



Tax Policy Center

Urban Institute and Brookings Institution

Biographies

Rebecca M. Blank, Chancellor, University of Wisconsin; former Acting Secretary of Commerce. Blank became chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison in July 2013. Prior to becoming chancellor, Blank spent four years serving in top positions of the U.S. Department of Commerce, including service as the agency's Deputy Secretary and (for more than a year) as Acting Secretary of Commerce. From 1999 to 2008, Blank served as dean and professor of public policy and economics in the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan. She was also a fellow at the Brookings Institution, a Washington, D.C., think tank, before joining the Department of Commerce. She was a member of the faculty of Northwestern University and Princeton University. From 1997 to 1999, she was a member of the President's Council of Economic Advisers. Blank holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota and a doctoral degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology — both in economics.

Ingrid Gould Ellen, Paulette Goddard Professor of Urban Planning and Public Policy, NYU; Co-Director of the Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy. Ellen's research interests center on housing and urban policy. She is author of *Sharing America's Neighborhoods: The Prospects for Stable Racial Integration* (Harvard University Press, 2000) and editor of *How to House the Homeless* (Russell Sage Foundation Press, 2010) and has written numerous journal articles and book chapters related to housing policy, neighborhood change, and the causes and consequences of racial segregation. She attended Harvard University, where she received a bachelor's degree in applied mathematics, an M.P.P., and a Ph.D. in public policy.

Jason Furman, Chairman, Council of Economic Advisers. Prior to this role, he served as the Principal Deputy Director of the National Economic Council. Furman has also previously served as Economic Policy Director for Obama for America, Director of the Hamilton Project at the Brookings Institution, and Special Assistant to the President for Economic Policy during the Clinton Administration. He has conducted research in a wide range of areas, including fiscal policy, tax policy, health economics, Social Security, and monetary policy. Furman earned his Ph.D. in economics and a M.A. in government from Harvard University and a M.Sc. in economics from the London School of Economics.

Howard Gleckman, Resident Fellow and *TaxVox* editor, Tax Policy Center, Urban Institute. Gleckman is author of *Caring for Our Parents* (St. Martin's Press) and is a frequent writer and speaker on long-term care. He is author of the long-term care chapter in *Landmark: The Inside Story of America's New Health Care Law and What It Means for Us All* (Public Affairs) and of the chapter on long-term care financing in *Universal Coverage of Long-Term Care* (Russell Sage, forthcoming). He writes and edits *TaxVox*, the fiscal policy blog of the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center. He was formerly senior correspondent in

the Washington bureau of *Business Week*, where he was a National Magazine Award finalist. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of Suburban Hospital (Bethesda MD) and the Jewish Council for the Aging of Greater Washington.

Douglas Holtz-Eakin, President, American Action Forum; former Director of the Congressional Budget Office. Holtz-Eakin has a distinguished record as an academic, policy adviser, and strategist. Currently he is the President of the American Action Forum and most recently was a Commissioner on the Congressionally-chartered Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission. He was the 6th Director of the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) from 2003 to 2005. Following his tenure at CBO, Dr. Holtz-Eakin was the Director of the Maurice R. Greenberg Center for Geoeconomic Studies and the Paul A. Volcker Chair in International Economics at the Council on Foreign Relations. During 2007 and 2008 he was Director of Domestic and Economic Policy for the John McCain presidential campaign. Following the 2008 election Dr. Holtz-Eakin was the President of DHE Consulting, an economic and policy consulting firm providing insight and research to a broad cross-section of clients. Dr. Holtz-Eakin serves on the Boards of the Tax Foundation, National Economists Club and Center for a Responsible Federal Budget, and the Research Advisory Board of the Center for Economic Development.

Chris Howard, Pamela C. Harriman Professor of Government and Public Policy, College of William & Mary. Howard has worked as a professor at the College of William & Mary since 1993. He has published several academic books and articles about the politics of U.S. social policy and tax policy, and is currently co-editing *The Oxford Handbook of Social Policy in the United States*. His work has also appeared in *The American Prospect* and *Democracy: A Journal of Ideas*. Chris has won an Outstanding Faculty Award from the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia, which recognizes excellence in teaching, research, and public service. Chris graduated Phi Beta Kappa and *summa cum laude* from Duke University in 1983 with a B.A. degree in History. He later earned his M.S. (1990) and Ph.D. (1993) degrees in Political Science from MIT.

