



January 23, 2013
Sacramento, California
Conference Program

**FUTURE OF
CALIFORNIA
ELECTIONS**

Cover Artist **Bobbi Bina**
bobby@bobbibina.com
www.bobbibina.blogspot.com
Laguna from Treasure Island Park

Designed by California Common Cause

The Future of California Elections (FoCE) is a diverse coalition of California election administrators, reform advocates and leaders of civil rights organizations. FoCE members work together to increase voter participation and improve the effectiveness of elections in California.

In late 2011, this group of leaders representing many different perspectives and experiences came together to develop and begin implementing a shared vision for improving California's elections. Throughout 2012, FoCE members advanced several elements of their shared vision, including helping implement online voter registration, strengthening the National Voter Registration Act, improving the state voter guide, and enacting same day voter registration.

Future of California Elections Participants

Kim Alexander
California Voter Foundation

Melissa Breach
League of Women Voters of California

Cathy Darling Allen
Shasta County Registrar of Voters

Efrain Escobedo
*Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters, Government and
Legislative Affairs*

Kathay Feng
California Common Cause

Neal Kelley
Orange County Registrar of Voters

John Kim
The Advancement Project

Jill LaVine
Sacramento County Registrar of Voters

Eugene Lee
Asian Pacific American Legal Center

Dean Logan
Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

Jim Mayer
California Forward

Gail Pellerin
Santa Cruz County Registrar of Voters

Michelle Romero
The Greenlining Institute

Emily Rusch
California Public Interest Research Group

Thomas Saenz
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund

Lori Shellenberger
American Civil Liberties Union

Hillary Sklar
Disability Rights California

Heather Smith
Rock the Vote

Pam Smith
Verified Voting

Arturo Vargas
*National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials
Educational Fund*

Emeritus members:

Bruce McPherson
Former California Secretary of State

Robert Rubin
*Former Legal Director, Lawyers Committee on
Civil Rights under the Law*

Doug Chapin
Director
Future of California Elections

9:00 a.m. Welcome & Opening Address

Cathy Darling Allen, Shasta County Registrar of Voters
Catherine Hazelton, The James Irvine Foundation

9:30 a.m. Election Partnerships: Promoting Participation and Improving Election Administration

In its first year of collaboration, Future of California Elections (FoCE) members worked together with state leaders to achieve key policy changes, strengthen the National Voter Registration Act, implement online voter registration and increase the user-friendliness of the official voter guide. This panel will discuss how partnerships among policymakers, administrators, and advocates are a model for how we can continue to improve our election administration.

Jennie Bretschneider, Office of California Secretary of State
Michelle Romero, The Greenlining Institute
Darren Chesin, Senate Committee on Elections & Constitutional Amendments
Dean Logan, Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
Heather Smith, Rock the Vote

Moderator: **Kathay Feng**, California Common Cause

10:45 a.m. Election Reforms: What Should We Prioritize for 2013 and Beyond?

California has an opportunity to champion election reforms that will increase voter participation and access, promote election security and accountability, and improve the way our elections are run. This panel will discuss potential priorities for electoral reform.

Kim Alexander, California Voter Foundation
Hillary Sklar, Disability Rights California
Gail Pellerin, Santa Cruz County Registrar of Voters
Lori Shellenberger, American Civil Liberties Union
Arturo Vargas, National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund

