

# State of the States: How States Are Navigating Volatile Times

## Speaker Biographies

**Lucy Dadayan** is a senior research associate with the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center at the Urban Institute, where she is leading the [State Tax and Economic Review](#) project. Before joining Urban, she was a senior research scientist with the Rockefeller Institute of Government, where she wrote extensively on state and local government fiscal issues. Dadayan received a master's degree in public policy and affairs and a doctoral degree in informatics, both from the State University of New York at Albany.

**Liz Farmer** is a fiscal policy expert and journalist, writing for a national audience about the many ways state and local governments spend taxpayer money. Her areas of expertise include budgets, fiscal distress, tax policy, and pensions. Farmer received a bachelor's degree in American history and film and television production from The George Washington University and a master's degree in journalism from the University of Maryland.

**Shelby Kerns** is executive director of the National Association of State Budget Officers (NASBO). Before NASBO, Kerns served as deputy director at the Idaho Department of Labor, having previously worked in the Idaho Division of Financial Management from 2009 to 2019. Kerns received a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Idaho and a master's degree in business administration from Northwest Nazarene University.

**Mark Zandi** is chief economist of Moody's Analytics, where he directs economic research. Zandi is also a cofounder of Economy.com. He is the author of two books: (1) *Paying the Price: Ending the Great Recession and Beginning a New American Century* and (2) *Financial Shock: A 360° Look at the Subprime Mortgage Implosion, and How to Avoid the Next Financial Crisis*. Zandi earned his bachelor's degree from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and his doctoral degree from the University of Pennsylvania.