

# **Civic Engagement Across California Communities**

**January 30, 2008  
Los Angeles Marriott Downtown**

**Kathay Feng, Executive Director of Common Cause California**

**Erin Aubrey Kaplan, writer and columnist**

**Dr. Max Neiman, Associate Director Senior Fellow of Public Policy Institute of California**

**John Trasviña, President and General Counsel of Mexican American Legal Defense Education Fund (MALDEF)**

**Moderator: Shirley Jahad, of KPCC, 89.3 FM/NPR**

The panel discussion focused on the nuances of civic engagement across the State of California and the shifting political and racial dynamics impacting the presidential race and the configuration of communities across California. The panelists addressed topics such as immigration, class, culture, tolerance, leadership, new voting patterns and power amongst groups such as: Latinos, African American and Asian Americans. The panelists addressed the following questions from the audience: what is leadership, how do we address racial justice in polygot America, what lasting effects, if any, will the presidential election year have on the state, county and municipal elections.