



THE PAT BROWN INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS AT CAL STATE LA  
**ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15

**ELECTION 2018:**

*It's On!*



**PAT BROWN INSTITUTE  
FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS**  
Unleashing the Power of Participation



“I want to share two lessons. First, we are not at our core divided or incapable of coming together. Our American family wants unity. Second, we want to be involved in our democracy and want it to work. We expect our elected officials and government to actually do something. And vice-versa, I am seeing Americans awoken to the fact that they want to be a part of that work as well.”

— Eric Garcetti  
MAYOR OF LOS ANGELES

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## **ELECTION 2018: IT'S ON!**

### A SUMMARY REPORT

The Pat Brown Institute's Annual Conference, *Election 2018: It's On!*, was held on November 15, 2018 on the campus of Cal State LA.

Our conference brought together appointed and elected officials; political practitioners; media professionals; community leaders; scholars; and students to learn about what happened on election day November 6, 2018, why it happened, and what it means going forward.

We were delighted to have Mayor Eric Garcetti deliver the keynote address and Ronald Brownstein of Atlantic Media and CNN provide the 2018 PBI Distinguished Lecture.



“What we saw in this election that was most striking was that the emerging America showed up to defend its values at a moment when they are under direct assault and if they continue to do that, they will remake the country.”

— Ronald Brownstein  
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR  
FOR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS, ATLANTIC MEDIA  
POLITICAL ANALYST, CNN



“When I went out on the campaign trail, particularly in Orange County, I talked to so many women who said, ‘I went out to that Women’s March and had never been involved in politics before, but this time I am working it.’ And they were there staffing campaigns. I think those women made the difference. The fact is that issues like gun control, preexisting conditions, reproductive health issues, and education hit women really hard.”

— Carla Marinucci  
REPORTER, POLITICO

“We are entering a phase in American politics where we are going to stop viewing things as left and right and more as have and have-not. As income inequality grows, as the gap between those who are feeling disenfranchised versus those who run the system grows, we are going to see a slightly more populist flair in our politics, but those tensions exist in both parties. And it is going to be particularly pronounced in California.”

Warren Olney  
HOST OF *TO THE POINT*, KCRW

— Mike Madrid  
POLITICAL CONSULTANT, GRASSROOTS LAB

“Black voters vote at a higher rate than many other constituencies, particularly when you take into account socio-economic status. Black voters, however, often pose the question: ‘What will be the return on the high level of investment to voting and other forms of civic engagement?’.”

— Shakari Byerly  
PARTNER AND PRINCIPAL RESEARCHER  
EVITARUS

Dary Sragow

PUBLISHER, CALIFORNIA TARGET BOOK  
ADJUNCT ASST. PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, USC

Kerry Cavanaugh

EDITORIAL WRITER, LOS ANGELES TIMES





**Pilar Marrero**  
JOURNALIST  
PODCASTER, *THE PUNDETTES*



**Dr. Matt Barreto**  
CO-FOUNDER, LATINO DECISIONS  
PROFESSOR  
POLITICAL SCIENCE & CHICANA/O STUDIES  
UCLA

**Jessica Levinson**  
CLINICAL PROFESSOR OF LAW  
LOYOLA LAW SCHOOL

**Ronald Brownstein**



“We have a growing population of young voters who took the time to learn and participate. How did this happen? It’s simple. People reached out to us and we responded”

— **Nia Johnson**  
PRESIDENT  
ASSOCIATED STUDENTS, INC.  
CAL STATE LA



“There is a huge East Coast bias in national reporting and still a notion of ‘out West’ and ‘hinterlands.’ That bias is amazing to me given how much smaller the world has become. It really affects how they cover California in general, particularly when it comes to elections.”

— **Janet Clayton**  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT  
EDISON INTERNATIONAL AND  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Edison

“When you talk with voters, you really notice how much the national is trickling down into everyone’s living room. It is really a challenge for local media to get people engaged and understand what is happening at the local level.”

— **Mary Plummer**  
SENIOR POLITICS REPORTER, KPCC





**William A. Covino**  
PRESIDENT, CAL STATE LA

**Mark Ridley-Thomas**  
MEMBER  
LA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
2<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT



★★★  
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The Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs, a presidentially-chartered institute at California State University, Los Angeles, is dedicated to the quest for social justice and equality of opportunity, enlightened civic engagement, and an enhanced quality of life for all Californians. The Institute is a non-partisan public policy center committed to sustaining the vision and legacy of former California Governor Edmund G. "Pat" Brown through convening public policy forums, engaging multi-sector stakeholders and diverse communities, and conducting timely policy, research, and community-driven initiatives.

[calstatela.patbrowninstitute.org](http://calstatela.patbrowninstitute.org)

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