Moderator: **Trudy Schafer**, League of Women Voters of California

- 12:00 p.m. **The Big One: Are California's Elections Ready for the Next Major Disaster?**
Lunch
Program Superstorm Sandy hit the East Coast a week before the presidential elections. California has our own share of disasters that could de-stabilize our elections, whether it's earthquakes or electricity brown-outs. This panel will discuss how to build voting systems and strengthen election procedures so that California is better prepared for disaster scenarios.
- Nancy Ward**, Federal Emergency Management Agency
Pam Smith, Verified Voting
Jill LaVine, Sacramento County Registrar of Voters
Evan Goldberg, Office of California Secretary of State
- Moderator: **Doug Chapin**, Future of California Elections
- 1:30 p.m. **Topic A. Next Generation Voters: Do we need better civic education, tech tools, and voting methods to engage new voters?**
Afternoon Sessions
A & B
- Laura Deehan**, California PIRG
Astrid Garcia, National Association of Latino Election and Appointed Officials Education Fund
Steven Ochoa, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund
- Topic B. Voting Systems Innovation: How do we create more user-friendly, accessible and secure systems for casting and counting ballots?**
- Efrain Escobedo**, Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
Susan Lapsley, Office of California Secretary of State
Eugene Lee, Asian Pacific American Legal Center
- 2:30 p.m. **Setting the Agenda for 2013**
In small group settings, this session will offer participants an opportunity to provide feedback on potential reform opportunities. What should policymakers, administrators and advocates prioritize in 2013?
- 3:30 p.m. **Future of California Elections Policy Forum**
- Brian Jones**, Chairman, Assembly Republican Caucus
Alex Padilla, CA Senator
Shawnda Westly, Executive Director of the California Democratic Party
Leland Yee, CA Senator
- Moderator: **John Myers**, Political Editor for ABC News 10



KIM ALEXANDER, CALIFORNIA VOTER FOUNDATION

Kim Alexander is the President and founder of the California Voter Foundation (CVF), a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to improving the voting process so that it better serves the needs and interests of voters. CVF is a longtime leader in advancing the responsible use of technology in the democratic process, pioneering online voter education and campaign finance data, and transparency and auditing requirements for computerized voting systems.

Alexander is the author of several articles and publications, including CVF's California Voter Participation Survey Report, a comprehensive analysis of California voter participation barriers and incentives. She was a lead researcher and author of *Being Online is Still Not Enough*, a nationwide assessment of state election web sites published by the Pew Center on the States. A 5th generation Californian, Alexander was raised in Los Angeles, received her B.A. in political science and philosophy from UC Santa Barbara, and lives in Sacramento.



CATHY DARLING ALLEN, SHASTA COUNTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

Cathy Darling Allen has served as the Shasta County Clerk and Registrar of Voters since 2004. Appointed to fill the remaining term of retiring County Clerk Ann Reed, Allen was elected to the office in 2006 and 2010. She has overseen the administration of 20 elections and counted more than 850,000 votes. Allen has administered elections using electronic voting, paper ballot voting, and steered Shasta County elections through major changes in California election law and regulation.

Allen has always been an active member of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials, serving on the Elections Legislative Committee, the Board of Directors, and currently as President.



JENNIE BRETSCHNEIDER, OFFICE OF CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

Jennie Bretschneider is Assistant Chief Deputy and Counsel for Secretary of State Debra Bowen. With 20 years of experience and a collaborative public policy-making approach, Bretschneider has led several projects and working groups for Secretary Bowen, including the 2007 Post Election Audit Standards Working Group, the 2008 Voter Registration Card Redesign Working Group, the 2011-2013 California Post Election Audit Pilot Project involving 20 counties, and the Secretary's National Voter Registration Act statewide outreach and compliance efforts.

Most recently, Bretschneider served as Project Director for the 2012 California Online Voter Registration (COVR) project. In 2011, Bretschneider received the John Gideon Award for Election Integrity from the Election Verification Network. Bretschneider graduated from the University of California, Davis, with a bachelor's degree in Political Science, completed a master's degree at the University of Freiburg, Germany, and earned her juris doctor from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law.



DOUG CHAPIN, FUTURE OF CALIFORNIA ELECTIONS

Doug Chapin is the Director of the Future of California Elections project and has been a consultant to the project since the summer of 2011. Prior to his role as a consultant, Chapin served as a director of the Election Initiatives for the Pew Center on the States at The Pew Charitable Trusts.

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.