Elaine Maag, Senior Research Associate, Tax Policy Center, Urban Institute. Maag's most recent work focuses on understanding the interactions of state and federal income tax systems for low-income families. She has published several articles relating to the simplification of the federal income tax system, particularly with respect to low- and middle-income families as well as articles on tax benefits for families with children. Maag co-directs the Urban Institute's Net Income Calculator project which focuses on understanding the interactions of state tax and transfer systems. Prior to joining the Urban Institute, Maag was a Presidential Management Fellow at the Internal Revenue Service and the General Accountability Office.

Nancy Pindus, Senior Fellow, Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center, Urban Institute. Pindus is an experienced policy researcher and project manager, specializing in program evaluation, organizational behavior, cost analysis, and service delivery. Her research projects have taken Ms. Pindus to communities across the country, examining program implementation and operations through interviews, on-site observations, and focus groups. She has studied economic development, welfare reform, employment and training, food assistance, and public health programs. Pindus has been with the Urban Institute for almost 20 years. From April 2009 through June 2010, she served as Acting Center Director of the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center. Pindus co-directs a four-year evaluation of the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) Program that includes administrative data analysis,

surveys, and in-depth telephone interviews. Her current work also addresses the use of alternative financial services, such as a project involving interviews with lenders and tax preparers about refund anticipation loans and refund anticipation checks. She directed a recently completed project for the Postal Regulatory Commission that provided a framework for considering the social benefits of postal services and she led the design team for a recently completed study of modernization activities in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Pindus holds an MBA from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, and BA (biology) from the University of Pennsylvania, and is a CPA, licensed in Maryland.

Michael Rich, Associate Professor, Political Science and Environmental Studies and founding director of the Center for Community Partnerships, Emory University. Rich is the author of *Collaborative Governance for Urban Revitalization* (with Robert Stoker, Cornell University Press, forthcoming), *Federal Policymaking and the Poor* and several publications on federalism and a variety of urban public policy topics, including community development, housing and homelessness, crime, and economic development. His current research focuses on community building, neighborhood revitalization and local poverty reduction strategies, particularly concerning issues relating to cross-sector collaboration and the revitalization of urban communities. He received his PhD in political science from Northwestern University and has held research appointments at the Brookings Institution and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. He previously taught at Brown University, where he served as director of the Policy Analysis Laboratory, and was the founding executive director of The Providence Plan, a collaborative city-state-university initiative to revitalize the city of Providence and its neighborhoods.

Brett Theodos, Senior Research Associate, Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center, Urban Institute. While at the Urban Institute, Theodos has conducted several performance evaluations of government programs and independent research demonstrations. His expertise is in affordable housing, economic and community development, access to capital for low- individuals and businesses, and geographic mobility. Theodos is currently co-directing an evaluation of "shared equity" homeownership opportunities. He is researching financial outcomes for businesses and communities under the New Markets Tax Credit program. He completed a three year outcome and performance evaluation of four Small Business Administration programs. Additionally, Theodos has conducted several research studies of household mobility, including examining the relationship between mobility and neighborhood change. Before joining the Urban Institute, Theodos was contracted by NeighborWorks America and the McAuley Institute to assist in designing the Success Measures Data System, a participatory internet-based management and evaluation system for not-for-profit groups. He received his MPP from Georgetown University and BA in Economics and Political Science from Northwestern University.

Sarah Rosen Wartell, President, Urban Institute. Wartell became the third president of the Urban Institute in February 2012. A public policy executive and housing markets expert, Wartell was President Bill Clinton's deputy assistant for economic policy and the deputy director of his National Economic Council. In 2003, she co-founded the Center for American Progress, serving as its first chief operating officer and general counsel. Later, as executive vice president, she oversaw its policy teams and fellows. Her work has focused on the economy and housing finance, mortgage markets, and consumer protection. In 2012, she was named a "Woman of Influence" by HousingWire. Wartell has an A.B. degree with honors in urban affairs from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and holds a J.D. degree from Yale Law School.

David Wessel, Director of the Hutchins Center on Fiscal and Monetary Policy, Brookings Institution. Wessel is director of the Hutchins Center on Fiscal and Monetary Policy, which provides independent, non-partisan analysis of fiscal and monetary policy issues in order to further public understanding and to improve the quality and effectiveness of those policies. He joined Brookings in December 2013 after 30 years on the staff of The Wall Street Journal where, most recently, he was economics editor and wrote the weekly Capital column. He is a contributing correspondent to The Wall Street Journal, appears frequently on NPR's Morning Edition and tweets often at @davidmwessel.