, while also devoting his time to work pro-bono to reduce domestic and gang violence.

Dave Low is the Executive Director for the California School Employees Association (CSEA), specializing in labor relations and employment law, retirement, health care and education issues before the California State Legislature. He began his career with CSEA bargaining contracts, handling grievances, arbitrations, PERB hearings, organizing, and local political elections in the San Francisco and San Mateo areas.

Sunne Wright McPeak is the President and CEO of the California Emerging Technology Fund, a statewide non-profit organization whose mission is to close the Digital Divide by accelerating the deployment and adoption of broadband. Previously, McPeak served as Secretary of the California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency for Governor Schwarzenegger. She was named by the San Francisco League of Women Voters as “A Woman Who Could Be President.”

Manuel Pastor is Professor of American Studies & Ethnicity at the University of Southern California and current director of the Program for Environmental and Regional Equity. He served as a member of the Commission on Regions appointed by California’s Speaker of the State Assembly. Pastor is also the co-author of “Uncommon Common Ground: Race and America’s Future,” which offers strategies for talking about race and achieving racial equity.

Michael J. Rubio was elected to the 16th State Senate District in November 2010 and is currently the youngest Senator serving in the California State Senate. He previously represented the Fifth District in Kern County. As a state Senator, Rubio holds the Chairmanship of the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee, Subcommittee No. 4, Vice Chairmanship of the Agriculture Committee, and seats on numerous other committees.

John Tavaglione is currently in his seventeenth year of office as Riverside County Supervisor. He is the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and has previously served as Chairman of the Board three times during his tenure. As an advocate for youth, Tavaglione is a strong supporter of collaborative programs that provide educational and growth opportunities for the County’s youth population. He is also a Board Member and past President of the Southern California Dollars for Scholars Governing Board.

Saturday Night Discussion: “How Do We Engage the Many Faces of California”

Mark Arax is an author and investigative reporter. His books include: *West of the West: Dreamers, Believers, Builders and Killers in the Golden State*, *The King of California*, and *In My Father’s Name*, a memoir that includes the history of his Armenian family and hometown of Fresno. A former *Los Angeles Times* reporter, Arax has taught literary non fiction at Claremont McKenna College and Fresno State University and served as a senior policy director for the California Senate Majority Leader.

Daniel Olivas is the author of six books including his first full-length novel, [The Book of Want](#), which was published by the University of Arizona Press in March. He is editor of the anthology, [Latinos in Lotusland](#) (Bilingual Press, 2008), which brings together 60 years of Los Angeles fiction by Latino writers. He blogs each Monday on [La Bloga](#), the blog dedicated to Chicano and Latino literature. The grandson of Mexican immigrants, he grew up near the Pico-Union and Koreatown neighborhoods of Los Angeles. He now makes his home in the San Fernando Valley with his wife and son. Daniel received his degree in English literature from Stanford University and law degree from UCLA. He is a supervising deputy attorney general with the California Department of Justice in the Public Rights Division.

Ethan Rarick is director of the Robert T. Matsui Center for Politics and Public Service, part of the Institute of Governmental Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. A former political journalist, he is the author of *California Rising: The Life and Times of Pat Brown* and *Desperate Passage: The Donner Party's Perilous Journey West*. He is also the editor of *California Votes: The 2006 Governor's Race*. Rarick has written about California politics and policy for many publications, including *The Los Angeles Times* and *California History*.

Levi Sumagaysay writes Good Morning Silicon Valley, a tech news blog for the *San Jose Mercury News*. Sumagaysay is a longtime writer and editor whose work has appeared in various San Francisco Bay Area publications and online. She has been a producer for SiliconValley.com and other Mercury News-affiliated websites. Recently, she has been writing about her experiences growing up as an Asian immigrant in America.

Panel 3: Sunday morning, June 26, "State Tax and Fiscal Policy"

Joel Fox operates Joel Fox Consulting, a public affairs and political consulting firm. He also serves as president of the Small Business Action Committee, founded in 2003 to battle for small business on important political issues. Previously, Fox worked for the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, serving as the association's president from 1986 to 1998. He is also an adjunct professor at the Graduate School of Public Policy at Pepperdine University.

Lenny Goldberg is Executive Director of the California Tax Reform Association (CTRA) and owner of Lenny Goldberg and Associates, a public interest consulting and lobbying firm. On behalf of CTRA he has been involved with major tax issues in California for the past 25 years, in the legislature, at the Franchise Tax Board and Board of Equalization, and with many tax measures on the ballot. His lobbying firm has specialized in consumer, energy, privacy, housing and human services, on behalf of non-profits and public interest organizations, and he has been involved in California energy issues on behalf of consumers.

Mark Ibele is Principal Consultant on Taxation and Revenue with the California State Assembly, Committee on Budget. Prior to joining the legislative staff in 2010, he was Staff Director of the Commission on the 21st Century Economy, established by the Governor's Office in 2010 to examine California's tax system and propose policy alternatives. Before his career with the State of California, Ibele held positions related to taxation and public finance at the U.S. Treasury Department, the Service Employees International Union, and in the investment banking field.

Annette Nellen, an attorney and CPA, is a professor and director of San José State University's Masters of Science in Taxation (MST) program. Prior to joining SJSU in 1990, Nellen was with Ernst & Young and the IRS. As a frequent speaker and author on tax policy and reform, Nellen has also testified before the California state legislature and Congress.