DARREN CHESIN, SENATE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS & CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Darren Chesin, has been a Consultant to the Senate Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments since 1986 and Chief Consultant since 1993. Prior to working for the Committee he served as a Legislative Aide to former Senator Paul Carpenter and as a Consultant with the Senate Democratic Caucus. He is widely recognized as one of the pre-eminent experts in the areas of election administration, political reform, and campaign finance law. Chesin graduated from CSU Sacramento in 1983 with a Bachelors Degree in Government



LAURA DEEHAN, CALIFORNIA PIRG

Laura Deehan is the Organizing Director for CALPIRG Student Chapters. In that role she oversees CALPIRG's campus organizers, who are responsible for recruiting, training and developing student leaders to run successful campaigns. Deehan got started with CALPIRG as a student intern at UC Davis in 1998, coordinating the student campaign against hunger and homelessness.

She joined staff as a WashPIRG campus organizer in 2002, helping run successful efforts to reduce mercury pollution from the state's waterways, fight poverty in Seattle, and ban the dumping of nuclear waste in Hanford, Washington. She returned to CALPIRG as staff in 2005 and has helped to register 100,000 new voters since 2006. Laura works out of our San Francisco office.



EFRAIN ESCOBEDO, LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

Efrain Escobedo serves as Government Affairs Manager for the Registrar of Voters in Los Angeles County, the largest election jurisdiction in the nation, with more than 4.7 million registered voters. In this role, he manages the department's Media & Communications, Community & Voter Outreach, and Legislative Affairs operations.

An active leader and expert in Latino civic engagement and elections policy, Escobedo has played a key role in increasing Latino political participation nationally and in various states across the country. He has worked extensively with academia, civic and community organizations, as well as elected officials in developing research, strategies and program to increase voter participation. Prior to joining Los Angeles County, Escobedo was the senior director of civic engagement for the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund.



KATHAY FENG, CALIFORNIA COMMON CAUSE

Kathay Feng is the Executive Director of California Common Cause and brings more than 15 years of experience working in the area of election reform. She has developed strong relations with both local and state election administrators, community and civil rights organizations, and national and state experts. During her time at California Common Cause, Feng has co-authored and played a leadership role in winning the passage of Proposition 11 to reform California's redistricting process, AB 397 to implement online voter registration, and AB 1436 to create Election Day Registration in California. She helped anchor Election Protection hotlines and poll monitor efforts in California to assist thousands of voters.

Prior to that, she directed the Voting Rights and Anti-discrimination Unit of Asian Pacific American Legal Center. Feng was responsible for organizing poll monitoring of hundreds of poll sites in Southern California, building a statewide coalition to advocate for communities in the 2001 redistricting process, the creation of the Office of Independent Review to provide oversight for the LA Sheriff's Department and representing hate crime victims.



CATHERINE HAZELTON, THE JAMES IRVINE FOUNDATION

Catherine Hazelton was appointed Senior Program Officer for the California Democracy program in 2009. At Irvine, Hazelton is primarily engaged in grantmaking related to governance reform issues, including redistricting and elections, and public media coverage of governance issues. She also manages many aspects of the James Irvine Foundation Leadership Awards.

Previously, she spent three years as a Senior Legislative Aide to Assemblywoman Carol Liu and two years as a legislative aide and field representative to Assemblyman Jack Scott. Catherine also served as a scheduling director on Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign and in various capacities on California initiative, legislative and congressional campaigns. Since 1997, Catherine has volunteered with the California National Organization for Women, serving on the Political Action Committee, advising the group on policy issues and leading a chapter.



ASTRID GARCIA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LATINO ELECTED & APPOINTED OFFICIALS EDUCATIONAL FUND

Astrid Garcia is Director of State Election Policy and Redistricting for the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund (NALEO Educational Fund), the leading nonprofit organization that empowers Latinos from citizenship to public service. In her role at NALEO Educational Fund, Garcia works with state legislators and other civil rights groups to advance policies which support the civic engagement of the Latino community. Garcia managed the organization’s redistricting initiative for California, Las Vegas, Nevada, and Orlando, Florida.

