City Economic and Fiscal Resilience: How can we measure it? How can we improve it?

*Speaker Biographies*

**Nani Coloretti** is the deputy secretary of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. She manages the department's day-to-day operations, including a $45 billion annual budget and approximately 8,000 employees. Previously, she was the assistant secretary for management at the US Department of the Treasury and the budget director for San Francisco mayor Gavin Newsom. She holds a BA in economics and communications from the University of Pennsylvania and an MPP from University of California, Berkeley.

**Tracy Gordon** is a senior fellow with the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center, where she researches and writes about fiscal challenges facing state and local governments, including budget trade-offs, intergovernmental relations, and long-term sustainability. Before joining the Urban Institute, Gordon was a senior economist with the White House Council of Economic Advisers. She was also a member of the District of Columbia Tax Revision Commission, a fellow at the Brookings Institution, an assistant professor at the University of Maryland School of Public Policy, and a fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California. Gordon has written extensively on state and local government finances, including taxes, budgeting, intergovernmental relations, municipal debt, and pensions. She has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Washington Post*, and on C-SPAN, Fox Business News, and NPR. Gordon holds a PhD in public policy with a concurrent MA in economics from the University of California, Berkeley.

**Chris Hoene** is the executive director of the California Budget and Policy Center. He has over 15 years of leadership in state and local policy research and analysis, particularly on fiscal policy issues. He leads the strategic direction of the organization, is primary spokesperson, and works with the board of directors and community partners to implement the Budget Center’s vision and mission. Before joining the Budget Center, Hoene was director of the Center for Research and Innovation at the National League of Cities in Washington, DC, leading efforts to analyze trends in local and state government and promote constructive policy action on public finance, economic development, housing, poverty reduction, infrastructure, and governance. Hoene also previously worked for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in Washington, DC, and the Public Policy Institute of California in San Francisco.
Robert P. Inman is the Richard K. Mellon professor of finance and a professor of business economics, public policy, and real estate at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He is also a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. His research, focusing on the design and impact of fiscal policy, has been published in leading academic journals in economics, law, and public policy. Inman is the editor of *The Economics of Public Service* (with Martin Feldstein), *Managing the Service Economy: Prospects and Problems*, and *Making Cities Work: Problems and Prospects for Urban America*. He has taught at Harvard University; the University of California, Berkeley; Stanford University; the University of London; and the European University Institute in Florence, Italy. Inman is an adviser on fiscal policy to the Federal Reserve Banks of Philadelphia and New York and has advised the states of New York, Pennsylvania, and California; the US Departments of Education, Housing and Urban Development, and the Treasury; the World Bank; the Finance and Fiscal Commission of the Republic of South Africa, and the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

Amy Liu is vice president and director of the Metropolitan Policy Program and the Adeline M. and Alfred I. Johnson chair in urban and metropolitan policy at the Brookings Institution. She is a national expert on cities and metropolitan areas, adept at translating research and insights into action on the ground. As director of Brookings Metro, which Liu cofounded in 1996, she pioneered the program’s signature approach to policy and practice, which uses rigorous research to inform strategies for economic growth and opportunity. Liu has worked directly on such strategies with scores of public- and private-sector leaders in regions around the country, including Chicago, Kansas City, Phoenix, upstate New York, and New Orleans.

Christiana McFarland is research director at the National League of Cities (NLC). She leads NLC’s efforts to transform city-level data into information that strengthens city leaders and that raises awareness of cities’ challenges, trends, and successes. McFarland has been with NLC since 2001, and before her post as research director, she launched NLC’s finance and economic development program, focused on supporting municipal leadership and city- and regional-level outcomes through peer exchange, best practice curation, and technical assistance. Her areas of expertise include economic development, workforce development, global competitiveness, and municipal finance. McFarland writes and speaks on these issues, has been widely cited in media such as C-SPAN, Bloomberg, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *New York Times*, and has published in scholarly journals including *Economic Development Quarterly*, *Public Administration Review*, *Canadian Journal of Regional Science*, and *Urban Affairs Review*. She has a BA in political science and economics and an MPP from the George Washington University. She is pursuing a PhD in urban planning and economic development from Virginia Tech.
Michael A. Pagano is dean of the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois at Chicago, professor of public administration, fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, and former coeditor of Urban Affairs Review (2001–14). He has published four books in a University of Illinois Press series entitled The Urban Agenda, including Metropolitan Resilience in a Time of Economic Turmoil, as well as The Dynamics of Federalism in National and Supranational Political Systems, Terra Incognita: Vacant Land and Urban Strategies, Cityscapes and Capital: The Politics of Urban Development, and Cities and Fiscal Choices: A New Model of Urban Public Investment. Since 1991, he has written the annual City Fiscal Conditions report for the National League of Cities. Pagano is principal investigator with Chris Hoene of the California Budget Project on a four-year grant from the MacArthur Foundation to examine the constraints on cities’ fiscal policy responses to changes in their financial environments. From 2003 to 2008, Pagano was principal investigator on the Pew Charitable Trusts’ Government Performance Project to grade states on infrastructure management. Pagano has published over 80 articles on urban finance, capital budgeting, federalism, transportation policy, infrastructure, urban development and fiscal policy; he has delivered over 100 papers and speeches; and he has been awarded grants from numerous foundations and agencies. He earned a BA from the Pennsylvania State University and a PhD from the University of Texas at Austin.

Scott Smith is the interim CEO of Valley Metro, the regional transportation authority for metro Phoenix. He has used education, experience, and business acumen to distinguish himself as a leader in both private business and government. Smith has been an entrepreneur, business consultant, CEO, public servant, and educator. After a long career as a professional, consultant, and private company CEO, Smith was mayor of Mesa, Arizona, from 2008 to 2014. He was noted for his innovative leadership in meeting serious financial challenges and for his unprecedented community and economic development efforts. Both Smith and Mesa won many accolades, including the “Most Innovative City in Arizona” and one of Money magazine’s “Five Best Cities to Live in America.” He also was president of the US Conference of Mayors in 2012-13.

Sarah Rosen Wartell is the third president of the Urban Institute. A public policy executive and housing markets expert, Wartell was President Clinton’s deputy assistant for economic policy and the deputy director of his National Economic Council. At the US Department of Housing and Urban Development from 1993 to 1998, she advised the federal housing commissioner on housing finance, mortgage markets, and consumer protection. Wartell cofounded the Center for American Progress, serving as its first chief operating officer and general counsel. Later, as executive vice president, Wartell oversaw its policy teams and fellows. Her work focused on the economy and housing markets, and she directed the Mortgage Finance Working Group and the “Doing What Works” government performance program. Wartell practiced law with the Washington, DC, firm Arnold & Porter and was a consultant to the bipartisan Millennial Housing Commission. Wartell has an AB degree with honors in urban affairs from Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and holds a JD degree from Yale Law School.