Garcia’s professional experience is in advocacy, policy analysis, nonprofit consulting and community and public relations. In addition to her professional work, Garcia is an active volunteer with her community and serves as a mentor for Latina youth. She is a former Fulbright Scholar, was part of the National Hispana Leadership Institute’s inaugural Advancing Latina Leaders in Nonprofits program, and is a 2006 graduate of the HOPE Leadership Institute.



EVAN GOLDBERG, OFFICE OF CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

Evan Goldberg has served as the Chief Deputy Secretary of State since 2007 and has successfully managed the 450-employee state agency while overseeing several major elections-related projects and programs. As chief advisor to Secretary of State Debra Bowen, Goldberg plays an instrumental role in developing and setting elections-related policy in California. Prior to his current appointment, Goldberg spent 17 years working in the State Capitol, where he served as chief of staff to then-Assemblymember Debra Bowen (1992-98) and then-Senator Bowen (1998-2006) as well as the policy and staff director for the Assembly Natural Resources (1997-98), Senate Energy, Utilities & Communications (1999-2004), and Senate Elections & Reapportionment (2005-06) committees.



BRIAN JONES, CHAIRMAN, ASSEMBLY REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

Since his election to the Assembly in 2010, Assemblyman Brian Jones quickly earned a reputation as a strong fiscal conservative and a vocal advocate for a smaller, more responsible government. His articulate commentary and leadership abilities earned him the appointment as Chairman of the Assembly Republican Caucus.

Jones’ deep convictions in free market principals, the need for government reform and tax relief comes from his service in both the public and private sector. His background as a businessman and his service as Councilmember and Vice Mayor of Santee strengthened his resolve to restore decision making to the local level and to insure that tax monies meet community needs. He has been a fierce opponent of the rural fire “fee” (tax) because of its disproportionate impact on East San Diego County residents and rural citizens of California. He has challenged special favors for public sector labor unions, and his robust defense of the Constitution and the Second Amendment has garnered state-wide attention.



SUSAN LAPSLEY, OFFICE OF CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

Susan Lapsley is the Deputy Secretary, Help America Vote Act Activities & Counsel at the California Secretary of State's Office. Lapsley is no stranger to the world of elections, having previously served as Assistant Secretary of State for Elections to California Secretary of State Bruce McPherson from 2006 to 2007 and as Deputy Secretary of State for Elections for Nevada Secretary of State Dean Heller from 2000- 2003.

Prior to returning to the California Secretary of State's office, Lapsley was Director of the Office of Administrative Law, the state office that is tasked with making sure agency regulations are clear, necessary, legally valid and available to the public. Lapsley has also worked in the private sector as general counsel for a golf manufacturing company in Southern California.



EUGENE LEE, ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LEGAL CENTER

Eugene Lee is the Voting Rights Project Director at APALC. He handles matters related to voter protection, Voting Rights Act compliance, and ballot access policy, and was part of the APALC team that successfully worked to strengthen the voice of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities in the 2011 California redistricting process. Lee has spearheaded large-scale poll monitoring efforts during major elections and participated in the national coalition that in 2006 secured Congressional reauthorization of the federal Voting Rights Act. Additionally, he chairs several community advisory bodies of county election offices in Southern California and served on the California Secretary of State's Help America Vote Act State Plan Advisory Committee.

Prior to joining APALC, Lee worked at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher in New York. In 2010, he was selected as one of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association's "Best Lawyers Under 40".



JILL LAVINE, SACRAMENTO COUNTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

Jill LaVine is the Registrar of Voters for Sacramento County. She is responsible for the day to day operation of the Division of Voter Registration and Elections. She has worked in elections for over 25 years, and as the Registrar for almost ten years. LaVine is the co-chair of the Legislation Committee for the state wide organization, California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO) and testifies at the State Capital.

On the national level, LaVine is a member of the Election Center and has made presentations at their conferences. The Election Center appointed Jill to chair the re-formed Postal Task Force. This committee in conjunction with the Post Office has updated the Election Official Guide, created a web -site for Election Officials and new mail tray tags specifically for mailing ballots. LaVine has testified before Congress on the paper audit trail and at a public meeting of the Election Assistance Commission regarding the accessibility standards for voting systems.



DEAN LOGAN, LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

Dean Logan was appointed Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk for Los Angeles County, California on July 9, 2008, previously serving as the Acting Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk and Chief Deputy. Logan has over 20 years of experience in elections administration, records management and public service. He currently serves on the Executive Board for the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO). He also serves on the California Secretary of State's Statewide Voter Registration System Advisory Committee; the National Election Center's Task Forces on Education & Training and Election Reform and the Pew Center on the States' Voter Registration Modernization and Performance Index for Elections working groups.

In 2012, Logan was recognized nationally by the Election Verification Network (EVN) for his efforts to ensure secure, transparent and open elections. He is also the recipient of a Distinguished Leadership Award from Sprint USA and the National Association of Community Leadership (1999).



JOHN MYERS, POLITICAL EDITOR ABC NEWS 10

John Myers joined News10 as Political Editor in April 2012. He's been covering California politics and state government for more than 10 years, and has now spent close to two decades as a reporter, anchor, and editor in both television and radio newsrooms. Most recently, Myers served as Sacramento Bureau Chief for KQED, the NPR affiliate in San Francisco, and its statewide radio newscast, The California Report. Prior to that, he was an afternoon anchor and managing editor at KFBK Radio in Sacramento, and has also worked at television stations from California's Central Coast to the East Coast.

Myers' political reporting and analysis has been featured on National Public Radio, The PBS NewsHour, and beyond. His career highlights include serving as a panelist or moderator for televised debates in the last three California gubernatorial elections. He has received numerous awards for his television and radio reporting, and frequently teaches broadcast journalism at Sacramento State.



STEVEN OCHOA, MEXICAN AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE & EDUCATION FUND

Steven Ochoa is MALDEF's National Redistricting Coordinator and supervised MALDEF's national redistricting efforts for the 2011-2012 cycle in 14 states. He personally administered MALDEF's redistricting efforts in California, Arizona, and Nevada. These efforts included conducting outreach, developing plans, and analyzing results from various statewide and local redistricting processes.

A Los Angeles native, Ochoa was trained at the UC Berkeley Statewide Database in the use of Census and election data and GIS mapping. He holds a Masters in Public Policy from the University of Michigan, where his research focused on voting rights in the Latino community. Ochoa previously served MALDEF from 2000-2004, assisting in MALDEF's redistricting efforts following the 2000 Census, including participation in MALDEF's work around the California statewide, Los Angeles City Council, and Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education redistricting processes.



ALEX PADILLA, CA SENATOR

Alex Padilla, 39, was first elected to serve in the California Senate in 2006. On December 6th, 2010, Padilla was sworn in to serve a second four-year term representing the more than 900,000 residents of the San Fernando Valley in Los Angeles. He is Chair of the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee and a member of the Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee. Since being elected to the Senate, Padilla has established himself as a tenacious and effective legislator. He has won legislative approval for 91 bills, 70 of which have been signed into law by the Governor.

Alex Padilla graduated from M.I.T. with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He currently serves on the Board of M.I.T. and as President of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO). In 1999, at the age of 26 Padilla was elected to the Los Angeles City Council and was its youngest Council President at age 28. From 2005 – 2006 he led California's 478 cities as the first Latino President of the League of California Cities.



GAIL PELLERIN, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

Gail Pellerin is the Santa Cruz County Clerk/Registrar of Voters. She was appointed to the position in July 2004 after serving as the county's Elections Manager starting in 1993. She was elected to her second 4-year term on June 8, 2010. Pellerin has more than 27 years of experience in public service – 7 years working for the State Legislature in Sacramento and 20 years serving as the primary elections official in Santa Cruz County.

Pellerin served as President of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials from 2010 to 2012 and is currently co-chair of the Secretary of State's Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee. She is a co-author of Implementing Risk-Limiting Post Election Audits in California, June 2009 and has authored several election guidebooks to assist voters in navigating through various election procedures including Initiatives, Recalls, and Referendums. She earned her California Professional Election Administration Credential in June 2006.



MICHELLE ROMERO, THE GREENLINING INSTITUTE

Michelle Romero is the Claiming our Democracy Program Director at The Greenlining Institute, where she leads the organization's efforts to ensure that our democracy is representative, accessible and accountable to California's new majority. She has worked on such issues as redistricting, ballot initiative reform, and voting rights and registration policy, publishing research, engaging in policy advocacy, and leading civic engagement campaigns to give low-income communities and communities of color a voice in major policy debates.

She is both knowledgeable and experienced in grassroots and direct action organizing, and has a background in education and immigration policy. As a student of the University of California, Santa Cruz, where she received her B.A. in 2010, Romero worked to focus university attention on immigrant student issues and affordable access to higher education as a member of the Student Union Assembly and the Movement for Immigrant Rights Alliance.



TRUDY SCHAFFER, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA

Trudy Schafer is Senior Director for Programs for the League of Women Voters of California and the LWVC Education Fund. A League member since 1978, Schafer served as president of the Sacramento League and was Legislation Director on the League's state board of directors before joining the League's staff as lobbyist in 1992. Her focus has been on advocacy on League priorities at the state Capitol as well as on a number of ballot measure campaigns, including redistricting, campaign finance, and budget reform measures.



LORI SHELLENBERGER, AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

Lori Shellenberger brings a breadth of legal, nonprofit and community organizing experience. She practiced law in the Appeals Bureau of The Legal Aid Society in New York City, litigated numerous cases before New York's highest court, the Second Circuit, and U.S. Supreme Court, and worked to overturn New York's death penalty. She is admitted to practice in federal and state courts in New York, Ohio and California.

Shellenberger founded and directed PSLawNet, a nationwide non-profit that greatly expanded legal services opportunities for lawyers and law students. She has advised and served on the boards of numerous nonprofits and founded a non-profit serving the needs of victims of Hurricane Katrina. She has extensive experience in grassroots organizing and voter protection efforts in New York City and Cleveland, Ohio, where she oversaw voter protection efforts in East Cleveland during the 2008 election.



HILLARY SKLAR, DISABILITY RIGHTS CALIFORNIA

Hillary Sklar is an Attorney in the Los Angeles Regional Office of Disability Rights California. Her areas of expertise include voting rights and government benefits. She is the community chair of the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder's Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC) and is also a member of the Orange County and San Diego VAACs.

Sklar is a member of the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder's Community Voter Outreach Committee (CVOC) and serves as the community chair of the CVOC Specialty Outreach subcommittee and is also a member of the CVOC Poll Site Operations and Voter Registration subcommittees. Sklar serves as faculty for the Benchmark Institute, a training and development organization for the public interest legal community, and is an Adjunct Professor at Whittier Law School where she teaches Poverty Law.



HEATHER SMITH, ROCK THE VOTE

Heather Smith is Executive Director of Rock the Vote, a national organization at the intersection of youth, politics, popular culture and technology. Rock the Vote's mission is to build the political clout and engagement of young people in order to achieve progressive change in our country. Under Smith's leadership, in 2008 Rock the Vote is launching its most ambitious campaign ever to register 2 million young people to vote, to educate them, and to turn them out to the polls.

Prior to Rock the Vote, Smith founded and directed Young Voter Strategies (YVS), a nonpartisan effort supported by The Pew Charitable Trusts to re-energize our democracy through developing tools, data and information for political campaigns and organizations to effectively run their own young voter programs. In 2006, YVS coordinated a national nonpartisan project with 15 organizations that collectively registered more than 500,000 young voters using innovative and replicable methods of voter outreach and played a large role in the young voter turnout increase in 2006.



PAM SMITH, VERIFIED VOTING

Pamela Smith is President of VerifiedVoting.org and the Verified Voting Foundation. Her interest in voting issues includes experience as an election observer, locally and internationally. She provides information and public testimony on verified voting issues on state and local levels (including Maryland's legislature, California Secretary of State's Voting Systems & Procedures panel, San Diego County Board of Supervisors, e.g.). She has co-authored written testimony on several state voting system Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and legislative recommendations, as well as reports on accessibility and auditability issues for voting systems and other research.

Smith organized VerifiedVoting.org's Petition Delivery Days in April 2004, served as a founding board member of San Diego County advocacy group SAVE-Democracy (SAVE= Safe, Accurate, Verified Elections). She has been a small business and marketing consultant and nonprofit executive, and has worked in both public and private sector.



ARTURO VARGAS, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LATINO ELECTED & APPOINTED OFFICIALS EDUCATION FUND

Arturo Vargas serves as Executive Director of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, a membership organization of Latino elected and appointed policymakers and their supporters. He also serves as Executive Director of the NALEO Educational Fund. Prior to joining NALEO, Vargas held a series of positions at the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, including Vice President for Community Education and Public Policy and Director of Outreach and Policy.



NANCY WARD, FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Nancy L. Ward was appointed Regional Administrator of Region IX for the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency October 2006. Ward had been the Administrator of FEMA's Response and Recovery Division in Region IX since 2000. In her new position, she is responsible for coordinating FEMA mitigation, preparedness and disaster response and recovery activities in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Ward worked two details at FEMA headquarters as the Deputy Director of the Recovery Directorate during FEMA's response and recovery operations for the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons. She also served in various senior management positions in more than 20 disasters, most recently during the March and April 2006 severe storms, flooding, landslides and mudslides in California, and the earthquake in Hawaii.



SHAWNDA WESTLY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Shawnda Westly has worked in Democratic and union politics for more than 18 years. She joined the CDP after managing Senator John Burton's campaign for Party Chair in 2009.

In 2010 Westly lead an aggressive voter turnout operation that aided in California Democrats sweeping all statewide offices, during a year that saw Republicans make gains across the nation. In addition to re-organizing the Party and re-energizing grassroots activism under Chairman Burton's leadership, Westly and the CDP team have made the Party more financially sustainable and out-raised the California Republican Party by leaps and bounds while pressing their sizable voter registration advantage in California.

In 2012, the CDP aided in defending all frontline incumbents in the congress, and also picked up 6 new Democratic house seats. In addition, Democrats now hold a 2/3 majority in each house, every statewide office, and defeated Proposition 32 and passed the Governor's Proposition 30.



LELAND YEE, CA SENATOR

After serving four years in the California State Assembly, Leland Yee was elected to the State Senate in November 2006 with the largest winning percentage for any Democratic candidate. In 2010, Senator Yee was re-elected, receiving the most votes of any Democratic legislator in the State. Representing District 8, which includes San Francisco and San Mateo County, Yee is the first Chinese American ever elected to the California State Senate.

During his tenure in the Legislature, Senator Yee has fought for children, mental health services, working families, seniors, education, open government, consumer protection, civil rights, election reform, and the environment. Senator Yee has one of the best track records in getting his bills passed and signed into law. In fact, he has successfully passed 164 pieces of legislation, of which 124 have been chaptered into law. Yee is the author of California's law that allowed for online voter registration, which was used by over 1 million people in just four weeks prior to the November 2012 election. He is also the author of the law to increase fees on lobbyists to modernize Cal-Access – the state's campaign and lobbying disclosure system.

This conference was supported by a grant from the
the **James Irvine** foundation